Local cricket to resume Feb19

Sports Reporter

The Navana Premier Division, Milnars First Division and the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket leagues, suspended last Thursday following the mass resignations of the cricket officials, will now resume from Tuesday, Feb 19 at different city grounds.

A meeting of the League Committee made up of club representatives, and the Cricket Players' Association at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) conference room yesterday decided to resume the cricket programme 'in the greater interest of the game.'

The suspension had come about with the collective resignations Feb 14 by the members of the BCCB ad-hoc committee and the League Committee in protest against the National Sports Council's (NSC) decision to allocate the Dhaka Stadium for the Vita-Rich soccer tourney organised by the Football Players' Welfare Association and the Sonali Otit, a decision the cricket officials deemed arbitrary and demaging to the interests of their game.

The NSC's decision Friday to shift the soccer tourney to the nearby hockey stadium paved the way for a resolution of the impasse. That decision allowed the resigning cricket administrators to gracefully withdraw their resignations and make peace.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association, following its emergency meeting yesterday, called for an immediate resumption of the cricket programme.

A press release of the association also congratulated Atahar Ali Khan on being awarded the NSC prize for the best cricketer for 1990.

Lankans 153 for 2

CHRISTCHURCH (New Zealand), Feb 16: Sri Lanka were 153 for two wickets in reply to Canterbury's first innings of 297 for six declared at the close on the second day of a four-day match here today,reports Reuter.

Scores:

Canterbury : 297 for six declared (B.Hartland 57, D.Murry 50 not out, J. Boyle 47, K.Wijegunawardene two for 61,Asoka De Silva two for 67).

Sri Lanka : 153 for two (A. Gurusinha 69 not out , C Hathurusinghe 45).

Air HQ win BAF cricket

Sports Reporter

Air Headquarters won the inaugural Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) inter-base cricket championship beating Base Bashar by six runs in yesterday's keen final at the BAF Sports Complex, Dhaka Cantonment.

Air Headquarters, batting first, made 144 all out in 36 overs with Air Cmdr. Shamsher Ali making the top-score of 35 followed by Flt. Kazi Mosleh who made 29. Flt. Saleh captured four wickets for 18 runs and Flying Officer Jamil two for 33.

In reply, Base Bashar managed 138 before being all out in 39.2 overs. Flying Officer Jamil scored 39 while Wing Commander Nazib and Sqdn. Ldr Nayim scored 14 each. Air Cmdr. Erfan claimed two wickets for 14 while Flt. Kazi Mosleh and LAC Azhar also got two wickets each for 27 and 19 runs respectively.

Kazi Mosleh won the man-of-the-meet award.

Air Chief Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed witnessed the match

Josephites, DWC cagers win

Sports Reporter

Josephites and Dhaka Wanderers won their respective matches of the Partex First Division basketball league yesterday at the wooden floor basketball gymnasium.

Wanderers scored an easy 63—46 win over Azad Boys Club after leading 32—18 at the breather.

Zillur with 18 points was the highest scorer for Wanderers while Akhlaque and Anis with 14 each were the leading Azad scorers.

In another match, Josephites registered a thrilling 63—61 points victory over Dhumketu Club. The winners led 32—30 at halftime.

Jalalabad clinch Ispahani title

CHITTAGONG, Feb 16: Jalalabad Pioneers won the championship of Ispahani Metropolitan Pioneer football competition defeating Bakalia Pioneers 5—3 in tiebreaker in the final at the Dampara Police Line Ground here yesterday, reports BSS.

NSC awards

Sports Reporter

Six players and two sports organisers received their national Sports Council awards for the year 1990 from the NSC Chairman Maj. Gen Mahbubur Rahman at a simple ceremony at the National Coaching Centre yesterday evening.

These eight, and two others — Commonwealth. Games shooting gold medallists Abdus Sattar Nini and Ateequr Rahman, who were earlier rewarded for their feat early last year — were named by the NSC as the most outstanding personalities for the year in their respective fields.

Following are the recipients: Kaiser Hamid (soccer), Niaz Morshed (chess), Atahar Ali Khan (cricket), Shah Alam (kabadi), Ibrahim Mondol (boxing), Shahanuddin Chowdhury (athletics), Dr. Sultanul Aziz (organiser) and Mahbubul Huq Peyara (organiser).

Each award winner received Taka ten thousand, a gold medal and an NSC blazer.

The annual general meeting of the NSC was held at its conference room in the morning with General Mahbubur Rahman in the chair.

Reception today

Meanwhile, the NSC will accord a reception today to the recipients of the National Sports Awards from 1976 to 1981 at its conference room.

Presidential Advisor for Youth and Sports Alamgir M.A. Kabir will be chief guest at the function, scheduled to start at 4:30 pm.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Mirpur Sports and Physical Coaching Centre (MSPCC) recorded their first win by a solitary goal over Gulbagh Krira Chakra in the Group 'A' round robin match of the Pioneer football league yesterday at the Outer Stadium.

Imran scored the all-important goal for MSPCC.

MSPCC now have three points from three matches while Gulbagh suffered their second defeat in three matches.

Makimbazar Krira Chakra and Kawran Bazar Pragati fought to a 1—1 draw in the day's other match.

Nazrul and Samrat netted one goal each for Makim Bazar and Kawran Bazar respectively.

The National Sports Council award winners for 1990 seen with NSC Chairman Maj. Gen Mahbubur Rahman at yesterday's awards ceremony at the National Coaching Centre . —Star photo.

Magistrates grill Maradona

NAPLES, Feb 16: Diego Maradona was interviewed for three hours here on Friday by examining magistrates looking into allegations that the football star is involved in a sex and drugs ring.

The three magistrates, all experts in drugs cases, outlined on Friday the case being put together by Sbordone.

They officially told Maradona that he was being investigated for possible possession and use of drugs, legal sources said.

Other sources here claimed

But he is thought to have categorically denied using drugs or being involved in drugs trafficking. The football legend is expected to hold a news conference to explain himself to the press today.

He has already been given the backing though of Napoli's Brazilian striker Antonio

Diego Maradona arrives at a Naples court Saturday for a drugs hearing after being linked to a drugs and sex ring. —AFP photo

Naples prosecutor Vittorio Sbordone said in a statement on Wednesday that "telephone calls intercepted as part of inquiries to find those behind drugs trafficking" had implicated the Napoli and Argentinian captain.

The statement claimed Maradona had asked for "the goods" relieved to have been drugs and women, "from persons known to the police."

Maradona admitted to the magistrates that he had been in contact with prostitutes linked to a Mafia clan, eight members of which have been arrested as part of the enquiry.

He is also believed to have admitted speaking on the telephone with Carmela Cinquegrani, considered by police as a drugs pusher and the linchpin of a prostitution network.

Careca.

"I hope that Diego can get back to a peaceful life again soon, because he has had all sorts of problems recently," Careca said.

"But he has a very strong character and I am convinced that he will pull himself through yet again even if this time it's a major issue. We are all behind him and we will be with him if he needs us."

Tapie ban doesn't affect Marseille morale

BONN, Feb 16: Spirits at French soccer champions Marseille have been boosted rather than depressed by the recent rumpus involving president Bernard Tapie, the club's manager Franz Beckenbauer said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Asked if Tapie's year ban by a French disciplinary commission had created a bad atmosphere at the league leaders, Beckenbauer said in an interview: "Not at all. In fact it is now the contrary."

Tapie threatened to resign last month after being barred from representing the club for threatening referees and bringing the game into disrepute. But he later decided to stay and launched an appeal against the ruling.

"At the start there was a lot of uncertainty at the club because Marseille stands and falls with Bernard Tapie," Beckenbauer said.

"He took over the club five years ago and took it from mediocrity to the very top. Everyone was afraid that he would give up and they would go back to mediocrity.

"But since he has said he will stay, calm has returned and his popularity has even gone up."

Beckenbauer, 45, took over his first job as a club coach at Marseille after guiding West Germany to their World Cup triumph last July.

But after problems with Tapie in the first half of the season he handed over the main coaching job to Raymond Goethals, taking a back seat role.

He admitted he had two main problems and had learned crucial lessons for the future.

"If you want to do something as a coach, you have a function as a teacher and you must speak the language. That is the most important thing and it was a big problem (that I couldn't)," Beckenbauer said.

"The second problem was that I took over a team that I knew but did not prepare, if I ever coached a foreign team again I would first learn the language and secondly take over the team right from the beginning of the season."

Beckenbauer, whose one-year contract runs until the end of the season, said he would decide in April whether to stay at the club, which faces a testing European Cup quarter-final against Italian holders AC Milan next month.

Rumours that he was set to help the U.S. Soccer Federation prepare for the 1994 World Cup were premature.

"I know the American federation is interested. But at the moment I am concentrating on Marseille," he said

Adams released

LONDON, Feb 16: English soccer international Tony Adams was released from prison on Friday after services two months of a four-month sentence for drink-driving offences, prison officials said.

Adams,former captain of First Division Arsenal, was jailed in December after being convinced in Southend, southern England, for reckless driving following a car accident last May.

He was released with full remission, officials said.

Badminton team leaves for K.L.

A five-member Bangladesh badminton team, led by General Secretary of Bangladesh Badminton Federation Abdul Wadud Chowdhury leaves here today for Kuala Lumpur to participate in the Asian badminton championships, reports BSS.

The five-day competition begins on February 20.

The players are: Sumon, Mahbub, Babu and Sarwar.

Top four seeds in semifinals

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 16: The top four seeded players rolled into the semifinals of the one million-dollar US Pro indoor tennis championships on Friday with only third Brad Gilbert dropping a set along the way, reports Reuter.

Second seed and defending champion Pete Sampras fought off a tough first set challenge from ninth-seeded Czechoslovak Petr Korda before cruising into the final four 6-4, 6-0, where he will take on fourth seed John McEnroe in a rematch of their US Open semifinal.

McEnroe, one day shy of his 32nd birthday, managed to overcome a miserable time at the service line to eliminate Aki Rahunen 17th, double faulted six times and landed a pitiful 54 percent of his first serves on target.

Today's other semifinal pits third-ranked top seed Ivan Lendl against Gilbert, who survived a slow start to topple fellow American Kevin Curren 4-6, 6-3,6-0.

Lendl ousted Michael Stich 6-2, 7-6, when the unseeded German double faulted at match point to lose a hard-fought tiebreak 9-7.

After struggling through the opening set against the 73rd-ranked Rahunen, McEnroe finally strong together a couple of strong games.

He produced a typically crafty forehand volley to convenient his third break point of the eighth game for a 5-3 lead and finally took control from the service line to serve out the match.

But McEnroe was not looking forward to his semifinal birthday base or a chance to avenge his previous loss to US Open champion Sampras.

National Sports Award winner Kazi Abdul Alim (left) yesterday declared the Dhaka University's 30th annual sports meet open at the DU central playground.

Gooch's men can't come up with the goods

AUCKLAND, Feb 16 : England's batting collapsed again today in an almost identical manner to last Wednesday, allowing New Zealand to win the one-day cricket series 2-1, reports Reuter.

"When the situation becomes tight we are not coming up with goods," England captain Graham Gooch told reporters.

The England team, which began touring Australia and New Zealand in October, has lost the Ashes failed to make the world series one-day finals, and has now lost in New Zealand.

But the series was far from one-sided. The New Zealanders won this game by just seven runs and Wednesday's in Wellington by nine, while England won the first in Christchurch last Saturday by 14.

England put New Zealand in on a pitch which provided early bounce and movement and were set a modest 224 for seven wickets.

Gooch and Mike Atherton set England up well, with an 83-run opening stand and by the 40th over when South African born pair Allen Lamb and Robin Smith had taken the total to 171 for three, the game appeared won.

But the inexperienced fast bowler Chris Cairns had Lamb caught behind by Ian Smith for 42 and then bowled Smith for 35.

The near capacity crowd of over 30,000 sensed a New Zealand victory , cheering every act of the local team.

When the tailenders came in the target was out of sight for England and fast bowler Chris P'ringle wrapped up the innings taking three wickets.

England had needed 54 off the last ten overs and just 32 off the last five with five wickets in hand, but the target rose to 24 off the last three and 22 off the last two.

In the end England were all out for 217, seven runs short, with one ball left.

New Zealand's top order batsman had problems coping with the pitch. They lost captain Martin Crowe early for six and Anddrew Jones and the normally dashing Richard Reid struggled to score quickly.

Paceman Angus Fraser conceded just five runs off his first seven overs.

When Jones was run out for 64 --his 21st half century in 51 one-day international -New Zealand were 135 five in the 40th over.

But a 74-run partnership in 55 balls between Smith and man -of-the-Match Chris Harris, who scored 39 runs from 44 balls and took two wickets for 36, gave New Zealand a respectable score. Smith clubbed 51 not out from 30 balls.

Fraser ended with one for 31 off his 10 overs and Phillips DeFreitas two for 51.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard for the third one-day match between England and New Zealand played at Eden Park in Auckland today.

New Zealand

M. Crowe b DeFreitas	6
R. Reid c Lamb b Tufnell	26
A Jones run out	64
S. Rutherford LBW b Gooch	12
Greatbatch c Lamb b DeFreitas	12
C. Harris B Fraser	39
I. Smith not out	51
C. Cairns run out	6
C. Priangle not out	0
Extras(3w,51B)	8
Total(7wkts, 50 overs)	224

Of wicket fall:- 1-7, 2-66, 3-98, 4-120, 5-135, 6-209, 7-220.

	O	M	R	W
Fraser	10	3	31	1
DeFreitas	10	0	51	2
Small	10	2	51	0
Gooch	10	0	40	1
Tufnell	10	1	46	1

England

Gooch b Larsen	47
Atherton c Crowe b Harris	34
Gower c Jones b Harris	13
Lamb c Smith b Cairns	42
Smith b Cairns	35
Stewart c Smith b Cairns	3
DeFreitas c Crowe b Pringle	7
Russell b Cairns	13
Small b Pringle	0
Fraser b Pringle	6
Tuffnell not out	3
Extras: (4w,10lb)	14
Total: (all out , , 49.5 overs)	

Of wickets:-fall 1-83, 2-91, 3-118, 4-171, 5-185, 6-194, 7-200, 8-203, 9-209, 10-217.

	O	M	R	W
Pringle	9.5	1	43	3
Watson	10	1	38	0
Cairns	10	1	55	4
Larsen	10	0	35	1
Harris	10	1	36	2

Result: New Zealand won by seven runs.

Ben still looking for speed off the blocks

SASKATOON, Feb 16: Fresh from a disputed victory in Japan, sprinter Ben Johnson runs the fifth race of his comeback Saturday at the Canadian indoor track and field championships, reports AP.

The two-day event has drawn hundreds of athletes, trainers and coaches, but all eyes will be on Johnson Saturday afternoon when he runs in the men's 60-meter dash.

After a warm-up session Friday night, Johnson said his comeback from a two-year suspension for using performance-enhancing steroids has had its ups and downs.

"I feel good, but not so pleased," Johnson said with a wry smile. "I'm in the right frame of mind, I'm still running. I'm in very good shape ...I'm just not getting out of the blocks."

Johnson's return to competition has followed a rocky road since his first race in Hamilton, Ontario, on Jan.11. He has won two of four races and has yet to match his old record-setting times.

Last week, officials took half an hour to declare Johnson the winner of a 60-meter race in Osaka, Japan, after Cuban Andres Simon appeared to have beaten Johnson.

The 29-year-old sprinter lost in Hamilton to Daron Council of the United States and finished behind Andre Cason in Los Angeles. But Johnson won a 55--meter race in Ottawa a week later, well ahead of Council's third-place finish.

Johnson said his problem has been getting out of the starting blocks quickly — a crucial part of the shorter indoor event.

But Johnson said he has been working with friend and fellow sprinter Desai Williams to get back the lightning-fast starts that were his trademark before he was stripped of his gold medal in the Seoul Olympics for steriod use.

"I'm not getting the force off the blocks that I normally get ..I lose it and I have to make it up again," he said. "That's not me.

"But I think tommorrow night you' 11 see the real Ben."

Johnson's main competition will come from Montreal sprinter Bruny Surin, the reigning Canadian champion in the 100-meter dash. The 23-year-old has a personal best of 6.64 seconds in the 60-meter event — identical to Johnson's time in Osaka.

Calgary sprinter Brian Morrison should also push Johnson in Saturday afternoon's 60-meter final. Morrison finished just behind the former world record holder in Ottawa last month.

Organizers of the meet, held on the indoor track at Saskatoon's Field House, said Friday they expected Johnson to draw the media spotlight this weekend. But they were quick to point out that the former world record holder isn't the only star at the championships.

"It's important for the media to realize these other athletes exist," said Jason Chammey, technical director of Alberta Athletics.

Decathlete Mike Smith, who won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand last year, will compete in the indoor version of the decathlon — the seven-even heptathlon.

Vancouver, British Columbia, runner Charmaine Crooks; rated among the top 10 runners in the world in the 400-and 800-meter events, should also do well at the championships along with middle-distance runner Simon Hoogewerf, of Mission, British Columbia.

Burrell dares Christie

LONDON, Feb 16: Leroy Burrell, the new world record holder over 60 metres, flew into London on Friday and proclaimed himself more than ready ready to meet Europe's fastest man Linford Christie on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The 23-year-old American, who broke the world indoor 60 metres record in Madrid on Wednesday, arrived at Heathrow Airport in the early hours of Friday morning.

After a meal and a few hours' sleep told a news conference he felt in good shape and was keen to meet Christie at an international indoor meeting billed by promoters as Europe's best.

"Linford Christie is putting a lot of weight on this race," Burrell said. "That's his approach but my approach is to take it like a normal one."

Burrell reminded the British media he had beaten Christie, the European 100 metres champion and Olympic silver medallist, five times last year.

"I'm not worried about it. To be honest, I'm just going to go and do my thing," he said.

Christie has a hard afternoon's work ahead of him at the last major meeting to be staged in the Royal Air Force base in Cosford.

After taking on Burrell, the training partner of Olympic champion Carl Lewis, he then races Michael Johnson, the world number one outdoors last year, over 200 metres.

Johnson, another 23-year-old American, was the only person to break 20 seconds for the 200 last year and for good measure he remained unbeaten over the 400.

Rana's double in Hatkhola badminton

Sports Reporter

Rana won double crowns on the concluding day of the fourth Hatkhola Sporting Club Open badminton championship yesterday at the Hatkhola ground.

Rana won the men's singles title beating Shakil 15—2 and 15—7 in the final. In the men's doubles Rana teaming up with Hashem scored a 2—1 set victory over Suman and Mahbub.

Juthi and Mahbub won the mixed doubles title registering a 15—11, 15—6 victory over Alina and Zaman.

The winners and runners-up shared a purse of Taka 20,000.

NSC's chairman, Major General Mahbubur Rahman gave away the prizes among the winners as chief guest.

Dhaka Div top school sports

Dhaka Division became champions securing 194 points in the 20th national schools and madrassah sports competition which concluded at the Mohammadpur Physical Training College ground yesterday.

Khulna Division were runners-up with 122 points.

As many as 665 students from the four divisions of the country took part in five-day competition.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman gave away the prizes to the winners on the concluding day.

Special Olympics held in city

The National Special Olympic Games for the mentally retarded, organised by the Special Olympics — Bangladesh (SOBD), was held at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

Presidential Advisor for Youth and Sports, Social Welfare and Women Affairs Alamgir M A Kabir inaugurated the games amidst great enthusiasm.

The general secretary of SOBD, Dr Salahuddin Ahmed, welcomed the participants and guests.

Mr. Kabir, who is the chairman of SOBD and also president of the Society for Care and Education of Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB), took salute from a march past by the participants.

More than one hundred students from the Bangladesh Institute for Mentally Retarded, Special Education Classes of Dhaka and other branches of SCEMRB took part in 32 events of the games.

Later, prizes were distributed among the winners.