

Booters leave today

Sports Reporter

The national under-23 Olympic football team leaves today for the South Korean capital Seoul to participate in the Asian Group 'D' pre-Olympic qualifying competition beginning there from May 18.

The team leaves today by Bangladesh Biman at 11.45 am. After an overnight halt at Bangkok, the team will reach Seoul tomorrow.

Harunur Rashid, General Secretary of the BFF, replaced Sadeq Hossain Khoka, MP, at the eleventh hour as the chief-mission of the squad which includes 20 players, four officials and a BSAJ nominated journalist Afzal H. Khan, Sports Editor of The Daily Star.

All members of the team called on the President of the Bangladesh Football Federation, Siddiqui Rahman yesterday evening at the BFF office. The BFF President wished them all success in the tournament.

Syed Rumman bin-Walid Shabbir of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club is captain of the side which in-

cludes three goal keepers, six defenders, as many midfielders and only four strikers.

Bangladesh is placed in a five-team cluster that includes South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines. The Koreans are the obvious bet to qualify from the group for next year's Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. The two-leg qualifiers will be hosted by South Korea and Malaysia. The first leg of the competition starts in Seoul from May 18 and runs until May 26 while the second leg starts in Kuala Lumpur from July 1 and runs until July 8.

The team reads: Goalkeepers - Abdullahul Lahul (Rahmatganj MFS), Bijon (Wari Club) and Mohsin (Mohammedan Sporting).

Defenders - Moon (Brothers Union), Aman (Abahani KC), Masud Rana (BKSP), Barun (Muktijoddha Sangsad - Vice captain), Jewel Rana (Muktijoddha), Sohel (Rajshahi Division) and Jamrul (BPWD).

Midfielders - Shabr (Mohammedans), Roxy (Arambagh KS), Alamgir (Abahani), Munna Jr (Abahani), Zakir

(Mohammedans) and Gaus (BPWD).

Forwards - Ekram (Muktijoddha), Mamoon (Victoria Sporting Club), Naquib (Mohammedans) and Uttam (Brothers).

Anwarul Haq Helal, a Joint Secretary of the BFF is the manager with Khairul Anwar Pearu as his deputy while Md. Abdul Hakim is the coach.

FIXTURE

Following is the fixture for Bangladesh's games:

May 18 vs Thailand
May 20 vs South Korea
May 22 vs Malaysia
May 24 vs Philippines

The second-leg fixture for Bangladesh is as follows:

July 1 vs Thailand
July 3 vs South Korea
July 5 vs Philippines
July 7 vs Malaysia

The Squad leaves for Bangkok en route to Seoul on May 15 by Biman Bangladesh Airlines and will return home on May 27.

Under IOC rules only players under 23 years of age can represent their countries in Olympic soccer.

Charity cricket in HK in aid of cyclone victims

Leading cricketers in Hong Kong recently arranged a charity cricket tournament in the island to raise fund for the cyclone victims in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The six-a-side tournament which began last week, is being played by seven "country" teams - India 1, India 2, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Australia and England.

The tournament has been organised by a Bangladesh-born Hong Kong international batsman Rizwan Faruq, Kowloon Cricket Club and an Indian businessman Papu Butani, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

The organisers expect to raise about 27,000 US Dollars from 10 matches.

Santana slams Sao Paolo despite win

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 14: Sao Paulo reached the semifinal play-offs of the Brazilian soccer championship at the weekend but coach tele Santana remained unimpressed, reports Reuter.

After their 3-1 home win against Cruzeiro, he criticised his players for being 'exhibitionist' on the pitch.

Second-placed Bragantino moved closer to the semifinals with an unconvincing 1-0 win over Goias thanks to a 16th minute strike by Joao Santos. Goias missed several chances.

Third placed Atletico Mineiro had hoped to clinch a semifinal place but fell apart at home to lowly Botafogo, coach Jair Pereira said: "We fell into Botafogo's trap."

More than 50,000 fans turned up for the game and found themselves living a nightmare as the visitors won 3-0 with goals from Laulo Roberto, Vitorino and Valdeir.

Corinthians captain Neto came to his team's rescue, scoring with a 35-metre free kick in their 1-1 draw away to Bahia.

Neto, who had scored three times in Corinthians' previous two games, curled his free kick over the Bahia defensive wall and into the top corner of the goal in the 64th minute.

The result kept Corinthians fourth in the championship ahead of local rivals Palmeiras on the number of goals scored.

Vasco da Gama midfielder William missed two penalties as his team lost 3-0 to Gremio, who are battling relegation.

The top four clubs go into the semifinal play-offs after the final round of qualifying matches next weekend.

ANC's denial

JOHANNESBURG, May 14: The African National Congress (ANC) Monday denied that members of the controversial Mandela United Football Club are still guarding the home of the organisation's leader, Nelson Mandela or his wife Winnie, reports AFP.

Long term coaching for under-16 players

The selection and coaching committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday selected 41 under-16 booters for a long-term training under its players coaching programme, reports UNB.

The promising players were hunted from a three-day trial. The selected players are: Goalkeeper - Babul, Shimol, Apel, Selim, Mosaddek and Nasirul.

Defenders: Nadim, Khaled, Selim, Emdadul, Tapan, Masud, Kamrul, Palash, Ashish, Mazharul, Shovan, Shahjada and Paritosh.

Midfields: Sajedul, Shantoo, Saimon, Zunun, Tagar, Arman, Akku, Nayan, Salahuddin, Ratan and Hanif.

Forwards: Shimol, Jahangir, Tipu-I, Hira, Montoo, Monir, Minar, Biplob, Shaheen, Tinkur and Tipu-2.

NZ to allow tobacco sponsorship

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, May 14: New Zealand will amend its anti-tobacco sports sponsorship laws to allow 11 matches of a tobacco sponsored one-day World Cup Cricket series to take place, Associate Health Minister Maurice Williamson said late Monday, reports AFP.

His announcement came after New Zealand Cricket (NZC) claimed the future of the tournament here was at stake.

Mr. Williamson said a very small technical amendment to the smoke-free Environments Act would be made so the Benson and Hedges-sponsored event could carry on.

The amendment gives the Minister the discretion of allowing one-off international sporting events.

He noted that the law made an exception for the Whitbread round - the world yacht race in which a number of yachts are usually named after cigarette brands.

The Act, passed last year by the previous Labour government, prohibits tobacco advertising or sponsorship. While in opposition, the National Party said it would repeal the legislation but now that the party is in the government they have had second thoughts.

Earlier, NZC chairman Peter McDermott said they had been planning the Cup games with the understanding

that the law would be repealed. He complained government inaction was making planning difficult.

"It is like walking in quicksand. We can only wait a few more weeks. If there is no government action by then, we will have to have a completely new look at the Cup plans," he said.

Mr. McDermott later welcomed Mr. Williamson's eleventh hour announcement. "We can get on with it now," he said, adding that NZC would go ahead and design uniforms, print fixture cards and tickets and release advanced publicity.

The bulk of the games will take place at the end of this year in Australia.

Muster regains winning touch

ROME, May 14: Two of the tennis world's most out-of-touch players, Mark Woodforde and Thomas Muster, finally came good on a rain-hit first day of the Italian Open men's championship on

Monday, reports Reuter. Australian Woodforde, a first round loser in his previous four tournaments, tasted success at last by upsetting eight seed Brad Gilbert of the United States 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

He was joined in the second round by Austrian former world number six Muster, now ranked 34th after an injury-hit start to the year, who completed his first victory since October at the expense of Israel's Amos Mansdorf.

The weather was the day's overall winner, however, after a violent thunderstorm left the courts awash with only six singles matches completed.

It was another disappointment for the Italian organisers just 24 hours after an interrupted women's final between Gabriela Sabatini and Monica Seles.

An unhappy Gilbert must have wished the rain had arrived a little earlier, but Woodforde relished the day's events after his omission from Australia's Davis Cup team which lost to France earlier this month.

"I think this will show people back home what I can do. I'm out to get picked next time," said the Adelaide left-hander, currently ranked 78th in the world.

Gilbert, not allowed to produce his trademark passing shots, complained of slight tennis elbow and was less than generous in defeat.

"I played a lot of lackadaisical shots. I think today there was a lot of charity," said the world number 15.

Muster's 6-4, 6-2 success, achieved in familiar grunting style, came as a considerable relief, despite the limited opposition provided by a struggling Mansdorf.

The Australian is still seeking full match fitness following a knee operation and confirmed he would not be playing at Wimbledon this year, preferring to rebuild his game on clay courts.

TENNIS TIDINGS

Becker withdraws from Italian Open

ROME, May 14: Top seed Boris Becker withdrew Tuesday from the Italian Open, citing chronic back pain, reports AP.

Becker, ranked second in the world behind Stefan Edberg, was the third top 10 player to pull out of the Rome tournament. Third-ranked Ivan Lendl and fifth-ranked Guy Forget withdrew last week because of physical ailments.

Organisers said Becker complained that the pain, which has tormented him for the past 10 days, have worsened.

France's Cedric Pinline will take the German's place in the draw.

Daughter born to McEnroe

NEW YORK, May 14: Tennis star John McEnroe and his wife, actress Tatum O'Neal, announced on Monday that a baby girl was born to them last Friday, reports Reuter.

The baby, named Emily Katherine, weighed in at seven pounds three ounces (3.41 kg) and was delivered in Malibu, California, where the McEnroe and O'Neal, 27, live.

It is their third child and first daughter. Oldest son Kevin turns five years old later this month and Sean is three years old.

McEnroe, 32, is next scheduled to play in the French Open starting May 27 in Paris and then for the US Davis Cup team in next month's quarter-final match against Spain.

McEnroe, a four-time US Open champion and three-time Wimbledon winner, was ranked number one in the world from 1982-84 and is currently rated number 12.

Top money winners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 14: Leading money winners this year in women's tennis, according to the Women's Tennis Association on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia) 569,056 dollars
2. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 533,391
3. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia) 276,256
4. Steffi Graf (Germany) 251,651
5. Mary Joe Fernandez (US) 250,900
6. Martina Navratilova (US) 214,675
7. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain) 182,941
8. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia) 149,809
9. Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union) 123,043
10. Gigi Fernandez (US) 115,690
11. Zina Garrison (US) 113,564
12. Patty Fendick (US) 102,398
13. Lella Meskhi (Soviet Union) 93,926
14. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland) 86,505
15. Jennifer Capriati (US) 80,788
16. Larisa Savchenko (Soviet Union) 77,288
17. Lori McNeil (US) 75,834
18. Conchita Martinez (Spain) 72,488
19. Nathalie Tauziat (France) 70,755
20. Helen Keles (Canada) 66,813

Leading women's singles players

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 14: Top 20 women's singles players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia); 2. Steffi Graf (Germany); 3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina); 4. Martina Navratilova (US); 5. Mary Joe Fernandez (US); 6. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain); 7. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia); 8. Conchita Martinez (Spain); 9. Zina Garrison (US); 10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland); 11. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria); 12. Jennifer Capriati (US); 13. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia); 14. Lella Meskhi (Soviet Union); 15. Nathalie Tauziat (France); 16. Barbara Paulus (Austria); 17. Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union); 18. Judith Wiesner (Austria); 19. Sandra Cecchini (Italy); 20. Amy Frazier (US);

Maradona used pure stuff

BUENOS AIRES, Argentine, May 14: Police testes show that a white substance found during the drug arrest of soccer star Diego Maradona last month is cocaine of 'maximum purity', a private news agency said Monday, reports AP.

Citing court sources, the agency, Diarios Noticias, said police laboratory tests showed that a plastic bag tossed out of a window of the apartment where Maradona was arrested contained 91 percent pure cocaine. The amount of cocaine found was not revealed.

Witnesses have said the bag was recovered by police from the awning of a ground-floor food store located immediately below the apartment where Maradona and two friends were arrested in an April 26 police raid.

Maradona, who was held in custody for 35 hours before being freed on 20,000 dollars bond by Federal Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal, faces preliminary charges of drug possession and distribution.

Judge Berraz, in charge of the case, still is awaiting the results of blood and urine tests

taken from the three men inside the apartment during a May 6 judicial inspection, did not contain cocaine.

Maradona has not been seen in public since he was freed on bond. He reportedly spends his time at his Buenos Aires home or at a weekend home in the suburb of Moreno, 30 kilometers, (19 miles) west of Buenos Aires.

His manager, Marcos Franchi, was treated by a doctor for torn knee ligaments on Sunday after playing soccer with Maradona and several friends at the weekend home.

Franchi has told reporters that Maradona, under questioning by Judge Berraz, admitted having used cocaine on several occasions over the last three months.

The manager has said the 30-year-old ex-captain of Napoli, of the Italian top league, and former leader of Argentina's national team, has been undergoing medical and psychological treatment.

Maradona, considered the world's best soccer player for most of the last decade, was suspended by the Italian soccer league on April 6 after cocaine was found in a urine test following a game between Napoli and Bari.

Earlier, police tests indicated that another bag, found

inside the apartment during a May 6 judicial inspection, did not contain cocaine.

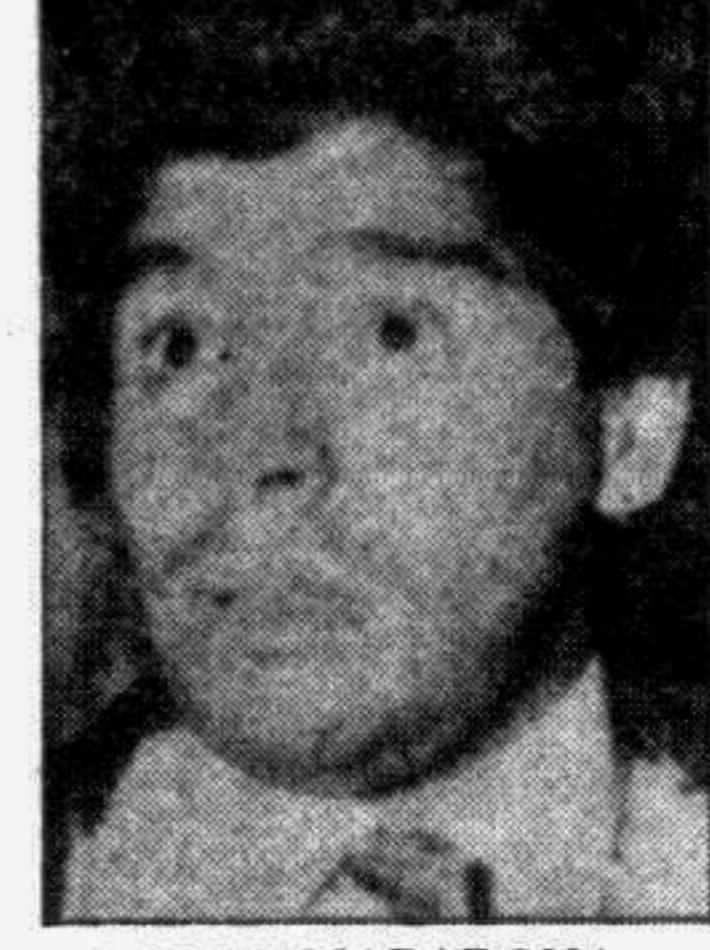
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DIEGO MARADONA

Kasparov vows to concentrate harder

AMSTERDAM, May 14: World chess champion Garry Kasparov, distracted by politics in recent weeks, sent a chill message to his opponents after a second consecutive poor showing in international tournament play, reports Reuter.

"Anyone who is world champion must spend more time on his chess, the Soviet grandmaster told Reuters.

He was speaking after finishing joint third with old rival Anatoly Karpov in the Verenigde Spaarbank tournament in Amsterdam on Monday—his worst result in a decade.

Vowing to concentrate harder on his chess in future, he added: "You should do certain things with a passion."

Only 28, Kasparov is already

the highest rated chess player on all time, surpassing the tournament and match records set by US world champion



GARRY KASPAROV

Bobby Fischer in the 1970s. But he also harbours political ambitions, using his fame

to focus attention of the Soviet radicals he supports and to criticize President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He resigned from the Russian Democratic Party in April after a disagreement with the founder, but still said last week that he may stand as a parliamentary deputy.

For 10 years Kasparov won every tournament he played in. He ended Karpov's nine-year reign as world champion in 1985 and has twice defended the title successfully against him.

Since that last defence in December, Kasparov's chess has lost its edge and his results have slipped.

In Linares, Spain, in March, he came second to rising Soviet star Vasily Ivanchuk. Sliding to third in Amsterdam, Kasparov said gloomy: "Here I was not ready for the fight"

The tournament was won jointly by Britain's Nigel Short and Soviet grandmaster Valery Salov, with six points, half a point ahead of Kasparov and Karpov.

"Kasparov is on bad form at the moment." Soviet-born grandmaster Genna Sosonko said during the match.

Kasparov is now gearing up for the Tilburg tournament in the southern Netherlands in October after a summer relaxation and study break in California.

"That will be a very strong tournament in Tilburg. I will prepare certain novelties and get rid of inaccuracies (in my play)" he said. "I have high expectations of that tournament."

Unable to forget his other obsession, however, he quickly added: "In chess you can get a result, but in politics you can never score."

Williams ready to take on world

ES MOINES, Iowa, May 14: Now that he has proven himself against fighters in the United States, Jeremy Williams is ready to take on the rest of the world, reports AP.

Williams won a national Golden Gloves championship at the age of 17 a year ago and repeated his title at 178 pounds (81 kilograms) on Saturday night. He had barely begun to cool down when his coach, Eddie Carr, began talking about the next step.

"Now we're going to fight internationally a little bit," said Carr, who works with Williams at a club in Detroit. "May we'll fight the Cubans. We'll see."

"For sure we're going to continue to develop toward winning the gold medal. That's our goal. But all of the time we're going to be working on making Jeremy a complete fighter."

Williams is raw, but he

clearly has potential. He's lean and strong and an move.

He had little chance to display his punching power in Saturday night's title bout because his opponent, John Ruiz of the United States, fought cautiously and avoided getting into a slugging match. However, Williams was far and away the best in his class.

"You haven't seen the finished product," Carr said. "He's young and rough right down. He needs polishing. Once we do that and he really learns to fight, he's going to be awesome."

If Williams makes the Olympic team at 19 next year, he'd be much younger than most of the boxers held face in Barcelona. Carr doesn't see that as a problem.

"He'll be old enough," Carr said. "With the Detroit technique and the finesse that we teach, he'll be fine. With that straight up bang, bang, bang style of the Soviets and Cubans,

I think we can beat that."

Williams had to fight a strategic bout to retain his title. Ruiz was either backing off or tying Williams up to stay clear of his powerful overhands and books, forcing Williams to be patient and look for his openings.

"He fought me timidly," Williams said. "He never hit me hard. He'd make some punches when he'd get in there, but then he'd be moving back so they didn't have much impact. I just tried to beat him at his own game."

Another champion, Timmy Austin, also has US Olympic team aspirations. Austin won the title at 112 pounds (51 kilograms) for the second straight time. The Goodwill Games champion last summer, Austin will fight for the US team against the Cubans in Rochester, New York, later this month.

"This is it for the Golden Gloves," Austin said. "I want to

go to the World Championships this year and my goal is staying in it through the Olympics."

"A lot of people think I have problems holding my weight, but I don't. I get may be five, six pounds (two, three kilograms) over, but that's nothing. I've known some guys who get 12 to 13 pounds (five to six kilos) over. I think I can stay at this weight."

Austin won a unanimous decision against Russel Roberts of Louisiana. Roberts had moved up a weight after winning the title at 106 pounds (48 kilograms) in 1990.

"I felt real relaxed," Austin said. "He was throwing some punches, but he wasn't showing much aggression like he wanted to win. I just tried to be aggressive and take the fight to him."

Terronn Millet of St. Louis was named the tournament's outstanding boxer.

Basketball results

BAGUIO, Philippines, May 14: The Malaysian boys made their debut at the 6th ASEAN junior basketball championship here late Monday with a come-from-behind 51-48 win over Indonesia, but the girls match saw a reversal of fortunes, reports AFP.

Wang Tai Ong scored 24 points to lead the Malaysian boys' team to victory after overtaking Indonesia, which led 24-19 at half-time.

Zhao can now enjoy his success

BRONDBY, Denmark, May 14: Zhao Jianhua, the mercurial badminton talent from China, can now lay claim to a place among the sport's greats after his World Championship triumph here on Sunday, reports AFP.

"The first one was in 1985, after I won my first All England title," he recalled. "The second one was before the All England this year."

"I had to rest for a very long time and only trained for 20 days before the tournament so that with two matches a day, I was lacking in stamina. Physically my health is not good enough."

That, in fact, has been the major disappointment of his career. "Whenever I've hit top form, I've got an illness," he moaned.

Surprisingly Zhao feels he reached his peak in 1985 with the first of his two All England crowns. "Now I'm over it, but I'm still trying to do my best," he said.

"My hardest opponent is myself. Many times I've lost games because I've made a lot of errors."

The world number three reduced them to a minimum last week at the World Championships here and discovered that there was no body to touch him.

"I didn't expect to win the Championship, but I hoped I would," said the Asian champion. "You must play very well all the time."

That he did, not losing a game, and now he has targeted the World Grand Prix finals in December as his next goal. "I have never won those," he explained.

Seeds fall at Lufthansa Open

BERLIN, May 14: With Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini enjoying first-round byes, two seeds fell as the 500,000-dollar Lufthansa Open women's tennis tournament opened Monday, reports AP.

Graf, the No. 2 in the world, is the top seed, while Sabatini, ranked third, is seeded second in the clay court tournament.

If the seedings hold, Graf would meet Sabatini in the final. Sabatini, the hottest player on the tour, beat top-ranked Monica Seles to win the Italian Open on Sunday. The Argentine has a five-match winning streak against Graf. Seles is skipping the tournament.

Three seeds were in action Monday and only one, No. 11 Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union, advanced to the second round.

Radka Zrubaková of Czechoslovakia upset ninth-seeded Lella Meskhi of the Soviet Union 6-2, 6-2, and Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria ousted 13th-seeded Judith Wiesner of Austria 6-0, 6-3.

Two Americans also advanced. Halle Cioffi beat Katharina Duell of Germany 6-2, 6-1, and Ginger Helgeson ousted Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-3, 6-0.

In other first-round matches, Laura Garrone beat fellow Italian Katia Piccolini 7-6, 6-1. Florencia Labat of Argentina defeated Isabel Cueto of Germany 6-1, 6-4; Elena Brioukhovets of the Soviet Union ousted Stephanie Rehe of the United States 6-3, 2-6, 7-6, and