

BFF permits 3 foreigners

Sports Reporter



Every Metropolitan Senior Division football club can now include three foreign players in their line-ups from the coming football season.

The decision, one of several taken by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) at its executive committee meeting yesterday, reverses the ban imposed on foreign players following the 1988-89 season during the tenure of Maj. General Mahmudul Hassan as the BFF president. That year the BFF had run into serious problems with FIFA, the world governing body of soccer, over the Chima Okorie affair. The BFF's ham-handed handling of the dispute between Abahani Krira Chakra and Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting over the signing of the Calcutta-based Nigerian star nearly brought severe reprimand from FIFA. The brewing crisis was averted only after BFF was forced to tender an unconditional apology to FIFA at the behest of the then President H. M. Ershad.

According to the new BFF decision, any club interested in hiring the services of foreign players can register three overseas booters and field all of them in a game.

The decision means Federation Cup champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting, who will be representing Bangladesh in the forthcoming eight-team 10th Asian Club Cup championship scheduled to begin in Dhaka from July 19, can now reinforce their side by signing three foreign stars.

The BFF also finalised the soccer calendar for the coming season.

According to the new calendar, the inter-club transfers of players will be from August 1 to 7 instead of the previously announced July 29 to August 4.

The Federation Cup tournament will be held from Aug 16 to 31 with the champions earning the right to represent Bangladesh in the Asian Club championships and the runners-up to give his side a 2-0 interval lead.

He completed his hat-trick in the 41st minute. The other Dutch goal was a splendid opportunity effort by substitute Bastiaan Van Ede five minutes from time.

The Soviets enjoyed their share of the ball but failed to profit from four penalty corners and several other chances, often denied by Dutch goalkeeper Frank Leistra.

The Dutch team's third win without conceding a goal, their best start in a major tournament, should ensure they take their place in the last four.

ENGLAND BT SPAIN
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ners-up playing in the Asian Cup Winners' Cup.

The Senior Division league will start in Dhaka on Sept 3 and should be over by December 10, although the BFF will try to complete the single-league programme by mid-November. Next year the league will be played from January.

The Suhrawardy Cup junior national championship, earlier scheduled for August, will now be held next Dec-January.

The executive committee meet also formed two new sub-committees — one for running the Senior Division and other local leagues and another for examining the present BFF constitution and suggesting necessary changes in the light of practical experience.

BFF vice president Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury heads the seven-member league committee while joint secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu will chair the constitution review committee.

However, the meeting failed to take a decision on the plea put forth by newly-registered players who had sought a reduction of the present three-year clause binding them to their first Senior Division teams to two years. The matter has been deferred for the time being.

Soccer fans of the city reacted positively to the decision to allow foreign players in the league saying it would help lift the standard of competition by expanding the pool of talent from which clubs may draw. According to many, the ban on foreign players had led to a deterioration of playing standards and the quality of our football in view of the severely limited local talent.

This had led to a situation where the leading clubs of the country were forced to pay exorbitant and unrealistic sums of money for the services of the few better Bangladeshi players. The BFF decision is likely to bring the prices of some of our over-rated players drastically down.

The executive committee meeting was chaired by BFF president Siddiqur Rahman.

Dutch rout Soviets 4-0



PARIS, June 16: Dutch penalty corner striker Floris Boveland plundered the first genuine hat-trick of the European Cup hockey tournament as the Netherlands routed the Soviet Union 4-0 on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Boveland's striking was the major difference between two Group A teams who are both expected to reach next Friday's semifinals.

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Action from yesterday's reverse singles of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Group Two tie at Ramna Tennis Complex.

Korea stun Argentina



LISBON, Portugal, June 16: Korea, fielding a united soccer team for the first time in 45 years, scored with two minutes remaining Saturday to beat Argentina 1-0 and earn the World Youth Soccer Championship's first major upset on the tournament's second day, reports AP.

Latin soccer had more success in the day's other games. Brazil beat Ivory Coast 2-1, Spain defeated England 1-0 and Mexico trounced Sweden 3-0. Australia also won, beating Trinidad and Tobago 2-0.

The youngsters from North and South Korea played fast and efficient collective soccer in their Group A game in Lisbon.

Midfielder Cho In-Chol, from the North, scored the winner off a rebound when South Korean striker Tae Hong-Lee's direct kick bounced off the Argentine wall.

"The main reason for my team's win is the new mentality of the players from both Koreas," coach An Se-Uk said. "The harmony between the players from the North and the South is fundamental."

Brazil narrowly defeated Ivory Coast in an emotional and lively game marred by fouls in Group B at Oporto.

The South Americans led 1-0 after a free kick by Andrei

Frascarelli hit the Ivory Coast Wall and deflected past an out-of-position goalkeeper, Konate Losseni.

Three minutes into the second half, an unmarked Sylvian Tiehi, who plays club soccer at France's Le Havre, tied the game by directing in a corner kick from short range.

Losseni initially saved Ivory Coast in the 62nd minute.

Spitz comes last

CANET-EN-ROUSSILLON, France, June 16: Former American Olympic champion Mark Spitz finished last in his latest comeback race, coming in almost two seconds behind Canadian Marcel Gery in a men's 100 metres butterfly on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Despite Morris' failure, Glamorgan lead Middlesex by 340 with eight second innings wickets left going into the final day of a rain-hit match at Cardiff.

Middlesex captain Mike Gatting declared his side's first innings at 86 for two in an attempt to produce a result.

The only other cricket possible was at Hove where Sussex finished on 131 for one in reply to Worcestershire's 410 for five declared. Rain prevented any play elsewhere.

Morris delayed

LONDON, June 16: Glamorgan opener Hugh Morris, bidding to become the first player to 1,000 runs in English first-class cricket this season, fell frustratingly short against Middlesex on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Morris was bowled for 15 by England left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell, still 27 short of becoming the first English-qualified batsman to perform the feat since Chris Smith in 1985.

Hampshire's Smith is currently in second place in the race on 870 runs, 30 ahead of Essex's Pakistan Test Star Salim Malik.

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Edberg flexing muscles

LONDON, June 16: Stefan Edberg's perfect build-up to the defence of his Wimbledon title continued when he beat American Malival Washington on Saturday to reach the final of the 500,000-dollar Queen's Club grass court tournament, reports Reuter.

The world number one, who has not dropped a set all week, beat Washington 6-4, 6-2 in a rain-interrupted semifinal.

Edberg, Wimbledon champion in 1988 as Wells's last year, will play either his former doubles partner Anders Jarryd, the seventh seed, or number six David Wheaton of the United States in today's final.

Washington, by his own admission, is not at his best on grass. But he put up a heroic fight against the top seed, saving four breakpoints to hold

his opening serve.

However, he was able to win few points on Edberg's serve, the Swede holding to love three times in the first set alone.

Edberg, who has never won the Queen's title, has sometimes had problems keeping his concentration after rain breaks in a week of frequent showers.

But he came back with a vengeance after rain halted the semifinal for 37 minutes with the Swede leading 4-1 in the second set.

Edberg held serve to love, with an ace on game point, and then returned beautifully to get to match point on Washington's serve.

The American, appearing in the semifinals of an ATP event for the fourth time this year, saved the points with a service winner and held before Edberg served out for the match with another love game.

Kaiserlautern champs

COLOGNE, Germany, June 16: The impossible dream came true for tiny Kaiserslautern on Saturday when they won their first German soccer title for nearly four decades, reports Reuter.

When Coach Karlheinz Feldkamp took over at the small provincial club in February last year, the team were second from bottom of the Bundesliga and threatened with relegation.

In three months he guided them to their first German Cup triumph in Berlin and a final 12th place in the league.

On Saturday the team, all virtually unknown before the start of the season, took the championship in style with a 6-2 hammering of Cologne. It was their first since 1953.

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But 57-year-old Feldkamp, the oldest trainer in the Bundesliga, refused to talk about fairy-tales.

"It was all down to hard work, I knew there was the potential in the team to be in the top three," he said.

A Lankan whitewash

Sports Reporter

Sri Lanka completed a 5-0 whitewash of Bangladesh after winning both the reverse singles of their Asia-Oceania Group Two Davis Cup second round tie at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

Having already clinched the issue with a victory in the doubles match on Saturday, the top two Lankan players Arjun Fernando and Rohan De Silva beat the top two Bangladeshi Shovon Jamaly and Sarder Iftakhar with consummate ease on a hot, muggy morning.

Sri Lanka Davis Cup captain Arjun Fernando had little difficulty in disposing of Bangladeshi number one Shovon Jamaly, winning 6-4, 6-3 the best-of-three-sets tie

with some excellent passing shots and volleys.

On the opening day of the three-day meet Friday Fernando had beaten Sarder Iftakhar 6-0, 6-1, 6-1.

In the other match of the day yesterday, the young Rohan De Silva made a fine recovery after being down 4-5 in the opening set to win his clash against fellow-left-hander Sarder Iftakhar 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.

De Silva forced the first match into a tiebreak, clawing his way back to level the score at 5-all after Sarder had threatened to stem the Lankans' winning tide. But after taking the first set De Silva again let Sarder get the upperhand in the second with a series of unforced errors. For his part Sarder, looking tired and disappointed with his

country's performance, still managed some beautiful strokes and a few of his deft placing caught the fitter De Silva on the wrong foot. Sarder took the second set 7-5 but that was as far as the Lankan would let him go for in the third De Silva pulled his game around and prevailed 6-2 as his opponent appeared to give up.

On Friday De Silva had defeated Shovon 6-4, 6-2, 7-5. The Lankan pair won the doubles Saturday 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

The Lankans will now meet Hong Kong next month in the group semi-finals. Hong Kong beat Singapore in their second round tie in Singapore yesterday.

The five-member Lankan squad leaves for Colombo today.

Krabbe, Bubka eclipsed



DIJON, France, June 16: French sprinter Marie-Jose Perec raced to a remarkable double over Germans Katrin Krabbe and Grit Breuer, stealing the spotlight from injured Pole Vaulter Sergei Bubka at an international meeting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Perec came from behind in the women's 100 metres, storming through in the last 20 metres to beat European triple gold medalist Krabbe on the line with a time of 11.28 seconds to the German's 11.37.

It was a personal best for the 23-year-old from Guadeloupe, a bronze medalist in the 400 metres at last year's European Championships who rarely runs the short sprint.

She completed the double, setting a French record in the process, with a 200 metres triumph over Breuer, like Krabbe one of the final generation of great athletes produced by the East German state system.

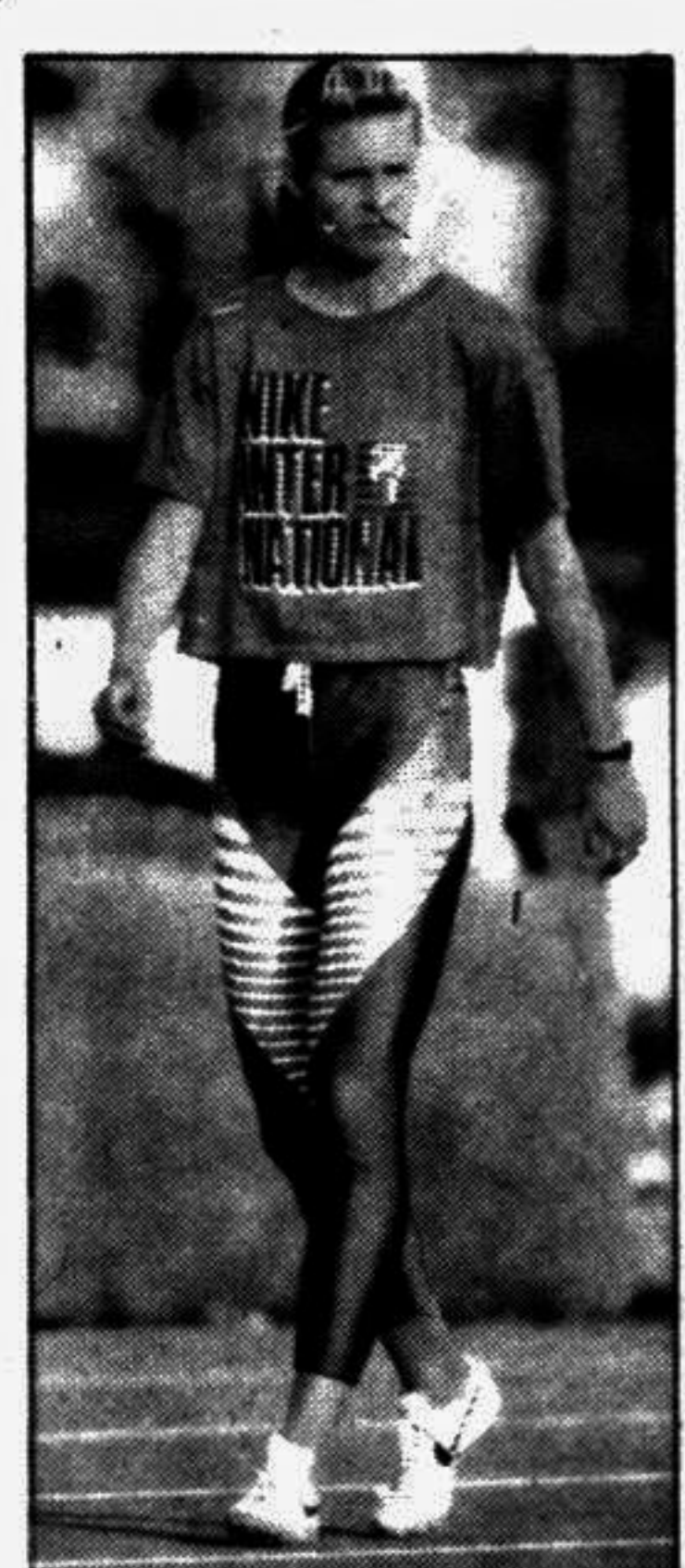
Perec clocked 22.26 seconds, the second best time in the world this year, with European 400 metres gold medalist Breuer well behind in 22.57.

Bubka, who has already set four indoor and two outdoor world records this year, was billed as the star turn of the meeting but the Soviet Vaulter injured his left calf muscle while warming up and decided not to compete.

"It's nothing serious but I decided not to take the risk of making things worse," Bubka said. In his absence Frenchman Ferenc Salbert won the event with a 5.70-metre vault.

The French men's 4x100 metres relay team showed they are already in form to defend their surprise world record against an expected American challenge this summer.

Gilles Quehenne stepped in for the injured Max Marinier and he, Daniel Sangouma, Jean-Charles Trouabal and Bruno Marie-Rose clocked an impressive 38.61 seconds, the second best time of the season and within a second of their 37.79 record in split last year.



KATRIN KRABBE

US set date with Germany



NEWPORT, Rhode Island, June 16: Rick Leach and Jim Pugh kept their perfect Davis Cup tennis record alive and put the defending champion United States into the semifinals with a doubles victory over Spain on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Leach and Pugh, now 6-0 in Davis Cup play, defeated the Spanish duo of Emilio Sanchez and Sergio Casal 7-6, 6-3, 7-6, on grass to clinch the quarter-final for the United States with an insurmountable 3-0 lead.

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