

Olympic squad off to KL

Sports Reporter

The team is expected back home July 8. Despite producing some encouraging performances the under-23 national squad managed only the fourth position with only a solitary win against the Philippines whom they thrashed 8-0 in their last outing of the first-leg tourney in the Korean capital. Bangladesh lost 2-3 to the Thais, 0-1 to Malaysia and 0-6 to the South Koreans who topped the table with seven points earned from three victories and a goalless draw against the Malaysians.

Thailand finished second with six points while the Malaysians managed five with the Filipinos drawing a blank.

Having covered the first leg matches, this correspondent feels there was very little to choose between the Thais, the Malaysians and Bangladesh and second time around our boys should not find it beyond themselves to beat either of these two sides. Of course the South Koreans seemed to be long on an entirely different league while the Filipinos will

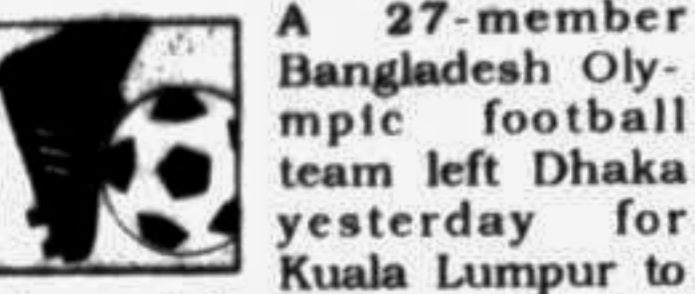
need some more years to come up even to our own humble standards.

Unless our boys, who are led on the field by the redoubtable Ruman bin-Wali Shabbir, the ace Mohammedan Sporting winger, suffer from characteristic bout of nerves, they should improve upon their poor fourth place showing without much difficulty.

The BFF has added two extra officials — Shamsuzzoha Khan Majlish alias Iskander and Nazrul Islam — to the original 25-man squad which went to Seoul.

Following is the full squad. Players — Lahool, Mohsin, Bijon, Barun, Aman, Masud Rana, Sohel, Jewel Rana, Moon, Jamrul, Shabbir (captain), Roxy, Alamgir, Zakir, Shafig, Uttam, Gaus, Ekram Rana, Naqib and Mamun Joardar.

Officials — Harunur Rashid (leader of the delegation), Anwarul Huq Helal (manager), Khairul Alam Pearu (Assistant Manager), Nazrul Islam, Shamsuzzoha Khan Majlish, Sanaul Huq Khan and Abdul Hakim (coach).



A 27-member Bangladesh Olympic football team left Dhaka yesterday for Kuala Lumpur to take part in the second-leg of the Asian Group 'D' Barcelona Olympic Games qualifying tournament beginning in the Malaysian capital June 29.

Led by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) General Secretary Harunur Rashid, the squad includes twenty players, six officials and a representative of the sportswriters association. Anwarul Haq Helal is the team manager and Khairul Anwar Pearu the Asst Manager.

Maradona won't fall back on drugs, agent says

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, June 26: Fallen soccer idol Diego Maradona, on bail on cocaine charges, has kicked his drugs habit for good, Maradona's agent said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"He has totally given up drugs and you can be sure he will never again fall back on them," agent Marcos Franchi told reporters.

The stocky midfielder was arrested on April 26 and later freed on 20,000-US dollars bail after begin charged with possession of cocaine and supplying the drug free of charge to others.

Since then he has been treated by a medical team at his Buenos Aires apartment, leaving only occasionally to go jogging or play paddle tennis or five-a-side soccer with friends.



DIEGO MARADONA

Maradona has been banned from soccer until July 1992 for failing a dope test after an Italian league game in March.

He returned to Argentina in early April saying he was fed up with professional soccer. After that month he was arrested with two friends in a police raid on a Buenos Aires flat.

On Sunday the Italian soccer league said it had turned down a request made by Maradona on March 20 to end his contract with Napoli after the former Italian champions stopped paying his salary and opened a case against him for damages.

Napoli claimed huge losses in revenue as crowds at the club's San Paolo ground dwindled due to their captain's wayward behaviour.

Franchi, in Italy earlier this month to discuss terms for Maradona's eventual return to Napoli, said last week the club had rejected a request to allow Maradona to travel to Argentina once a month to continue treatment.

"The (Napoli) bosses should understand that Diego has started treatment and has changed his habits. Now it's up to them to change," the local Noticias Argentinas news agency quoted Franchi as saying.

Sobers to attend SA Board's launch

JOHANNESBURG, June 26: A dazzling array of cricketing dignitaries have accepted invitations to attend the newly-formed United Cricket Board of South Africa's official launch next Saturday, reports AFP.

West Indian cricketing legend Sir Garfield Sobers will arrive on Tuesday, accompanied by Barbados Olympic Association president Austin Sealy, the Board said, while another West Indian, Tony Cozier, arrives the following morning.

Later that same day, Indian superstar Sunil Gavaskar is due at Jan Smuts Airport, accompanied by his wife and negotiations are underway with the Pakistan Cricket Board over the availability of Pakistan all-rounder Imran Khan.

Among the administrative dignitaries due to arrive later in the week are the Test and Country Cricket Board's George Mann and the Australian Cricket Board's Bob Cowper.

The new, non-racial board was formed after protracted negotiations between the white-led South African Cricket Union and the anti-apartheid South African Cricket Board and marks a new era in South African cricket.

It will be officially launched at a glittering table banquet next Saturday.

The union of rival sporting groups and the scrapping of all apartheid laws, which will officially take place on June 30, are the two main criteria laid down by African sports administrators for the return of South African sportsmen to the world arena.

Calcutta MSC post win

CALCUTTA, June 26: Despite a mediocre performance Mohammedan Sporting managed to earn full points with a solitary goal victory over Kumartuli in their Super Division soccer league match at homeground here yesterday, reports PTI.

After a barren first half, Murshid Ali booted home the only goal of the match 12 minutes before close of play.

The men in black and white, who had disappointing beginning of the season having been held by Rajasthan in their opening match earlier, wasted at least two clear chances of scoring in the first half of play.

The match winner came following free kick from which Jhantu Dey headed the ball to Nigerian, Chibuzor, whose flick went to an unmarked Murshid Ali who guided the ball into the goal from close.

Aussies in youth soccer semis

LISBON, June 26: Australia beat Syria 5-4 on penalties in Braga on Sunday to reach the world youth soccer championship semifinals, reports Reuter.

With the sides deadlocked at 1-1 after extra time the issue was resolved when Yeaser Sibai failed to convert for Syria and Mark Silic made no mistake for Australia. Australia's outstanding player was David Seal, in the thick of several promising moves as his side dominated the early stages.

Yugoslav cagers crush the Poles

ROME, June 26: World champion Yugoslavia, playing with a reserve team for much of the second half, crushed Poland 103-61 on Tuesday to record their second consecutive win in the men's European basketball championship, reports Reuter.

With the later stages of the tournament in mind, Yugoslav coach Dusan Ivkovic rested top players Dino Radja, Vlade Divac and Toni Kukoc once his side had taken a 20-point lead in the Group A fixture.

The reserve players continued to dominate Poland in a match in which all 12 Yugoslav squad members scored. Ivkovic's opposite number, Arkadiusz Koniecki, paid his opponents a handsome tribute afterwards when he said: "Thanks to Yugoslavia for the lesson and congratulation to Ivkovic."

"He had a very strong team and they will win this championship."

Earlier, Spain came from behind in the final seconds to beat Bulgaria 94-93, also in Group A.

Jordi Villacampa was their saviour with 32 points.

Women's hockey

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, June 26: South Korea's women's hockey team won the third Test against New Zealand here, reports AFP.

South Korea won the first and drew the second of the four-test series.

Windies await Patterson

LONDON, June 26: West Indies are banking on the return of fast bowler Patrick Patterson to boost their did to overturn a 1-0 series deficit in next week's third cricket Test against England, reports Reuter.

Patterson missed the rain-ruined second Test that ended in a draw at Lord's on Monday because of a calf muscle injury but is expected to be fit for the third game in the five-match series starting at Trent Bridge on July 4.

Touring team manager Lance Gibbs said: "Patterson's injury is not all that bad and we hope he will be ready for the next Test."

With their fastest bowler, Ian Bishop, not fit to tour because of injury a full hand of their first choice quarter of peace is crucial to West Indies' prospects of recovering from the 115-run defeat in the first Test at Headingley.

But Gibbs said: "I don't

think England are out and out favourites at the moment. If the weather improves we should be able to make a better



PATRICK PATTERSON

contest of it."

England captain Graham Gooch, whose side recovered from 84 for five to finish only 65 short of West Indies' first innings 419, faces Trent Bridge with confidence intact. "The spirit of the side is good

Germans regain European Cup

PARIS, June 26: Germany earned an automatic qualification for next year's Olympic Games when they beat the Netherlands 3-1 to win the European Cup men's hockey tournament on Sunday, reports Reuter.

It was the first championship title for Germany, Olympic silver medalists in Seoul, since the 1978 European Cup, when they beat the Dutch 3-2.

Toshiba booters hold Penarol

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, June 26: Japanese soccer club Toshiba drew 1-1 with Uruguayan First Division team Penarol on Tuesday in a match of their South American tour, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Toshiba - Suzuki (18 minutes). Penarol - Paulinho Alvez (Penalty, 52 minutes). Attendance: 5,000.

Navratilova survives a close call

LONDON, June 26: Martina Navratilova came to within six points of a humiliating first-round defeat at Wimbledon on Tuesday but came off court insisting her private life would not affect her bid for a 10th singles crown, reports AFP.

The defending champion looked down and out against 6th South African opponent Elma Reinach after dropping her service for the second time in the final set.

But she fought back magnificently to snatch a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory in a tense one-and-three-quarter hour centre court clash.

The 34-year-old Navratilova, who is being sued for an estimated five million dollar share of her fortune by former lover Judy Nelson, stressed: "I don't see any lawyers out there hitting the balls. I'm here to play tennis, not win lawsuits."

"Sure I thought I could lose the match when I was down in the third set. But I wasn't going to give up until the last ball had been hit."

Asked if problems with her personal life were affecting her

game, Navratilova quipped: "So far so good. I have won two tournaments so maybe I should have more problems in my life."

"Look, it is just a tennis match. You are playing an opponent. There is nobody else



NAVRA TILOVA

out there," she said.

Navratilova's return to the arena where 12 months ago she chalked up her historic ninth singles triumph, was not a happy one.

The rain which had delayed the start of the championships for 24 hours and which again

disrupted Tuesday's programme, left the courts slow and heavy.

And on top of the conditions, the Czech-born third seed, who so outrageously dominated the pre-Wimbledon tournaments at Birmingham and Eastbourne, was badly let down by her normally-lethal left-handed serve.

"I had nothing on my serve and nothing on my volleys," she admitted. "I was really relieved to get through."

Reinach, 22, from Pretoria, who had not taken a set from Navratilova in four previous encounters, said: "Full credit to Martina. She went for it whereas I held back."

Navratilova, who first contested Wimbledon back in 1973, now faces British wildcard entry Amanda Grundfeld for a place in the third-round.

Grundfeld defeated Alexia Dechaume of France 6-4, 6-4.

EASY WINS FOR GRAF, SANCHEZ

Two of Navratilova's most dangerous rivals for the title, Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, both won comfortably.

Tennis results

GENOA, June 26: Third-seeded Spaniard Jordi Arrese and seventh-seeded German Carl Uwe Steeb won their respective semifinals in straight sets and advanced to the final of the 250,000-dollar IP Cup, reports AP.

Arrese, a 26-year-old from Barcelona, defeated unseeded Argentine Edward Masso 7-6, 6-3. Steeb downed Austrian Thomas Muster, who won last week's ATP Tour event in Florence, 7-5, 6-4.

Arrese tailed 5-3 in the first set and Masso, who already had eliminated two seeds, appeared near to claiming his third. However Arrese used several precise passing shots from the baseline to rally and force the tiebreak, which he won 7-5.

Masso suffered an early break in the second set Arrese served out for the victory.

Steeb, a member of the German Davis Cup team, capitalized on better net play to overcome Muster in less than two hours.

Soviets reign

TOKYO, June 26: The Soviet Union came from behind to beat Japan 3-1 here to maintain its lead in the preliminary Group B contest of the second world league men's volleyball tournament, reports AFP.

Set scores in their third match at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium were 12-15 15-8, 15-7, 15-3.

It was the Soviet spikers' eighth win against one loss in the five-team Group B, while the match was Japan's seventh loss against two wins.

Japanese hope dented

LONDON, June 26: Japanese hopes were dealt a blow as the Wimbledon championships finally got underway 24 hours late on Tuesday, reports AFP.

With a blustery wind making playing conditions far from easy Nana Miyagi and Rika Hiraki crashed to straight-set defeats in their first round matches.

Under grey, threatening skies the 20-year-old American-born Miyagi from Okinawa had the dubious distinction of being the first player to be beaten at this year's tournament.

She lost six games in a row to Switzerland's Emanuel Zardo, although she improved in the second set she simply did not have the arsenal of strokes to threaten her 32nd ranked opponent.

The Japanese player, ranked 104 places lower in the world, finally surrendered 0-6, 3-6.

Graf, the 1988 and 1989 champion and top seed since the 11th-hour withdrawal of world number one Monica Seles, must have been particularly pleased with her efficient 6-2, 6-2 win over Sabine Appelmans of Belgium.

The last time the 22-year-old German appeared on a tennis court she suffered the worst defeat of her career, a 0-6, 2-6 humiliation at the hands of Sanchez-Vicario in the semifinals of the French Open.

Sanchez was doing some more German-bashing on Tuesday. The 19-year-old from Barcelona also went through to the second round in straight sets when she put out Barbara Rittner 6-1, 6-2.

In the men's singles, two former champions reached the second round.

John McEnroe, the 1981, 1983 and 1984 winner, produced plenty of the old magic and touch to outplay Jaime Oncins of Brazil 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 on the notoriously unpopular number. Two court, nicknamed "the graveyard of champions."

The South American, making his Wimbledon debut, never looked likely to cause an upset and McEnroe was helped on his way as Oncins conceded 13 double-faults, four of them in one game.

Australian Pat Cash, who triumphed in the 1987 tournament, clinched a 6-2, 6-3, 3-6 victory over Jeff Targona of the United States in a rain-interrupted match. But he later admitted that the game should not have been restarted after being halted by a first rain break.

"It was very slippery when we went back out. I don't think we should have resumed," said the Australian, who had been leading 2-0 in the third set when rain stopped play.

In fact, championship play ground to a halt for good just a few minutes after he walked off court when there was another heavy downpour.

The rain came before defending men's champion Stefan Edberg could complete his match with 6th in Swiss Davis Cup player Marc Rosset.

Rosset fired down a score of aces but Edberg was very much in the driving seat and was leading 6-4, 6-4, 0-1 with his serve to come.

The first men's seed facing defeat was Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union. The 12th seed was trailing 4-6, 3-6, 3-4 to Richey Reneberg of the United States when rain stopped play.

With some 16 hours of play lost because of the weather since the championships started, and only 28 first-round matches completed, tournament referee Alan Mills decided to make an earlier-than-scheduled start on Wednesday, moving starting times forward by one-and-a-half hours.

Hiraki, 19, clearly had problems adjusting to the wind and during the warm-up for her match against Sweden's 21-year-old Maria Strandlund, she hardly put a smash or volley in court.

Hiraki started the actual match with a double-fault, was unlucky with a couple of net cord shots and found herself trailing 0-2.

It was always an uphill struggle in the first set after that.

The Japanese player's unusually high grip and disguised double-fisted groundstrokes managed to wrong-foot the 140th ranked Swedish player several times at the start of the second set.

Chelimo, McColgan set world bests

HENGLO, Netherlands, June 26: Kenyan Richard Chelimo and Briton Liz McColgan both set 1991 world best 10,000 metre times at an international athletics meeting on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

In spite of the dismal conditions, Chelimo lapped more than half a minute off the previous best men's mark with a winning time of 27 minutes 11.

McColgan clocked 30:57.07, again 30 seconds better than anything else recorded this season.

For good measure, Kenyan Philip Barkutwo produced the fastest 3,000 metres steeplechase of the year with 8:17.79.

Chelimo was inside world record pace with two laps remaining but just fell short of the 27:08.23 set by Mexican Arturo Barrios two years ago.

McColgan was in splendid form, lapping the entire field

apart from second-placed Kenyan Jane Ngoto. She trailed home 300 metres behind in 32:08.54.

Barkutwo remained comfortably ahead throughout the steeplechase. Moroccan Abdel

Mitchel followed up victories over the Jamaican in Berlin and Neubrandenburg with a time of 10:27. Stewart managed 10:29.



MCCOLGAN

Aziz Sahere was second 1:29 seconds later, with world record holder Peter Koeh of Kenya lagging in sixth place in 88:33.34 rpt 8:33.34.

European sprint champion Katrin Krabbe of Germany remained searching for confidence ahead of the world championships in August.

She defeated Jamaican Juliet Cuthbert by 0.01 of a second over 100 metres with a winning time of 11.31 but remained pessimistic about overcoming Cuthbert's compatriot Merlene Ottey in Tokyo.

"I don't believe that I can beat Ottey. There are about eight runners who can run under 11 seconds," she said.

"It will be tough for me to even get a medal."

American Dennis Mitchel notched his third 100 metres win in a week over Ray Stewart.

Tyson-Ruddock bout: No world crown up for grab

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, June 26: There will be no world titles up for grabs when Mike Tyson takes on Donovan "Razor" Ruddock here Friday, but the controversy surrounding their first fight and the well-publicized animosity between the two heavyweights have raised the bout to near championship status, reports AFP.

Tyson, the former undisputed world champion, has toned down his inflammatory rhetoric here this week, but he is not backing down on what he promises will be the outcome of the 12-rounder at the Mirage.

"I beat him before, I'll beat him again," he boasted. "He's going to get knocked out."

Tyson stopped Ruddock in the seventh round of their first encounter in March, but the way the fight ended left a bitter taste in the mouths of everyone involved, including the two fighters.

Referee Richard Steele stepped in and put a halt to the fight at 2:22 of the seventh round after Tyson had sent Ruddock back into the ropes with a flurry of punches.

Ruddock stood against the ropes in disbelief asking, "what" as Steele, his back turned to the Canadian, ushered Tyson into his own corner.

Ruddock, who was unbeaten going into that fight, claimed

ISPA to arbitrate players' disputes, Jahangir says

ISLAMABAD, June 26: Legendary squash champion and International Squash Players' Association (ISPA) chairman Jahangir Khan says top ranking players have agreed to try to settle their disputes through the ISPA board, reports AFP.

Squash has been plagued by on and off-court disagreements between top-ranking professionals and the ISPA concluded at a recent meeting in London that they are hurting the game's image. Khan said in an interview published Sunday by the daily Dawn newspaper.

Named this week as the game's "players of the year" by squash player magazine of London following his 10th consecutive British Open victory, the 27-year-old squash superstar said the ISPA meeting had been "highly productive".

afterward that he was robbed, that Steele acted too quickly, that he could have rebounded and he would be fighting.

Tyson also was dissatisfied, saying he had Ruddock reeling and would have had him on the canvas and counted out before the round ended.

No sooner had the first fight ended, then, that negotiations were under way for the rematch, which will be refereed by veteran Mills Lane.

Since March, the two fighters have taken plenty of verbal shots at each other, with Tyson saying he would make Ruddock his "girlfriend", and Ruddock calling Tyson a "Moron" and an "ignorant little kid".

"There is bad blood, it's not hype" Ruddock said this week. "It is just the way he's carrying himself around. I don't appreciate it."

While Tyson has little to gain from the rematch, Ruddock could earn himself a shot against undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield with a victory.

"I'm totally focussed," Ruddock said. "I'm doing a lot of different things this time to get ready. We really want to win this one. A lot of people are making plans, but there are always upsets."