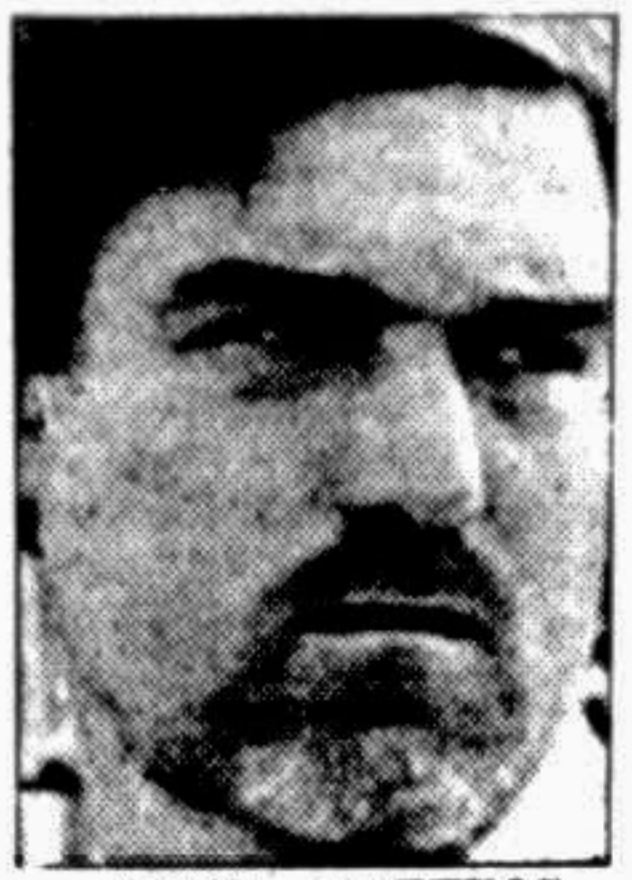


Test ban on Gating gang won't be lifted

LONDON, July 11: The five-year Test bans on Mike



MIKE GATING

Gating's rebel England cricketers, who toured South Africa last year, will not be lifted this year, reports Reuter.

International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Colin Cowdrey said today the bans would be reviewed next year.

The ICC readmitted South Africa to international cricket on Wednesday.

The ICC also announced that South Africa would not be allowed to take part in next year's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Lara's Test chances bloom

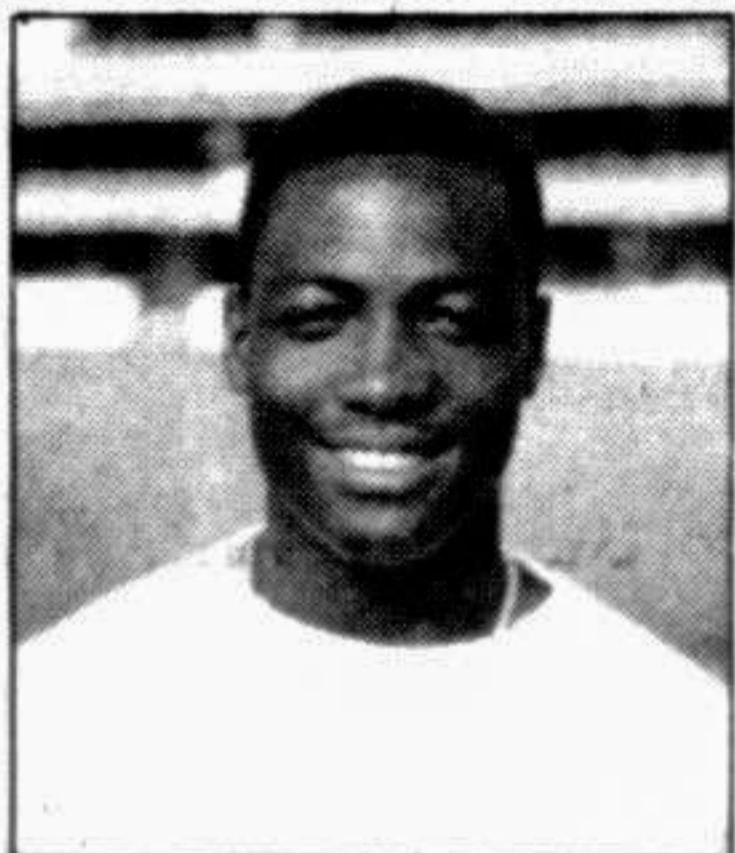
DARLINGTON, England, July 11: Brian Lara boosted his Test claims with an impressive 82 for West Indies against the minor counties on the opening day of a two-day cricket match on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

One day after leveling the Test series against England at Trent Bridge, the West Indies made 300 for eight declared from 94.5 overs.

Minor counties were 45 for three at the close.

Lara struck 13 boundaries in his 160-minute innings — one of three outstanding batting performances from players fighting to get into the West Indies Test team.

Opener Clayton Lambert hit 50 and Hamesh Anthony



BRIAN LARA

hammered a whirlwind 63 not out which included 12 boundaries from just 59 deliveries.

The big disappointment for the crowd was that West Indies skipper Viv Richards chose to bat down the order at number nine.

He managed just four runs, all singles, before holing out on the covers off Neil Taylor.

Patrick Patterson, striving to be fit for the fourth Test beginning at Edgbaston on July 25, was no-balled 10 times in a five-over stint.

But he managed to dismiss opener Gary Brown, who was superbly caught down the leg side by wicket-keeper David Williams.

Charity soccer bazaar today

A galaxy of stars of the silver screen will be seen in action on the football pitch when they take on the ace booters of Bangladesh at the Dhaka Stadium today at 5-30 pm, reports BSS.

The soccer skill, or the lack of it, of the actors and actresses will be on display at the football ground in a charity match, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Film Artists Association and the Bangladesh Football Players Welfare Association to raise funds for the April 29 cyclone victims.

Sponsored by Bangladesh Tobacco Company the one-hour charity football gala (30+30) will be followed by a cultural programme, in which film stars and singers like Shakila Zafar, Babita, Champa, Natun, Anju Ghosh, Rozina, Arjana, Sobel, Andru Kishore, Shabana, Ditee and others will participate.

In the football match, Razzak, Sohel Rana, Zayed, Khasru, Ilias Kanchan, Bulbul Ahmed, Alamgir, Rubel, Mahmud Kall, Subrata and others will display their skill against the star footballers.

The proceeds of the match will be donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

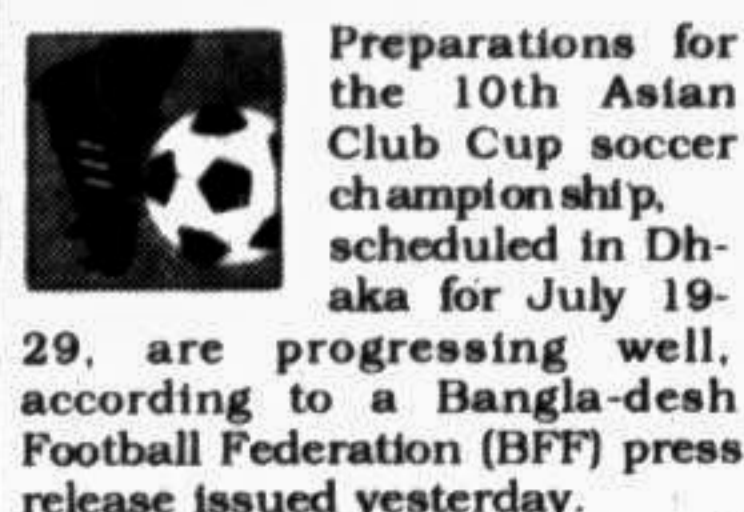
Education Minister AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will be the chief guest.

Army soccer

JESSORE, July 11: Savar, Chittagong and Jessore area teams earned full points yesterday in their robin league matches of Army football championship now in progress at the Jessore Cantonment, says a press release.

Dhaka readies for Club Cup

Sports Reporter



Preparations for the 10th Asian Club Cup soccer championship, scheduled in Dhaka for July 19-29, are progressing well, according to a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) press release issued yesterday.



Diego Maradona, who now plays for Argentine club Par...

Eight champion teams of Asia will be competing in the 11-day tournament, to be hosted by the BFF under the overall aegis of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The teams have been divided into two groups with Al-Nasser Club of Oman, P.S. Pelita Jaya of Indonesia, Al-Paratha of Jordan and Liaoning FC of China being clustered in Group A and Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, Istighlal SC of Iran, Bangkok Bank Club of Thailand and the April 25 Club of North Korea making up Group B.

The robin league will be followed by the semifinals between the leaders of Group A versus runners-up of Group B and vice versa. The losing semifinalists will face off to decide the third place.

The champions of the final round will receive the AFC running trophy, currently with a Chinese club, which will be brought to Dhaka by the Liaoning Club. In addition, the BFF will also present the

champion and runners-up teams with trophies. The players of the top three finishers will receive gold, silver and bronze medals.

According to the fixture, already finalised by the AFC whose technical directors will supervise the conduct of the tournament and the appointment of the referees, there will be two matches everyday, the first kicking off at 5:00 pm and the second at 7:00 pm.

Meanwhile, a high-powered committee has been formed to ensure the successful holding of the meet with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as the chief patron. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman is the chairman of the committee while Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan is the co-chairman. Siddiqur Rahman, the BFF chief, is the executive vice chairman with BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid the tournament secretary.

The first meeting of the organising committee is scheduled for July 14 at the Cabinet Room of the Bangladesh Secretariat at eleven in the morning while the tournament committee meet at 5:30 this afternoon at the BFF conference room.

hadlees released

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, July 11: World bowling record holder Sir Richard Hadlee was moved out of a hospital intensive care ward here today as his condition improved, reports AFP.

He underwent open heart surgery Tuesday to correct a congenital defect.

Family spokesman Bill McCormick said Sir Richard was making a good recovery and doctors were "very satisfied" with his progress.

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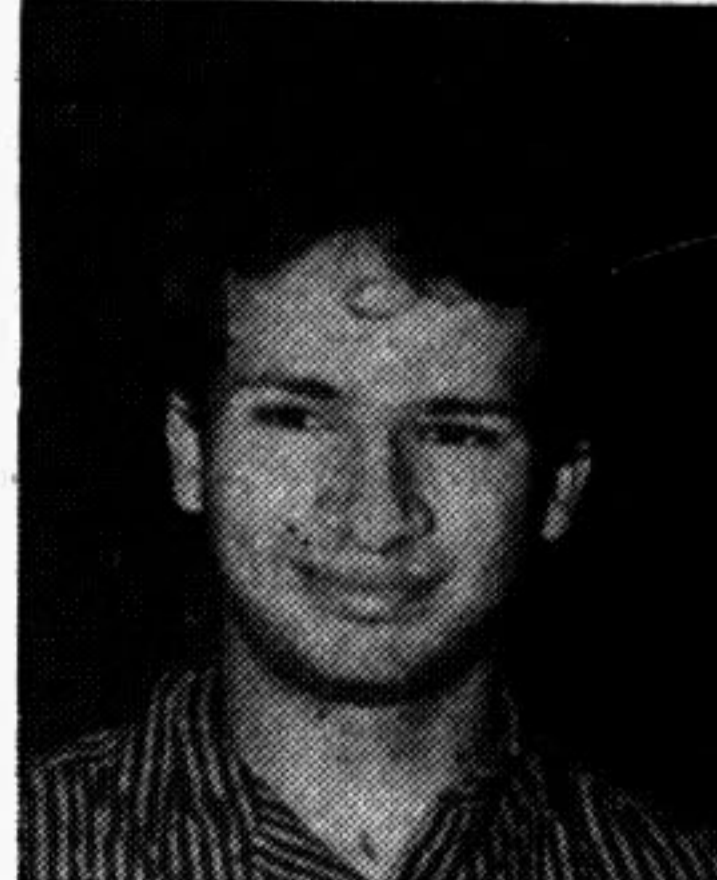
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Niaz Murshed's rating up

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh's solitary chess Grandmaster Niaz Murshed's



NIAZ MURSHED

International rating has climbed to 2510, according to the latest (July) list published earlier this month by FIDE, the world governing body of chess.

Prior to this the rating of Niaz Murshed, who resigned last month as secretary of the Bangladesh Chess Federation amidst acrimony, was 2465.

The ratings of Younus Hassan, a former national champion, and Rezaul Haq, both FIDE Masters, rose to 2315 and 2230 respectively.

Two other Bangladeshi players have earned their international ratings.

Rifat bin Sattar has received a rating of 2265 and Almasur Rahman 2230.

Zillur Rahman Champak has 2380, the same as Ziaur Rahman, while reigning national champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman, another FIDE Master, has 2305.

The rating of Bangladesh's only International Woman Master Rani Hamid is 2125 while Shabana Parvin has 2065. Afroza Khanam 2005 and Tanima Parveen also 2005.

Stars shine in Lausanne

LAUSANNE, July 11: US sprinter Mickael Johnson ran the season's fastest 400-meter dash on Tuesday at the Athletissima IAAF-Grand Prix track and field meet. Jamaican star Merlene Ottey continued her winning streak with a new seasonal best in the 100-meter dash, reports AP.

Sandra Farmer-Partick beat her compatriot and US champion Kim Batten in winning the women's 400-meter hurdles in the fastest outdoor time this year, 53.61.

Nooredine Morcelli of Algeria was on a world record pace for half of the men's mile race.

But he failed to break Briton Steve Cram's six-year-old world record of 3:46.32 minutes finishing in 3:49.12.

The first lap was too fast and by the second lap I realized the pace was too quick," Morcelli said. "So I cut the rhythm and just ran to win."

Morcelli holds the season's fastest 1,500-meter clocking.

Johnson, 23, caught fast-starting Roberto Hernandez of Cuba at the top of the backstretch and accelerated to win in 44.17 seconds.

Hernandez finished in 44.40, a meter behind. Steve Lewis, the 1988 Olympic champion, was fourth and US champion Antonio Pettigrew fifth.

He has so far scored one run per every four balls he has faced and occupied and the crease for nearly over two hours. Each time in country cricket he is known for his stroke play; but the situational aspect of his Test outings so far did not allow him to come into his own, but he has clearly showed the character and quality which he possesses.

The English bowling in this Test left a lot to be desired. Except DeFreitas (14 wickets in three Tests) none else looked like posing problems for the West Indians. Pringle's figures of 4 for 52 at Headingley followed by 5 for 100 at Lord's looked impressive, but at Trent Bridge he had not too impressive figures of 2 for 71 and 0 for 20.

Illingworth with 3 for 110 in his first Test bowling possibly deserves to be retained. So, with problems in both the departments, the English selectors shall have to do a lot of thinking and few changes may be on the card at Edgbaston.

Navy face BDR in today's semi

Sports Reporter

The reigning champions, Bangladesh Navy, last year's runners up Bangladesh Rifles, services' champions Bangladesh Army and inter-university champions Dhaka University moved into semifinals of the BGIC Cup 15th national basketball championship after winning their respective quarter-final matches yesterday at the wooden-floor gymnasium.

Navy kept their hopes alive with a convincing 95-51 points victory over Munshiganj DSA in their quarter-final tie. Navy took early advantage which helped them lead 60-26 at the breather. Goshwami topscored for Navy with 44 points followed by Huda with 22 points.

Navy will take on BDR in today's first semifinal scheduled to begin at 4 pm. Favourites Bangladesh Army who were not seeded this year will meet on Dhaka University in the second semifinal scheduled to be held tomorrow at 4 pm.

as they did not take part in last year's championship, stepped forward to crush hapless Chandpur DSA 122-25 in an one-sided quarterfinal encounter.

Dhaka University, despite facing stiff challenge from Sylhet DSA, marched into semis registering 70-53 victory.

Asgar with 17, Sayeed 14 were the leading DU scorers. Omni-trans Trophy holders and last year's national runners-up Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) which is the most consistent team sounded further warning when their shooters crossed 100 mark in their fourth consecutive matches when they outplayed Bangladesh Air-Force by 114-81 points in their quarter-final.

Asgar with 42 and Wasek 20 were the leading scorers for the Riflemen and Air Force men respectively.

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Jamaica's Merlene Ottey (C) crosses the finish line to win the 100-m dash in Lausanne Grand Prix on July 10. Ottey set the world's best time this year at 10.84 sec. —AFP photo

Sabatini starts in style

TOKYO, July 11: Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina opened the defence of her singles title in style Wednesday, beating Susan Sloane of the United States at the 250,000-dollar Gunze world tennis tournament here, reports AFP.

But the two-time defending champion, losing finalist to her arch-rival Steffi Graf of Germany at Wimbledon last weekend, needed six games for tuning up before going on to score a 6-3, 6-0 win in the women's singles first round.

After the American held her range from the baseline on the indoor court at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, she never lost another game and gave up only 14 points to the struggling American.

"The court was very different. It's very slow" compared to Wimbledon, said Sabatini. "I had to get used to the court at the beginning."

"It's good to have a match like this in the first round to get used to the court because each round is going to get more difficult," added the defending US Open champion.

Her next opponent will be either Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria or Kimiko Date of Japan.

In other action, Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria fought off the dangerous forehand of Anke Huber of Germany, sometimes called "Graf the Second," for a 6-3, 6-2 win earlier in the day.

Jim Courier of the United States, the French Open champion, needed three sets and just over two hours to beat his compatriot Tommy Ho 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, while Patrick McEnroe gunned down Todd Witsken 6-4, 6-2 in another all-American affair.

Ho, 18, unleashed a marvellous forehand passing shot to convert one of the three break points and took the first set, but he was never able to have a single break opportunity in the following two sets.

Courier, ranked fifth in the world, overpowered Ho in baseline duels and after 1-1 in the final set it was one-way traffic.

"I was not surprised that he was playing well, because I know he is good. He is a talented player," said Courier, who defeated Ho in two sets in a previous exhibition.

Maradona magic

BUENOS AIRES, July 11: Diego Maradona, banned by the International Football Federation (FIFA) until next July for taking drugs, won a tumultuous reception when he played in the final of a local five-a-side tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Maradona, on 20,000 dollars ball on cocaine charges, put on a dazzling display at a suburban sports club, scoring twice and setting up numerous chances. His team, Club Social Deportivo Parque, beat Ateneo Versailles 11-2.

Looking fitter and slimmer than when arrested in April, Maradona was cheered by the 800 spectators every time he touched the ball.

Police had to turn away 200 fans who tried to enter the packed stadium once word spread the former Argentine and Napoli captain was playing.

Maradona returned to Argentina on April 2 after he was banned by the Italian league for failing a dope test after a Napoli match. FIFA later extended the ban.

He was arrested in Buenos Aires on April 26 and later freed on bail after being charged with possession of cocaine and supplying the drug free of charge to others.

He has so far scored one run per every four balls he has faced and occupied and the crease for nearly over two hours. Each time in country cricket he is known for his stroke play; but the situational aspect of his Test outings so far did not allow him to come into his own, but he has clearly showed the character and quality which he possesses.

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After the rejuvenating victory at Trent Bridge, the West Indians would enter Edgbaston with confidence built around the batting of Haynes, Richardson, Richards and Logie and the bowling of Ambrose, Marshall and Walsh.

Ambrose's figures of 20 for 323 at an average of 15.15 in the three Tests prove him to be the match winner. The Edgbaston Test, starting next Thursday, has all the prospect of a thrilling encounter and I have a feeling it would be a very difficult task for England to dislodge their opponents from the position of security and confidence, which they have wrested back at Trent Bridge. But this is cricket, one should not forget.

Stars shine in Lausanne

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Bablee, Tanima share lead

Afroza Khanam Bablee and Tanima Parveen were jointly leading the points' table after the completion of the fourth round matches of the 12th national women's chess championship held yesterday at the National Sports Council's chess room.

Afroza, who upset Rani Hamid on Wednesday, prolonged her good efforts when she convincingly beat Syeda Afana Parveen Nisa.

Last year's runner-up Tanima Parveen defeated former national champion Syeda Shabana Parveen.

International woman master Rani Hamid along with Shabana Parveen, Masuda Begum, Rokhana and Zakia were placed in the second position with three points each.

16 paddlers picked for SAF Games camp

The Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation has selected 16 players — eight men, four ladies and four boys — to undergo the second phase of training for the forthcoming fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, scheduled to be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo next December.

The selected players are: Men: Happy, Rochi, Anki, Saadi, Mustafa, Munna, Sohel and Badal; Women: Shamina, Zulekha, Rimu and Bachchi; Boys: Mahub, Rubel, Shaon and Shantim.

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