

Nat'l TT from today

Sports Reporter

The 16th national table tennis championships begin today at the National Coaching Centre. Organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, the six-day meeting will be formally inaugurated this afternoon by Chairman of the National Sports Council Maj General Mahbubur Rahman.

A hundred and forty-six players, including 105 men and boys and another 31 women will be representing 31 teams.

Competition will be held in ten events — the men's, boys' and women's team events, the men's, boys' and women's singles and doubles, and the mixed doubles.

Preliminary rounds of each event start today.

"The New Paper", a local English weekly newsmagazine, has forked out a sum of Taka one lakh as sponsorship for the meet.

The participating teams are : Rajshahi, Panchagarh, Jessor, Thakurgaon, Bagerhat, Lalmonirhat, Pabna, BTMC, Habiganj, Jhalakati, Narail, Patuakhali, Mymensingh, Satkhira, Natore, Mouli Bazar, Dinajpur, Kushtia, Bangladesh Ansars, Pirojpur, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra, Tangail, Munshiganj, Dhaka, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Bakerganj, Rangpur and Bangladesh Biman.

Calcutta clubs sign more Dhaka booters

CALCUTTA, Aug 5: In a bid to boost their declining performance, Mohammedans Sporting and East Bengal have imported some more players from Bangladesh who are scheduled to don the clubs' colours in the Calcutta Super Division league matches during the next fortnight, reports PTI.

Mohammedans, who suffered some reverses last week, have brought in three new players from across the border as the four Bangladeshis who had represented the club earlier returned to their country.



Dhaka Abahani stars (from L) Aslam, Rumi and Munna who signed for East Bengal, seen here watching a Calcutta soccer league match.

The three new recruits are right-out Syed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir, stopper Mohammed Jewel Rana and custodian Mohammed Pantri. All three players belong to Dhaka's Mohammedan Sporting Club.

On the other hand, East Bengal brought in Abahani Krira Chakrha striker Ghulam Ghous who had scored the winning goal for his team in the recent club championship. They are now placed third

Holyfield highest-paid athlete

NEW YORK, Aug 5: Evander Holyfield, owner of the heavyweight boxing title once held by Mike Tyson, has now replaced the former champion as the highest-paid athlete in the world, according to Forbes Magazine. reports Reuter.

The reigning heavyweight champion, who will defend his title against Tyson in November, will earn an estimated \$60 million dollars this year, the Magazine said in a cover story of its latest issue.

Tyson, who dropped to second place, will earn more than \$31 million as boxing continued to be the most lucrative of sports with four fighters listed among the top-10 highest paid athletes in the world, the article said.

Canadian Wayne Gretzky of the Los Angeles Kings, 19th on

the list with \$10.7 million, leads hockey players in earnings.

Two-sport star Bo Jackson is 31st with \$10.45 million, \$10.25 million from endorsements and the rest from his baseball and football contracts.

Baseball's biggest earner is Darryl Strawberry of the Los Angeles Dodgers, 34th on the list at \$10.43 million. Also at that figure is three-time Tour de France cycling champion Greg LeMond of the United States, who makes \$10.25 million away from the circuit, even though his finish was disappointing this year.

Tennis has the most earners on the list with nine. Basketball players occupy seven spots and auto racers

were Formula One motor racing drivers Ayrton Senna of Brazil and Frenchman Alain Prost, who Forbes estimated will earn \$13 million and \$11 million dollars respectively. British F-1 driver Nigel Mansell also landed in the top-10.

Sixty one-year-old Arnold

Mohammed Ali (left) runs his fingers over his three dimensional likeness in Miami Beach, Florida, on Monday as current world heavy weight boxing champion Evander Holyfield looks on during festivities dedicating Hall C of the Miami Beach Convention Centre the Hall of Champions. Ali won the first of three heavy weight titles in the hall in April 1964.



Mohammed Ali (left) runs his fingers over his three dimensional likeness in Miami Beach, Florida, on Monday as current world heavy weight boxing champion Evander Holyfield looks on during festivities dedicating Hall C of the Miami Beach Convention Centre the Hall of Champions. Ali won the first of three heavy weight titles in the hall in April 1964.

Ben banished to the 'B' race

MALMO, Sweden, Aug 5: Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson had to threaten court action to force organisers of the Malmo international athletics meeting on Monday night let him take part, reports AFP.

But Johnson will only compete in the B series race, the organisers said. They had originally planned to cancel his appearance altogether because of his bad performances since coming back from a drugs ban imposed after the 1988 Olympics.

Johnson's lawyer had threatened legal proceedings for breach of contract so he was offered the B race. World record holder Leroy Burrell and fellow American Carl Lewis will take part in the main race.

Merlene Ottey of Jamaica has withdrawn from the women's race because of illness, the organisers added.

Nat'l hockey from Aug 10

Sports Reporter

The Basundhara 14th national hockey championship, organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), begins next Saturday at the Outer Stadium hockey ground.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will inaugurate the 11-day championship, to be participated by 22 teams, divided into two groups.

On the inaugural day, defending champions Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) will take on newcomers Munshiganj DSA at three in the afternoon.

The final is scheduled for August 20.

The participating teams are : Group A - BKSP, Bangladesh Army, Dhaka Education Board, Faridpur, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Patuakhali, Bogra, Munshiganj DSAs, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Railway.

Group B : Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Engineering University, Dhaka, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Jessor, Chaudhanga DSAs, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Arsenals.

Title retained

SAMUT PRAKARN, Thailand, Aug 5: Thailand's Khaosai Galaxy made the 18th successful defence of his WBA Junior-bantamweight crown stopping Venezuelan David Griman Mendez in the fifth round, reports Reuter.

The fight ended one minute 28 seconds into the round with Mendez looking helpless after receiving relentless punishment.

Mendez struggled to continue shortly after he took a mandatory eight count early in the fifth but Galaxy did not let his chance slip.

He floored Mendez by unleashing left-right combinations to the lanky challenger's face and followed up with heavy pounding to his body.

After Galaxy was eventually dismissed by West Indian all-rounder Rankyn Stephenson, Curtis guided Worcestershire home, hitting an unbeaten 66 off 120 deliveries that in-

Lewis & co aim to do better

MONACO, Aug 5: Carl Lewis is putting the track world on notice: after leading the Santa Monica Track club to tie the world record in the 400-meter relays at a weekend meet, he's ready to better the mark, reports AP.

One of the top invitationals, the Zurich Weltklasse meet — which opens Wednesday — will bring together some of the finest runners for one last major meet before the World Championships later this month in Tokyo.

Lewis is hoping it will provide a chance to break the 400-meter mark.

He and Leroy Burrell gave the speed in teaming at the Monaco invitational Saturday with Mike Marsh and Floyd Heard of Santa Monica for the record-tying 400-meter mark.

The French had set the world mark of 37.79 last September in beating the Britons in the European Championships. But the French never were a contender Saturday, having missed the first baton exchange and failing to finish.

But there's always a chance for a second chance.

Lewis said the top U.S. relay team is expecting his team will again face the French in the Zurich event Wednesday, and he hopes a head-to-head competition will provide the motivation to break the record.

"We didn't know the French would be here until two days ago," Lewis said of the surprise encounter with the French runners in Monaco. "That... put us over the edge."

In Saturday's performance, Lewis blazed down the final stretch, leading runners from Italy and the Soviet Union by more than 10 meters.

Looking ahead to Zurich, Lewis said Santa Monica's teamwork is considered the key, and he hopes that the

long training and the competition with the French will bring it all together.

"Being teammates, partners, good friends, everything comes together," Lewis said. "We just put the whole thing

in 1984 Lewis anchored the American Olympic team to a world record of 37.83 which held until the French broke it.

Lewis also ran fourth on the 1983 World Championship team the set a then-world

came a non-event when the French team messed up the first baton change and did not even complete the race.

But their disappointment was quickly forgotten in the euphoria surrounding the Santa Monica win with spectators swarming on the track and surrounding the exuberant Americans.

"We're really excited," Lewis said. "I don't know the last time a club held a world record."

"But we knew it (the world record) was going to happen this year."

Lewis added: "It's a milestone — not only did we take it back to America but we did it before the World Championships. We can run faster, we can run 36."

BUBKA FAILS

The relay, final event of a balmy summer night, overshadowed an unsuccessful attempt on his own world pole vault record by Soviet Sergei Bubka.

Bubka failed with three attempts at 6.10 metres — the 20-foot barrier which he has already beaten indoors — although his first effort was desperately close.

With only the prestigious Zurich meeting remaining on the Grand Prix circuit before the Tokyo World Championships there were several significant performances on Saturday.

Chief of these was a great exhibition of middle-distance running from 21-year-old Algerian Nourredine Morceli, who beat world record holder said Aouita into second place in the men's 1,500 metres.

Morceli, who was timed at 3,32.04, has clocked 3,31.00 this year and Aouita's six-old mark of 3,29.46 looks in imminent danger.

CARL LEWIS...gunning for a world relay record

together."

He added that the team had chased the record all year.

"We wanted it so bad," said Burrell. "We have been saying all along we can do it and it's the fulfillment of a dream."

That contest quickly be-

Hick humbles selectors

LONDON, Aug 5: Graeme Hick brushed aside the disappointment of being dropped by England by blasting a sparkling century to lead Worcestershire to an eight-wicket victory in their Sunday League match against Nottinghamshire, reports Reuter.

Hick hit six fours and sixes in his 98-ball innings of 109 at Trent Bridge as Worcestershire, set a target of 210, won with five deliveries to spare.

The 25-year-old Zimbabwean batsman, dropped by England after a run of poor scores, dominated a second-wicket partnership of 187 in 35 overs with Tim Curtis after Tom Moody had departed to the fifth ball of the innings.

After Hick was eventually dismissed by West Indian all-rounder Rankyn Stephenson, Curtis guided Worcestershire home, hitting an unbeaten 66 off 120 deliveries that in-

cluded five fours.

Second-placed Notts were restricted to 209 for six and never really recovered from the early loss of their former

Lancashire all-rounder Ian Austin delayed the end by dismissing Phil Robinson and Simon Kellett with successive deliveries but Chris Pickles foiled the hat-trick and hit the winning run.

After Lancashire openers Gehan Mendis and Graeme Fowler put together 76, the middle order slumped against spinner Phil Carrick who took four for 28 and in the process became only the third Yorkshire player to top 150 wickets in the league.

Neil Fairbrother (39) and Warren Hegg, with a late spree, enabled Lancashire to recover partially from 135 for seven.

Hegg smashed 27 off 10 balls including three sixes but it was still not enough to set Yorkshire a testing target.

England batsmen Chris Broad and Tim Robinson.

Table-topping Lancashire failed to take the opportunity of extending their lead when they were beaten by five wick-

ets by old rivals Yorkshire at Old Trafford.

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