

MSC sign up Riaz, retain Tito



Fifty-four players collected their tokens yesterday from the Senior Division football league office.

Notable among those who collected their tokens on the second day were Mukhtodh Sangshad's midfield player Riaz and Mohammedan Sporting's media Saiful Bari Tito. Both players gave their

Al-Soueiq vows to buy Barnes

MUSCAT, Sept 4: Prince Fatek Ben Fahr Ben Taimour Al-Soueiq flies to London tomorrow to try to buy Liverpool's England winger John Barnes, reports AFP.

The Prince, who is chairman of second division Al-Soueiq, says he is prepared to go up to four million dollars.

Liverpool are reported to be asking five million dollars for Barnes who extended his contract for a year at the state of the season.

The Oman side, who paid 160,000 dollars for Tunisian star Mohammed Timouni this year, say they may bid for Manchester United's Welsh striker Norman Hughes if they cannot sign Barnes.

Gary Lineker is another player high on their shopping list but Tottenham, are unlikely to even consider an offer for their England captain.

Mohammedan officials.

Sports Reporter

tokens to the waiting Brothers Union, who sent early warnings that they will try to build a strong side this year capable of winning the championship, are yet to spring any major surprises.

Yesterday, Brothers officials managed to collect six players for their side. Their star midfielder Manik has agreed to stay on for another season with the Gopibagh club. Goalkeeper Ponir, Uttam and Pijush, all three of Youngmen Fakirerpool and Jilani of Arambagh KS gave their tokens to the waiting Brothers Union officials.

Brothers' second choice goalkeeper of last year Atiq has also decided to stay for another year with the Gopibagh

boys.

Mohammedan Sporting's Zia Babu also collected his token.

Abahani and national under-23 player Munna (JR) and Mushtaq of PWD have sought special commission to collect their tokens. A player who collects his token through a special commission has to pay Taka 2000 and the advantage which the player gets from this is that two DMFA officials go to a place designated by the player to give him his token.

It is learnt that Mushtaq and Munna (JR) will join PWD.

So far 114 players have collected their tokens in the first two days of the new transfer season.

Abahani champs

Sports Reporter



Abahani Krira Chakra emerged as champions when they outplayed Tiger Sporting Club 3-0 in the Coca Cola Rajshahi First Division football league yesterday at the Rajshahi Stadium.

Samrat, with two goals, and Shamim with one were the scorers.

Abahani finished their super engagements with nine points from five matches. They dropped their only point when they drew 1-1 against last

year's champions Allied Sporting Club.

Six teams took part in the Rajshahi First Division super league: Abahani KC, Tiger Sporting Club, Rajshahi KSS, Sherol SC, Allied Sports Club and Diganta Prashari.

Samrat of Abahani was the leading goal scorer of the Rajshahi league.

Sherol SC will meet Diganta Prashari in today's encounter while in the last match of the season, Allied Club will take on Rajshahi KSS.

Waqar boosts Surrey hopes



LONDON, Sept 4: Essex took a decisive step towards regaining the lead from Warwickshire in the English county championship on Tuesday when they grabbed maximum bowling points against top-of-the-table rivals Derbyshire, reports AFP.

The second-placed county bowled Derbyshire out for 231, but that total would have been even lower but for a gritty 99 in nearly four-and-a-half hours from captain Kim Barnett.

Barnett, who has scored a ton against every county except Essex, steered the third-placed visitors out of trouble from 94 for five, before Essex replied with 19 without loss of 12 overs.

Surrey maintained the pressure on the top three thanks to Pakistan pace ace Waqar Younis and England hopeful Darren Bicknell.

Bicknell spared Surrey's blushes with a brilliant 134, which included a six and 17 fours out of a total of 258.

Waqar, the leading wicket-taker in England this season, followed up by capturing four wickets to boost his tally to 86 as Hampshire collapsed to 86 for seven before bad light stopped play.

David Leatherdale, making his first championship appear-

ance of the season, and Tim Curtis hammered centuries to steer Worcestershire to 378 for three against Somerset at Worcester.

The pair added 256 for the third wicket until Leatherdale, who smashed four sixes and 22 fours, fell for 157 — his

and 27 fours from 293 balls, shared a fourth-wicket stand of 233 with David Byas, who hammered a six and 20 fours in his 120 after being missed on one.

Mark Alleyne also recorded his first century this season to help Gloucestershire reach 314 for five against Northamptonshire at Bristol.

Alleyne smacked 16 fours in his 108 not out from 166 balls, receiving good support from Bill Athey (54) and Jeremy Lloyds (52 not out).

Bottom team Middlesex are similarly well-placed against Nottinghamshire after Mark Ramprakash's second first-class century this summer.

The England batsman's 110, which boasted 10 boundaries, was the basis for Middlesex's 334 for five at Trent Bridge, although skipper Mike Gatting contributed his fair share with 91 including a six and 14 fours.

They added 156 for the third wicket and Keith Brown also joined in the fun with an unbeaten 81.

Kent's Neil Taylor was the day's other century-maker, his 111 against Sussex at Hove being his sixth first-class century of the season.

The 32-year-old managed a six and 14 fours, and was the principal scorer in a fourth-wicket stand of 138 in 26 overs with Matthew Fleming (69) as Kent ran up 381.

Robinson, who blasted a six

WAQAR YOUNIS — nearing his 100th scalp.

maiden ton. However, Curtis was still there at stumps with 135 including 13 fours.

Yorkshire also boasted a double — century partnership as Phil Robinson hit a career-best unbeaten 176 to guide them from 18 for three to a commanding 359 for four against Lancashire at Scarborough.

Robinson, who blasted a six

SA doubtful for W Cup



SYDNEY, Sept 4: South African cycling team this week turned down an invitation to compete in next month's Brisbane to Sydney road race, despite earlier indications they would be taking part.

In a letter to promoter Phil Bates, the South African Cycling Federation said there had been veiled threats that sports events would be disrupted at home and in countries if cycling teams visited Australia.

South African hopes of contesting the World Amateur Boxing Championships in Sydney in November were thwarted after their application for re-affiliation to the International Amateur Boxing Association was rejected late last month.

We understood there was no unified body in South Africa representing boxing, said Arthur Tunstall, the association's president.

He is to return home to aid South Africa's development towards international cricket.

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Faldo returns

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, Sept 4: Sideline by a wrist injury last year, two-time Masters titlist Nick Faldo returns to England's lineup for the Dunhill Cup team golf tournament Oct. 10-13, even officials announced Monday, reports AP.

Faldo partners Ryder Cup colleagues Steve Richardson and Paul Broadhurst in the 16-team event at St Andrews. It will be his first visit to the course known as the home of golf since he won the British Open here 14 months ago.

Last year, England lost to Ireland in the final.

Cup, reports Reuter.

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Crowe favours SA's inclusion in World Cup

WELLINGTON, Sept 4: South Africa should be included in cricket's one-day World Cup competition early next year, New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe said Wednesday, reports AFP.

"South Africa have earned inclusion back in world cricket and it would provide a great marketing opportunity for the sport in New Zealand," Crowe said in an interview.

The Cup will be played in Australia and New Zealand next February and March.

Crowe said South Africa had several top-class players and would be able to field a competitive side despite their lack of recent international cricket.

tion vice-president and secretary of the Amateur Boxing Union of Australia.

South Africa's participation in cricket's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand early next year also remains doubtful.

September 30 has been set as the deadline for South Africa to accept an invitation to play. Ali Bacher, managing director of the new non-racial United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) said last week his country would decide in mid-September.

A possible tour to Australia by a South African Rugby Union team next June is in doubt too, the Australian Rugby Football Union (ARFU) said.

Chong moves up

STOKE, England, Sept 4: Malaysian number one Sam Chong emerged from a snooker marathon to reach the second round of the 4,25,000-pound British Open here on Monday night, reports AFP.

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Liverpool's Mark Walters finds a way around David Bardsley, the Queen's Park Rangers defender in their English First Division soccer encounter on August 27. Liverpool won 1-0 through a 61st-minute goal by their £ 2.9m signing Dean Saunders.

Krabbe plans to avoid Ottey

COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 4: Germany's double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe plans to avoid Jamaican rival Merlene Ottey for the rest of the season in a bid to gain a mental advantage before next year's Barcelona Olympics, reports Reuter.

"It is better that way psychologically," Krabbe's coach Thomas Springstein said on Tuesday. "It's better that Merlene goes into her pre-Olympic winter training feeling a bit rattled."

Krabbe, who handed Ottey her first individual defeats since 1989, 100 and 200 metres at last week's World Championships, and the Jamaican will both be competing in Sunday's Cologne Grand Prix meeting.

But the former East German is expected to race the 100 metres while Ottey will run the 200.

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Milnars women's volleyball begins

Sports Reporter

The sixth Milnars women's volleyball tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, began at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex yesterday afternoon.

Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Gohar Hossain formally inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

Eight teams — Jessore, Tangail, Sylhet, Rajbari, Pabna, Comilla, Narayanganj and the Dhaka Zilla Mahila Krira Sangstha are taking part in the four-day meet.

On the opening day Rajbari, Comilla and Tangail posted fairly comfortable wins.

Rajbari beat Pabna 15-6, 16-14 in a thrilling contest while Comilla defeated Sylhet 15-7, 15-1 and Tangail outplayed the girls from Jessore 15-10, 15-2.

United consolidate lead



LONDON, Sept 4: Wales midfielder Clayton Blackmore and England defender Gary Pallister kept Manchester United on top of the English First Division Tuesday night by ensuring a 2-1 victory at Wimbledon, reports AFP.

They cashed in on poor defending to score their first goals of the season for the unbeaten league leaders — Blackmore heading home Neil Webb's cross in the 25th minute and Pallister slotting in Webb's 43rd minute corner.

That was just enough to give United the cushion they needed to protect nervous Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, who dropped almost everything, but somehow survived the Dons' second half comeback until eight minutes from time.

He was beaten then by John Fashanu's fourth goal of the season, but before the finish United could even afford a missed penalty from Steve Bruce.

Chelsea climbed into second place with a 1-0 win at Sheffield United, where Vinny Jones made a successful return less than a week after his 575,000-pound transfer to the London club.

Chelsea won with a 56th minute goal from Dennis Wise, although they had to survive a frantic late onslaught from the Yorkshire team.

Leeds staged a more successful fightback than Wimbledon, snatching a point with a 2-2 home draw against champions Arsenal.

The Gunners surged to a deserved 2-0 lead after some superb fluent, flowing football with two clinical first time finishes by Alan Smith, after 20 and 38 minutes.

But Lee Dixon's handball in the 66th minute allowed Leeds back into the game, skipper Gordon Strachan cheekily kicking his penalty over David Seaman's dive before Lee Chapman stole and 86th minute equaliser against his old club.

Everton also had to settle

for a home draw, but their 1-1 result against Norwich was two points lost, rather than one gained.

They paid the price for some slack finishing, a wonder goal by David Phillips six minutes from time, when he volleyed home a Dale Gordon cross from 30 yards, robbing them of victory.

Mark Ward had given Everton the lead after 49 minutes, capitalising on a mistake by Norwich defender Ian Culverhouse 35 yards out before scampering clear and rounding goalkeeper Bryan Gunn.

In contrast, newly-promoted Oldham and Notts County made no mistake. They both scored 2-1 international Tommy Johnson sustained County's encouraging start to First Division life and made it a night of double misery for Sheffield Wednesday.

Johnson, who had opened

Pakistanis beat Wales 5-0

CARDIFF, Sept 4: Pakistan chalked up their fourth successive victory in their five-match hockey tour of Britain by crushing Wales 5-0 here on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Despite fielding three reserves in right-half Khawer Jawed, left-half Laseeq Ahmed and centre-forward Mohammad Irfan, they were far too strong for the host nation.

Two penalty strokes from Muhammad Shahbaz in the 10th and 11th minutes eased the Pakistanis into a 2-0 lead, but Akhlaq Ahmed cleared Anthony Colclough's shot off the line 15 minutes later.

However, Wasim Feroz clinched victory with a strong hit from a short corner in the 29th minute.

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the scoring with a seventh-minute penalty, popped up with an 85th minute winner after Wednesday had lost their England striker David Hirst with a badly damaged ankle.

Wednesday staged a recovery when Nottingham-born defender Nigel Pearson headed their equaliser in the 25th minute from a John Sheridan free-kick, but it was not enough.

Oldham, meanwhile, bounced back from two away defeats to maintain their unbeaten home record with a hard-fought win over a battling Coventry.

Oldham took the lead after 31 minutes with Neil Adams' first goal of the season and stretched their advantage after 63 minutes when Nick Henry hit a sizzling right foot volley into the top corner.

To their credit, Coventry never gave up the chase and they pulled a goal back in the 73rd minute when Paul furlong cracked home his third of the season.

In Scotland Airdrie pulled off their second giant-killing act inside a week by shattering Celtic's Skol Cup ambitions in the quarter-finals at Broomfield.

Goalkeeper John Martin upstaged Republic of Ireland World Cup hero Pay Bonner by saving two spotkicks as Airdrie clinched a 4-2 shoot-out success after 90 minutes and extra time had left the clubs deadlocked at 0-0.

Last Wednesday Alex Macdonald's team toppled Aberdeen to reach the last eight and they now stand on the threshold of their first appearance in a Skol Cup final.

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National kabaddi begins today

Sports Reporter

The Uttara Motors national kabaddi championship, organised by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, begins today at Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Four services teams — Bangladesh Rifles, Bangladesh Ansars, Bangladesh Police and the Fire Service will take part in the Central Zone competitions to be held in Dhaka on league basis.

The zonal champions and runners-up would play in the finals to be held on round robin league basis.

The matches of Chittagong Division will be held at Comilla, the matches of Dhaka Division will be held in Dhaka, those of Rajshahi Division will be held in Rajshahi and Khulna will host the matches of Khulna Division.

National chess begins Sept 7

Sports Reporter

The first round matches of the seventeenth national chess championship will begin from September 7 at the National Sports Council chess room.

Qualified players have been asked to report to the Chess Federation office by September 6.

Open TT on in Ctg

Sports Reporter

The first Bangladesh Open table tennis championships, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Players' Association and the Saleh Group, a business house, began in Chittagong yesterday.

About 150 players, including 16 women, representing 19 teams, are taking part in the meet.

Four men's team event matches were decided on the opening day.

Schumacher plans to come back

MUNICH, Germany, Sept 4: Former West German international goalkeeper Harald Toni Schumacher plans to come out of retirement to help injury-hit Bayern Munich, reports Reuter.

Bayern said on Tuesday that Schumacher, now 37, would provide reserve cover following serious injuries to Raimund Aumann and his deputy, Seven Scheuer.

Schumacher, who won 76 caps for West Germany, was respected as one of the best goalkeepers in the world in the 1980s.

But million of fans worldwide will also remember him best for an atrocious challenge on Patrick Battiston in the semifinal of the 1982 World Cup which shattered the French defender's jaw.

Schumacher, who appeared in two World Cup finals, was later banned from the national team after he wrote a book which accused German players of doping and which contained spicy allegations about their social lives.

Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes said Schumacher, who retired last season after playing in Turkey, would only play if Gerald Hillinghaus, who kept goal for the club last weekend, was injured.

Aumann, 27, was due to fly to vail in the United States on Wednesday for an operation on his left knee which he injured last week. He is expected to be out of action for four months.

The injury was a serious blow to the club since Scheuer, a German under-21 international, is still recovering from a shoulder operation and will not play for at least six weeks.

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