

National kabaddi finals from today

Sports Reporter

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

Nine teams divided into two groups will play on a knockout basis.

The champions and runners-up of both the groups will qualify for the semifinals.

The seven divisional teams: Comilla, Dhaka, Bogra, Dinajpur, Khulna, Tangail and Feni along with two services team — Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Fire Service — are clustered into the two groups.

Judo, karate meets put back

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Metropolitan Judo and karate championships, scheduled to begin from September 26 and 28 respectively, have been put back by 10 days.

Now the judo meet will begin on October 10 and the karate meet from October 12 respectively.

A press release issued yesterday by the Dhaka Mahanagar Judo and Karate Association said that the judo championship will be held from October 10 to 11 while the karate championship from October 12 to 14.

The Group A teams are: Feni, Dhaka, Bogra, Khulna, Bangladesh Fire Service while the Group B teams are — Comilla, Tangail, Dinajpur and Bangladesh Ansars. Satkhira is also placed in Group B but they did not turn up till late yesterday night.

Feni will take on Khulna in the inaugural match at 8 am.

Tangail will face Dinajpur at 9 am. Fire Service will be meeting Dhaka in the first match in the afternoon at 3 pm while Comilla will play against Bangladesh Ansars in the last match of the day at 4 pm.

M Azizul Haque, President of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, will formally inaugurate the three-day championship.

Bangladesh finish third in Asian junior badminton

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh under-20 badminton team finished third in the Asian junior invitational badminton championship which concluded last week in Zahedan, Iran.

Suman of Bangladesh managed to reach the quarterfinal stage in the individual singles event.



SECOND GULF WAR: England and Australia meet again, somewhere in northern Iraq. Medical Officers, in the region to assist Kurdish refugees, staged the impromptu cricket Test and a neutral umpire gave the English batsman 'not out', in spite of the loud Australian appeal for a catch.

Injured Kiptanui answers call of his country

CAIRO, Sept 25: World 3,000 metres steeplechase champion Moses Kiptanui took gold at the All Africa Games on Tuesday after Kenyan athletics officials ordered him to ignore a nagging injury and run, reports Reuter.

"At first I was not supposed to run and then a quick decision was made so that I should run as there was no replacement for me," said Kiptanui, who indicated he was suffering from a calf strain.

Kiptanui said he has been carrying the injury since shortly after winning the World Championship in Tokyo last month but felt it was his duty to perform for his country.

"This injury is still giving me pain, but I had to run just like a soldier," he said.

He added the injury would take two months to heal. The gamble paid off in the short term as Kenya's formidable steeplechasers monopolised the medals.

William Mutwol and Johnstone Kipkeoch followed Kiptanui home after the 20-year-old finished in eight minutes 27.09 seconds, some 20 seconds outside his personal best.

Kiptanui is the first of Africa's seven world champions to appear at this sporadically-staged continental Games which has drawn an apathetic response from big stars exhausted after a tough season on the Grand Prix circuit.

It was a successful night for Kenya all round with William Tanui and Robert Kibet completing a one-two in the 800 metres after Erick Keter had taken the 400 metres hurdles.

Susan Sirma, a bronze medalist in Tokyo, sauntered to an easy victory in the 3,000 metres to give the east African country yet another gold.

Agneta Chelimo completed their joy when she broke her own African record to win the women's five-km walk in 24 minutes 25.0 seconds.

The athletics is, as expected, shaping up into a straight battle between Nigeria and Kenya.

The Nigerians, who edged Kenya by one gold in athletics at the last African Games, struck gold in the men's long jump and women's 4x100 metre relay on Tuesday.



MOSES KIPTANUI

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"Most of what we have seen so far has been more like street fighting than boxing," he added.

Yope said most fighters were unable to avoid taking blows and many had little idea of the tactics required to score points.

He said the performances did not augur well for African boxers with the Barcelona Olympics only 10 months away.

"We are not seeing the standard you expect in a pre-Olympic competition."

Traditionally, Kenya are the kings of African boxing, sweeping eight of 12 gold medals at the last All Africa Games in 1987 and winning gold at the 1988 Olympics with welterweight Robert Wangila.

"I expected the Kenyans to exhibit their traditional level but they must have over-trained," Yope said.

"They have the technique and look very beautiful as usual but don't seem to have the stamina, getting rather weak in the third round."



SUSAN SIRMA

'Street fighting' ... not boxing'

CAIRO, Sept 25: The Manager of the Nigerian Boxing Squad criticised standards of the sport at the All Africa Games on Wednesday, comparing boxing here with street fighting, reports Reuter.

Keikel Yope said he was disappointed by what he had seen in the preliminary stages and expected his country to win the lion's share of medals on offer.

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Doping on the rise

OSLO, Sept 25: Drug abuse by Canadian athletes is on the rise, despite the publicity and increased testing following the banning of Ben Johnson, the chairman of the Sport Medicine Council of Canada said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"In Canada, as elsewhere in North America, there is disturbing evidence which suggests that the use of a number of banned drugs is on the increase," Doctor Andrew Pipe told the Third World conference on anti-doping in sport.

Pipe said that 28 out of 2,024 tests carried out in 1989-1990 were found to be positive.

"It is anticipated that the proportion of unannounced tests will continue to increase in Canada, as will the absolute number of tests carried out each year," he told the four-day conference in the western port of Bergen.

After Johnson tested positive at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and lost the 100 metres title, Canada closely examined the problem of drugs in sports.

Pipe felt it "dispiriting" doping continued in a nation which had undergone "such intense self-censorship."

Other delegates felt the individual athlete was not the only one to blame. The whole world of top sports had become obsessed with times and breaking records.

"Doping is not an athlete's strategy but a system's strategy. Therefore the focus should not only be on the individual," said Professor Gunnar Brevik of the Norwegian University of Sports and Physical Education.

He suggested coaches and officials might also be punished, although guilt might often be difficult to establish.

Brevik told delegates: "doping seems to be much like cancer. We will have to live with it without accepting it. It does not come in one form and has not one cause but is, rather, a many-headed monster."

Watson still in coma

LONDON, Sept 25: British boxer Michael Watson, left in a coma after a weekend world title fight, has deteriorated in the last few hours and is suffering from swelling of the brain, hospital officials said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The 26-year-old fighter had emergency surgery to remove blood clots from his brain after his defeat in World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title fight against compatriot Chris Eubank on Saturday.

Officials at London's St Bartholomew's hospital said Watson's condition had worsened slightly since a second life-saving operation on Sunday. X-ray scans showed his brain was swollen from the beating he suffered in the ring.

Watson was stopped in the 12th and final round after being caught by a fierce right uppercut in the previous round. He collapsed in his corner.

The brutality of the fight, billed as grudge match after Watson lost to Eubank on Saturday.

WBC won't lift ban on S Africa

BANGKOK, Sept 25: The World Boxing Council (WBC) has decided not to lift its 16-year boycott of South Africa, reports Reuter.

The decision would only be reviewed if South Africa set up a unified boxing administration representing all racial groups fairly, president Jose Sulaiman said at the organisation's convention on Tuesday.

The WBC sent a fact-finding team to the republic in July.

"They concluded that despite amendments to the constitution there had been no direct disintegration of apartheid," Sulaiman said. "The changes are only on paper; we should not ease sanctions until there are real actions to end it."

But the WBC decided to donate 100,000 dollars to help build gymnasiums for underprivileged boxers in the Black townships of Soweto and East London.

Black boxers did not have the same opportunities or training facilities as Whites and the decision to fund the gyms was aimed at readdressing that balance, Sulaiman said.

"We are fighting for human dignity and equality. We don't plan to step back one inch."

In an effort to improve ring safety, the WBC's 137-country membership agreed to ensure boxers had proper medical examinations in their home countries before going to fight abroad.

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Women's world meet from today

MANILA, Sept 25: Xie Jun, a 20-year-old from China, the world's largest chess-playing nation, battles probably the last Soviet world champion for the women's world title here from Thursday, reports AFP.

Maya Chiburdnidze, world champion for the past 13 years, will be playing under the flag of the Georgian Republic for the first time.

Challenger Xie, the first non-Soviet player to march into the finals of the World Championship since American Bobby Fischer in 1972 gave herself a "50-50" chance of dislodging Chiburdnidze from her throne.

The two players will play 16 games on alternating days starting Thursday. A draw will be held Wednesday to determine who plays the white pieces first.

"Modesty aside, I'm not afraid. I'm very well-prepared," said Xie who idolizes the slid positional play of former world champion Anatoly Karpov.

Chiburdnidze, 31, who like current men's world champion

Garry Kasparov is a disciple of former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik, said she respected Xie's ability, "she's very young, and she's very clever. I expect that the games will be very difficult."

She brushed aside suggestions that the Kremlin turmoil and the secession of Soviet Republics will distract her from her title defense.

"We have a very strong tradition of chess in Georgia. A lot of my countrymen are looking forward to this match and will be wishing me success," she added.

Xie, a government employee's daughter from Beijing, earned the right to challenge for the women's world championship title after beating Aisa Marie of Yugoslavia in a sudden-death playoff, after the two players tied for first place in the candidates tournament in Borjomi, Soviet Union.

With a World Chess Federation (FIDE) rating of 2460, Xie typifies the arrival of China as a chess power, achieved in just 15 years. She learned the Chinese equivalent of the game at six, and chess a few years later.

She tied for fourth in the world juniors in Adelaide, Australia, in 1988 and made second board the same year in the Chess Olympiad in Tselalovka, Greece, where China placed ninth.

Chess masters say Xie has a firmer grasp on endings than the Georgian.

The Georgian, rated 2500 by FIDE, boasts of an all-around knowledge of openings and possesses solid positional skills.

Born to school teacher parents, Chiburdnidze learned the game at eight, won the Georgian junior title the following year, became Soviet junior champion in 1975, and dethroned compatriot Nona Gaprindashvili in 1978.

She has successfully defended her crown four times, all against Soviet opponents.

FIDE president Florencio Campomanes told reporters here Tuesday that executives of the organization will be meeting next week to discuss applications for membership by breakaway Soviet republics.

The next Chess Olympiad will also be held in Manila in July next year.

'Bonecrusher' Smith kayoes Tillmann

METairie, La, Sept 25: Former heavyweight champion James "Bonecrusher" Smith knocked out hometown favourite Marshall Tillmann at 2:14 of the 10th and final round Tuesday night, reports AP.

Smith, the aggressor throughout the fight, put Tillmann away with a series of six right hands and then a left cross in the corner.

Smith, 38, who lost the WBC heavyweight title to Mike Tyson in a 12-round decision in 1987, improved his record to 30-8-1. He has won 11 straight bouts, 10 by knockout.

Tillmann, 29, who learned to fight while serving nearly 10 years in the Louisiana State prison at Angola for armed robbery, is 10-5-1. He turned

pro in the June 1990, shortly after gaining release from prison on appeal.

Smith, of Magnolia, NC, saved his most sustained barrage for the final round. However, he had Tillmann on the defensive throughout.

The bigger Smith easily won the first three rounds before Tillmann became more aggressive in an even fourth round.

Both fighters seemed to catch their breath in the fifth round before Smith regained control and kept it. Tillmann often waved to his partisan crowd to indicate Smith's punches hadn't hurt him, but he never was able to get Smith in troubles.

Smith earned approximately \$15,000, Tillmann \$8,000.

Meanwhile, in Houston, Texas, Lou Duva, who helps advise and train heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield,

underwent successful triple bypass surgery Tuesday.

Dr. Michael S. Sweeney said in a statement that, "Lou's prognosis is excellent."

"Without complications, he should be fully recovered and able to work with Holyfield against Tyson on Nov. 8."

The statement was released by publicist Kathy Duva, whose husband, Dan, is Lou's son and promotes Holyfield's fights.

Holyfield's title defense against Mike Tyson is scheduled for Nov. 8 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Holyfield is training at Houston.

Sweeney performed the six-hour operation at Hermann Hospital.

Plans call for the 69-year-old Duva to remain under intensive care for two days then spend four or five days in rehabilitation.

Court papers filed in Paterson by Holyfield, and his promoter, Lou Duva of Main Events in West Paterson, discuss the ramifications of cancelling the Tyson bout.

Besides the loss of millions of dollars, Holyfield's statement says he cannot deny history a monumental boxing match.

"I am currently not obligated by the rules of all three rating organizations to attempt to fight Mike Tyson next, but I also very much want to do so, to satisfy the public demand for such a fight. The Holyfield-Tyson fight is generally considered to be of historic proportion," Holyfield's written statement says.

Zimbabweans face an uphill task



HARARE, Sept 25: Mark Taylor's Australian touring B side look certain for a comfortably victory over Zimbabwe here in the last of two four-day internationals, reports AFP.

At close of play on Tuesday, Zimbabwe had a slender seven runs lead with only three of their second innings wickets still standing.

It was a great day for Aussie leg-spinner Shane Warne, who tied the Zimbabwean batsmen in knots and took six for 38.

Zimbabwe finished the day on 151 for seven, to add to their first innings score of 239.

Resuming on 285 for 5, Australia B reached 383 all out, a lead on the first innings of 144.

Zimbabwe began their second knock well, with Kevin Arnott and Andy Flower adding 69 for the first wicket. But when the spinners Warne, McIntyre and Hevan came on, the wickets tumbled.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne send Zimbabwe plunging to the verge of defeat by taking six wickets for 39 runs on Tuesday.

The stocky, blond Victoria bowler, who before this tour had played in only one first class match, left Zimbabwe in tatters on 151 for seven in their second innings at the close on the third day.

Australia B won the first match in Bulawayo last week by 10 wickets and they have taken the one-day series 2-1.

Scores: Zimbabwe 239 and 151 for seven (K Arnott 46, D Houghton 37 n/o, A Flower 27; S Warne six for 38); Australia B 383, (S Law 94, T Moody 85; E Brandes six for 95).

Aussies back SA for World Cup



MELBOURNE, Sept 25: Australia joined co-hosts New Zealand on Tuesday in welcoming South Africa's late bid to enter next February's World Cup cricket tournament but said the decision was out of their hands, reports Reuter.

Australian cricket authorities said that even though the South Africans could be accommodated in the limited-over competition, the final decision was down to all competing countries through the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"We are pleased the South Africans are making an application and if successful we can accommodate them," Malcolm Grey, co-chairman of the Cup organising committee, told Reuters.

The Managing Director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, Ali Bacher, announcing South Africa's last-minute bid to be included in the tournament, said on Monday he could not foresee any obstacles.

ICC chairman Colin Cowdrey responded in London by saying no decision would be taken until all other countries had been consulted.

Bacher had asked for an extension of the deadline from September 30 to October 31 to allow all ICC members to consider the request.

New Zealand cricket chairman Peter McDermott had also earlier welcomed the application and said although the deadline for entries was September 30 there was a contingency plan in case Pretoria made a last-minute application.

"Bureaucracy won't get in the way," McDermott told Reuters.

The structure of the competition would not have to be changed and would simply mean an extra game for the

eight teams already in the round-robin tournament. The number of matches would increase to 39 with 25 in Australia and 14 in New Zealand.

Bacher said African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela had personally approved South Africa's participation in the World Cup.

South Africa's two cricket control boards united earlier this year, paving the way for the lifting of the moratorium on international tours from October 1.

If South Africa were to be accepted, it would mark a return to the international game



ALI BACHER

after 20 years of isolation because of apartheid.

This decision could hinge on this weekend's meeting of the West Indies Board of Control, long-term opponents of any contact with South Africa.

Judge refuses to enter punchers' row

PATERSON, Sept 25: A Superior Court judge who has presided over numerous cases involving boxing matches, has declined to get involved in a Texas lawsuit brought by George Foreman, who claims he should be in the ring fighting Evander Holyfield, not Mike Tyson, reports AP.

Judge Amos C Saunders, sitting in Passaic County, on Tuesday refused to block Foreman's lawsuit, saying the dispute does not involve his court.

Tyson and Holyfield are scheduled to fight Nov. 8 in Las Vegas.

Foreman claims, Texas lawsuit, that Holyfield's representatives agreed to a rematch after Foreman lost his heavyweight challenge to Holyfield in April.

Holyfield's representatives said they began hammering out a deal with Foreman's 791s, just in case they couldn't get a match with Tyson. However, they say they never reached the written contract stage.

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Chesnokov moves up



BRISBANE, Australia, Sept 25: Second seeded Andrei Chesnokov rallied after a slow start Wednesday and beat American Robbie Weiss 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 in the second round of the \$125,000 Queensland Open tennis championship, reports AP.

Chesnokov, a Moscow native, outlasted Weiss to earn a meeting with Australian Davis Cup player Richard Fromberg.

"In the first set I did not have much patience, but in the end he was getting tired," Chesnokov said.

American Jin Grabb and Italian Gianluca Pozzi earlier upset seeded players to advance to the quarterfinals.

Grabb overcame a second set slump and beat sixth-seeded Japanese player Shuzo Matsuoka 7-5, 5-7, 6-3.