



The Wari goalkeeper thwarts a Victoria forward in yesterday's first match of the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium. Victoria won 3-0. —Star photo

No soccer from Apr 29 to May 22

Sports Reporter
The First Division football league will remain suspended from April 29 to May 22 on account of the forthcoming Asian under-16 and under-19 football championships, to be held in Rajshahi and Karala, India respectively. The League will resume on May 23 after a gap of 24 days.

The decision, according to the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), the organisers of the league football, has been taken to safeguard the interest of the clubs some of whose players will be taking part in the junior international tournaments.

BSWA's tribute to Shahjahan

Sports Reporter
A discussion meeting in memory of late Md Shahjahan, a renowned sports personality who was also a life member of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA), was held at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room yesterday.

Organised by the BSWA, Sadek Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Youth and Sports attended the occasion as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the State Minister underlined late Shahjahan's contributions to the development of the country's sporting achievements and suggested naming some tournament on even stadium after him to perpetuate his memory.

Former NSC chairman Major General Mahbubur Rahman also attended the meeting as a special guest.

Other speakers paid tributes to the National Award recipient and recalled interesting anecdotes from personal memories.

Friendly cricket

Sports Reporter
Mansur Sporting Club posted an exciting 10 run victory over Narayanjanj Dhoniya Cricket Club in an exhibition match held at the Narayanjanj Aliganj ground yesterday, says a press release.

Batting first, Mansur Sporting were all out for a modest 130 in 27 overs, three short of the stipulated 30 overs, with Kachi remaining unbeaten on 48 and Abu getting 22.

Dhoniya Club, in their turn, were bundled out for 120 in 22 overs. Shaheen of Mansur Sporting claiming four wickets for 21 runs.

Babul and Saiful made 31 and 20 respectively for Dhoniya club. Shaheen was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

SA wants to send 125 to Barcelona

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 26: South Africa's Olympic Committee (NOCOSA) said on Saturday wanted to enter 125 competitors, more than twice its allocation of 50, at the Barcelona Games, reports Reuter.

Barcelona organisers COOB '92, facing chronic overcrowding, argued South African as one of the worst culprits following the republics last request, a squad of 286.

"NOCOSA obviously feels this allocation is far too small. This is not a satisfactory situation," committee chairman Sam Ramsamy said.

Brothers limp along

Sports Reporter
A demoralised Brothers Union, pushed to the home straight of the league race, plummeted to nadir when they apparently helped newly promoted Bangladesh Police to prolong their struggle for survival in the First Division football league with a valuable point in a goalless draw yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

The Federation Cup champions, who had begun their campaign this season with a big bang, by lifting the curtain-raising tournament trophy now have 25 points from 16 outings while Police after having played their 16 matches have ten.

Brothers, fully realising their hopeless state, perhaps decided to retrieve part of the heavy financial expenditure incurred by the signing of the three Iraqis who failed to lift the Gopibagh boys and 'let go' Police, now locked in a grim battle with Dhaka Wanderers Club to decide who join Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), in Division Two next season.

Brothers, who dropped their seventh point after yesterday's draw, showed no intention of pressing their opponents for a breakthrough and one cannot but attribute their lacklustre performance to some sort of understanding even after taking into consideration their present withered state.

The men in orange showed some face-saving aggression in the second half with substitute Ahmed wasting a chance by hanging on to the ball too long, allowing police custodian Imran enough time to avert any theoretical danger.

Jaglu unleashed a powerful shot in the 65th minute but Imran again came to the rescue of his side by parrying the ball to safety for a corner.

Khandaker Waseem Iqbal, the gifted winger now at the twilight of his career, spoiled the best chance two minutes from time when he shot wide from an advantageous position.

Yellow card : Ataur of Brothers and Khokon of Police. Brothers Union : Ponir, Jaglu, Rouf Babul, Moon, Pervez, Ataur, Uttam, Rupu (Amin Khan), Manik, Ripon (Ahmed) and Wasim.

Police AC: Imran, Rezaul, Shahjahan, Asit, Monesh, Avizit, Zakir (Mamunur), Anjan, Babu Das, Khokon (Babar) and Lulu. Referee : R. Alam

Rifat starts defence in style

Sports Reporter
conceding a walk-over to Biman's Ziaur Rahman, winner of the recently concluded Neptune Active Chess tournament.

Anisur Rahman and Tahmidur Rahman, who was dethroned by Rifat last year settled for a draw after 17 moves in a match that Anis, playing with white, began with a King's Indian defence opening, too ended in a draw after 16th moves.

The match between Khandaker Kayes Hassan and Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of BTMC, which was also begun with a King's Indian defence opening, too ended in a draw after 16th moves.

Rani Hamid, the chess queen of the country, drew her opening tie with Abdul Khaleque of Jamalpur. The contest, which the national women's champion began with

Victoria Sporting Club further strengthened their position in the points table with a convincing three nil win against giant-killers Wari Club in the first match of yesterday's First Division league.

After a goalless first half Victoria, who displayed better brand of soccer, scored three goals within half an hour to seal the fate of the match.

Mamunul Karim netted the first goal two minutes into the second half.

Toufique doubled the margin in the 16th minute and striker Shankar completed the tally seven minutes later (3-0).

Wari, who created quite a sensation earlier in the year by snatching a point from Brothers and handing a shock defeat to last year's runners-up and perennial title aspirants Dhaka Mohammedans, won and indirect free-kick inside the box at the free end of the match but failed to reduce the margin from it.

Victoria now have 16 points and Wari 17 after having played 16 matches apiece.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Farashganj vs Adamjee (6 pm)
BRTC vs Eskaton (8 pm)

Tenerife beat Barcelona

MADRID, Apr 26: Lowly Tenerife dealt Barcelona a bitter blow to their title hopes on Saturday with a fine 2-1 home win over the Spanish champions, reports Reuter.

Inspired by new team coach, Argentine Jorge Valdano, the island team raced ahead with a nearly goal and despite a Barcelona equaliser soon after kept up the pressure and could have won by a much wider margin.

KARACHI, Apr 26 : Pakistan cricket skipper Javed Miandad said here Sunday that he would play for results in the upcoming tour of England to maintain his country's recent winning spree, reports AFP.

"Playing in English conditions has always been a challenge for Pakistan, but having a balanced team with fighting spirit I would like to see the England side bowled out on its home ground as many times as possible to win the series," Miandad said.

But manager Intikhab Alam said the tour would be closely fought between the two equally balanced teams.

The board for control of cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) announced its 17-man squad on April 20 for the England tour that will include five Tests and five one-day match as well as county fixtures.

Miandad, with over 8,000 runs in Tests and 6,000 runs in one-day matches, was named captain after Imran Khan, 39, said he was not available for the tour due to a

shoulder injury. Salim Malik, who played for Essex last year and scored 28 runs short of 2,000, has been named Miandad's deputy.

Miandad was captain for the controversial 1987-88 Test series against England in Pakistan during which Test umpire Shakoor Rana and England captain Mike Gatting nearly came to blows at Faisalabad.

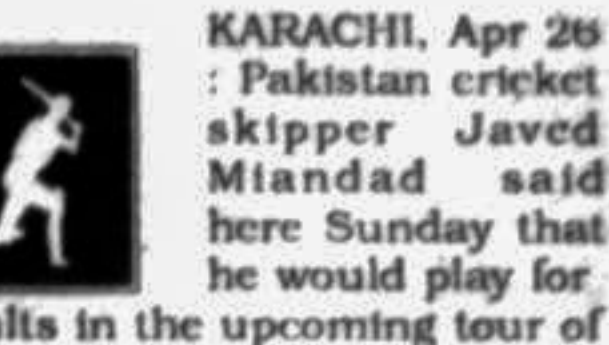
The match was stopped for a day and resumed only after a written apology from the England captain but Miandad was criticised by the English press for being instrumental in wasting a day's play.

"I had nothing to do with that affair which is over," Miandad said, adding he would like to play nice clean game of cricket to win as many times as possible.

"The game of cricket should not suffer from the hangovers of such incidents and I am sure this would be the case when we tour England," Miandad said.

Miandad described his team as having a combination of experience and youth, determined to fight the way

Miandad vows to play to win



JAVED MIANDAD

quited to produce their best," he said.

Manager Alam said he was a bit skeptical about the early fixtures because the boys have

Pakistan clinched the World Cup. "I will make the best use of the pace attack at my command, combining it with spin while our batsmen will be re-

not done training or nets since their return from the World Cup as they were attending receptions."

Commenting on the possibility of Imran joining the squad later, he said "I don't think so," adding Imran wants to rest to heal his shoulder injury and is not prepared for the operation.

The Pakistan squad, which leaves April 29, includes star bowler Waqar Younis who had been doubtful after a back problem forced him to miss the World Cup.

Opening batsman Shoaib Mohammad is included, along with all-rounder Asif Mujtaba and fast bowlers Naveed Anjum and Salim Jaffer.

Two new faces are Rashid Latief—a bearded wicket-keeper with 23 catches in the domestic season this year and fast bowler Tanvir Mehd.

The Pakistan side also includes Rameez Raja, Aamir Sohail, Izzatamul Haq, Zahid Pazzal, Mo'in Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed. Mushtaq Ahmed is the only leg-spin specialist in a team that will rely heavily on pace to overcome the English batsmen.

FIFA says Morocco not yet ready to hold W Cup

CASABLANCA, Apr 26: Morocco is currently unable to meet requirements for hosting the 1998 World Cup despite progress, a FIFA delegation indicated on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Argentina's Alfredo Cantillo, who led a delegation of a four-day fact-finding tour, said they had been favourably impressed by what they had seen although much infrastructure was still at the drawing board stage.

"There are still six years to go before the World Cup and it is plenty of time to fill the gaps," said Cantillo.

"FIFA requires between nine and 12 stadiums with a minimum capacity of 40,000 each, when at present Morocco has only two but plans to provide others," he said.

Morocco, who bid to host the 1994 finals to be staged in the United States, plans to build or enlarge stadiums in Oujda, Tangier, Fez, Marrakesh, Setaat, Meknes and Agadir.

Cantillo declined to reveal their conclusions before FIFA's Executive Committee had been informed but said they had looked at stadiums, transport and communications and Morocco's ability to accommodate hundreds of thousands of visitors.

FIFA delegates praised Morocco's telecommunications network but said substantial improvements were needed to satisfy the requirements of up to 6,000 journalists.

Hotel capacity was another problem with 179,388 hotel beds at the end of 1991 although capacity is being increased by about 6,000 a year, according to the Tourism Ministry.

The FIFA delegation later left Casablanca for France, who are also bidding for the 1998 finals.

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Gatting's 67th career ton

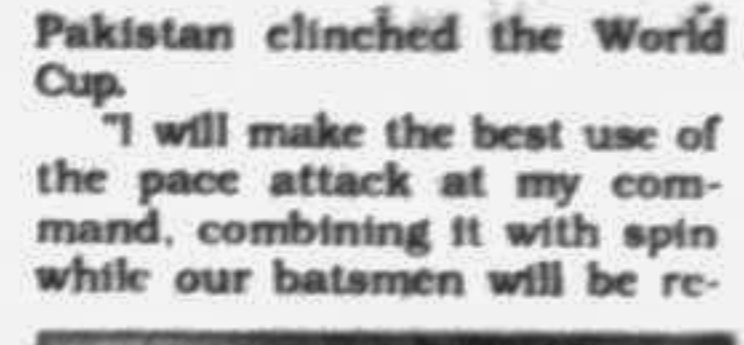
LONDON, Apr 26: English cricket's new boys Durham underwent a tough baptism on Saturday's opening day of the County Championship, despite a late two-wicket burst from Ian Botham, reports Reuter.

Durham, the first new county club for 71 years, struggled to 164 against Leicestershire on a difficult pitch and only Paul Parker with a defiant 77 put up any sort of show for the 1,500 crowd.

Botham made 12 and Australian import Dean Jones went for just two as Leicestershire, 16th of 17 in the championship last season, turned the screw. At the close the visitors were 66 for two.

Mike Gatting, the England rebel hoping for a 1992 pardon, began the season with an excellent 170 Lords.

Gatting, who has served 24 months of his original five-year



MIKE GATTING

injury-hit Glamorgan with his 67th first-class century.

Gatting and his faithful lieutenant, fellow rebel John Emburey, who made 57, put on 148 at a run a minute for the seventh wicket to engineer a remarkable revival.

At lunch Middlesex were tottering at 129 for six but were eventually all out for 341. Glamorgan were 21 for no wicket at the close.

There were first-day centuries for Martyr Moxon, who made 141 in Yorkshire's 273 for three against Surrey and Graham Lloyd who hit 132 as Lancashire recovered to 328 for seven against Kent.

At Southampton, opener Paul Terry (141) and Tony Middleton (145 not out) both hit centuries, putting on 246 for the first wicket after Sussex skipper Alan Wells had put Hampshire in. At the close Hampshire were 334 for one.

County champions Essex did not have a first class game.

Papin leaves Marseille for Milan

MARSEILLE, France, Apr 26: Olympique Marseille were both a winner and a loser Saturday night as they gained their fourth consecutive French soccer crown but said good-bye to their star, Jean-Pierre Papin, reports AP.

Papin finally announced that he was headed to AC Milan next season, ending six years of goal-scoring prowess for the French club. He had scored 180 goals in 276 matches for Marseille.

As a final tribute to the 45,000 fans for his last match at home, he scored the first goal against Cannes and helped Marseille to a 2-0 victory.

That clinched Marseille's fourth French title in a row, although they had virtually wrapped it up the week before by beating second-placed Monaco in a showdown battle.

Papin was the top scorer for the last three years for Marseille, averaging a goal a game since 1988 at home.

He was given the "Golden Ball" award last season, emblematic of the top European soccer player.

Son of a fisherman from Boulogne, Papin first starred at Valenciennes in the north of France.

He went to Belgium for a stay at Bruges but came back to

fore. Papin follows the way of his national coach, Michel Platini, who also did a stint in Italy. Platini starred in France but did not receive international recognition until he went to Juventus of Turin and helped that team to a number of European and international victories.

Platini returned home to become the French national coach. After some down years the French team, with Papin as its leader, has returned to the stop and went through the preliminary phase of the European Championships unbeaten to qualify for the finals in June in Sweden.

"It's too bad for the French public," Platini said of Papin's move, "but it's super for Jean-Pierre."

"When you're 28, seen it all, had it all, it's good to try another experience, especially in a country like Italy where each match is a European Cup match."

Porto Portuguese league champs

LISBON, Apr 26: Striker Domingos Oliveira's header one minute from the final whistle gave Porto a 1-0 victory away to Salgueiros on Saturday, securing the northern club its twelfth Portuguese League title, reports Reuter.

Defending champions Benfica have five matches left, against Porto's three, but even if they win them all and close the 10-point gap with the leaders, Porto will still be ahead since they drew with Benfica once and beat them in their second clash. Benfica face mid-table Beira Mar today.

Boavista's prolific Nigerian striker Richard Owubokiri scored a hatrick and continues to top the league of scorers with a tally of 29 goals, but his team was held to a 4-4 draw at home to Chaves.

Two goals from Owubokiri last Wednesday helped Boavista to qualify for the Portuguese Cup final by knocking out Benfica with a 2-1 victory.

Boavista reached the 59th minute on Saturday two goals ahead with the score at 4-2 after one from Antonio Nogueira and the Nigerian marksman's three.

But Chaves are fighting to avoid relegation and two goals from Yugoslavia's Karoglan

China secure berth for Hiroshima finals

SINGAPORE, Apr 26: China secured the Asian Cup football Group Four berth for the Hiroshima finals when Malaysia and Indonesia drew 1-1 here Saturday, reports AFP.

With Malaysia and Indonesia having completed their fixtures, China with a maximum of four points from two games will have to go through a mere formality against hosts Singapore today when even a defeat will see them through to the October finals.

Indonesia have three points while Malaysia finished with two points.

Host Singapore are at the bottom of the table with only one point.

The team positions: (Played, Won, Draw, Lost, Goals for, Goals against, Points)

China	2	2	0	6	0	4
Indonesia	3	1	1	3	4	3
Malaysia	3	0	2	1	6	2
Singapore	2	0	1	1	2	1



Defending champion Rifat bin-Sattar (right, foreground) beat former champion Jamilur Rahman on the opening day of the 18th national chess championship at the NSC chess room yesterday. —Star photo