

Bangladesh win shooting gold

The Bangladesh shooting team yesterday secured a gold in the free pistol team event, with a score of 1,539 points in the South Asian shooting championships now being held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The Bangladesh team comprised Atiqur Rahman, Asif Hossain and Haider Ali. However, a PTI report from New Delhi yesterday said Indian marksmen made a clean sweep of all the 12 gold medals at stake Friday to continue their dominance on the second day of the first South Asian Shooting Championship in Colombo.

With seven silver and two bronze medals to add to Friday's gold haul, India's total medal tally stood at 18 gold, 10 silver and 5 bronze medals. India won six golds, three silvers and bronzes Thursday.

Gymnastics Fed re-constituted

The National Sports Council (NSC) has reconstituted the ad hoc executive committee of the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation with Md Nurul Huda, Anisur Rahman (Dipu) and Mir Rabbuzaman as president, general secretary, and treasurer respectively.

Syed Mesbah Uddin, M Solaiman and Selim Nazrul Huq are the three vice-presidents while Md Nasrullah and Md Ahmedur Rahman are the joint secretaries.

Sheikh Golam Ahmed, Emran Saleh Prince, Rafiqul Alam (Shafig), Mahfuzur Rahman, Mir Mahbubur Rahman, Mostafizur Rahman, Md Mohiuddin, Kazi Akram Ali, Parvin Laila Lucy, Sheikh Shakikul Alam, Wahedul Alam, Kamrul Islam, Sanaul Arefin, Abu Daud Badsha, Azizur Rahman, Md Mozammel Huq, A S M Ubaidul Huq, Syed Ali Anwar, Roushan Ara Zaman, Nazma Shamim, Kabirul Hasan, and one representative each from Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation are members.

Any member of the new committee seeking to contest future elections of the federation will have to resign before submitting nomination papers. The new committee will take over immediately.

Oli to inaugurate FIFA workshop

The six-day Futuro FIFA Coca-Cola world football development programme seminar under the aegis of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will begin from July 6 in the city.

Minister for Communications Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed will inaugurate the programme as the chief guest at 9:30 in the morning at a local hotel.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will attend as a special guest.

The BFF has picked 25 referees, as many coaches, 15 soccer organisers and an identical number of physios for the workshop.

Meanwhile, four FIFA instructors — Paul Samuel of Malaysia, George Suppla of Singapore, Dr Klaus Dieter Trapp of Germany and Napravnik of Yugoslavia — are expected to arrive in the city today to conduct the course.

Roland Garros comes to Wimbledon



MONICA SELES...on a Grand Slam roll



STEFFI GRAF...defending champion

LONDON, July 3: Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, the two leading lights in this year's Wimbledon soap opera, set up a repeat of their classic French Open encounter

wins over Frenchman Guy Forget and German ex-champion Boris Becker respectively. After Pete Sampras's fine run to the last four there are now three Americans in the semifinals for the first time in a decade.

There had been a symmetrical look about the women's semifinals with all the top four seeds appearing in their appointed places. The subsequent performances of Graf and Seles, the world's two highest-ranked players, suggested the status

quo will remain undisturbed for a while longer and Sabatini, for one, was highly impressed by her opponent. "I never saw her play so well. Everything was working," Sabatini said. "Sometimes I just felt I didn't know what to do. I tried and nothing happened."

Graf, whose old friendship with the Argentine third seed has faded in recent times, offered a relatively downbeat reaction as she moved one step away from a fourth title.

Rain delays McEnroe — Agassi semifinal

LONDON, July 3: Rain delayed the start of John McEnroe and Andre Agassi's Wimbledon men's semifinal today, reports Reuter.

Persistent drizzle forced ground staff to re-cover the Centre Court and prevent the two Americans starting at the scheduled time of 11:00 GMT. Officials said play would start as soon as the rain ceased.

Abahani to play in Moin-ud Dowla

Sports Reporter Last year's league runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra will take part in the Moin-ud Dowla Gold Cup cricket tournament to be held from July 29 to August 7 in Hyderabad, India.

Earlier league champions Mohammedi Sporting spurned the offer extended by Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB).

Bangladesh Biman and Azad Boys Club are the other Bangladesh teams to have taken part in this tournament.

Lineker's Japanese debut next month

TOKYO, July 3: Gary Lineker will make his debut in Japan next month when he plays for his new club in a soccer friendly with leading Brazilian team Corinthians, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for the Grampus Eight Club said today that Lineker would play in the friendly in their home town of Nagoya, central Japan, on August 1.

Lineker, England's second-highest goalscorer after Bobby Charlton, signed last year for the club, one of the 10 teams in Japan's new professional league starting next year.

The spokesman said Lineker would return to England after the game and would rejoin the club next February.

He said the club was planning shortly to send a Japanese doctor to London to consult with British doctors attending Lineker's baby son, who suffers from Leukaemia.

Earlier this year, the club announced it would form a special medical team for the striker's son.

Lineker has said in published interviews that, if the condition of his son deteriorated, he would not play in Japan over a long period.

Appollo march on

Sports Reporter Kurmitola Appollo Club inched closer to promotion to the First Division basketball league next year by recording their fifth consecutive victory in the ongoing Second Division league yesterday.

The favourites now have ten points while their nearest rivals Fleet Club and Flame Boys Club have eight points from four and five matches respectively.

The top two teams from the Second Division will qualify for the First Division league.

In yesterday's second match, Kurmitola Appollo Club beat Mirzapur Cadet College Defenders (MCCD) 72-45.

MCCD have seven points from their five games.

Earlier in the afternoon, Flame Boys Club got the better of Mitford Friends Club 66-47.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rising Force vs Young Stars (4.30 pm)

Fleet Club vs Bakshibazar (5.30 pm)

Meyer sets a very hot pace

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, July 3: Elana Meyer posted the sixth fastest time in history in the women's 5,000 metres, winning the race in 14 minutes, 51.42 seconds at the DN-Galan '92 IAF/Mobil Grand Prix track and field meet Thursday, reports AP.

The 26-year-old South African, who was the world's top-ranked long distance runner last year, took the lead early and ran a solo race the rest of the way at Olympic Stadium.

Meyer, running like a machine during most of the race clocking 72-second laps, was 14 seconds off the world record of 14:37.33 set by Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen here in 1986.

The international sports boycott of South Africa was lifted only recently, but Meyer is considered the biggest Olympic gold medal favourite despite little international experience.

"But I don't think it's realistic to regard me as a favourite," said Meyer, who is scheduled to run the 10,000 metres in Barcelona. "I will only have one month of international competition before the Olympics. But every race before Barcelona gives me experience."

Meyer, who ran a 14:44.15 in South Africa in March for history's second fastest 5,000-metre race, competed for the

first time in Europe four days ago and was third in a 3,000 at Hengelo, the Netherlands. She now owns four of the six fastest times ever in the 5,000 metres.

Olapade Adeniken of Nigeria caught Dennis Mitchell just before the finish and upset the US Olympic Trials' winner by three hundredths of a second in the men's 100 metres.

"I had a pretty good start, but after 10 metres I kind of backed off and he came back on me," Mitchell said.

"I made a good push on him toward the end, but in the last 30 metres I was just working too hard. My body wasn't relaxed. I'm just too tired of the travel after the Olympic Trials," he said.

Kevin Young, another winner at the US Olympic Trials, held off world champion Samuel Matete of Zambia down the stretch to win the 400 hurdles in 48.25, one of the fastest times of the year.

Matete, who had not lost a race in a year, clocked 48.46 while the 400 hurdles in 48.25, one of the fastest times of the year.

Matete, who had not lost a race in a year, clocked 48.46 while third went to Sven Nylander of Sweden in 49.61.

Other American winners included Hollis Conway in the high jump (2.31); Mark Everett in the 800 (1:46.57); Mike Conley in the long jump (7.91); Quincy Watts in the 400 (44.99) and Sandra Farmer-Patrick in the women's 400 hurdles (54.59).

Sergei Bubka of the CIS, who bettered his world pole vault record to 6.11 three weeks ago, cleared 5.90 metres on his first attempt, but then had three poor efforts at 6.00. The Ukrainian won the competition ahead of Igor Potapovich, also of the CIS, who cleared 5.60.

ELANAMEYER

Adeniken, who upset another top US sprinter, former world-record holder Leroy Burrell in another Swedish meet at Malmo two years ago, clocked 10.25 seconds.

Vitaly Savin, the No. 1 sprinter from the Commonwealth of the Independent States, was third in 10.30.

"Right now my serve is a lot stronger than it has been for a long time," Graf acknowledged. "I am really going for my shots. I feel pretty good."

More grunting controversy apart, Seles was equally content after ruining Navratilova's

Vegas clothes horse continued his sweet progress.

Few people dump Becker out of his favourite tournament with substandard performances and Agassi believes he now has the chance to reach his first final at the expense of



McEnroe, his practice partner here.

"I'm two matches away from winning the title and Goran (Ivanisevic) is the only one left in the tournament that I haven't beaten before. I consider my chances as good as anybody," he said after completing his rain-delayed 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win.

Becker was philosophical. "I'm probably going to realise how much it hurts in the next couple of days. I have not seen anyone on grass playing that kind of tennis from the back."

McEnroe also required less than an hour after Thursday's resumption to polish off Forrester 6-2, 7-6, 6-3, setting up his first match against Agassi for three years.

Asked if he could win the tournament again for the first time since 1984, he replied: "It's a great opportunity for both of us. I think I'm playing great tennis and feel I have a good chance if I play well."

How about the differences between 1984 and now? "Comparing is boring. I don't really like to think about it. But if by some miracle I win the final, I'll talk about it all day and night if you want."

POINT TO PONDER What Seles and Agassi will wear if they end up partnering each other to the champions' ball at the end of the tournament was the latest scare story doing the rounds as the Las

cial deals but denied it was a case of sour grapes on her part.

"Grunting or not, she is a great player. Just the sheer pace of the ball ends up beating you. She is certainly the best player right now."

What Seles and Agassi will wear if they end up partnering each other to the champions' ball at the end of the tournament was the latest scare story doing the rounds as the Las

cial deals but denied it was a case of sour grapes on her part.

"Grunting or not, she is a great player. Just the sheer pace of the ball ends up beating you. She is certainly the best player right now."

POINT TO PONDER What Seles and Agassi will wear if they end up partnering each other to the champions' ball at the end of the tournament was the latest scare story doing the rounds as the Las

cial deals but denied it was a case of sour grapes on her part.

"Grunting or not, she is a great player. Just the sheer pace of the ball ends up beating you. She is certainly the best player right now."

POINT TO PONDER What Seles and Agassi will wear if they end up partnering each other to the champions' ball at the end of the tournament was the latest scare story doing the rounds as the Las

cial deals but denied it was a case of sour grapes on her part.

"Grunting or not, she is a great player. Just the sheer pace of the ball ends up beating you. She is certainly the best player right now."

POINT TO PONDER What Seles and Agassi will wear if they end up partnering each other to the champions' ball at the end of the tournament was the latest scare story doing the rounds as the Las

cial deals but denied it was a case of sour grapes on her part.

"Grunting or not, she is a great player. Just the sheer pace of the ball ends up beating you. She is certainly the best player right now."

POINT TO PONDER What Seles and Agassi will wear if they end up partnering each other to the champions' ball at the end of the tournament was the latest scare story doing the rounds as the Las

cial deals but denied it was a case of sour grapes on her part.

"Grunting or not, she is a great player. Just the sheer pace of the ball ends up beating you. She is certainly the best player right now."

POINT TO PONDER What Seles and Agassi will wear if they end up partnering each other to the champions' ball at the end of the tournament was the latest scare story doing the rounds as the Las

No play at Old Trafford

MANCHESTER, July 3: England's notorious summer weather struck again Friday, washing out the second day's play in the third England-Pakistan cricket Test at Old Trafford, reports AP.

Saturday's forecast is for more rain, threatening a repeat of the drawn 1987 Test at Old Trafford when more than half the playing time was lost.

Umpires Roy Palmer and David Shepherd abandoned play in late afternoon as heavy rain continued at the ground.

Pakistan, leading 1-0 in the five-Test series, scored 388 for three Thursday and were hoping to quickly add to the total Friday before letting its pace bowlers loose on England.

Aamir Sohail scored 205 Thursday as Pakistan became only the sixth team to score century partnerships for the first three wickets. Skipper Javed Miandad was on 59 and wicketkeeper Moin Khan on 7 at stumps Thursday.

Rain and bad light washed out the first two days of the drawn first Test at Edgbaston, and an afternoon's play was also lost in the second Test won by Pakistan at Lord's.

Grateful Sohail thanks his doc

MANCHESTER, England, July 3: Aamir Sohail had good reason to thank a 75-year-old Lahore doctor for his double century in the third Test against England on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Sohail, troubled by a knee injury, was in danger of missing the match until he was treated by Dr Mohammed Aslam, manipulative specialist.

Aslam had flown to England earlier this week to treat several Pakistan players.

Sohail, who made 205 of Pakistan's opening day score of 388 for three, said: "A couple of days ago I was in tremendous pain. I couldn't bend my knee, then the doctor treated me and it was like magic."

"The pain disappeared and today I only felt the ligament problem once."

Sohail came to England with the reputation of being primarily a one-day player, having appeared in 21 limited-overs internationals.

But after batting almost all day on Thursday he said: "I don't believe in one-day cricket. A Test match is the real game."

Appollo march on

Sports Reporter Kurmitola Appollo Club inched closer to promotion to the First Division basketball league next year by recording their fifth consecutive victory in the ongoing Second Division league yesterday.

The favourites now have ten points while their nearest rivals Fleet Club and Flame Boys Club have eight points from four and five matches respectively.

The top two teams from the Second Division will qualify for the First Division league.

In yesterday's second match, Kurmitola Appollo Club beat Mirzapur Cadet College Defenders (MCCD) 72-45.

MCCD have seven points from their five games.

Earlier in the afternoon, Flame Boys Club got the better of Mitford Friends Club 66-47.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rising Force vs Young Stars (4.30 pm) Fleet Club vs Bakshibazar (5.30 pm)

WASHINGTON, July 3: The countdown to Barcelona has begun and the quadrennial mania is gripping America, reports AP.

If sheer numbers mean anything the United States can expect quite a haul.

Nearly a thousand American athletes, coaches, doctors and officials will descend on Barcelona in pursuit of gold.

"We have 626 athletes going in medal sports, 161 staff, and, if you add the demonstration sports and medical staff the delegation summary comes out to about a total of 970, not all staying at the Olympic Village," said USOC media director Mike Moran.

"That includes extra officials that our sports governing bodies are bringing, but bringing at their own expense, not impacting on COOB's housing or food."

"I imagine it is the largest delegation in the world. Sometimes the host country really loads up but I don't know what Spain's delegation is," Moran added.

The United States has quality as well as quantity. American track and field athletes can expect to shine with the Olympics offering one of their few opportunities to grab the attention of America's baseball and gridiron-loving

STROKE FOR STROKE: A CONTRAST IN STYLES

WIMBLEDON, England, July 3: The women's final at Wimbledon Saturday between No. 1 Monica Seles and No. 2 Steffi Graf, the defending champion, features a contrast in styles, strokes and experience on grass, reports AP.

Here's how they match up, stroke by stroke:

Forehand — Seles, a left-hander with two-flashed shots from both sides, and Graf, a right-hander who uses only one hand, each hit the hardest, most accurate forehands in women's tennis. Graf runs around the ball often to put herself in position for the forehand rather than use her backhand, and that can leave her out of position. Seles wallops forehand winners cross-court or down the line from anywhere, and never lets up. Advantage: Even.

Backhand — Seles' backhand is almost identical to her forehand, a flat or topspin shot that she hits deep or angled with precision. Graf's backhand, especially on grass, is generally a slice that keeps the ball low. She's been working on a topspin backhand to drive it deeper, but remains more confident in her slice. Advantage: Seles.

Serve — Both serve accurately with good pace in the 90 mph range, but neither is likely to produce many aces or service winners. Each has been staying back after the first serve, rather than following it in. But Graf is more likely to change her tactics and attack the net if she falls behind or if she senses an opportunity to disrupt Seles' rhythm. Advantage: Graf.

Volley — Graf is a far better volleyer — forehand, backhand and overhead — with Seles still learning the strokes and tentative about using them except on obviously short balls. Seles is more likely, though, to take a short ball on the fly, and volley it back with a ground-stroke-like swing. It's a daring shot, but she hits them for winners. Advantage: Graf.

Intangibles — Neither player should have a psychological advantage going into the match. Both feel confident, with good reasons.

Seles, 18, is on a Grand Slam roll, winning the Australian, French and US Opens last year, and the Australian and French Opens this year. She is the ultimate competitor, winning often because she simply refuses to lose.

But Seles' grass-court experience is limited. She skipped Wimbledon last year because of shin splints, and reached only the quarters in 1990 and the fourth round in 1989, her first Wimbledon, when she lost to Graf 6-0, 6-1.

But that 1989 match was between a mature, experienced champion — Graf won the second of her three Wimbledon titles that year — and a 15-year-old who had not yet reached her full height and strength.

Graf, 23, is playing her eighth Wimbledon and is certainly more at home on the Centre Court grass than on the clay of the French Open, where Seles just barely beat her 6-2, 3-6, 10-8 in the final. That was their only match together this year.

Graf has won five of their eight meetings, taking both their matches last year, and all three of their matches on fast surfaces — hard courts, carpet and grass. Advantage: Graf.

Seles to stop grunting

LONDON, July 3: Monica Seles assured the world on Thursday that she would soon stop grunting, reports Reuter.

The world number one, who beat nine times champion Martina Navratilova to reach the Wimbledon final, was twice asked during the match to keep the noise down.

"The Yugoslav was repentant afterwards."

"I do hope that next year when I come back here I won't be grunting," said Seles, who got progressively louder during the Centre Court match as the points grew harder.

"I'm not doing it on purpose...After this tournament I'm going to practise to get rid of it."

Journalists from the tabloid press have stalked Seles throughout the championships with "grunometers" to record the noises the top seed makes when in action.

The moment they had been waiting for came in the quarter-finals when Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat complained to the umpire about her opponent's grunting.

Seles said she felt a little victimised.

"You know, when I was (ranked) number five of six not too many people noticed anything. But as soon as you are number one, it's like everything is double, bigger..."

"But I'll change it," she vowed.

"I would love to stop it so people are not going to look at it as an issue. The grunting is only an issue here. I never had

any questions about it on the whole tour."

"So how will she practise to stop it?"

"I don't know," she admitted. "I mean, I stopped the giggling somehow. Practise somehow. I don't know but I really want to stop it. I really don't want to be picked on. I really don't think it's fair. Everything is stoppable."

Navratilova, who complained she could not hear the ball being struck at times, agreed it was controllable.

So maybe she should have grunted herself?

"I thought about it," Navratilova conceded. "But you know, I don't want to take anything away from Monica."

"Grunting or not, she is a great player."

Bomb scare

WIMBLEDON, England, July 3: A police bomb squad searched Monica Seles' Wimbledon residence after tournament officials received a written threat against the Yugoslav-born tennis star, authorities said Friday, reports AP.

The threat, written in German, was received Thursday morning before she went on court to beat nine-time champion Martina Navratilova to reach Saturday's final.

"I would think she was upset, but it clearly didn't affect her tennis. It didn't stop her from winning," said Wimbledon spokeswoman Carol Brown.

Scotland Yard moved in to check out the claim.

Olympic mania grips America

WASHINGTON, July 3: The countdown to Barcelona has begun and the quadrennial mania is gripping America, reports AP.

If sheer numbers mean anything the United States can expect quite a haul.

Nearly a thousand American athletes, coaches, doctors and officials will descend on Barcelona in pursuit of gold.

"We have 626 athletes going in medal sports, 161 staff, and, if you add the demonstration sports and medical staff the delegation summary comes out to about a total of 970, not all staying at the Olympic Village," said USOC media director Mike Moran.

"That includes extra officials that our sports governing bodies are bringing, but bringing at their own expense, not impacting on COOB's housing or food."

"I imagine it is the largest delegation in the world. Sometimes the host country really loads up but I don't know what Spain's delegation is," Moran added.

The United States has quality as well as quantity. American track and field athletes can expect to shine with the Olympics offering one of their few opportunities to grab the attention of America's baseball and gridiron-loving

sports fans.

Carl Lewis, at 31 the grand old man of athletics, failed to qualify in the 100 metres. But he will attempt to retrieve his long jumping supremacy from Mike Powell who broke his 10-year unbeaten run with a fabulous world record at last year's World Championships in Tokyo.

America's women athletes will be led by Jackie Joyner-Kersey. Barring injury, which hit her in Tokyo, the 30-year-old could retain both her Olympic titles at the seven event heptathlon and long jump.

The US swimming team includes nine individual world record holders ranging in experience from veterans Matt Biondi and Tom Jager to 15-year-old newcomer Anita Nall.

In between are swimmers such as Janet Evans, seeking to repeat her Seoul victories at 400m and 800m freestyle, and Mike Barrowman, the 200m breaststroke world record holder trying to erase his failure to medal at Seoul.

Moran says the funds for sending the entire US team come out of the USOC's 300 million dollar four-year budget which also covers grants to athletics and operating some training centres.

One thing it does not include is bonuses for medals, anathema to the USOC.

"The USOC offers no money

for medals," Moran said. "There are some individual sports federations that do have theirs, but this is money from the federations, not the USOC. We do not pay for medals."

What the USOC has provided is the wherewithal to train.

"We put 26 million dollars into an athletes' subsistence programme by which the majority of our elite athletes who have a chance of making the team are receiving a monthly cheque from the USOC," Moran said.

"Our grants to athletes range from between 2,500 dollars and 12,500 dollars a year per athlete, and it also includes some other aspects like college tuition and fees for athletes who want to go to college while they continue to train."

The most celebrated group of American sportsmen vying for Olympic glory don't need any handouts from the USOC.