

Faruk won't go to Hyderabad

Sports Reporter
National team opener Faruk Ahmed, who captained the league runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra last season, will not go with the team in the Moinuddin Gold Cup invitation knockout cricket competition beginning from July 28 in Hyderabad, India.

Faruk, an MSS final year student of Public Administration at the Dhaka University, has his examinations at the time of the tournament.

"If need be, I will join the squad at a later date," Faruk told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, Abahani Krira Chakra, who leave on July 25, have made a few alterations in the team line-up.

According to the revised list, there are 13 players and three officials in the squad.

The players are: Harun-ur-Rashid Liton, Zahid Razaque Masum, Mahbubur Rahman Selim, Akram Khan, Habibul Bashar Suman, Ziaur Rashid Rupam, Golam Nawsher Prince, Saiful Islam, Shahidul Islam Effe, Khaled Mahmud Sujan, Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Morshed Chowdhury and Md Babar.

Enamul Huq Moni of Bangladesh Biman, Zakir Hossain of the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) and Shabbir Ahmed of Public Works Department (PWD) who were included in the initial team, have been left out of the final contingent.

MA Awal Bhui, is the manager and Tarek Al-Nasir and Jalal Younus are the other two officials of the team.

Talking to The Daily Star, manager Bhulu expressed optimism regarding the performance of the team in the meet.

"We have some talented players and look forward to make at least the semifinals."

As regards the nomination of captain and vice-captain, the manager said, that would be decided later on.

However, it has been learnt that either Prince or Effe will lead Abahani in the tournament.

Abahani will play their first match against a Maldives club on July 29 on a meeting wicket.

Should Abahani win, they will take on the victors of the match between MRF XI and Hedge and Modi on August 2 in the quarterfinals.

Steen teams will take part in the knockout competition. Abahani and the unnamed Maldives side are the only foreign entrants.

Schools kabaddi final tomorrow
Sports Reporter
Segunbagicha High School will play Bangladesh Rifles High School in the final of the 1992 schools kabaddi competition tomorrow at 5 pm at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Segunbagicha beat Maniknagar Primary School 21-19 in the keenly-contested second semifinal yesterday.

Rifles School beat last year's champions Rifles Public School and College in the first semifinal earlier last week.

Finalists Segunbagicha School, who scored a lona, led 14-7 at the breather yesterday.

Gias Kamal Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, will witness tomorrow's final as the chief guest and give away trophies among the winners.

Handball results
Sports Reporter
Defending champions Bangladesh Rifles registered an easy 34-11 victory over Nabin Sangha in the only match of the 1992 Phoenix Insurance handball competition at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Rifles led 25-4 at the breather.

Jahangir with 13 goals led the charge for the winners while Shahabaz netted three goals for the vanquished.

Bangladesh Police will take on Nawabpur Sporting Club in today's only match at 4:30 pm.

Tense time for insurance men
MUNICH, July 22: The start of the Barcelona Olympics on Saturday will mark the beginning of a tense two weeks at one German company, where executives will not want to miss one minute of television coverage, reports Reuter.

Muenchener Rueckversicherungs-gesellschaft, the world's largest reinsurance company, said on Tuesday it could pay out up to 150 million US dollar if anything blacks out worldwide television broadcasts of the Summer Games.

The group is re-insuring the risk of disrupted broadcasts and the consequent loss of income for stations from around the world which paid a total 4.4 million US dollar in premiums and 650 million US dollar for transmission rights.

BCCB announces '92-'93 calendar

Sports Reporter
A players' pool comprising national as well as the better players of the Premier Division cricket league will be formed and one club will be allowed to obtain the services of a maximum of three players from this 'pool' from next season.

This was decided yesterday in the executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB).

Presided over by BCCB president and Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, the meeting also announced the calendar for the 1992-93 domestic cricket season.

With all the engagements of the last season retained in a screwy domestic schedule, next year's calendar has room for one or two yet unnamed tournaments' alongside the visits of England, Pakistan and

run of low scores which had followed an ankle injury.

The other main contributor was Damian D'Oliviera who was undefeated on 87.

Another man in the runs was Allan Lamb, ignored by the England selectors for the fourth Test against Pakistan which begins on Thursday.

He hit an unbeaten 188 for Northamptonshire against Warwickshire and guided the home side to 307 for seven from 91 overs.

It was the highest score ever made by a Northamptonshire batsman against Warwickshire.

Lamb arrived at the crease with Northants in big trouble at four for two after a delayed

start but he held his side together, batting for 314 minutes and facing 275 balls.

Leicestershire had Durham reeling at 130 for eight from 41 overs at Grace Road. David Mills claimed four quick wickets in a 19-ball spell costing only seven runs and later left-arm seamer Alan Mullally took over, snapping up three wickets for eight runs in 10 balls.

West Indian paceman Courtney Walsh took six for 33 for Gloucestershire as the hopeful Hampshire crashed to 167 all out in the 64th over at Cheltenham. Gloucestershire reached 26 without loss by the close.

'Beefy' Botham meets the Queen
LONDON, July 22: Ian Botham changed from cricketing whites to tail coat Wednesday, and was complimented by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, reports AP.

"She was surprised to see me in this attire," Botham said after receiving an Order of the British Empire from the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

The 36-year-old cricketing legend, awarded the OBE in June's birthday honours list, played more than 100 Tests for England as an all-rounder.

Dropped from the squad after the second Test against Pakistan mid-June, 'Beefy' said he still hoped to play for England.

"I have had more come back than Imran Khan," Botham said. "I'm bowling better now than I was two or three years ago. I haven't given up on this series (against Pakistan) or even next summer (against India)."

The new eligibility rules may explain why traditional powers France, Germany, Brazil and Argentina did not qualify for the 16-team tournament.

"The Olympics are for young people," he said. "There is a sequence in all this. There's a proper learning effort. We do this because it's good for young people."

Critics have said FIFA simply didn't want the Olympics to compete with the World Cup.

S Bima judo
Sports Reporter
The five-day 1992 Sadharan Bima judo and karate competition under the aegis of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation (BJKF) will be held from August 21 to 25 in the city, says a press release.

All judo and karate clubs of the country are eligible to participate in the meet.

Interested clubs have been asked to send their entries to the federation at the Dhaka Stadium by August 17.

New NRC body
Sports Reporter
Deputy Commissioner of Narayanjan DSA, by virtue of his post, and Kutubuddin Akshir have been elected president and secretary respectively of the 23 member executive committee of the Narayanjan Rifle Club for the years 1992-95, says a press release.

Besides, there are five vice-presidents and two joint-secretaries and a treasurer in the committee.

Houghton, expected to return to England Wednesday from Liverpool's training camp in Italy, will discuss terms with the two clubs.

Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson said Wednesday: "We have agreed terms with Liverpool. We haven't yet talked to the player — we hope to organise that over the next few days."

Houghton joined Liverpool in October 1987, helping it win two League titles and two Football Association Cups in the last five seasons.

Sheffield United centre-half Grian Gayle was sent off for an alleged headbutt in an exhibition game against Scottish club Forfar in Scotland Tuesday.

England's Press Association reported that Gayle would likely be suspended for the opening three games of the English Season, starting August 15.

Sheffield United manager Dave Bassett said: "He was unprofessional and let the club down and I am furious with him. He has a short fuse but he must learn to control himself."

Harun leaves for KL today
Sports Reporter
Former general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation Harun-ur-Rashid leaves for the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur today to act as a match commissioner of the Group Four qualifying round of the 15th Asian youth under-16 football championship.

Four nations—Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and hosts Malaysia—will take part in the meet to be held from July 25 to 29.

The top team will qualify for the finals of the Asian youth championship to be held in Saudi Arabia from September 5 to 12.

The Bangladesh youth team, which emerged as the unbeaten champions of the Group 5 (held in Rajshahi last June), have already qualified for the finals.

Harun is expected to return in the first week of next month.

Tongi soccer
Sports Reporter
The first OK Sports Cup football tournament under the aegis of Tongi Markoon XI will begin tomorrow at the Markoon Pura ground, says a press release.

Mahakhal Jagrata Sangsad will take on Jalil XI in the inaugural match.

Headingley promises a result

HEADINGLEY, England, July 22: Pakistan have won the last three Test series between England and Pakistan 1-0 but there seems little chance of that scoreline being repeated this year, reports AFP.

Headingley has not witnessed a drawn Test since 1980 and, unless bad weather plays a major hand, a sequence of 10 positive results is odds on to be extended, either leaving the series perfectly balanced at 1-1 with the Oval to come or giving Pakistan an unassailable 2-0 lead.

England's Headingley sequence 1991 - beat West Indies, 115 runs
1990—no match
1989 - Australia won, 210 runs
1988 - West Indies won, 10 wickets
1987 - Pakistan won, 18 runs
1986 - India, won, 279 runs
1985 - beat Australia, 5 wickets
1984 - West Indies won, 8 wickets
1983 - New Zealand won, 5 wickets
1982 - beat Pakistan, 3 wickets
1981 - beat Australia, 18 runs

The national youth under-19 and the national championships are due to start Feb 15 and Feb 22 respectively.

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Pakistan's Aaqib Javed limbers up at Headingley, England Wednesday before the team's practice in preparation for the fourth Test which begins today. —AFP photo

Pakistan plan positive play

HEADINGLEY, England, July 22: Pakistan are planning to finish off England for the fourth consecutive series when the fourth Test gets underway here on Thursday, reports AFP.

With the positive approach typical of their captain Javed Miandad, the Pakistanis are preparing to put the controversy of the Old Trafford Test behind them and let their cricket do the talking.

Already 1-0 ahead, they have the chance to clinch the series — and provide the perfect response to all the allegations of bad sportsmanship they have had to suffer since the on-field problems in Manchester.

England, who lost by two wickets at Lord's, must win to have any chance of ending manager Micky Stewart's reign with a series victory.

But Pakistani manager Intikhab Alam insisted: "our approach has been positive right from the start of this tour and it will stay like that. It's the only way to play cricket."

In 1987, it was victory at Headingley by an innings and 18 runs which clinched the series for Pakistan. They also triumphed 1-0 when the two countries met again later that year and had already defeated England by a solitary Test to nil in 1983 as well.

But the English are banking on traditional swing and seam bowlers like Neil Mallender, Phil Newport and Derek

Pringle being able to exploit the historically helpful conditions at Headingley to keep the series alive.

"England are picking bowlers they think might do the job at this ground," said Intikhab. "But they may be taking a chance. The conditions should help us as well."

International Cricket Council Chairman Sir Colin Cowdrey will speak to both teams today in a bid to make sure there is no repeat of the third Test flare-up which earned fast bowler Aaqib Javed a fine and Intikhab a reprimand.

"We don't want trouble," insisted Intikhab. "What happened at Old Trafford is forgotten now and I don't expect any more problems."

Poor soccer sale prompts plea
BARCELONA, July 22: FIFA's president, Barcelona club chairman and Games organisers made passionate appeals to Spanish fans on Tuesday to watch the Olympic soccer tournament because of miserable ticket sales, reports Reuter.

Only 30 per cent of the one million tickets available for 32 games had been sold by Tuesday compared with almost 70 per cent for the 27 other Olympic sports.

Organisers believe the public has been turned off by the quality of the 16 teams, limited to under 23's for the first time and lacking any big star names.

Glamorous sides Brazil, Argentina, Germany and France also failed to qualify. Games such as Egypt against Qatar, Poland-Kuwait and Australia-Mexico are not seen as big crowd-pullers.

Organisers are going out of their way to fire interest in the tournament. International Football Federation (FIFA) president Joao Havelange pleaded on Tuesday:

"I ask the Spanish press to help make sure the public understand the very good quality of football we are putting on."

"I am sure we will have the highest possible standards at this championship and that we will see good football. In two years the players who are here will be playing in the World Cup."

"The public will understand and see that we are offering the best and when the Games start I am sure the public behaviour will change completely."

Havelange and Games organisers backed the decision to bar top players through age restrictions. They stressed the quality of soccer would still be high.

"The Olympic Games are for young people," he declared. He defended the format of an under-23 championship, saying there was only room for one World Cup.

"It has to be either the Olympic Games or the World Cup," Josep Luis Nunez, chairman of Spanish and European champions Barcelona whose 115,000 capacity stadium is staging six games including Fridays opening match between Italy and the US tried to entice fans by saying he might buy one or two of the

players on show.

"You can be sure the players here are the players of the future," Nunez said. "They will be tomorrow's stars." Sweden field three of their European Championships side, including Italy-based Tomas Brodin, while Spain and Italy field four players from European Cup finalists Barcelona and Sampdoria.

"I would ask Barcelona supporters to go to these events as some of these players may be Barcelona players next year," said Nunez. "It's sure that one or two of these players will play for Barcelona next year and that should awaken interest."

Soccer accounts for 25 per cent of all Olympic ticket and the organisers are banking on the Spanish public's habit of turning up on the day.

Tickets director Oriol Serra said six sports were sold out, including men's basketball, swimming and fencing. But the size of the soccer stadium made it more difficult to achieve ticket sales target.

"We have struggled to force Spanish people to buy tickets in advance, but we expect site sales on the day of 50 to 55 per cent of capacity," he said.

COOB cracks down on scalpers
BARCELONA, July 22: Barcelona Games organisers cracked down on Tuesday on scalpers asking sky-high prices for tickets to the Olympics, reports Reuter.

Ticketing director Oriol Serra said Games organisers COOB had asked the Barcelona authorities to track down three unlicensed agencies, which advertised in the Spanish and foreign press, and confiscate any tickets they held.

And he said COOB would put advertisements in Spanish newspapers, probably from today warning the public that they could be refused entry to stadiums if it turned out that their tickets came from touts.

"We have decided a cheap pricing policy for tickets and we don't want to see other people making money out of the Games that we have decided not to make," Serra told Reuters.

"We mind, we care and we will try to stop them," he said.

He said Barcelona police had been ordered to watch out for ticket sellers on Barcelona's three lined Las Ramblas boulevard and other city centre streets.

"If we know what they are doing and from where, we will go there and confiscate their ticket," he said.

Salesmen for US-based ticket agencies in Barcelona for the Games say they can command thousands of dollars for tickets to top events at the Olympics, which open on Saturday.

One agency said it was charging 3,000 dollar — more than 30 times the face value —

for court-side seats at the sell-out men's basketball final, expected to feature the US Dream Team of NBA superstars.

Serra said such claims were inflated and that he doubted whether the agencies could deliver. "It is all intended to create an atmosphere for the scalpers," he said.

The COOB crackdown follows the arrest on Las Ramblas on Monday of four American ticket sellers, released after police confiscated their supply.

Serra said the four had only 40 tickets, all for preliminary stages of less popular events at the 16-day Games.

COOB says it has sold over 2.6 million of the 3.9 million tickets for the Olympics at an average price of just over 2,000 pesetas (20 dollar). Prices range from 46,000 pesetas (460 dollar) for the best seats at the opening ceremony to as little as 500 pesetas (5 dollar).

The opening and closing ceremonies, swimming, men's basketball and rhythmic gymnastics are among the sell-outs.

Unofficial ticket agencies are common at top sports and music events around the world. They get tickets from a variety of sources and re-sell them to corporate and private clients.

Serra said COOB could not stop the practise abroad and noted that in Spain unlicensed ticket selling was an administrative infringement rather than a crime. But he said Games organisers would do their best to prevent it.

"We want to keep the Games as clean as possible," he said.

Princess Anne's riposte
LONDON, July 22: Britain's Princess Anne has ruled out taking-over from Spain's Juan Antonio Samaranch as president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), reports Reuter.

In an interview with the Times newspaper published on Tuesday, the Princess said Samaranch had turned the post into a full time job since he took over from Lord Killanin in 1980.

"That is the number one reason why there is no way I would ever contemplate my name being put forward," she said. "It does require a great deal of time and I simply could not envisage myself doing it."

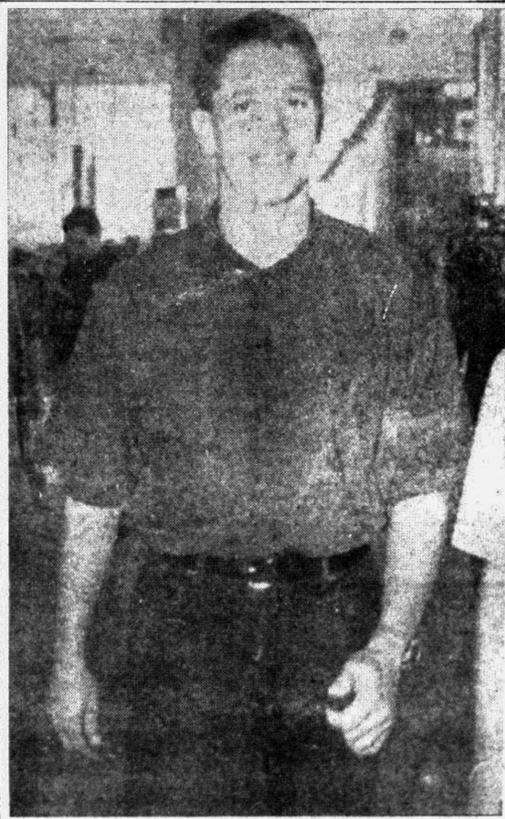
The Princess, 42 is president of the International Equestrian Federation and the British Olympic Association as well as being a member of the IOC.

She denied speculation there was a campaign to push her forward to the post of IOC president, when Samaranch's term of office ends next year.

"Nobody, and I mean nobody, has ever mentioned this to my face. Ever. I suspect everyone knows that my answer would be a short, sharp laugh."

The Princess, who is Queen Elizabeth's daughter, was less than enthusiastic about the IOC's decision-making process.

"They have dubious methods of coming to a decision, but I don't know that that's corruption," she said.



British soccer star Gary Lineker arrives at Barcelona airport Tuesday. Lineker, who currently plays for FC Barcelona and has signed a contract to play soccer in Japan in 1993, will be a spectator at the Olympics. —AFP photo