

Abahani delayed

Sports Reporter
Abahani Krra Chakra — last year's Navana Premier Division cricket league runners-up, who were selected by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board to take part in the Moinuddowlah invitational cricket competition beginning from July 28 in Hyderabad, India — are not leaving today. It is learnt that the team could not obtain visa from the Indian High Commission on Thursday as the organiser of the tournament Hyderabad Cricket Association did not send necessary papers to the High Commission. While contacted the Hyderabad Cricket Association assured the BCCB of immediate action in this regard. Meanwhile, M A Awal Chowdhury, Abahani manager told The Daily Star that the team will now leave Dhaka tomorrow. Golam Nawsher Prince will lead Abahani in the tournament instead of Farouque Ahmed, who has expressed his inability to accompany the team.

Rajshahi Open TT

RAJSHAHI, July 24: Musaddequl Huq Rochi of Bangladesh Biman annexed the men's singles title in the Rajshahi Open table tennis championships defeating his team-mate Saidul Huq Saadi by 3-0 in the final yesterday, reports BSS. In the boys' singles, Mahbubullah of BTMC won the title beating Hamiet of Bangladesh Ansars 3-2 while the women's singles title went to Jhulekha of Ansars, who outplayed her team-mate Shamima 3-1 in the final. In the mixed doubles, Rinu of Ansars and Akht of BTMC became champions beating Munna and Bappi of the Ansars 2-0.

Mini marathon

Sports Reporter
The 1992 mini marathon under the aegis of the Dhaka Medical College Students Union was held on Thursday last, says a press release. Abul, a first year student, finished as first while Masum of the fifth year became second. Ripon, a second year student, clinched the third position. Over two hundred students of the Dhaka Medical College took part.

England in driving seat at Leeds

Sports Reporter



Graham Gooch led England's aoterial act with a superb unbeaten knock of 93 as the home side esconced themselves into a formidable position at the end of the second day against Pakistan in the fourth cricket

Resuming at 165 for eight, Malik and Mushtaq Ahmed brought the score to 192 as improved weather conditions made the batsmen's job easier. But Mushtaq eventually went for 11, after batting for 90 minutes. Last man Aqib Javed nicked a catch off Tim Munton to Ahmed six not out. They were a meagre 68 for four when a second rain interruption brought the players off for an early tea. New cap Neil Mallender took three for 55 on his first day in Test cricket, starting with the prize wicket of opener Amir Sohail, caught



England's Robin Smith (R) raises his hands after catching Pakistan batsman Javed Miandad for six off the bowling of Derek Pringle during the first day's play of the fourth Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley on July 23. — AFP photo

Test at Headingley yesterday, according to BBC monitored here last night. Gooch and Michael Atherton gave England their highest opening stand on home soil against Pakistan, rattling 168 at almost three runs per over. Atherton, who played some pleasing strokes off his legs, struck nine fours and an all-run six before being bowled by his Lancashire teammate Wasim Akram for 76. Robin Smith got over a shaky start to remain unbeaten on 22 when stumps were drawn. Wasim Akram was the pick of the unsuccessful Pakistani bowlers taking one for 50 off 25 overs. Salim Malik scored an unbeaten 82 but could not stop Pakistan being dismissed for 197 in Friday's morning session.

Graeme Hick in the slips on the stroke of noon with the score on 197. Thursday's dull skies and intermittent rain made way for sun and warm conditions, and England openers Graham Gooch and Mike Atherton quickly brought the score to 54 for none at lunch. With seven specialist batsman in the lineup and better weather, England can be confident of overtaking Pakistan's score and building a big lead. An earlier report said, Salim Malik propped up Pakistan with a half century as England's pace attack went on the rampage in the fourth cricket Test on Thursday. The Pakistanis, who lead the series 1-0 after winning the low-scoring second Test, were 165 for eight at close on the first day with Malik unbeaten on 57 and bowler Mustaq

at slip by Mike Atherton for 23 in the first session. England's seam attack, described by Malik before the match as the weakest in living memory, allowed only two other Pakistanis to reach double figures with their accurate bowling. Rameez Raja, batting at number two, was at the crease for nearly two hours but managed only 17 runs before being bowled by Derek Pringle. Fast bowler Wasim Akram hit 12 before he was run out trying for a third run with Malik. Pringle quickly followed up by dismissing Pakistan's captain Javed Miandad, caught by Robin Smith at short leg for six. Captain Graham Gooch could not have asked for a better 39th birthday present.

than England's success on the first day. The Headingley pitch was slow but not overwhelmingly in favour of England's four seamers, including Chris Lewis, who all swung the ball under the cloud cover. While only Malik, supported by Mushtaq Ahmed in a valuable ninth wicket stand so far worth 37, batted with any comfort in difficult conditions, Pakistan's top order strokes makers all fell to loose shots. Sohail, who made 205 in the last drawn Test at Old Trafford, flashed at the first ball of Mallender's seventh over and was taken low down at first slip. Although the leitmotif of the Olympics is participation, not just the materialistic business of losing and winning, the equation of effort and achievement is too inveterate in the human psyche to be blacked out for long. In the annals of the Modern Olympics since 1896, the United States of America tops the list as the biggest collector of medals with 1802. Three countries — Great Britain, France, and Australia — however, share the honour of highest number of participations, each taking part on 22 occasions. Greece, the place from where the religio loci of the Olympics arises, has also taken part in 22 Olympiads. Their medal tally, however, is not so impressive with only 101 medals coming along in the course of 92 years. South Korea, the only Asian hosts of the Olympics in 1988 have managed 70 medals from ten appearances. However, Japan leads the Asian countries by far, notching 244 medals from 15 participations. China has sixty

many countries with nothing in their kitty as yet. Spain, the hosts of the 25th Olympiad, have so far managed 24 medals from their 16 appearances. So they need to polish up their image a bit. With The Greatest Show on Earth taking place in the Catalan city of Barcelona they can hardly think of a better chance of adding some weight to their bag. A detailed break up of the countries, number of medals, including gold, silver and bronze and, of course, the number of appearances is given below: Tabulate under: C for countries, G for gold, S for silver, B for bronze, T for total number of medals and A for number of appearances. Bangladesh is one of the

Americans top the tally

Sports Reporter

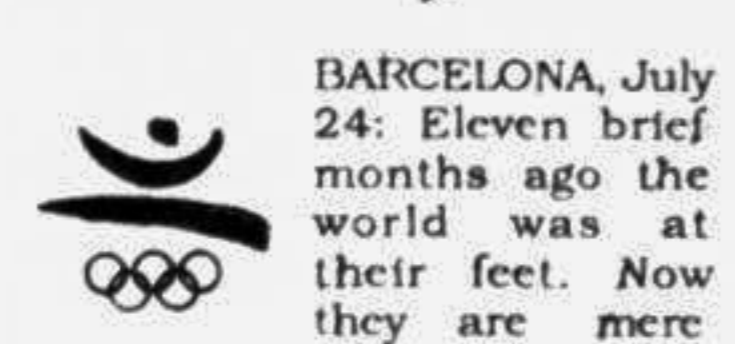


The Summer Olympic Games, the greatest global gathering of sports persons, is only hours away from its commencement. Ever since Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the Modern Olympics restarted the quadrennial ancient, Attic practice in 1896 sportsmen and sports-lovers all over the world have been taking daemonic interest in this sporting meet par-excellence often dubbed as The Greatest Show on Earth. The splendour and size of this international assembly changes invariably for the better, for the more, but never the epithet of the 'greatest spectacle.'

Table with 6 columns: Country, C, G, S, B, T, A. Lists medal counts for USA, USSR, FRG, GB, France, Sweden, GDR, Italy, Hungary, Finland, Japan, Australia, Romania, Poland, Canada, Greece, ROK, China, Spain, South Africa, Mexico, Estonia, Latvia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Zambia.

Exiled for 32 years for their policy of racial discrimination, South Africa till the time of their return in the present 25th Olympics in Spain, have collected 52 medals from 13 participations. The Baltic State, Estonia and Latvia, recently regaining their freedom from the Soviet Union, had participated in the Olympics five and four times before being coerced into the Union. Estonia has a healthy collection of 21 medals while Latvia only four. Arch-rivals and subcontinental neighbours India and Pakistan do not have encouraging Olympiad records. India, from 17 appearances, got 14 medals while Pakistan nine from ten.

Alas, they won't be there



BARCELONA, July 24: Eleven brief months ago the world was at their feet. Now they are mere bystanders at the greatest show on earth, reports Reuter. It is a long way from the victory podium in Tokyo to the starting line at the Barcelona Olympics as Carl Lewis, Katrin Krabbe, Dan O'Brien and many more have discovered. Doping scandals, injuries and selection problems have prevented some of the biggest names in athletics, including those who were crowned world champions in Japan only last August, from going for glory again in Spain. Of the 20 men who won individual gold medals in men's track and field in Tokyo, no less than nine have failed to make it on to sport's most prestigious stage. Five of them were wiped out at one stroke by the controversial selection procedure used by the United States team. Most countries would have rolled out a mile of red carpet to acquire Lewis' services. Six Olympic gold medals, seven world titles and an astonishing world record in Tokyo in the greatest sprint ever run are the kind of references no other athlete has ever been able to offer. But at the US trials in New Orleans, Lewis' past counted for nothing when he lined up as just another John Doe needing to finish in the first three to get an Olympic berth. Bothered by sinus troubles, the winner of the last two Olympic 100 meters titles came in only sixth and missed the boat. Lewis at least qualified in the long jump to give himself a place in the team, unlike triple jump world champion Kenny Harrison, high hurdles gold medalist Greg Foster, 400 meters runner Antonio Epettegrew and the man hailed as the best all-round athlete of his age, Dan O'Brien. The world decathlon champion fluffed the pole vault completely when he failed to clear his opening height of 4.80 meters, a level he takes daily in practice with no problem. Ironically, a vault of a more three meters would have taken him to Barcelona where he would probably have been the hottest favourite for a gold medal in any event. Kenya used the same do-or-Ansars in semis



DAN O'BRIEN

die method and the African nation's endless ability to throw up new running talent blew up in the faces of two reigning world champions. Billy Konchellah failed in the 800 meters as did Moses Tanui in the 10,000 though the long distance runner was later brought back into the team. But another Kenyan world champion went out when a knee injury put paid to Moses Kiptanui's chances of taking part in the 3,000 meters steeplechase. A chronic injury also deprived young Finn Kinnunen, surprise javelin winner in Tokyo, the opportunity of an encore. The most titled hammer thrower ever Yuri Sedykh, with six Olympic, world or European gold medals to his name, went under to stiff competition for the three places on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) team. Germany's golden sprinter Katrin Krabbe, who won both the women's 100 and 200 meters in Japan, bowed to the enormous pressure created by a four-month-long doping saga and decided not to compete in Barcelona. Two American world record holders had no choice. A doping ban contested by both, kept 400 metres runner Butch Reynolds and shot putter Randy Barnes on the sidelines, as it did to their compatriot Kamy Keshmiri, who has a world best of the year in the men's discus. As Olympic founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin said: 'The important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part.'

Italian booters win Olympic soccer opener

BARCELONA, July 24: Goals by Alessandro Mellini and Demetrio Albertini gave Italy an early lead and enabled them to hold off the United States for a 2-1 victory Friday, kicking off the 25th Olympic Games one day before the opening ceremonies, reports AP. Italy dominated the opening 30 minutes, restricting the United States to only one shot, a 20-meter blast high over the bar. Mellini scored in the 13th minute and Albertini in the 22nd.

Bomb blasts in Barcelona

BARCELONA, July 24: Two bombs exploded beside a gas pipeline outside Barcelona, the Olympics host city, today, temporarily cutting gas supply in northeast Spain but causing no casualties, reports Reuter. Local government officials said small devices damaged the Martorell-Tarragona pipeline near the town of Vilafranca de Penedes, southwest of Barcelona where the 1992 Games open tomorrow.

Lamb's latest reminder

LONDON, July 24: South African-born England batsman Allan Lamb became the first player from Northamptonshire to hit a double century and a century in one match in their English county championship clash with Warwickshire on Thursday, reports Reuter. Skipper Lamb became only the 16th player in championship history to achieve the feat when he hit 107 off 103 balls. Lamb, overlooked by England for the fourth test against Pakistan which started on Thursday, scored 209 in his county's first innings. He declared at 218 for four, leaving Warwickshire a target of 237 in 40 overs. But accurate bowling by West Indian Curtley Ambrose (three for 38) and David Capel (two for 42) halted Warwickshire's victory charge and the match was drawn. Martin Speight of Sussex hit the fastest hundred of the season in the drawn match against Lancashire at Hove. It took Speight just 62 balls to reach his century and he finished unbeaten on 119, racing from 50 to 100 off 21 balls.

Advertisement for Asghar Bank. Includes Bengali text: 'স্বদেশের সওভিভা বহর ভেসে চলেছে দেশ-দেশান্তরে এ শুধু কথা কথার নয়', 'অর্থনৈতিক সমৃদ্ধির জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক সম্পর্ক আজ খুবই দরকার।', 'অগ্রণী ব্যাংক আপনাকে আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য সহ যে কোন ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে আগ্রহী।', 'অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের সেবা ও পরামর্শে বাণিজ্য বহর নিয়ে নিশ্চিন্তে এগিয়ে চলুন।', 'অগ্রণী ব্যাংক দেশ ও আন্তর্জাতিক সেবায় নিয়োজিত'.

DPP (BA) 7178-227