

Happy day for hosts

Sports Reporter

Matches of Ma-o-Mont Gold Cup under-14 soccer tournament began at seven zonal venues — Tangail, Khulna, Jhenedah, Natore, Nilphamari, Feni and Sylhet — yesterday.

Meanwhile, at Faridpur, where the tournament got underway on August 8, Munshiganj DSA moved into the zonal semifinals by edging past Shariatpur 1-0. Krishna Pal was the scorer.

Yesterday, Tangail, Natore, Khulna, Jhenedah, Nilphamari, Feni and Sylhet made good starts by qualifying for their respective zonal semifinals.

At Tangail, the hosts trounced Sherpur 7-0.

Hanif Pradhan scored four goals, Saiful Islam two and Sirajuddin one.

Hosts Natore swamped Nawabganj DSA 6-0 at the Natore stadium.

Kajal scored a hat-trick while Hashem, Milon and Nurul Islam got one each for the winners.

Sylhet also recorded an emphatic 6-0 victory over Habiganj at the Sylhet Stadium. Liton slammed a hat-trick

while Shabbir, Saiful and Wadood netted one each.

At Feni also, the hosts got the better of Khagrachari DSA 4-0.

Selim Reza scored two goals and Jasim and Tutul one each. Hosts Nilphamari DSA outplayed Kurigram 4-0 at the local stadium.

Asaduzzaman scored twice while Ekram and Azhar once each for Nilphamari.

Hosts Khulna made the zonal semifinals by beating Bhola 3-1.

Olam Mohammad got two goals and Mamun one for the winners while Iqbal Hossain Munir pulled one back for Bhola.

Hosts Jhenedah beat Narail by two goals to nil at the Jhenedah Stadium in the other match of the day.

Titas and Pintu scored for the winners.

Eight more zonal quarter-final matches will be held today.

Sixty-two DSAs — split into eight zones — are taking part in the first round with the zonal champions moving into the finals, to be held in Dhaka later this month.

Abahani return today

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krita Chakra, who finished runners-up in the recently concluded Moind-dowlah Gold Cup invitational tournament in Hyderabad, India will return by Bangladesh Biman this afternoon.

Abahani lost to the State Bank of India in the rain ruined final on run rate after heavy downpour forced an early end to the proceedings.

Team-manager M A Awal Chowdhury Bhulu, who returned home yesterday along with player Md Babar, expressed his deep satisfaction over the performances of the team while talking to The Daily Star over telephone last night.

"All the players performed well. We were the favourites and got good crowd support," Awal said.

"Akram, Selim, Sujan and Effe gave superb displays", said Awal when asked to single out some players.

In a similar conversation Faruk Ahmed who had returned a couple of days ago without playing the final due to an injury, said, "The result will serve as a fillip to the development of the country's cricket."

Faruk, who captained Abahani in local cricket last year, was all praise for Akram, Effe, Selim, Prince and Sujan.

"I tell you, in the shape of Sujan, the country is going to get a highly talented cricketer," Faruk said.

Faruk also hailed the proposed players' pool by saying, "This will definitely help develop our cricket. A lot of talented young players will find room to prove their potentials."

"But the quota ought to be raised to four instead of three players for each club," Faruk felt.

As they start so they finish

BARCELONA, Aug 10: South Korea finished the Olympic Games as they started them — by winning a gold medal, reports AFP.

Yeo Kab-Soon's July 26 victory in the women's air rifle shooting event had fittingly given Korea, hosts of the 1988 Games, the first gold medal of the Barcelona Games.

And on Sunday, two weeks to the day later, Hwang Yung-cho won Barcelona's final event, the men's marathon.

That enabled the Koreans to match their Seoul record haul of 12 gold medals and put them in seventh place in the final Barcelona medals table.

Yeo was the first Korean ever to win an Olympic shooting title, while Hwang was the second Korean Olympic marathon champion, after Kee Chung Sohn, who won for Japan at the Berlin Olympics in 1936.



American 4x100m relay quartet (from left to right) Carlette Guidry, Evelyn Ashford, Esther Jones and Gwen Torrence celebrate their gold-winning victory on August 8. — AFP photo

Barcelona bids brilliant 'bye'

BARCELONA, Aug 10: Barcelona bade a flamboyant farewell to the biggest Olympics in history on Sunday with a Latin fiesta of flamenco, opera and dancing horses, reports Reuters.

"Thank you Catalonia. Thank you Barcelona," said International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch as he closed the Games in the city of his birth.

He declared the 9 billion dollar Games "without doubt the best ever" before the Olympic flame was extinguished and the five-ringed flag passed to Atlanta for the 1996 Centenary Olympics.

More than 10,000 athletes battled for glory over 16 days in the first boycott-free Games for three decades.

The Commonwealth of Independent States, built on the ruins of the Soviet empire, came together for the first and last time to lead the medal table with 45 golds.

Stars like pole vaulter Sergei Bubka were toppled, new heroes like 400 metre hurdler Kevin Young were born and super Olympian Carl Lewis stole the Greatest Sporting Show on Earth with a stunning world record in the US sprint relay.

More than 65,000 people packed the modernist Montjuic Stadium for a closing ceremony.

It followed in the faltering footsteps of South Korean marathon man Hwang Yung-cho. He entered the stadium to a crescendo of cheers and then collapsed in a heap after winning the last gold medal of the Games.

Swirling senoritas performed a flamenco fire dance, 24 horses with plume-hatted police riders pranced a graceful ballet to the Spanish guitar music of blind composer Joaquin Rodrigo.

Opera singer Victoria de Los Angeles sang a Catalan "Song of birds" underlining the proud heritage of the fiercely independent Catalonia region of Spain.

In a break with the tradition of the athletes' boisterous mass march, the real stars of the Olympic show watched from the stands as the flags of a record 172 countries were carried across the stadium arena.

"This has been a city of hope and solidarity in a world which has not concealed its dark and turbulent side," said Mayor Pasqual Maragall, in a reference to war in Yugoslavia.

"The Barcelona Games have shown that it is possible for people to compete in a world where... the white flag of peace flies above all others."

The sports-made people of Barcelona eagerly embraced the Games, buying 3.5 million tickets to every sport from archery to volleyball. Around the world, 3.5 billion watched on television.

Lithuania's President Vytautas Landsbergis, who even sported a "Grateful Dead" T-shirt for his team's basketball match, was among those who came to say adios to this Mediterranean city blessed with two weeks of non-stop sunshine.

His presence alongside King Juan Carlos of Spain and other world leaders symbolised how the Olympic movement has responded to a changed world.

Getting the flags and anthems right for a host of new states and reborn nations tested the organisers to the limit.

It never rained on Barcelona's big parade after a morning of torrential rain, thunder and lightning turned the showjumping final into a quagmire and left the water-polo players performing before empty stands.

On a clear and moonlit night, only a slight breeze blew in the stadium as the flamenco rhythms gave way to the jazz, blues and break-dancing of "Gone With The Wind" Atlanta.

In honour of the host of the Centennial Games of the Modern Era, young dancers staged a ballet with a sports theme tied to gymnastics, swimming and track and field to jazz and other forms of American music. Whatzit joined in the dance, which also included American forms of tap and break-dancing.

And there were fireworks — six minutes of concentrated, pounding bursts. Ten tons of

gunpowder were used in the fireworks for the opening and closing ceremonies at Barcelona.

During the final burst, thousands of the Olympic athletes streamed out of the stands and, led by a small group carrying a Canadian flag, around the track and into the infield.

Fireworks also had filled the sky as the Olympic flame died.

In a production involving more than 700, the ceremony's "Fire of Celebration" included a recreation of the universe, with 100 weather balloon-like luminous spheres sent skyward amid a flurry of pyrotechnics. A moving volcano provided more fireworks. In what was called the "Devil's Rain," the field was alight with flames of all sizes.

Cobi, the mascot that has appeared on billboards, post cards, T-shirts and dozens of other places throughout the city, appeared a final time on the deck of a rising ship, waving goodbye.

It all finished with Peret, or Pedro Pubill Calak, known as "King of the Rumba," leading a group of Rumba musicians in singing "Bewitching Gypsy."

The athletes, in an impromptu party, danced along on the infield, the stage, the track, just about everywhere. Then spectators joined in, abandoning their seats.

The stadium scoreboard proclaimed: "VIVA LA RUMBA!"

Two sports leadership courses under the joint auspices of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Solidarity Programme and the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will be held from September 3 to 20 in Dhaka, Bashir Ahmed, Secretary General of the BOA told The Daily Star yesterday.

One or two IOC instructors will arrive in the city to conduct the programmes for sports organisers of the country.

Meanwhile, the disciplines of the Bangladesh Games, scheduled to be held from December 18 to 25, will be finalised after the Bangladesh Olympic team's return from Barcelona on August 13.

However, sources say, 22 different games will be staged during the week-long meet.

Twenty-five players have been short-listed for the Bangladesh national youth under-16 football team which has qualified for the fifth Asian youth championship to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from September 4 to 13.

Symon, Alok and Bazlu are the unlucky ones who have been left out of the original squad of 28 called to camp.

Bangladesh reached the finals after emerging unbeaten champions in the Group Five qualifying meet held in Rajshahi last June.

Aussies 36 for two at lunch

KANDY, Sri Lanka, Aug 10: Australia were 36 for two at lunch on Monday in their three-day cricket match against the Board President's XI, reports AP.

Australia won the toss and decided to bat when play began 45 minutes behind schedule.

David Boon was seven not out.

The Australians are on a five-week tour of Sri Lanka.

Scoreboard

Australia: First Innings

Mark Taylor c Mahanara b Hathurusingha Tom Moody c Jayasuriya b Weerakkody 1

David Boon not out 7 Extras 10 Total 36 for two

Fall of wickets: 14; 36

Bowling: O M R W P L Warne 7 3 11 0 A Weerakkody 6 2 9 1 Hathurusingha 3 1 6 1

BHF to test new rules during youth nat'l's

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) will introduce on an experimental basis some of the recent rule changes approved by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) during the 1992 national youth under-18 hockey championship beginning from August 17 in the city.

The FIH at its recent congress amended some of the rules governing the game which the affiliated federations were expected to adopt from yesterday, August 10, onwards.

According to the changed version of Article One of the rules, participating teams cannot submit the names of more than 16 in the players' list and each team will be allowed five substitutes instead of the three hitherto in force.

Besides, a player who has been substituted may re-enter the field of play as a substitute for another player. This was not permitted previously.

The substitution of players may take place at any time other than following the award of a penalty corner or penalty stroke. However, if a player is incapacitated and has to leave the field after a penalty corner or stroke has been awarded he can be substituted subject to some conditions. Moreover, the clock shall not be stopped while substitutions are made other than for injured players.

The FIH has also amended the rule regarding the procedure of penalty corners. According to the new law, at least one foot of the player who will push the corner must be outside the playing area or touch line.

In addition, as long as the pushed ball from the penalty corner does not enter or stop outside the opponents' semi-circle, it cannot be hit towards the goalpost, and the goalkeeper must remain standing on the goal line until the ball is hit at the post.

The FIH has also strongly recommended that a substitute for a goalkeeper must wear appropriate protective clothing at all times. Such substitute shall not be permitted to behave in any manner different from that accepted for any other goalkeeper.

Meanwhile, 17 teams had registered their names for the forthcoming youth championship till yesterday afternoon. They are Dhaka, Faridpur, Mymensingh, Munshiganj, Jessore, Rajshahi, Comilla, Narayanganj, Sylhet, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Rangpur, Gazipur and Chittagong DSAs. The Dhaka Education Board, Bangladesh Krita Shiksha Protsahan (BKSP) and the Rajshahi Hockey Training Institute.

The participating teams, split in four groups, will compete on a knockout meet.

The BHF has earmarked over one lakh fifty-six thousand taka for the youth championship.

Asians surprise themselves

BARCELONA, Aug 10: Asians excelled in sports ranging from walking to various forms of fighting as China, South Korea and Japan all finished in the top 10 in the Olympic medals standings, reports AP.

South Korea reached its goal of 12 gold medals only in the final event as Hwang Yung-cho pulled away from Japan's Kotchi Morishita on an uphill stretch just before the end and won by 22 seconds. It also had won these Olympic's first gold, in shooting.

A Chinese laid claim to honours as the world's fastest woman swimmer in Games that were especially satisfying for her nation, which bounced back from a lackluster performance in 1988.

For a while, it challenged for third place in medals, before Germany triumphed in a series of rowing, canoeing, boxing and track and field events.

The Unified Team of former Soviet athletes, expected to break up now into individual republic teams, led the standings with 112 medals, including 45 gold. The United States and Germany followed, with the Germans 28 ahead of China in total medals.

Communist China made its first serious Olympic entry in 1984, ranking fourth in gold medals with 15, but didn't consider that a real test because of the Soviet-led boycott by East European nations. It slipped to 28 medals, including five gold, in 1988.

This time, the Chinese won 54 medals, including 16 gold, exceeding their own expectations of about a dozen gold. Four golds came in swimming, a sport where China's women recently began making their mark. Three each showcased their traditional strengths in diving and table tennis.

Chen Yueling won the women's 10-kilometre walk, and another Chinese woman, Zhang Shan, beat a male-dominated field for the gold in skeet shooting.

Yang Wenvi renewed her claim to being the world's fastest woman swimmer, not only winning the 50-metre freestyle race, but breaking her own world record. Other Chinese swimming winners were Zhuang Yong in the 100 freestyle, Qian Hong in the 100 butterfly and Lin Li with a world record in the 200 individual medley.

With 13-year-old Fu Minxia leading the way, the Chinese took three of the four diving gold medals.

China won silver in women's basketball, losing 76-66 to the Unified Team in the final, and coach Li Yaguang said the players were "disappointed because they haven't won, but happy because they were second placed over the United States."

One disappointment was women's volleyball, in which China led the world in the mid-1980s.

"Seventh place is not a good result," coach Hu Jin said of the showing in Barcelona. "But it is a very young team and the most important thing is to gain experience from this type of competition."

China also is hoping for more power from its men in future Games. Women ace Japanese judokas due today

Japanese judokas due today

Sports Reporter

A two-member Japanese judo delegation will arrive in the city today.

Suganami, a university lecturer and Sakasita, a school teacher, will conduct a five-day course for the local black belt judokas starting from tomorrow August 12.

All registered judokas have been asked to contact the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The Japanese duo will leave Dhaka on August 17.

A record 64 nations win medals

BARCELONA, Aug 10: Medals, everywhere.

Olympic medals were awarded to a record 64 nations in Barcelona, breaking the mark of 52 set at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, reports AP.

Although the number of countries winning 10 or more medals was about the same as four years earlier, more than a third of the 171 participating countries in these boycott-free Games took home gold, silver or bronze.

Then there was the emergence of African nations, which won a total of 24 medals, 19 in track. At the 1988 Games in Seoul, African nations won just 14 medals, 11 in track.

"We thought for years that the African continent could only produce long distance runners," Walker said. "If you looked at the sprint races, almost 50 per cent of the finalists in the 100 were from African nations."

The Unified Team won the medals race with 45 gold and 112 overall.

The United States was second with 37 gold and 108 overall, 14 more than four years earlier and its best finish in a non-boycott Olympics since 1968, when it won 45 gold medals and 107 overall.

Even some of the world's reborn countries have something to brag about. The Baltic republic of Latvia won three

medals, for instance. And a newcomer, Croatia, which gained independence from Yugoslavia last year, also won three.

Winning two medals were the former South African territory of Namibia; the ex-Yugoslav republic of Slovenia; Lithuania, for 52 years an unwilling part of the Soviet Union; and Estonia, Latvia's Baltic neighbour.

So unfamiliar was Estonia's flag that Olympic officials flew it upside-down during the medals ceremony.

Yugoslavia, without representation in team sports because of UN sanctions, won three medals in individual sports.

The union of two countries hasn't necessarily meant an increase in medals. East Germany and West Germany won a combined 142 medals at the Seoul Olympics. The Unified Germany won 82 medals in Barcelona.

The host country's medal count surged for the second straight Olympics. Spain won 13 gold medals and 22 overall, both Spanish records. In Seoul, Spain took home one gold and four medals overall, while host South Korea won 33 medals.

The number of countries winning medals could increase further. Beginning with the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, the former Soviet republics no longer will compete under the umbrella of a Unified Team.

Sure shots who missed their marks

BARCELONA, Aug 10: They came focused on a target in Barcelona but a host of world sports stars found their vision blurred when it came to hitting the Olympic bulls-eye, reports AFP.

Rarely have so many competitors come to an Olympics as gold medal favourites but failed so miserably.

"Focused on a target" was the most widely used phrase by the Barcelona frontrunners, just as they were "Motivated to win" in Seoul four years ago or "Concentrated" in Los Angeles in 1984.

Sergei Bubka, probably the nearest thing to a certainty in this year's Games, may lead the procession to get his eyes checked as the post-Olympics hangers clear.

The reigning Olympic champion and serial world record maker did not clear any height left alone get close to a gold, eventually won by the man he coaches, Maxim Tarasov.

Following closely behind the Ukrainian in the athletic failure stakes were sprinters Michael Johnson and Leroy Burrell. Johnson proclaimed

on the morning of his semifinal that he was going to get a world record. That evening he blamed a virus for his inability to reach the final.

Just as the determination showed in the eyes of 100 metre winner Linford Christie, so there was panic in the look of Burrell as the Santa Monica Track Club star struggled in fifth.

The American team was at a loss to explain the flop by Burrell, Johnson and several others of its top athletes even though they still got most track and field medals.

Ben Johnson was not a favourite at all after he was thrown out of Seoul for taking drugs. In Barcelona, the Canadian sprinter managed to get his accreditation cancelled after a scuffle with a security guard on the last day.

In gymnastics, women rivals Kim Zmeskal and Svetlana Bogunskaya were united in failure.

Zmeskal, who took Bogunskaya's world all-round title last year, had a nightmare Games.

Her bearish coach Bela Karolyi told all and sundry that the 16-year-old Texan had never made a major mistake in

FINAL MEDAL TABLE

BARCELONA, Aug 10: Following is the final medals table of the 25th Summer Olympiad which concluded here Sunday, report AP.

Medal table				
	G	S	B Tot	
Unified Team	45	38	29	112
United States	37	34	37	108
Germany	33	21	28	82
China	16	22	16	54
China	14	6	11	31
Hungary	11	12	7	30
South Korea	12	5	12	29
France	8	5	16	29
Australia	7	9	11	27
Spain	13	7	2	22
Japan	3	8	11	22
Britain	5	3	12	20
Italy	6	5	8	19
Poland	3	6	10	19
Canada	6	5	7	18
Romania	4	6	8	18
Bulgaria	3	7	6	16
Netherlands	2	6	7	15
Sweden	1	7	4	12
New Zealand	1	4	5	10
North Korea	4	0	5	9
Kenya	2	4	2	8
Czechoslovakia	4	2	1	7
Norway	2	4	1	7
Turkey	2	2	2	6
Denmark	1	1	4	6
Indonesia	2	2	1	5
Finland	1	2	2	5
Jamaica	0	3	1	4
Nigeria	0	3	1	4
Brazil	2	1	0	3
Morocco	1	1	1	3
Ethiopia	1	0	2	3
Latvia	0	2	1	3
Belgium	0	1	2	3
Croatia	0	1	2	3
Iran	0	1	2	3
Yugoslavia	0	1	2	3
Greece	2	0	0	2
Ireland	1	1	0	2
Algeria	1	0	1	2
Estonia	1	0	1	2
Lithuania	1	0	1	2
Austria	0	2	0	2
Namibia	0	2	0	2
South Africa	0	2	0	2
Israel	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	0	2	2
Slovenia	0	0	2	2</