

### Abahani for Assam soccer

**Sports Reporter**  
Abahani Krira Chakra, defending champions of the Dhaka Metropolitan First Division football league, will directly play in the quarterfinals of the Indian Independence Day Cup tournament in Assam on September 1. Golam Rabbani Helal, an Abahani official, told The Daily Star yesterday.  
Abahani received the invitation in the last week of July.  
The qualifying round of the tournament is likely to begin on August 15, the Indian independence day, in which a number of leading Indian teams will take part.  
Abahani, it is learnt, will not hire any players from other local clubs.  
"Ours is a balanced side. We don't need any extra players," Helal boasted.  
The camp for preparing for the competition began at the club ground yesterday under Kazi Salahuddin's supervision.

### Olympians return today

**Sports Reporter**  
Bangladeshi Olympians return today after competing in the recently concluded 25th Olympiad in the Catalanian capital of Barcelona.  
Members and high officials of the Bangladesh Olympic Association and the National Sports Council are expected to be at the Zia International Airport to receive the Olympic contingent which left Dhaka on July 21.

### BHF to submit turf manufacturers' list

**Sports Reporter**  
The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) will submit a list of international synthetic turf manufacturers to the National Sports Council (NSC) soon for the proposed hockey ground at the Outer Stadium.  
This was decided at the first meeting of the 16-member committee formed recently to help finalise the laying out of the turf with deputy secretary for the Ministry of Youth and Sports Akhter Hossain Khan in the chair at the NSC yesterday.  
The government has already approved an estimated budget of three and a half crore taka for the purpose.  
The secretary general of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Bashir Ahmed, the BHF president and secretary — who are the committee members — also attended the meeting.

### Rain the spoiler

**TAUNTON, England, Aug 12:** The one-day cricket match between Somerset and Pakistan was abandoned without a ball being bowled today due to heavy rain, reports Reuter.

### Div II handball

**Sports Reporter**  
New teams will be included in the 1992 Second Division handball league beginning from the second week of next month, says a press release.  
Interested teams have been asked to apply by August 30 to the Bangladesh Handball Federation along with two photocopies of their respective club's constitution.

### Lured away by lucre

**NAIROBI, Aug 12:** The homecoming of the Kenyan Olympic team was a disaster today after 11 athletes, including five medalists, slipped away in London, reports AFP.  
Athletics coach John Anzrah said the 11 sneaked out of Heathrow Airport a few minutes before the contingent boarded a connecting flight to Nairobi.  
As a result, only three medalists, William Tanui, Samson Kitur and Paul Bitok, arrived here with the rest of the team who were invited to a luncheon with President Daniel Arap Moi.  
A furious Anzrah blamed foreign agents for confusing the Kenyans with offers of large sums of money.  
Most of those who slipped away in London was expected to take part in Sheffield international meeting on Friday, he said.  
Anzrah said overall captain Patrick Sang, the 3,000m steeplechase silver medalist, who abandoned the national flag at the airport, was unapologetic.  
Embarrassed officials were forced to appoint judoka Mike Oduor as captain and national flag carrier on board the plane.  
Head of the delegation, Isaiah Kiplagat, was visibly shaken and refused to answer questions from journalists when the team arrived in the capital.  
President Moi had promised all gold medalists a cash prize of 3,500 dollars each, while two local companies were to top it up with a further 4,500 dollars per person.

## Munshiganj DSA in zonal final

Sports Reporter



Munshiganj DSA became the first team to move into the zonal final when they beat Madaripur DSA 2-0 in the Faridpur zonal quarter final at the Faridpur Stadium yesterday.  
Abdul Kashem and Mahbul Alam were the scorers.  
However, Madaripur walked out of the field at the end of play after referee Ehsanul Haq had turned down their appeal for a goal. Meanwhile, seven more DSAs made the zonal semifinals by winning their respective quarterfinal encounters at seven different venues across the country yesterday.  
At Nilphamari, Dinajpur beat Panchagar 5-3, thanks to the fine hat-trick scored by Rahimul Islam.  
Hasinuzzaman and Saifur Rahman scored the other two goals for the winners while Mugseduzzaman netted two goals and Hamidur Rahman the other for the losers.  
At Jhenidah, Chuadanga blanked Patuakhali by four goals to nil in a one-sided affair.

fair.  
Salahuddin, Kallol, Rab and Amir scored one each for the winners.  
Jhalakathi moved into the Khulna zonal semifinals by beating Perojpur 2-0 at the Khulna Stadium.  
Giasuddin scored both goals for Jhalakathi.  
At Sylhet, Moulavibazar beat Brahmanbaria 3-1 in the tie-breaker after the 80-minute encounter ended in a 2-2 draw.  
Razwan and Khalil scored for the winners while Biswajit and Golap scored for the vanquished during the schedule time.  
At Feni, Bandarban beat Lakshipur 3-1.  
Thu Chair, Suniti and Pallab scored for Bandarban while Azad pulled one back for the losers.  
At Natore, Bogra edged past Naogaon 1-0. Sumi was the scorer.  
Narayanganj recorded another solitary goal victory over Netrokona at the Tangail Stadium.  
At Faridpur, Gopalganj and

Rajbari will play in the second semifinal while seven quarter final matches will be held at the other seven venues today.

### Indian cricketers may play in Dhaka

**Sports Reporter**  
Former Indian Test cricketers, Syed Kirmani, Roger Binny, Yashpal Sharma, Arshad Ayub expressed inclination to play in Dhaka cricket league according to M A Awal Chowdhury, manager of Abahani Krira Chakra in the recently concluded trip to India to take part in the Moluddowla Gold Cup Cricket tournament in Hyderabad.  
However, the enthusiasm of the Indian stars ebbed a little at the information of the long duration of the local cricket programme.  
Abahani emerged as the runners-up of the invitational tournament. Binny, Kirmani, Ayub, Sharma played for State Bank of India, the ultimate champions of the tournament.

## Maradona's change of heart

**BUENOS AIRES, Aug 12:** Diego Maradona said Tuesday that he may play for Napoli this season despite his objection to a return to Italy, reports AP.  
Maradona, 31, completed a 15-month suspension for cocaine use on June 30. The captain of Argentina's soccer team at the 1986 and 1990 World Cups has one season remaining on his contract with the Italian League team.

Two of Maradona's lawyers, Juan Marcos Franchi and Daniel Bolotinoff, met Tuesday with Giorgio Curti of Napoli and Argentine Football Association president Julio Grondona in FIFA's office at Zurich, Switzerland.  
FIFA president Joao Havelange and general secretary Sepp Blatter have pressed for settlement discussions between Maradona and Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino.

"I really want to play again," Maradona said. "It's too bad that the people who have the power always win, and that the powerful man in this case is Ferlaino."  
Maradona added, however, that "if they don't accept my

conditions by Friday, I will not return to Napoli. This is their last chance."  
FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said the lawyers offered two possible solutions to

the impasse: that Maradona return to Napoli or that his contract be scrapped.

Olympique Marseille of France and Seville of Spain have indicated interest in Maradona, who refused to re-join Napoli for training in preparation for the Italian season, which begins Sept 6.

"This is a sad day for me," Maradona said. "If I have to return to Italy, I'll travel without my family and I'll stay there for nine months, until my contract with Napoli ends."  
A meeting originally scheduled for Saturday at the Olympic soccer final in Barcelona was cancelled when Maradona decided not to travel to Spain from his home in Argentina.

"Blatter is confident that a solution will be found," FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said. "Our assumption is that when a player has sat out his suspension, he should be welcomed back into the international soccer community without reservations."  
Maradona was suspended by the Italian League after testing positive for cocaine following a match between Napoli and Bari on March 17, 1991. FIFA extended the suspension worldwide.

## Spassky vows to beat Fischer

**BELGRADE, Aug 12:** Chess Grandmaster Boris Spassky has vowed to send reclusive former world champion Bobby Fischer back to obscurity when the American plays his first public match in 20 years next month, a Belgrade newspaper said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"I will put him back to where he recently came from — the past," Spassky was quoted by the daily Vecernje Novosti as saying.  
Fischer is due to play the former Soviet champion, who he beat to win the world title in 1972, in a dollar 5 million series starting on September 2 on the exclusive Montenegrin resort island of Sveti Stefan.

Fischer, the only American to win the world title vanished from public view in the early 1970s shortly after beating Spassky. He refused to defend his title and the crown went to Anatoly Karpov.

His promised return to public competition has been hailed as a sensation in the chess world and a coup for its Belgrade promoters amid United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia.  
The newspaper said both grandmasters had arrived at Sveti Stefan. But it added that they had not yet met and any former friendship between them seemed to be at an end.  
Yugoslav chess champion Svetozar Gligoric told the paper Spassky was determined for revenge. "I'm ready. I will put up a major retaliation for the defeat in Reykjavik 20 years ago," he quoted Spassky as saying.  
The Belgrade businessman who lured Fischer from his self-imposed exile to play

Spassky has denied the match was in any way intended as a boost for the embattled regime of Serbian President Slobodan Milosovic.

"I've got nothing to do with politics, nothing to do with Milosovic," Jездimir Vastljjevic told Reuters last month.  
He added that it had taken



**BORIS SPASSKY**  
10 months to persuade 49-year-old Fischer to return to competition.  
"It was very hard to convince him," he said.  
Fischer's movements in Yugoslavia have been surrounded by secrecy amid unconfirmed rumours that the slender, neatly groomed young champion of the 1970s now looked like an overgrown hippy.  
Journalists who tried to get a view of Fischer at Sveti Stefan last month said the former champion was surrounded by a battalion of security guards who even accompanied him swimming and

## Seles in quarterfinals

**MANHATTAN, Aug 12:** Top-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles women's tennis tournament Tuesday night, beating Karina Habesudova 6-2, 6-2, reports AP.  
Seles, the top-ranked woman in the world and two-time defending champion of the tournament, needed just 62 minutes to turn back the

19-year-old from Czechoslovakia, ranked 39th in the world, in a second-round match.  
In first-round action earlier in the day, seventh-seeded Amy Frazier struggled to a 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) victory over qualifier Lisa Raymond. Robin White outlasted Patty Fendick, 6-0, 6-7 (7-9), 6-4. 20-year-old qualifier Kimberly Po eliminated Catarina Linqvist of Sweden, 6-1, 6-2, and qualifier Stephanie Rottier of The Netherlands beat 37-year-old Betsy Nagelsen, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3.

## Krabbe's fate to be decided on Friday

**BERLIN, Aug 12:** Final drug test results to decide whether double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe will receive a four-year competition ban for taking the banned stimulant clenbuterol are to be released on Friday, reports Reuter.  
Manfred Donike, the doping expert of Germany's Athletics Federation (DLV), told Reuters that he would test a second set of urine samples from Krabbe and teammate Grit Breuer at the end of this week.

Traces of the drug, which is banned by the international Olympic Committee, were found after random out-of-competition tests. Krabbe, who did not compete in the Barcelona Olympics later admitted taking the drug which is used for asthma treatment.

Donike said the athletes had a right to be present when he tested their samples but he did not know whether they intended coming on Friday to his research institute in Cologne.

If the so-called "B tests" is positive then the DLV's board will immediately suspend the athletes from competing.  
It will then report the irregularity to the London office of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) which has imposed four-year bans for similar offences.

Neubrandenburg Sports Club (SCN), where Krabbe is a member, fired her trainer Thomas Springstein on Tuesday. It will decide after the DLV's verdict whether to expel Krabbe and Breuer as well.  
Prosecutors are investigating Springstein for causing bodily harm and breaking pharmacy laws after an unidentified citizen filed a criminal complaint against the trainer.

## Spaniards shrug off siesta

**MADRID, Aug 12:** Spain has awoken from their Olympic dream with renewed confidence in their ability to organise major events, in their own sporting ability and in their growing acceptance as a senior member of the world community, reports Reuter.  
"This is no longer the land of the siestas," said a Spanish national television commentator on Tuesday, expressing his view that previous stereotypes of Spain would have to change.  
"The most important thing is that we have come out of this stronger in the world context. We must now maintain the tenacity and will to succeed that we have shown the entire world. King Juan Carlos said in an interview with El Pais on Tuesday.  
The Games, brightening the gloom of recession, persistent corruption scandals in official circles and Spain's increasingly divided regions, provided what diablo 16 called a magnificent platform to relaunch the idea of unity among all Spaniards.  
Watched by record TV audiences across the nation and free of the feared threat of Basque separatist violence, the Games were so successful that the opposition popular party quickly warned the government against exploiting it politically.  
Yet while Spain in general basks in the afterglow of the Olympics, much of the credit must go to Barcelona and the regional government of Catalonia, whose traditional virtues of industriousness had much to do with the successful organisation.  
The Catalan authorities took every chance of the official languages and a 10 billion dollar investment in facilities and related infrastructure paying off in an image of buoyant progress.  
Paasqual Maragall, Barce-



Paraskevi Patoulidou (extreme left) crosses the finish line to win the women's Olympic 100m hurdles gold medal for Greece on Aug 6 after Gail Devers (extreme right) of the USA stumbled at the last hurdle.

## Heroes' welcome for Greek team

**ATHENS, Aug 12:** Greece held a heroes' welcome Tuesday night for their two gold-medal winners returning from the Barcelona Games — the country's best showing ever, reports AP.  
Paraskevi Patoulidou, winner of the women's 100 metres hurdles, and Pyrrhos Dimas, champion weightlifter in the 82.5-kilogram (181.5-pound) division, were driven in an open navy jeep from Athens airport to the marble stadium in central Athens where the Olympic Games were reborn in 1896.  
Thousands of Athenians clapped and cheered along the flag-bedecked route, as a procession of motorcycle policemen led the jeeps carrying the champions and other members of Greece's Olympic team.  
They were followed by scores of scooter riders who joined the parade, honking their horns.  
A 11-cannon salute boomed out from Lycabettus Hill in central Athens as the athletes, draped in the blue and white Greek flag, entered the Panathinaic Stadium, to the

cheers of a 45,000-crowd.  
"Greece thanks you," said Alexis Kostallas, the presenter of the unprecedented ceremony.  
Patoulidou, 27, went to the 25th Summer Games hoping only to get into the final. She won her event in 12.64 as the favorite, Gail Devers of the United States, tripped on the final hurdle.  
Dimas, 21, was born in the southern Albanian town of Himeare, a member of the Greek minority. He moved to Greece two years ago when the border of the former Stalinist state was opened, and he got his Greek passport only nine hours before leaving for Barcelona.  
In his winning 370-kilogram (814-pound) lift, he cried out, "For Greece." The cry has since become a slogan.  
Greek President Constantine Caramanlis is to honour the two athletes with special medals. They also have won awards from the northern city of Salonica and 10 million drachmas (dhs 56,000) each from the prestigious Onassis Foundation.

The modern games were revived in Athens in 1896 as an international competition, with shepherd Spiros Louis of Greece winning the marathon in his first and last run as an athlete.  
The last track event won by Greece was by Costas Tsikliris in 1912, in the now-abolished long jump from a standstill.

## Olympic losers quick to rebound

**MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Aug 12:** World champions Carl Lewis, Sergei Bubka and Nourredine Morceli all had Olympic disappointments but rebounded in the first major track meet after the 1992 Summer Games, reports AP.  
Lewis returned to the individual sprint and won handsily over a tough field. Bubka showed why he is still king of the pole vault while Morceli posted the fastest 1,500-metre time of the year in the Monte Carlo Grand Prix track meet.  
The Monaco meet opened up the post-Olympic season and gave a chance for Olympic losers to post some impressive victories.  
Lewis raced away in the last 40 metres (yards) to win in 10.15 seconds in the 100-metre dash.  
He missed the Olympic 100 by not qualifying in the US trials, although he was world champion and the world record holder at 9.86.  
"I had one truly bad race in the 100 and that was in the Olympic trials," Lewis said. "But you are judged by that race."  
Vitali Savin of the CIS, took second behind Lewis Tuesday in 10.21. Dennis Mitchell, Olympic bronze medalist be-

## Sluggish starts by Agassi, Edberg

**MASON, Ohio, Aug 12:** Sixth-seeded Andre Agassi was not feeling well but he still managed to beat Frenchman Olivier Delaire 6-4, 6-0 in the second round of the 1.4 million dollar Thriftway ATP Championships on Tuesday, reports Reuter.  
"I wasn't feeling extremely good today," said the eighth-ranked Agassi, the reigning Wimbledon champion. "I guess it's a virus and I've had a headache. I was feeling sluggish. I was fortunate that Olivier got a little frustrated because I didn't feel I was hitting the ball cleanly."  
Second-seeded Stefan Edberg played sloppy tennis in the first set, but found his form in the second for a 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 second-round decision over fellow Swede Christian Bergstrom.  
The top eight seeds all received first round byes. The other marquee names — Jim Courier, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Petr Korda and Ivan Lendl — will see second round action on Wednesday.  
Agassi won 81 per cent of the points when he hit a good first serve and never dropped his serve in the match.  
He broke the 39th-ranked Delaire's serve in the final game of the first set. The American never allowed Delaire to hold serve in the second set.  
Agassi is still mesmerized by his recent success at Wimbledon.  
"It was an accomplishment so outstanding that you're definitely humbled by winning Wimbledon," Agassi said. "It's harder for me to believe now than after championship point."  
The 47th-ranked Bergstrom led Edberg 3-1 in the first set, but could not hold his advantage. Edberg broke back in the ninth game and won the final five points of the tiebreaker.

showed the form that made him an Olympic favourite.  
In the 110-metre hurdles, Jackson topped gold medalist Mark McKoy of Canada. Jackson's time was 13.12.  
McKoy took second at 13.23, edging American Tony Dees, 13.24.  
Jackson had the best time in the world with 13.06 but stumbled to sixth.  
Olympic champion and new world record-holder Kevin Young returned to competition with an easy victory in the 400-metre hurdles.  
Young won the gold medal last week as he broke Edwin Moses' world mark with 46.78.  
Young handled a strong field as he won in 47.60 seconds. The participants included the second, third and fourth finishers from Barcelona as well as last year's world champion, Samuel Matete of Zambia, who did not make the Olympic final.  
Winthrop Graham of Jamaica, the Olympic silver medalist, gave Young a test for the first half of the race before coming in second in 48.22. Matete was third in 48.38.  
Another gold medalist, Heike Drechsler of Germany, also won. She long jumped 7.33 meters (24-0), better than the 7.14 (23-5) she did in winning the gold medal in Barcelona.

hind Linford Christie of Britain, was third in 10.28.  
"I felt strong in the end. To do it just three days after that emotional relay makes me excited," Lewis said.  
Lewis anchored the US team to a world record of 37.40 in the 4x100 metre relay in the Olympics and won his third consecutive long jump.  
Mike Marsh, the 200 metres gold medalist, dropped down to the 100 but came in sixth in 10.35. He has the fastest official 100-metre time this year of 9.93.

Bubka of Ukraine won the pole vault at 5.90 metres (19 feet, 4 inches) but failed in three attempts to set a new world record of 6.12 metres (20-1) just four days after missing at the opening height in the Olympic final.  
Morceli, of Algeria, came back from his poor performance in the Olympics to turn in the fastest time of the year in the 1,500 metres.  
Morceli won in 3 minutes, 32.75 seconds. A fast early pace of 1:52.75 powered Morceli to the performance.  
The Algerian was seventh in the Olympic final. He was boxed in after a slow early paced ruined his chances.  
Another Olympic loser, Colin Jackson of Britain, also



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## Dhanmondi Club AGM on Aug 27

**Sports Reporter**  
The annual general meeting and election of the Dhanmondi Club will be held on August 27 at 4 pm at the club premises.  
Fresh and renewal membership forms will be available at a fee of Taka one thousand from the club during office hours.

## LeMond pulls out

**MIDDLESBOROUGH, England, Aug 12:** Greg LeMond withdrew from the Kellogg's Tour of Britain before the start of Wednesday's third stage complaining of tiredness, his team manager said, reports AP.