

Cricket players discuss 'pool'

Sports Reporter
The Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA) is likely to place a memorandum to the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) either on Sunday or Monday next regarding the players' pool.
It is learnt that the memorandum will contain some recommendation aimed at the revision of the format of the recently-announced pool.
The DCPA will reportedly request the BCCB to raise the number of pool players per team to four from the three currently envisaged.
The 22-player pool was formed on the basis of performances of the top players of the country in the league circuit over the last three years.
The memorandum would also contain a recommendation to reduce the consideration term from three to two years.
The DCPA held a meeting yesterday at the BCCB office with former national skipper Roquibul Hossain in the chair.

Olympic squad returns

Sports Reporter
Manager Atequr Rahman and shooter Shahana Parveen stayed back in London to take care of some personal business as the rest of the Bangladesh Olympic squad returned home yesterday after taking part in the recently concluded Barcelona Olympics.
Gias Kamal Chowdhury, the president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, was present at the Zia International Airport to receive the squad. Bashir Ahmed, the Secretary General of the BOA and the National Sports Council Secretary A S M Ali Kabir were also present at the airport.
Shahanuddin Chowdhury, Golam Ambia, Shah Jalal Mobin and Mehdi Hassan represented Bangladesh in the Olympic track and field events while Shanana Parveen went to Barcelona as the only Bangladeshi shooter.
Atequr Rahman and Abdul Mannan accompanied the squad as the manager and the coach respectively.
The vice-president of the BOA Captain (ret'd) Siddiqur Rahman, who represented the Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation and Mohiuddin Ahmed, a NSC Director, also returned yesterday with the contingent.
State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, the chief de mission of the squad, returned earlier on August 7.

Rani Hamid in the lead

Sports Reporter
International Woman Master Rani Hamid was leading with four and a half points after completion of the eighth round of the British Championship '92 being held in Plymouth, according to Bangladesh Chess Federation press release yesterday.
Rani Hamid, the national women's champion, drew with LWM Arsell of England in her eighth round game.
She now has a very bright chance of winning the title for the fourth time if she can win her last three matches.
WOM Susan Arkell of England was following her closely with four points.
In the men's group, GM Julien was leading with seven points while GM Mastell was in the second position with six and a half points.

BHF forms 3 sub-committees

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Hockey Federation has formed three committees for conduct of the federation's work for the year 1992-93.
Deputy Commissioner (South) of the DMP and Nurul Amin have been elected chairman and secretary for the First Division league while Engineer Abul Hossain and Sirajul Islam have been nominated chairman and secretary respectively for the Second Division league.
Ibrahim Sabir and Borhanur Rashid have been elected chairman and secretary respectively of the tournament committee.
However, the federation is yet fix the calendar for next year. Sources say, the calendar will be worked out after Bangladesh's participation in the 1992 World Cup under-23 Asia-Oceania qualifying tournament to be held from September 8 to 20 in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur. The Bangladesh youth team is expected to leave on September 5.

H'ball Federation monogram wins

The monogram of the Bangladesh Handball Federation stood first in the Commonwealth Handball Association Monogram Competition, reports UNB.

Rajbari, Tangail in zonal finals

Sports Reporter
Rajbari, Tangail and Sylhet have qualified for their respective zonal finals of the 1992 Ma-o-Mont Gold Cup national under-14 soccer tournament.
The three finalists won their respective quarterfinal encounters at three different venues across the country yesterday.
Rajbari made the Faridpur zonal final by beating Gopalganj 2-0 at the Faridpur Stadium.
Kazi Jafar Ahmed scored both the goals.
Rajbari will now play Munshiganj in the final tomorrow, August 15.
Hosts Tangail recorded another 2-0 victory over Gazipur in the zonal semifinals.
Ziaul Hassan Badal and Sirajuddin Hossain Biplab were the

scorers.
Tangail will now play Netrokona instead of Narayanganj in the final on August 16.
The tournament sub-committee has scratched Narayanganj for fielding an unregistered player against Netrokona in the quarterfinals on August 12 which Narayanganj won 1-0. At Sylhet, the hosts beat Chandpur 3-1 on their way to the zonal final.
Wadood, Shukit and Limon scored for the winners while Yaqub reduced the margin for the vanquished.
Meanwhile, five other DSAs qualified for their respective zonal semifinals yesterday.
At Jhenidah, Kushtia registered an easy 5-1 victory over Magura.
Nuruzzaman slammed four goals and Ashiq one for Kushtia while Kallayan Kumar pulled

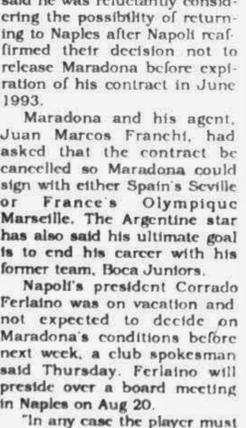
one back for Magura.
Pabna recorded another convincing 5-1 victory against Joypurhat in the Natore zonal semifinals.
Abul Hossain and Ujjal scored two goals each and Ripon one for Pabna while Rana got one for Joypurhat.
At Feni, Chittagong outplayed Cox's Bazar 4-0. Anwar, Mosharrar and Farhad were the scorers.
At Nilphamari, Rangpur beat Thakurgaon 3-2 in a keenly contested quarterfinals.
Manzur netted two goals and Rubalyat one for the winners while Nuruzzaman and Aziz were the scorers for Thakurgaon.
At Khulna, Bagerhat beat Barguna 3-0 in the other match of the day.
Tutul got two goals and Alif one for the winners.

Mixed feelings over prodigal's return in Naples

Sports Reporter
NAPLES, Italy, Aug 13: Neapolitan fans were jubilant—but the Naples club was cooler—about Diego Maradona's announcement that he may rejoin Napoli next season after completing a 15-month suspension for cocaine use, reports AP.
"The entire city is excited about Maradona's return," said Crescenzo Chiummariello, who heads the association of organized Napoli fans clubs. "Diego would be given a warm welcome. Neapolitans have pardoned him."
However, the Neapolitan club did not comment on Maradona's conditions for his return to Italy. Some officials indicated on Thursday that some of the player's demands appeared unacceptable.
Earlier this week, Maradona said he was reluctantly considering the possibility of returning to Naples after Napoli reaffirmed their decision not to release Maradona before expiration of his contract in June 1993.
Maradona and his agent, Juan Marcos Franchi, had asked that the contract be cancelled so Maradona could sign with either Spain's Seville or France's Olympique Marseille. The Argentine star has also said his ultimate goal is to end his career with his former team, Boca Juniors.
Napoli's president Corrado Ferlaino was on vacation and not expected to decide on Maradona's conditions before next week, a club spokesman said Thursday. Ferlaino will preside over a board meeting in Naples on Aug 20.
"In any case the player must return to Italy by Aug 22, to prepare with the teammates for the next campaign," spokesman Paolo Paoletti said.
Italian sports dailies reported that the news of Maradona's comeback boosted demand for season tickets. The 31-year-old Argentine star-forward is one of the most

popular and highest-paid players in the world.
Groups of Napoli fans rode through the city streets exhibiting huge posters of Maradona. The news also pleased some of his teammates.
"Diego's return can greatly improve our title chances. He's an artist, one of the best soccer players ever," said Napoli's defender Ciro Ferrara.
According to published reports Maradona has asked that arrears fines of 300 million lire (dhs 270,000) and other disciplinary actions imposed by the club be cancelled and that he be given an isolated villa to avoid pressure of fans and of the media. He also wants a personal trainer, the chance of playing a limited number of league matches and at least 6 billion lire (dhs 5.4 million) to complete his contract.

Maradona, the captain of the Argentine team at the 1986 and 1990 World Cups, joined Napoli in 1984 and helped the Italian team to win two league titles and a UEFA Cup.
He was suspended by the Italian League after testing positive for cocaine use following a match between Napoli and Bari in March 1991.
His 15-month suspension, enforced by the International Federation worldwide, expired in June.
Without Maradona, Napoli placed fourth in the last league campaign while their season tickets dropped to 25,000 from an average of 50,000-60,000 during Maradona's golden years.
Milan's authoritative daily Corriere della Sera was critical of Maradona's reported conditions and noted that his return may cause more problems than benefits to the team.
The Milan daily wrote that Maradona's class was unquestionable but suggested that president Ferlaino should oppose the player's attempts to impose a part-time job.
"Ferlaino would win the battle of self-respect by forcing Maradona back into his world, which is out of reality," Corriere wrote.
Maradona's return would also force on the substitutes bench one of the foreign players of Napoli.
Italian major league teams can field three non-Italians, and Napoli has already signed Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca and Swede Jonas Thern. In addition to Brazilian striker Careca, for the new season which begins Sept 6.
In Buenos Aires, Maradona said he was prepared to retire for good if Napoli does not accept his conditions and idles him for another year.
The International Federation has been supporting Maradona's return to activity but can't force Napoli to release the player one year before expiration of his contract.



DIEGO MARADONA
"Diego must be ready to devote to the team full time. An engagement part-time, including individual training and fewer games, would be hardly acceptable," said a club official, who spoke under condition of anonymity.

PETE SAMPRAS
two set points in the opening tiebreak when the 112th-ranked Montana led 6-4. After pulling even at 6-6, Sampras got on top by braking serve for 8-7 with a forehand volley winner. Montana took the second

Premier League: Old wine in new bottle

Sports Reporter
LONDON, Aug 13: The name has changed but the favourites remain the same when the new English football Premier League kicks off at last on Saturday, reports Reuter.
Old stalwarts Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United are all tipped as historic first champions.
Leeds United, the last winners of the old English First Division, will also be in the running.
By the season's end, the odds are that there will be something very familiar about the champions.
Despite lofty aims to improve the quality of the English game, the Premier League is still crowded with 22 clubs facing the same old grueling league race as ever.
Money is one big benefit the Premier League clubs will derive. Although they are still squabbling over a sponsor, they have signed a lucrative television deal.
Leeds are confident, beating their European Cup first round opponents VfB Stuttgart in a friendly before sinking FA Cup winners Liverpool 4-3 in the Charity Shield.
Liverpool played the better football but Leeds showed greater purpose and sharper finishing with a hat-trick from Eric Cantona a harbinger of French delights to come.
"He's a better player now in my view than six months ago and I'm not just talking about in terms of English football," said Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson.
Liverpool manager Graeme Souness will be looking to tighten a few screws at the back after the performance.
"We gave away some goals that I would hate us to do in

the League. It was very un-Liverpool," he said.
Liverpool and injury problems were almost synonymous last season and forward John Barnes, on his day the most exciting player in England, is still unfit.
Former Liverpool player and manager Kenny Dalglish has spent 10 million pounds (19.3 million dollars) in less than a year building a side that barely scraped into the new "super" League as Blackburn bid for a return to past glories.
The pre-season bargain was probably a deal taking a player away from England, the 1.5 million pounds (2.9 million) transfer of England centre-back Des Walker to Sampdoria of Italy from Nottingham Forest. London's Tottenham Hotspur, who have lost England stars Gary Lineker and Paul Gascoigne to Japanese and Italian clubs respectively.
Midfielder Paul Stewart has left for Liverpool and Spurs could struggle again after a dismal 1991-92 season.

"I felt very good out here today," said Courier, who lost in the Olympic third round to eventual winner Marc Rosset.
While Courier had little trouble in making the adjustment from the Olympic clay courts of last week to this week's hard courts, his American Olympic teammate Sampras expected and had a hard time in making the adjustment.
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Czechoslovakian athlete Jan Zeleny in the men's javelin final in Barcelona on Aug 6. Zeleny, the current world record holder, won the gold with a throw of 89.66m. —AFP photo

Sampras finds the switch difficult

Sports Reporter
MASON, Ohio, Aug 13: Third-seeded Pete Sampras celebrated his 21st birthday by holding off the challenge of Francisco Montana 7-6 (9-7), 3-6, 6-2 to reach the third round of the 1.4 million US dollar Thriftway ATP Championships on Wednesday, reports Reuter.
"I'm going out to have a quiet dinner with my girlfriend," said the third-ranked Sampras of his post-match celebrations.
There was no celebrating afterwards, however, for the 22-year-old Montana, who was involved in a car accident with a large truck on a nearby highway. A conscious Montana was pulled from the wreck and taken to a local hospital for treatment of cuts and bruises before being released.
Further pain was inflicted on Montana when he was given a citation for faulty driving by the police.
Top-seeded Jim Courier was barely challenged during a 6-3, 6-2 second round match against qualifier Richard Schmidt as the world no. 1 started his preparations for the US Open beginning Aug 31.



PETE SAMPRAS
four or five weeks to change surfaces." Sampras was forced to save set on a service break in the eighth game.
It was Sampras's turn in the final set to get the decisive service break in the eighth game.
"It was a great match, but Pete played a little better," said Montana. "He served really well in the third set."
Eighth-seeded Ivan Lendl also struggled to beat Gianluca Pozzi of Italy 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in his second round match.
Lendl, the 1982 champion, has been fighting a back problem.
"If you're hurt, you have two options—you either don't play or you play and shut up about it," Lendl said. "You don't go and play and keep complaining."
Lendl, ranked 11th in the world, said the tournament is wide open.
"Everybody has had their highs and lows this season," Lendl said. "Nobody has been dominating."
In other second-round matches, fourth-seeded Michael Chang beat Sandon Stolle of Australia 6-4, 6-3 and fifth-seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia defeated Derrick Rostagno 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Safe sailing for top seeds in Virginia Slims

Sports Reporter
MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif., Aug 13: Second-seeded Martina Navratilova sported a new short hair style, but provided a familiar look in beating Alexia Dechaume 6-3, 6-0 in the second round of the 350,000 US dollar Virginia Slims of Los Angeles tournament on Wednesday, reports Reuter.
Navratilova overpowered her French foe with a strong serve that kept Dechaume

confused throughout the 45 minute match. Navratilova also kept up the pressure by attacking Dechaume's weak second serve.
Third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain overcame an upset stomach to defeat Robin White of the US 1-6, 6-4, 6-0 in another second round match.
Slowed by her stomach problems attributed to a strenuous trip from the Barcelona Games where she won the bronze medal in singles last week, Sanchez Vicario lost nine of the first to the 58th-ranked White.
"I have been in different time zones and eaten at the wrong times and I think that is why I didn't feel good," Sanchez Vicario said.
But, down 0-3 in the second set Sanchez Vicario visited the bathroom and after being sick to her stomach, she returned energized and enthusiastic.
The turnaround was dramatic as she won 12 of the final 14 games in the match.
"I threw up everything and I felt better," said Sanchez Vicario, who is ranked fifth in the world. "I played better and when I won the second set, I knew I would win the match. Maybe, I ate something not good for my stomach."
White, who played virtually flawless tennis until the five-minute interruption, blamed the delay for reversing momentum of the match.
"I wish the bathroom break didn't exist," said White, 28. "I think it's very unfair in that situation when someone's not playing well and it changes the momentum. I'm not saying she would do anything with gamesmanship. But I kept thinking about it. I was out there not knowing what to do."
In other second-round matches, fourth-seeded

Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland defeated qualifier Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-4 and seventh-seeded Amy Frazier advanced with a difficult 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 win over unseeded Lori McNeil.
Jansher powers into quarters
MELBOURNE, Aug 13: Pakistan's Jansher Khan powered his way into the quarterfinals of the 1992 Australian Open squash championships today with a solid win over German Florian Possal, reports Reuter.
Despite worrying that the current spell of cold weather could affect his game, the number one seed easily accounted for Possal 15-11, 15-6, 15-7.
He will meet Australian fifth seed Tristan Nancarrow in tomorrow's quarter-finals.
Nancarrow's concentration lapsed several times in his clash with Simon Frens before he finally downed the persistent German in four games 15-12, 15-10, 11-15, 15-13.
Two seeds were bundled out of the tournament in the second round of the women's event.
German youngster Sabine Schoene showed great courage to beat the experienced number eight seed sue Wright of Britain 15-13, 15-9, 11-15, 15-11.
Shoene, 18, was runner-up in the Rold junior championships last year and is ranked 16th in the seniors.
In the other upset Australian Sarah Fitzgerald downed seventh seed Heather Wallace of Canada 15-12, 15-10, 15-6.

Mushtaq to join Somerset

LONDON, Aug 13: Pakistan's leg spinner Mushtaq Ahmed has been rewarded for mesmerising England's batsmen this summer with a three-year contract with English county Somerset, reports AFP.
The 21-year-old, who took 15 Test wickets in the 2-1 series victory, will replace South African pacesman Richard Snell, who is returning home at the end of the season to continue university studies.
Somerset chief executive Peter Anderson said: "I have been aware for some time that Richard was going home, so I asked our cricket manager Bob Cottam to draw up a short list. Obviously Mushtaq was high on that list."
"He is a fine acquisition and his leg spin will give us an even better balanced attack."
Cottam added: "We've seen him perform at the highest level. I've really done my homework to land him."
Mushtaq is the first overseas leg spinner to be taken on by an English county since the 70's when Somerset had Aussie Keery O'Keefe and current Pakistan team manager Intikhab Alam was playing his trade with Surrey. Mushtaq, who has played just eight Tests, first came to prominence on England's ill-fated tour of Pakistan under Mike Gatting in 1987, when as a 17-year-old he grabbed five wickets against the tourists in a provincial game.
He was one of the stars of Pakistan's World Cup triumph last winter and on the current England tour has taken 63 first class wickets at an average of 24.61.

Northants need Lamb to flash

LONDON, Aug 13: England Test discard Allan Lamb could be the key player in Northamptonshire's bid to reach the final of the prestigious Natwest Trophy limited overs tournament, reports Reuter.
The South African-born batsman was still at the crease at close of play on Wednesday in the rain-hit 60-overs-a-side match with Northants on 47 for two, still needing 103 to pass Warwickshire's meagre 149.
Northants still have 37 overs remaining but on a difficult Edgbaston pitch it could prove a tough target.
Rain prevented a start until early afternoon and Warwickshire struggled throughout their innings against tight seam bowling, with only number nine Gladstone Small(23) managing to score more than 20.
West Indies pacesman Curtly Ambrose took two wickets for only 21 runs in a tight spell of 11.2 overs as the bowlers dominated.
Northants opener Nigel Felton became only the second batsman to pass 20 and at the close he was unbeaten on 24 while Lamb had eight not out.
Even Lamb play was possible in the other semifinal where Essex reached 188 for six after 52 overs against Leicestershire.

High noon of Australian sports in Barcelona

Sports Reporter
SYDNEY, Aug 13: Increased government funding, improved coaching and the delayed effects of the national sports institute hoisted Australia to their greatest medal-producing Games since the halcyon 1956 Melbourne Olympics, according to team manager John Coates, reports AFP.
Although Australia's seven Barcelona gold medals were less than the eight won in Rome in 1960 and the 1972 Munich Games, Australia's tally of 27 medals was second only to the 16th Melbourne Games 36 years ago when Australia won 13 gold in a total of 35 medals.
Australia's medal haul of seven golds, nine silvers and 11 bronzes ranked it 10th in the world at Barcelona.
"It's clearly been a major success and the best Olympic performance outside of the country," Coates said Wednesday as a nation of 17 million basked in the afterglow of Barcelona triumph.
"It's like the old days," says Kevan Gosper, Australia's vice-president of the International

Olympic Committee.
The Australian team has been outstanding in Barcelona, and not just in the medal tally, but also our presence in so many finals across a breadth of sports."
Coates said increased government funding for sport and the development of the Canberra-based Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) had been instrumental in Australia's performance.
"There were great expectations of the AIS to suddenly produce medals, but now it has been operating 12 years the rewards are starting to show," he said.
"The AIS is now the model for similar institutes around the world."
"Plus cycling and canoeing (gold medal winning sports) were only added to the AIS programme in the past five years."
"Increased funding has also had a big impact, but the resources have been better directed in recent years."
"We have improved coaching standards and the AIS now has a more scientific approach."
Coates said 29 million dol

ars (21 million US) was invested in the preparation of Australia's team at Barcelona, but funding for overseas competition, crucial because of Australia's isolation, would have to jump from 15 million dollars (11 million US) to 28 million (20.5 million US) in the buildup to the 1994 Victoria Commonwealth Games and 1996 Atlanta Olympics.
The strength of Australia's performance is best gauged by the medal spread in 10 sports.
Cyclist Kathryn Watt won the women's road race gold medal and in the pool Kieren Perkins continued the great tradition of Australian record breaking swimmers when he took the gold medal in the 1500 metres and wiped almost five seconds off his world record.
Australia's rowers produced their best ever Olympic result.
The "oarsome foursome" coxless four of Mike McKay, Nick Green, Andrew Cooper and Jame Tonkins lived up to their world champion status with a gold medal.
Peter Antonie and Stephen Hawkins were too strong in the men's double sculls.
And in canoeing Clint

Robinson paddled to glory in the single kayak over 1,000 metres.
An unexpected bonus was provided by Matt Ryan and his horse Kibah Tic Tor which out-jumped and outlasted the rest of the field in the three-day equestrian event.
Ryan also combined with Andrew Hoy and Gill Rolton to win the gold medal in the team section of the three-day event, emulating the feat of Lawrence Morgan on salad days at the 1960 Rome Olympics.
In team sports, the men's hockey team were silver medalists to Germany, the soccer team gave Australia their highest Olympic placing of fourth and the water polo men finished a best-ever fifth. The men's basketballers finished sixth, their second best result.
It is against this backdrop of sporting achievement that Australia's largest city, Sydney, is bidding to stage the 2000 Olympics.
British bookmaker Ladbrokes rates Sydney a 5-4 favourite to host the 2000 Olympics ahead of Beijing at 9-4 and Manchester and Berlin at 5-1.