

Niaz in lead

Sports Reporter

Grandmaster Niaz Morshed of Bangladesh led the points table with four points at the end of the fourth round in the second of the two tournaments now being played in Oslo, Norway in connection with the Gausdal festival, according to an incomplete message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Seeded ninth among 14 Grandmasters from different countries, Niaz defeated a Czech Grandmaster in the previous round.

Russian Grandmaster Savchenko, world junior champion GM Sakacv, Dutch GM Van Velt, Swedish GM Hekers and Danish GM Nielsen were in second spot with three and half points each. Georgian GM Gpalis and Russian GM Tivakov were in joint third position with three points each.

The tournament, which began on August 9, concludes today.

BFF-DMFA talks on Premier league

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is still discussing plans to introduce the premier and first division football leagues from next season.

According to sources, the BFF president Siddique Rahman met with the officials of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association, who conduct Dhaka league soccer, to discuss the issue yesterday. However, the outcome of the talks were not disclosed.

Meanwhile, the BFF is likely to finalise the issue at the next meeting of its executive committee on August 18.

5 nations confirm participation in Asian kabaddi

Sports Reporter

India, Pakistan, Nepal, Japan and China have confirmed their participation in the third Asian kabaddi championship to be held in Dhaka early next year, the National Sports Council Secretary ASM Ali Kabir told The Daily Star yesterday.

All Kabir, who had a telephonic conversation with Achinta Kumar Saha, the General Secretary of the Asian Kabaddi Federation, said Malaysia, Thailand and the Republic of Korea may also take part in the competition.

Saha also reportedly advised that meet organised in Dhaka preferably next February.

DCPA meeting

Sports Reporter

A meeting of the executive committee of the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA) will be held tomorrow at 6 pm at the Dhaka Stadium cricketers' dressing room, says a press release.

Judo, karate Dan tests today

Sports Reporter

'Bangladeshi learners are keen and amenable' was the long and short of the opinion of the two Japanese coaches at a press conference arranged by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation yesterday at the National Sports Council.

Morio Suganami, (sixth Dan) and Makoto Sakasita (fifth Dan) the two trainers from the Kodokan Institute, Japan who arrived in the city on August 11 in connection with the observance of the 20th anniversary of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship, will stay here till August 17 to impart coaching to young judokas and karatekas.

The two Japanese instructors will conduct the Dab test of the learners and local trainers at Dhaka gymnasium, adjacent to the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, today at 4 pm.

Later in the evening, certificates will be awarded to the participants after demonstration of the finer points of the martial arts of self-defense at the judo room of National Sports Council.

Meanwhile, the Sudharan Bima Judo and Karate Cup championship will be held from August 21 to 25 in the city.

German govt not to fund Games 2000

BONN, Aug 15: Berlin will have to find private funding if it wins its bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

5 more teams in zonal finals

Sports Reporter

Five more DSAs moved into their respective zonal finals of the 1992 Ma-o-Moni Gold Cup under-14 soccer tournament yesterday at five different venues across the country.

At Khulna, Satkhira beat Bagerhat 5-4 in the tie-breaker after the scheduled time of play ended in a one-all draw.

Kamruzzaman scored for Satkhira in the 43rd minute while Tutul restored parity for Bagerhat in the 47th minute.

Mamun, Altaf, Rafiq, Humayun and Azad scored for Satkhira while Anup, Nurul, Kamruzzaman and Swapan found the net for Bagerhat from the spot kicks.

Satkhira will now play hosts Khulna in the zonal final tomorrow, August 17.

Spectators in Jhenidah witnessed another keenly-contested zonal semifinal when Meherpur beat Kushtia 4-1, also in the tie-breaker.

Both teams were tied 1-1 after the scheduled time.

Shahcen took Kushtia ahead in the 55th minute while Faruk drew level for Meherpur

in the 65th minute. Abul Kalam Azad, Tamazkur Rahman, Ahsan Habib and Faruk Hossain scored for Meherpur while Nuruzzaman was the only one to score for Kushtia in the tie-breaker.

Mahbubur Rahman of Kushtia was cautioned with the yellow card for rough play.

Winners Meherpur will take on hosts Jhenidah to decide the zonal champions tomorrow.

At Feni, Chittagong beat Noakhali 2-0.

Mosharraf Hossain scored both the goals for Chittagong in the 22nd and 59th minutes.

Anwar of Noakhali invited the red card from referee Jamaluddin for a serious offence while Faruk, Liton and Mannan of the same team were cautioned with the yellow cards.

Chittagong will now play hosts Feni in the zonal final tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Tangail will take on Mymensingh in Tangail and hosts Sylhet will face Comilla in their respective zonal finals today.

Earlier, Munshiganj made the final round of the meet by emerging as the Faridpur zonal champions on Friday.

for the winners in the very second minute of play. Tanvir Imam doubled the margin in the 40th minute while Abu Arif completed the tally for the finalists in the 70th minute.

Abul Hossain reduced the margin for Pabna seven minutes from time.

Rajshahi will now clash with hosts Natore in the zonal final tomorrow.

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Stephenson is Essex's hero

LONDON, Aug 15: John Stephenson shrugged off his Natwest cricket trophy disappointment to claim his first five-wicket haul for English county championship leaders Essex on Friday, reports Reuter.

Part-time medium pacer Stephenson was the bowler on Thursday when Leicestershire clinched a Lord's final place by scoring the winning runs with one ball to spare.

On Friday, on a slow Colchester pitch, Stephenson proved Essex's trump card in the top-of-the-table clash with Nottinghamshire.

But Notts, 108 for five at one stage, fought back to 247 for eight thanks to an unbeaten 80 from New Zealand Test all-rounder Chris Cairns.

Derek Pringle picked up the first three wickets — then Stephenson grabbed the next five with considerable assistance from stand-in wicket-keeper Adrian Brown.

Schoolmaster Brown, released by Essex three years ago, answered his old country's call following a serious facial injury suffered by Mike Gartham on Thursday.

He claimed a legside stumping to remove Derek Randall and added two catches to dismiss Chris Lewis and Bruce French.

Left-arm spinner Neil Kendrick claimed a career-best six for 61 to undermine Leicestershire at the Oval.

Kendrick picked up the last four wickets in 19 balls for just four runs as Leicestershire collapsed from 185 for three to 216 all out. Surrey closed on seven for one.

Hugh Morris's sixth championship century of the season catapulted Glamorgan towards their highest total of the year in their basement clash with bottom club Durham at Hartlepool.

They achieved maximum batting points, as they raced to 396 for six declared. Morris hit 18 fours and a six in his 126 and Tony Cottee weighed in with 91.

Durham were five for one at the close.

Richardson may replace Tendulkar at Yorkshire

LEEDS, England, Aug 15: West Indies skipper Richie Richardson is expected to win the vote as Yorkshire's replacement for Indian batting star Sachin Tendulkar next season, reports AFP.

Richardson and Pakistan paceman Aaqib Javed are the two names being discussed by the committee as their 1993 overseas players, but they are likely to come out heavily in favour of the West Indian.

Javed, who spent last season with Hampshire, has made it known he is keen to join Yorkshire, but Richardson, Blackpool's professional in the northern league, confirmed this week that he wants to move into county cricket.

India's Test commitments mean that Tendulkar would miss the second half of next summer.

German booters may face random dope tests

BONN, Aug 15: German footballers could face random dope-tests during training after revelations that the drug clenbuterol is freely used to treat injured players, reports AFP.

Christoph Daum, coach of Bundesliga champions VfB Stuttgart, told the newspaper Bild that the drug was free.

Home Affairs (interior) Minister Dumisio Dabengwa said on Friday Grobbelaar had argued that he lost his citizenship through default — being unable to renew his Zimbabwe passport while abroad.

'He has indicated that eventually he wants to settle back in Zimbabwe after retiring from soccer,' Dabengwa said.

Grobbelaar, who last played for Zimbabwe more than a decade ago, has been Liverpool's goalkeeper for the past 10 years.

Grobbelaar set to debut for Zimbabwe

HARARE, Aug 15: Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar is expected to play for Zimbabwe against South Africa in an African Nations' Cup qualifier on Sunday after regaining his citizenship, a Zimbabwean soccer official said today, reports Reuter.

The official said Grobbelaar finally regained his citizenship on Friday after years of trying. 'We expect him to turn out for the national team on Sunday,' he added.

Grobbelaar, who held South African, British and Zimbabwean citizenships, had been barred from playing for Zimbabwe after the government abolished dual citizenship in 1984.



Australian opener Tom Moody sweeps Sri Lanka's off-spinner Ruwan Kalpage in the first one-day international in Colombo yesterday. Taylor scored 94 and the non-striker Tom Moody made 54 as Australia piled up a huge score of 247. But, that wasn't enough as they were beaten eventually by the Lankans by four wickets.

Lankans exact sweet revenge

COLOMBO, Aug 15: Dashing batsman Aravinda de Silva hit a magnificent century to help Sri Lanka snatch a thrilling four-wicket win over Australia in the first of three one-day internationals here Saturday, reports AFP.

Chasing a total of 247 for five in 50 overs, Sri Lanka made 251-6 with four balls to spare.

De Silva hit 105, his highest one-day international score, to lay the foundation for Sri Lanka's win that was eventually shaped out by skipper Arjuna Ranatunga who produced a mastery 45 not out.

This is Sri Lanka's fourth win in 22 one-day internationals between the two countries. Australia have won 16 while two matches were ruined by rain. With this victory Sri Lanka also avenged their defeat to Australia in the World Cup.

De Silva and left-hander Asanka Gurusinha put up a bold 147-run third wicket partnership in 28 overs that knocked the wind off Australia's sails after two wicket had fallen for 12 runs. Gurusinha made 53 with a six and four fours.

De Silva, who was Sri Lanka's captain at the World Cup, exacted sweet revenge on the Australians as he cut, drove and hooked with ease the experienced pace battery of Craig McDermott, Mike Whitney and Tony Dodemaide.

His 105 came off 102 balls and bettered his previous best of 104 against India. The 27-year-old right-hand bat lived up to his reputation of changing the complexion of a game after Sri Lanka lost two wickets at the beginning.

De Silva was finally run out six overs from the end but Ranatunga battled bravely to see his side through.

De Silva's brilliant innings contained two sixes and a dozen boundaries. Ranatunga's

45 not out off 49 balls contained two sixes and two fours. After De Silva's departure, two more wickets that of Ramesh Kaluvitharane and Mervan Atapattu fell in quick succession, leaving Ranatunga the burden of staying on since the cream of the batting was back.

day cricket international between Sri Lanka and Australia.

AUSTRALIA: Moody c and b Kalpage 54 Taylor c Tilkekeratne b Kalpage 94 Jones at Kaluvitharane b Anurasiri 30

Boon lbw Ramanayake 0 Waugh b Wickremasinghe 31 Border not out 19 Matthews not out 1 Extras: (b-2, lb-8, w-4, nb-4) 18

Total: (for five wickets, 50 overs) 247

Did not bat: I Healy, T Dodemaide, C McDermott, M Whitney.

Fall of wickets: 1-109; 2-175; 3-176; 4-216; 5-244.

Bowling: O M R W Wickremasinghe 9 1 35 1 Ramanayake 10 0 54 1 Gunasingha 8 0 31 0 Ranatunga 3 0 22 0 Anurasiri 10 0 43 1 Kalpage 10 0 52 2

SRI LANKA: Mahanama b Whitney 0 Tilkekeratne c Healy b McDermott 7 Gurusinha c Waugh b Matthews 53 De Silva run out 105 Ranatunga not out 45 Atapattu c Waugh b Whitney 4 Kaluvitharane b Dodemaide 1 Kalpage not out Extras: (b-4, lb-10, w-8, nb-3) 25

Total: (for six wickets, 49.2 overs) 251

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-12; 3-159; 4-202; 5-212; 6-214.

Did not bats: C Ramanayake, D Anurasiri, P Wickremasinghe

Bowling: O M R W McDermott 9.2 1 64 1 Whitney 10 1 33 2 Dodemaide 10 0 50 1 Moody 7 1 36 0 Matthews 10 0 34 1 Border 3 0 20 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by four wickets

Man-of-the-match: Aravinda de Silva.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the first one-

Top seeds in Virginia Slims semis

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif. Aug 15: Second-seeded Martina Navratilova overpowered sixth-seeded Zina Garrison 6-3, 6-0 Friday in a quarterfinal match of the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles, reports AP.

In another quarterfinal match, fourth-seeded Manuella Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland eliminated qualifier Kimberly Po 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) and will play Navratilova in one of Saturday's semifinals at the Manhattan Country Club.

Third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain defeated fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia in a night match 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. Sanchez Vicario will play topseeded Monica Seles in Saturday's other semifinal.

Navratilova improved her career record against Garrison to 31-1, with her only loss in the quarterfinals of the 1988 US Open. Navratilova has beaten Garrison in the 10 matches the two have played since then.

'I'm surprised I haven't lost to her more. I'm not that much better than her,' Navratilova said. 'She's a lot like me, but I'm always just a little better, like I'm just a half-step ahead of her.'

Garrison conceded she has a mental block when it comes to playing Navratilova, ranked fourth in the world at age 35.

'She always plays well against me,' Garrison said. 'We've played so much, she knows my game and I haven't been able to get to know hers. I didn't return her serve well today and it got me down.'

Navratilova said a hectic Team Tennis schedule after Wimbledon has her in better match shape than usual at this point in the season.

'I put pressure on her and I didn't make mistakes today,' she said. 'I've been working on the depth of my second serve and it gave her trouble. I can't complain after a match like that.'

Both players remember the lone Garrison win. 'I know what I did to beat her that time,' said Garrison, still recuperating from an ankle injury. 'I came in. But I was also 10 pounds (4.5 kilos) smaller. I have to do a lot of running.'

Navratilova recalled her comeback that day. 'I played lousy and scared tennis and almost pulled it out,' Navratilova said. 'She played very well that day. Today was one of the easiest matches I've ever had against her.'

In Friday's first match, Po played poorly in the first set, while Maleeva-Fragniere said she played 'nearly perfect.'

Maleeva-Fragniere, who missed three months this year with a turf toe injury, captured the second set with better serves in the tiebreaker, overcoming several questionable calls that extended the match.

'I felt as if the umpire wanted to compensate because I was winning so easily and didn't care to make corrections,' Maleeva-Fragniere said. 'It happens so often, it shouldn't bother me. Today it was really one-sided, but we are in California and she is from California, so I can expect it.'

Edberg-Sampras in last four

MASON, Ohio, Aug 15: Second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden and third-seeded American Pete Sampras won in impressive style on Friday to set up a semifinal showdown at the 1.4 million US dollar Thriftway ATP Championships, reports Reuter.

Edberg continued to sharpen up his game for defence of his US Open title starting August 31 with a 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) win over American Jim Grabb.

Sampras, the 1990 US Open champion, overpowered

this year's French Open runner-up the fifth-seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-3.

Ivan Lendl shined too in his quarter-final victory as the eighth seed overwhelmed fellow American David Wheaton 6-1, 6-2, who in the previous round had ousted world No. 1 Jim Courier.

The last quarter-final match was stopped due to rain and rescheduled today with fourth-seeded Michael Chang of the US leading Jaime Yzaga of Peru 4-1 in the first set.

Edberg, who has struggled this season winning only one title at Hamburg while losing

in the Wimbledon quarterfinals and the French Open third round, is still looking for more consistency in his game especially on his serve.

'I've had a problem this year with inconsistency on my serve,' Edberg said. 'I serve well a couple of matches and then I have a let-down. I didn't serve badly today, it just was a little off.'

Edberg sailed through the opening set with two service breaks. But, it was Grabb who held a 5-3 advantage in the final set tiebreaker. Edberg responded to the challenge by winning the last four points of the match.

Napoli rejects Maradona's terms

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 15: Napoli have told Diego Maradona's agent they have rejected demands made by the Argentine star for a return to the Italian club and have refused to release him to play elsewhere, the Noticias Argentinas news agency reported on Friday, reports Reuter.

The former Argentine captain, who recently completed a 15-month ban from world soccer imposed after he tested positive for cocaine, this week offered to return from Buenos Aires to complete his Napoli contract which expires on June 30 next year.

In a report from a correspondent in Barcelona, where agent Marcos Franchi was awaiting Napoli's response, Noticias Argentinas said the rejection was set out in a strongly worded two-page facsimile from club president Corrado Ferlaino.

Earlier on Friday sources close to the club said Napoli

felt the financial aspects of the player's demands astronomical and the club would only

(6.3 million dollars) advance they paid him.

The Noticias Argentinas report added that if no deal was reached with Napoli, Franchi would seek a ruling from the Italian Football Federation which would free Maradona to play for Spanish club Sevilla.

The stocky midfielder, who until this week has always ruled out a return to Napoli has said he will retire from the sport if Napoli did not accept his terms.

On Friday the Italian news agency ANSA reported Maradona as stressing he was not prepared to accept any amendment to his terms, which are believed to include a villa on the island of Capri with round-the-clock protection, the right to train alone and to choose which games he plays.

'I am not prepared to change even a comma of the conditions which I have presented to Napoli. If they don't accept them all, I'm not going,' ANSA quoted him as saying.

Diego Maradona

honour the existing contract.

While details of Maradona's demands have not been disclosed, press reports said he was asking 10 billion lire (9 million dollars) for the coming season and also wants the club to write off a seven billion lire

Juventus hold Japan 2-2

KOBE, Japan, Aug 15: Italian football powerhouse Juventus overcame a two goal deficit Friday to force a draw in the dying minutes against Japan's national team in the first of two friendly games here, reports AFP.

Although missing its star striker Ruy Ramos, the Japanese squad repeatedly threatened the Italian goal and took the lead in the 33rd minute from Mitsunori Yoshida.

In the second-half winger Kazuyoshi Miura made it 2-0 for Japan off a pass from Masahiro Fukuda in the 61st minute.

But the 1985 European-South American Cup champions fought back, showing no effects of jetlag, opening their account with a penalty in the 79th minute taken by midfielder Roberto Baggio.

With only one minute to go, Dino Baggio crossed from the left to Andreas Moeller who headed in a marvellous goal to shock the excited 60,000 fans at the Kobe Universiade Stadium.

ROK, Malaysia in final

JAKARTA, Aug 15: South Korea and Malaysia are through to the final of the Independence Cup after Australia Friday hammered Indonesia 3-0, removing their hopes of getting through, reports AFP.

In the other game Friday South Korea and Malaysia squared off in a dress rehearsal for Sunday's final.

Defending champions Australia, with two earlier defeats, were keen to hold onto their ranking, while the host team kept trying hard for a place in the finals.

But despite their mutual aggression the first half ended without score with neither side able to capitalise on several scoring chances.

In the second-half the Aussies came out fighting with strikers Alistair Edwards and Gregory Brown spear heading the attack.

Edwards was unlucky not to score early when a shot hit the post, but he made up for it 18 minutes into the half with a

neat goal.

Midfielder Ian Gray scored the second goal for Australia with a powerful shot right in front of the net just eight minutes later.

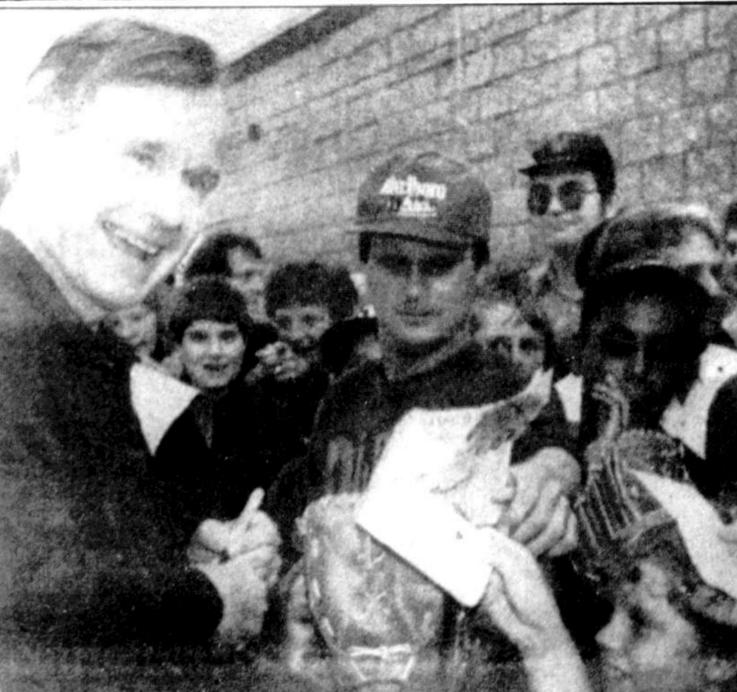
Indonesia, who needed to win for a chance at the final, kept up the pressure but could not breach a strong Australian defence.

The host's fate was sealed with just five minutes of regulation time left when goalkeeper Eddy Harto, kicked Brown during a scuffle outside the Indonesian net, leading to a penalty which captain Paul Wade slotted away.

In the other game, the Koreans having won all their three earlier games and the Malaysians with two wins and a draw, neither side was concerned about victory and played it safe.

In a lacklustre game the only goal came in the first-half when Korean reserve Choi Sung-Soo headed in a high ball.

Both Malaysian captain Zainal Abidin and Korean Kim Dae-Ui had golden opportunities to score but neither had the finishing touch.



US President George Bush (L) signs autographs for fans at a Frederick Keys baseball game he was attending in Washington Friday. The Keys are the Baltimore Orioles' farm team.

—AFP photo