

Div II soccer league from tomorrow

Sports Reporter
The long-awaited Second Division football league, under the aegis of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), will finally begin tomorrow at the Dhaka Stadium with Prantik Krira Chakra playing Rayerbazar AC at 4:30 pm and the Muslim Institute taking on Shantinagar Club in the two matches scheduled for the opening day.

The league, originally scheduled on August 14 start, was deferred till August 21. But the dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the opposition parties on Thursday last and other problems regarding the venue compelled DMFA to shift the date yet again.

Sixteen teams - split into two groups - will take part in the meet. Prantik Krira Chakra, Muslim Institute, Chalantika Krira Chakra, Lalbag Sporting Club, City Club, Azad Sporting Club, Shantinagar Club and Rayerbazar Club have been placed in Group A.

East End Club, Dhaka WASA football team, Jurain Janata Club, Bangladesh Boys Club, Malibag Abhijatrik, East Bengal SC and new-comers Mahakkhal XI and BG Press S&RC have been clustered in Group B. The top four teams from each group will play in the super league with the champions and runners-up moving into the prestigious First Division league next season.

However, the league programme will remain suspended on August 26 because of the inaugural ceremony of the eight-team finals of the Ma-o-Moni Gold Cup national under-14 competition. The league programme will resume from August 27 at the Dhaka Stadium with East End Club facing BG Press at 3:00 pm and Dhaka WASA clashing with Mahakkhal XI in the Group B fixtures.

The Ma-o-Moni meet is likely to be conducted at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium, thereby leaving room for the Second Division football league. Two matches will be played daily at 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm respectively. Each match will be of 75-minute duration including a five-minute breather. The fixtures will be shifted bodily in case a match is postponed or called off due to 'unavoidable circumstances'. However, the fixture chalked out by the tournament committee and circulated yesterday is not complete.

Qualifying competition for '94 World Cup Bangladesh in Group Six

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh have been placed in Group F along with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), one of the two Asian representatives in the 1990 World Cup. Japan, Thailand, and Sri Lanka to try their luck for a berth in the next World Cup in the USA as one of the two Asian qualifiers.

Although one should not be too pessimistic to say that Bangladesh's chance to sneak in to the finals of World Cup 1994 is begotten by despair upon impossibility yet past records murmur that hope will be no doubt the hope for the wrong thing. The first round of the double-leg qualifying competition will begin in Tokyo, Japan on April 8 next year. Placed in the last of the six groups of the qualifiers, Bangladesh will play their first match against hosts Japan on April 11.

Bangladesh will take on minnows Sri Lanka on April 13. The UAE will be the third opponents for Bangladesh on April 15 while the last match of the first round will be played between Bangladesh and Thailand on April 18. The second round of the Group F matches will begin April 28 in the UAE. Japan will again be Bangladesh's opposition on April 30. Bangladesh will meet hosts UAE on May 3. Two days later Bangladesh will take on Thailand while their last match will be against Sri Lanka on May 7.

The United Arab Emirates will clearly start as the favourites given the exposure they received in the last World Cup in Italy doing a world of good for their confidence. Although their performance at the highest level of competition was not encouraging yet the tough UAE players will enjoy an edge over the other bidders among whom Japan are likely to stake the strongest claim. Of late Japan have asserted their position in Asia as a fast developing footballing nation. Former England international and one of the top names of the game Gary Lineker recently signed for Japanese club Grampus 8. Although Lineker's decision to seek a career in the Japanese league for a huge remuneration has apparently got nothing to do with the standard of the Japanese national football team the generic booster it gave to football in that country can hardly be overlooked. And, of course, one should not forget the laudatory words the best player of 1986 World Cup had for the standard of Japanese football.

Once rated to be at par with Bangladesh in soccer strength, Thailand took the sports lovers by storm a couple of months back when they defeated two-time Asian representatives in the World Cup - 1986 in Mexico and 1990 in Italy - South Korea in the qualifying meet for the Asian Cup. Needless to say that Bangladesh will find them extremely difficult to handle in neutral grounds. With the chances of making it to the final round of the

greatest soccer competition theoretically ruled out the silver lining in the cloud regarding Bangladesh's participation in the qualifying round is their prospects against unfancied Sri Lanka. Bangladesh can leave for Tokyo next year harbouring pleasant hopes of carving out wins against Sri Lanka but who knows what awaits them in the far away land in the distant future. Following is the fixture of the two rounds of the Group F qualifying meet.

Table with 2 columns: Round (First Round in Japan, Second Round in UAE) and Match details (Date, Home Team, Away Team).

Discussion meeting on 'Olympics and Bangladesh'

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) will arrange a discussion meeting on the topic 'Olympics and Bangladesh' at the National Sports Council conference room on August 27 at 4 pm, says a BSWA press release. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will be present at the meeting as chief guest. Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Bashir Ahmed, the president and the secretary general of the Bangladesh Olympic Association respectively are also expected.

Bayern Munich on winning streak

BONN, Aug 23: Bayern Munich beat Kaiserslautern 1-0 on Saturday and upheld the only 100 per cent record in the German soccer First Division after just two matches, reports Reuter. Bruno Labbadia netted the 20th minute goal which took Bayern clear at the top as the fortunes of the great Munich club looked brighter after their disastrous last season when they went through three trainers and finished a dismal 10th in the Bundesliga. "We saw a very good First Division match in the first half, controlled by my team", Bayern trainer Erich Ribbeck said after the home win. "In the second half we never regained that certainty and came under heavy pressure." Fritz Walter, top Bundesliga marksman last season, scored twice to lead defending champions VfB Stuttgart to a 3-0 home win over Nuremberg. Stuttgart, held to a 1-1 draw by Hamburg in their opening match, slotted into second place behind Bayern. Walter struck his first goal in the seventh minute and added the second 11 minute later against a weak Nuremberg side. Swiss international Adrian Knip made it 3-0 10 minutes from the end. "Our game just muddled along after the first half", Stuttgart trainer Christoph Daum said. Eric Wynalda, newly signed US international scored in the 38th and 75th minutes to give Saarbruecken a 2-0 home win over Karlsruhe and hoist the little club into third place.

Colombian, Uruguay qualify for final round

MEDELLIN, Colombia, Aug 23: Chile beat Peru 2-0 and Colombia and Uruguay played to a scoreless draw in the final Group A matches of the South American under-20 soccer championship on Saturday, reports Reuter. Colombia and Uruguay both qualified for the final round, which will be played next week. Brazil has already qualified from Group B and the final qualifier will be decided today. The top three teams in the tournament, which lasts until August 30, will qualify for the world under-20 soccer championship to be held in Australia in March, 1993. Final Group A standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points): Colombia 3 2 1 0 4 1 5, Uruguay 3 2 1 0 4 1 5, Chile 3 1 0 2 2 2 2, Peru 3 0 0 3 2 8 0.

Sanchez set to give Seles a hard time

MONTREAL, Aug 23: Top seed Monica Seles and second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario fulfilled expectations on Saturday as they posted straight set victories to advance to the final round meeting at the 550,000 dollar Canadian Open women's tennis championships, reports Reuter. World number one Seles reached her 26th final in her last 27 tournaments over the last two years with a 6-3, 6-4 win over eighth-seeded American Lori McNeil. Fifth-ranked Sanchez completed her march to the final without the loss of a set by bouncing seventh seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 7-5. Today, the Spaniard will attempt to avenge last week's semifinal loss to Seles in Los Angeles. "Last week I made 43 unforced errors," said Sanchez, who has failed in 10 attempts to beat Seles. "I was tired from the Olympics not physically, but mentally. I was not fresh. I feel much better now." Seles never looked in trouble despite an admitted mental let-down in the second set. "I definitely went away a little bit," Seles said of a 5-2 lead that shrank to 5-4 before she served out the match. "The whole week I haven't been playing well," Seles said.



BTMC lifter Sheikh Nazimuddin makes a successful lift on his way to setting up two nat'l records on the opening day of the 17th national championships at the NSC gymnasium yesterday.

5 nat'l records on the opening day

Sports Reporter
In the first of the day's three finals. And true to form, Nizam who is now a coach, lifted 120 kgs with his jerk, a good ten kilograms more than the previous mark of 110 kgs set by Faruq Sarkar Kajal in 1986. Nizam managed only 90 kgs in the snatch to give him a total of 210 kgs, which is 7.5 kgs more than the existing mark. However, Faruq Sarkar still holds the national record for the snatch in this weight category with a lift of 92.5 kgs. Md. Abu Hannan of Ansars took the silver with a total of 195 kgs (87.5 + 107.5) while Md. Faruq Hossain of Dhaka City Corporation took the bronze with a total of 165.5 kgs. The day's last event saw Habibur Rahman of Bangladesh Army claiming the gold medal in the 60-kg category with a total of 208 kgs. He lifted 93 kg in the snatch and 115 kg in the jerk. The silver went to teammate Babur Rahman who totalled 201 kgs while Harunur

Div III soccer Sports Reporter

Matuall Juba Sangha beat Aminbazar Krira Sangha by two goals to nil in one of the three matches of the 1992 Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday. Shafiqul Alam Tito put Matuall ahead in the very fifth minute of play while Mizanur Rahman completed the tally for the winners in the 16th minute of the second session. Bazhur Rahman and Gopal Chandra Das of Matuall and Mujibur Rahman of Aminbazar were shown the yellow cards. East End Boys Club shared points with Maghbazar Kishalaya Sangha in a goalless draw at the same venue. Alam and Zahidur Rahman Jewel of East End were booked for rough play. The result of the other match of the day between Little Friends' Club and Diluasha Sporting Club at the Mahakkhal T & T ground was not available.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Rahmatganj SC vs Lalmitia Club (3 pm : Outer Stadium)
Dhaka SC vs Maghbazar KC (4:30 pm : Outer Stadium)
Purbachal vs Gandaria Famous (4 pm : T & T Ground)

OK Sports soccer Sports Reporter
Liton Smriti Sangsad made their way into the final beating Jagrota Sangsad 5-4 in the tie-breakers in the first semifinal of the OK Sports soccer tournament played at the Tongi Poura ground yesterday.

BHF breaches its own rules

Sports Reporter
The advent of democracy seems to have triggered off lawlessness throughout the country, a hypothesis that assumed the proportion of a fact yesterday following an arbitrary, high-handed decision by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation officials regarding the fate of the first semi-final match of the twelfth national youth under-18 hockey championships.

players to take part was a flagrant violation of the statutes. Yesterday's crisis deepened when Jessore justifiably protested against the participation of the two players with one of them - Ehtesham - reportedly being 23 years of age. A meeting of the league committee upheld the earlier BHF decision of allowing the two players to take part in the competition. According to the latest development, the put-off match will now be held today at 2 pm at the Hockey Stadium. The second semifinal, between Rajshahi and Faridpur, will be held as per the schedule at 4 pm today at the same venue.

Middlesbrough put four past Leeds

LONDON, Aug 23: Newly-promoted Middlesbrough crushed Leeds United 4-1, inflicting the first defeat of the season on the champions, while Coventry beat Wimbledon to move clear at the top of the English Premier League on Saturday, reports Reuter. Oldham joined in the goal spree, threatening Nottingham Forest 5-3, but Manchester United picked up their first point of the season with a struggling 1-1 draw at home to Ipswich. Kenny Daiglish's millionaire new boys Blackburn continued their fine start with a 1-0 victory at home over Manchester City thanks to a 69th minute goal from Mike Newell. Norwich lost their 100 per cent record, held 1-1 at home by Everton, leaving Coventry - who struggled to avoid relegation last season - as the only side with three wins from

three games after they won 2-1 at Wimbledon. Leeds, who snatched the title from Manchester United in the final stages of last season, were rocked by two goals in the eighth and ninth minutes from Paul Wilkinson, courtesy of crosses from Tommy Wright who also scored in the 47th. John Hendrie put Middlesbrough 4-0 up in the 59th minute before French international striker Eric Cantona scored a consolation goal 10 minutes later. Coventry, revitalised by new manager Bobby Guld, who guided Wimbledon to FA Cup glory in 1988, took the lead after just 13 minutes through Mickey Gynn. They made it 2-0 when Robert Rosario fired through goalkeeper Hans Segers's legs 20 seconds after half time. Norwich, who formed an unlikely front running duo with Coventry, remained second on goal difference after coming back from conceding a 55th minute goal to Everton's Peter

Matthaeus to rejoin Bayern Munich

FRANKFURT, Aug 23: Lothar Matthaeus, captain of Germany's World Cup championship soccer team, will return to the FC Bayern Munich of the German Bundesliga, the club's vice-president Franz Beckenbauer said on Saturday, reports Reuter. Because of the knee injury, Matthaeus did not play in the European Championship in June, where Germany was upset in the final by Denmark. Matthaeus, who took much of the blame for Inter Milan's failure to qualify for European

Sampras takes on Courier to retain title

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Aug 23: Defending champion Pete Sampras clawed his way to a three-set victory over Boris Becker and Jim Courier struggled past a pesky Todd Martin on Saturday as the top seeds set up a final round showdown at the US Hardcourt Tennis Championships, reports Reuter. Second seed Sampras rallied for a dramatic 6-7, 6-2, 7-6 win over third seed Becker as he continued to play himself into top form ahead of the US Open, which begins in nine days. Sampras, US Open winner in 1990, will be going for back-to-back titles today after his victory at the ATP Championships in Ohio last week. World number one Courier needed over two and a half hours and two tiebreaks to down the 125th-ranked Martin and reach his first final since winning the French Open. "We practice a lot together and he's always tough. It's just a few points here and there," said Courier, who took the tiebreaks 7-5 and 7-4 to keep Martin from his first final. "Today it went my way," Courier said. "Tiebreakers are really a roll of the dice." Sampras and Becker battled fiercely for two hours and 28 minutes in a rematch of last year's final here. "This was a match that could have gone the other way," acknowledged Sampras. Becker controlled the first set with an effective serve even though Sampras managed to take it to a tiebreak. "I had maybe too much respect for him," Sampras said of the first set. "Boris is so powerful off the ground I was trying to go for too much." The American thoroughly dominated the second set to level the match. But in the third, high quality tennis was on display on both sides of the net.



A thrilling moment of yesterday's Third Division football league match between East End Club and Maghbazar Kishalaya Sangha at the Outer Stadium. The match ended in a goalless draw.

Beardsly with a 69th minute strike from Ruel Fox. Manchester United faced a third successive defeat when they went behind to Chris Kiwomya's 56th minute goal but full back Denis Irwin scored two minutes later. Queen's Park Rangers moved into place with a 3-2 victory over Sheffield United earned seven minutes from time by Dennis Bailey's winner. Sheffield strikes led the Premier League's goal-scoring chart with United's Brian Deane grabbing his fourth of the season against Rangers and Wednesday's David Hirst hitting two for the second time in two games. Wednesday, third in the league last season, drew 3-3 with Chelsea after throwing away a 2-0 halftime lead and needing an 81st minute strike from Danny Wilson to claim a point. Vinny Jones, Graham Stuart and Edward Newton had put Chelsea ahead after the break in a 15-minute burst. Gordon Durie scored Tottenham's first goal of the season while goalkeeper Eric Thorstvedt saved his second penalty in four days, but Spurs needed a last-minute goal from Steve Sedgley to earn a point in a 2-2 draw with Crystal Palace. Tottenham's new captain Neil Ruddock and Palace's Andy Thorn were sent off after 68 minutes for fighting. Arsenal, with no points and joint bottom of the league with Wimbledon, visit Liverpool on Sunday. Olham stunned Nottingham Forest with three goals in the final 14 minutes of the first half from Neil Adams, Graeme Sharp and Nick Henry and stroke to a 5-0 lead with two more from gunner Halle and Paul Bernard by the 59th. Forest finally responded with three goals in the last 24 minutes, two from substitute Gary Bannister and a penalty by England defender Stuart Pearce. Aberdeen went top of the Scottish Premier League on goal difference with a 2-1 home victory over Dundee as Celtic battled to a 1-1 draw at Glasgow rivals Rangers. Striker Duncan Shearer scored Aberdeen's equaliser and Finland's Mixu Paatelainen hit the winner.