

Cricket transfers from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), it seems, will stick to its guns regarding the deadline about the inter-club transfer of cricket players and the three-player quota from the newly introduced pool system.

The speculated firmness of the BCCB will leave Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DPCPA) with only two choices — either to get along by shelving up their defiant attitude or to announce programmes to somewhat force BCCB to listen to their suggestions, now rather worn out by repeated references.

DPCPA, who in a press conference held a few days back reiterated their demand for some changes about raising the per club quota of pool players to four from the original three and also to defer the pool system until next year, will meet today to make their position clear in view of the unperturbed attitude of the BCCB.

According to a BCCB announcement, the transfers for cricket players begin tomorrow and will continue until September 22.

The problem centering round the local cricket circuit developed this year when the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board announced a 22-player pool comprising players who have been representing the country over the last two years.

The DPCPA, a welfare association for cricket players, wants this term to be reduced to just one year and more importantly the quota of three pool players per team to be raised to four.

Gregs, Angles win

Sports Reporter

The Gregs Club and Angles Club won their respective Partex First Division basketball league encounters by convincing margin at the Outer stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The Gregs boys started the first match for the day very confidently dancing away to a 29-point first half lead.

In the second half, however, the Back Stroke cagers put up a better performance and scored 46 points against the winners' 51.

The final score was 108-75 in the Gregs Club favour. Shahed (22), Faisal (20), Apu (18) and Khaled (18) were the main scorers for the victors while Babu and Lincoln also found scoring easy with 27 and 22 respectively for the vanquished.

The second match of the day was also a one-sided affair with Angles Club marching away with a 97-63 victory over Dhumketu Club.

Led by a three-way attack of Dulal, Siddique and Sabir the winners took a 49-32 lead when the first session ended.

Dulal, Siddique and Khaled caged in 26, 19 and 16 points respectively.

For the losers, Shahin re-torted with 29.

Following in the points table after yesterday's outings:

POINTS TABLE				
Group A	M	W	L	P
Angles Club	4	4	0	8
Panthers SC	4	3	1	7
Dhumketu Club	4	2	2	6
Josephite SC	3	0	3	3
Hornets SC	2	0	2	2
Wanderers Club	1	0	1	1
Group B	M	W	L	P
Azad Boys	3	3	0	6
Winners SC	3	2	1	5
The Gregs	3	2	1	5
Eagles Club	4	1	3	5
Backstroke	3	0	3	3

TODAY'S MATCHES

Panthers SC vs Hornets SC 4 pm.
Dhaka Wanderers vs Josephite Club 5:30 pm.

Mohun Bagan finish unbeaten

CALCUTTA, Sept 16: Newly crowned league champions, Mohun Bagan, concluded their Super Division league engagements with a solitary goal victory over a spirited Eastern railway at their home ground today, reports PTI.

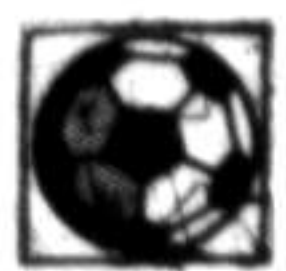
Crafty striker, Krishanu Dey scored the all important goal in the 28th minute of the match with a solo effort from the left flank.

With this victory, Mohun Bagan who had already emerged the league champions, completed their engagements with 48 points from 18 matches and remained the only unbeaten team in the tournament. They had drawn only three matches.

Their nearest rivals, Mohammedan Sporting are more than 10 points behind them.

Bagan supporters celebrated their club's victory with firecrackers and by setting off gas balloons with the club's colours. Later, the club's general secretary, Swapan Sadhan Bose announced cash incentives of Rs 2,500 for 13 players.

Maradona attends practice



SEVILLE, Spain, Sept 16: Diego Maradona practised Tuesday with the Sevilla soccer club and team officials said they expected his transfer from Napoli to occur in the next few days, reports AP.

Maradona, who has not played since March 1991, scrimmaged for 50 minutes with regulars from the Sevilla club, which is part of Spain's 20-team first Division. He scored an unspectacular goal early in the session, but it seemed the Sevilla players were reluctant to put much pressure on the aging superstar.

Dressed in Sevilla's red and blue colours, the 31-year-old Argentine told reporters, "I'm happy, but I want to be free of this nightmare."

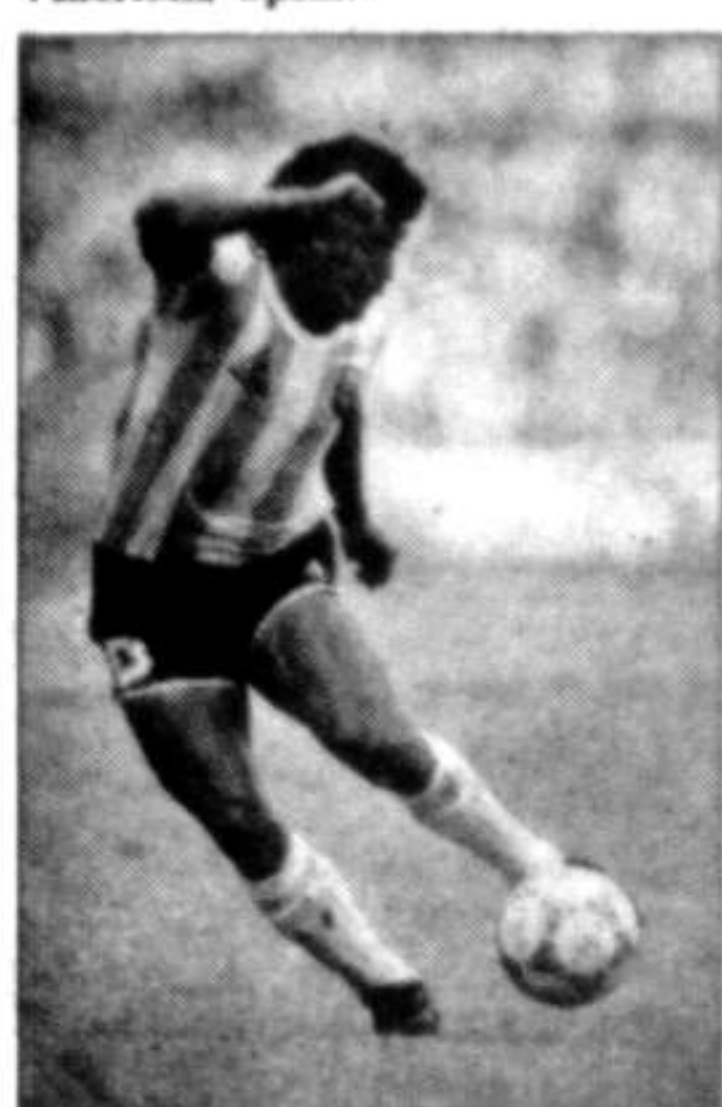
Maradona, who completed a 15-month drug suspension in June, arrived here Sunday with his wife, Claudia, and two daughters. He has refused to report to the Italian League for the final season of his contract with Napoli.

Maradona's agent Marcos Franchi said he was certain "Maradona will play for Sevilla." He also said he hoped a meeting would be held in the next several days between officials of Sevilla, Napoli and FIFA, soccer's world body.

Maradona hoped for a meeting as early as Thursday to get "a definitive decision for better

or for worse."

A meeting between the parties that was reportedly set for Tuesday was not held, apparently at the request of Napoli because of their Wednesday UEFA Cup match at Valencia, Spain.



MARADONA ... getting impatient

"We are now waiting for a meeting to be scheduled between the two club presidents and FIFA officials," Franchi said. "I hope in one meeting a decision can be made so that Diego can continue with his professional life." Sevilla club President Luis Cuervas blamed Napoli for holding the deal up.

Sevilla coach Carlos Bilardo, a friend of Maradona and the former Argentine national

team coach, said the end was in sight.

"This long soap opera won't last much longer, four or five days at the most," he said.

Sevilla is reported to be offering \$9 million to Napoli. Maradona has threatened several times to retire from soccer — hoping to speed up the transfer process — but he has not kept any of the deadlines he has set.

Maradona was suspended on April 6, 1991, after testing positive for cocaine following Napoli's March 17 game against Bari. He was arrested in Buenos Aires that April 26 for possession of illegal narcotics; he is free on probation and under treatment by court order.

Argentine Federal Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal authorized Maradona's trip to Spain on condition that he return on Oct. 10 for routine control of his treatment.

Maradona, who played for Boca Juniors in Argentina and Barcelona in Spain before his transfer to Napoli for the 1984-85 season, scored 115 goals in 259 Italian League and Italian Cup games. He led the team to the Italian Cup in 1987, the UEFA Cup in 1989 and Italian League titles in 1987 and 1990 — the only ones in Napoli's history.

He played for Argentina in the last three World Cups and was their captain when they won in 1986 and finished second to West Germany in 1990.

Sevilla bid \$ 4.5m for Maradona



SEVILLE, Spain, Sept 16: The Sevilla soccer club has offered the Italian team Napoli \$4.5 million to give up their rights to Argentine superstar Diego Maradona, a Sevilla official said Wednesday, reports AP.

The bid, sent to Napoli by fax Tuesday, was Sevilla's "only official offer," despite previous reports of a \$9 million proposal, according to manager Manuel Vizcaino.

"All the rest was speculation," he said, adding that there was no response yet from the Italian club.

If Napoli agree to the transfer, Sevilla will reportedly pay Maradona \$3 million for a one-year contract with an option to renew.

Maradona, who in June completed a 15-month suspension for cocaine use, arrived in Spain this weekend with his wife Claudia and their two daughters. He has refused to report to the Italian League for the final season of his contract with Napoli.

Sevilla president Luis Cuervas said earlier this week that he hoped a meeting between the two clubs and FIFA, the world governing body of soccer, would take place Thursday, after Napoli's UEFA Cup match in Valencia, Spain.

A meeting that had been expected to take place in Zurich on Tuesday was put off, but new reports said that FIFA had designated Italian Soccer Federation president Antonio Matarrese as mediator in the case.

Maradona, at a practice session with Sevilla Tuesday, said he hoped a meeting could be arranged quickly to reach "a definitive decision for better or for worse." His agent, Marcos Franchi, said he was certain that Maradona will play for Sevilla.

"I hope in one meeting a decision can be made so that Diego can continue with his professional life," Franchi

BSF face East Bengal in Bordoloi final

GUWAHATI, Sept 16: BSF, Jullundur, entered the final of the Bordoloi Trophy soccer tournament beating Royal Nepal Airlines by a solitary goal in the second semifinal at the Nehru Stadium here today, reports PTI.

Striker Gauranga Pal scored the all important goal in the 35th minute of the second half.

The BSF players, fresh from their triumph in the Independence Day Cup football tournament in Nagaoon recently, played aggressive soccer and enjoyed territorial advantage for most part of the game.

The Royal Nepal Airlines, on the other hand, lacked cohesion and although having some opportunities to score failed due to poor finishing.

BSF will now take on East Bengal in the final on Friday.

Cricket camp

The cricket coaching programme of Victoria Sporting Club, one of the two newcomers of the Premier league, will begin soon, says a press release.

Players, who played for the club in the Milnars First Division league last year, have been asked to report to the coach Mosthuddin Ahmed Montu tomorrow at 12 pm at the club premises.

added.

One news report said Maradona would return to Argentina Friday if an accord were not reached, although another said he would stay in Spain until the matter is concluded.

The soccer star has threatened several times to retire from the game — apparently hoping to speed the transfer process along — but he has not kept any of the previous deadlines he has set.

He was expected to train with Sevilla again on Wednesday evening, Vizcaino said.

Maradona was suspended on April 6, 1991, after testing positive for cocaine following Napoli's March 17 game against Bari. He was arrested in Buenos Aires that April 26 for possession of illegal narcotics. He is free on probation and under treatment by court order.

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He played for Argentina in the last three World Cups and was its captain when it won in 1986 and finished second to West Germany in 1990.



An exciting moment from yesterday's Partex First Division basketball league encounter between The Gregs Club and Backstroke Boys Club at the wooden-floor gym yesterday. Gregs won 108-75.

—Star photo



Players fighting for possession in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league match between WASA and BG Press at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The match ended in a two-all draw.

—Star photo

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Government Press shared points with Dhaka WASA in a two-all draw in one of the two matches of the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka WASA led 2-0 at the breather.

Adnan Baten put WASA ahead in the very fifth minute of play (1-0) while Abdul Ahad made it 2-0 in the 17th minute.

Ashgar Khan reduced the margin for BG Press in the 20th minute of the second half (1-2). He restored parity in the 25th minute (2-2).

The other match between East End Club and Jurain Janata Club ended in a scoreless draw.

Zamir Ahmad and Ali Akbar of Janata Club were cautioned with the yellow cards.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Prantik KC vs Chalanika KC (3pm: Dhaka Stadium)
Muslim Institute vs Rayerbazar AC (4:30 pm: Dhaka Stadium)

Broad rejoins Gloucester

LONDON, Sept 16: Former England opener Chris Broad, who was released by his county side Nottinghamshire last month, has rejoined Gloucestershire on a three-year contract, reports Reuters.

Broad, who joined Notts in 1984 and played the first of his 25 Tests the same year, still harbours international ambitions after the lifting his ban for touring South Africa with a rebel side.

He said on Tuesday: "I didn't think I'd have a chance of going to India but I want to play against Australia next year and tour the West Indies."

"I'd certainly love to play for England again."

Derby County pay £ 2.5m for Short

LONDON, Sept 16: Derby County equalled the British transfer record for a defender on Wednesday by signing Craig Short from Notts County for 2.5 million pounds (4.7 million), reports Reuters.

The fee, a club record, is the same as Manchester City paid Wimbledon for Keith Curle 13 months ago.

Derby manager Arthur Cox has long been an admirer of 24-year-old Short who opted to join Derby, bottom of the First Division, rather than Premier League pacesetters Blackburn Rovers.

Solidarity course ends today

Sports Reporter

The second-five-day Olympic solidarity sports leadership course under WK Low of Hong Kong ends today.

The certificate awarding ceremony will be held at 7 pm at the National Sports Council conference room with Minister for Local Government, Rural Development Abdus Salam Talukder attending the occasion as the chief guest.

Forty persons are taking part in the course which began on September 13.

The first course was held from September 6 to 10 in Chittagong.

AIK Stockholm held to a draw

STOCKHOLM, Sept 16: AIK Stockholm of Sweden were held to a 3-3 draw by Aarhus AGF of Denmark in their European Cup Winners' Cup first round, first leg match here on Tuesday.

AIK Stockholm, Sweden, 3 (Simpson 51, Hallstrom 56, Jevtusjenko 85) AGF Aarhus, Denmark, 3 (Tofting 15, Christensen 35, 54).

Lamb ends season with a stylish ton



LONDON, Sept 16: England batsman Allan Lamb ended a controversial season in style on Tuesday with a superb century to secure third place in the County Championship for Northamptonshire, reports AFP.

He forgot his forthcoming disciplinary hearing over his ball-doctoring claims against Pakistan to crack an unbeaten 122 and steer Northants to a six-wicket win over Leicestershire at Leicester.

Lamb's sixth ton of the season enabled Northants to reach their target of 290 with 19 balls to spare.

Kent had earlier secured second spot by crushing Warwickshire by an innings and 143 runs at Edgbaston.

The home side, 120 for five overnight, put up only token resistance as spinners Richard Davis and Carl Hooper, the West Indies Test all-rounder, bowled them out for 171.

Spin did the trick for Sussex as well, Ian Salisbury again proving a point to the England selectors, by returning career-best match figures of 12 for 138 to sink Yorkshire by six wickets at Hove.

The leg-spinner, relegated to the England A team, took five for 84 as Yorkshire were bowled out for 259 in their second innings, leaving Sussex needing only 60 to win.

To complete a fine day for spinners, Robert Croft captured six wickets in 45 balls to

ensure the pacemen had their say as well. The England all-rounder recorded a season's best six for 94 as Durham were dismissed for 271 at Gateshead fell.

The left Lancashire requiring only 22 for victory and they achieved that without losing a wicket to condemn Durham to bottom place in their debut season as a first-class county.

The champions, Essex, were also beaten, the 99th century of Graham Gooch's career being insufficient to save them against Gloucestershire at Bristol.

Gooch battled for four hours for his 101 of Essex's 383, but the home side, with Richard Scott and Mark Alleyne both making 73, achieved their victory target of 185 with three wickets down.

Steve Rhodes' superb 107 off just 133 balls for Worcestershire against Hampshire at Southampton was in vain as well, Worcestershire finishing on 254 for seven, 11 runs short of success.

Surrey, set 333 to beat Middlesex at the Oval, came even closer, ending just eight runs away on 325 for nine. Darren Bicknell (87) and England vice-captain Alec Stewart (52) having led the charge.

Lancashire's Phil DeFreitas

ALLAN LAMB

fire Glamorgan to a 63-run victory over Derbyshire at Cardiff, while Somerset's Harvey Truitt hustled out the Nottinghamshire tail with four for seven in 14 deliveries to set up a mammoth innings and 16-run win at Taunton.

Chapman phobia engulfs Stuttgart



LONDON, Sept 16: German champions VfB Stuttgart, handed the toughest draw of the seeded teams in the European Cup, rate Leeds striker Lee Chapman as the biggest threat to reaching the second round, reports Reuters.

The German's coach Christoph Daum expects Leeds, returning to European competition for the first time in 13 years, to base most of their attacks around their strong centre-forward.

"The danger for us is Leeds' ability from setpieces and if there's one player who can give us a big headache it will be Lee Chapman," he said ahead of Wednesday's first round tie in Germany.

He is the sort of striker that players are not used to facing. I don't think we have anybody who can guarantee to deal with him."

Chapman, Leeds' 20-goal leading scorer last season who has hit four this season, said: "The traditional English centre-forward is not a continental type of player so obviously I hope I might prosper in the circumstances."

In a tie in which not just national pride, but potentially vast amounts of money are at stake, Stuttgart's confidence has not been helped by losing to 1975 European Cup finalists Leeds in a pre-season tournament and last weekend's German Cup defeat to Second Division Hansa Rostock.

John Cruyff, who has told his Barcelona players to live up to their mantle of European champions, has dropped Bulgarian international Khristo Stoichkov for their home tie against Norwegians Viking Stavanger.

"We're the European champions and we have to show that match by match," he said.

"(Stavanger) only lack experience, but they're the kind of team that can cause you problems if you don't watch out."

"It's the kind of match that always worries me. There won't be a big crowd and there's the temptation not to concentrate too much. I want my players to give everything."

But Cruyff was not too worried to leave out Stoichkov, scorer in Bulgaria's 2-0 World Cup qualifying victory over France last week.

The problem stems from last Saturday's match, Cruyff said.

"He didn't work very hard. So is this a warning or a punishment? That depends on what he does next Saturday."

Real Madrid take a below-strength side to Romania for their UEFA Cup tie against Politehnica Timisoara with key

striker Emilio Butragueno among seven players left behind.

Butragueno had an ankle injury for two weeks and is not yet fully match fit, Fernando Hierro is serving a one-match suspension, Nando has a back injury and Croatia Robert Prosinecki, out of action for most of last season with a knee injury, was kicked in last weekend's match and will be resting.

First-choice goalkeeper Paco Buyo, striker Francisco Llorente and defender Juan Jose Maqueda are also absent.

English midfielder David Platt is expected to play his first game for Juventus this season in their home UEFA Cup tie against Cypriot side Anorthosis Famagusta.

Platt, who has made way for German Andreas Moeller in Juventus's opening two league games, will probably replace one of the two foreign central defenders, German Juergen Kohler or Brazilian Julio Cesar.

Graeme Souness, manager of four-time European champions Liverpool, has demanded greater commitment from the club's experienced players.

"We've got international players here who are not helping the younger ones. When the going gets tough it appears it's the younger players who want to stand up and be counted."

"It's always been the case here of the experienced players pulling the younger lads through and that's not happening now," he said.

Liverpool, struggling in the lower reaches of the English Premier League, play Apollon Limassol of Cyprus in the Cup Winners' Cup, and Souness is anxious to avoid an upset result.

"They'll look at us and say we're not the Liverpool of old and come here thinking they've got half a chance."

"This club has never been guilty of underestimating anybody and I hope we're not about to start," said Souness.

Manchester United have turned to the team which won the English Youth Cup to help solve their European crisis.

Badly hit by the UEFA ruling that restricts the number of foreign players a team may field, United will include at least three of the youth team on the substitute's bench for their UEFA Cup tie against Moscow Torpedo at Old Trafford.