

League format for Damal Summer cricket

Sports Reporter

Unlike previous years, the first round of this year's Damal Summer cricket competition — the traditional curtain-raiser of Dhaka Cricket — which begins on October 9 will be conducted on a league basis.

Participating teams will be divided into six groups with the six top-seeded teams of the Navana Premier league leading each pool.

The six teams are Abahani Krira Chakra, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Gulshan Youth and the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club — the four semi-finalists last year — and Bangladesh Biman and Brothers Union.

The last two teams have been selected on the basis of their performances in last year's Premier Division.

The six group champions — split into two groups — will play in the next round with the top two teams qualifying for the semifinals.

Abahani and Mohammedans finished as champions and runners-up in the last Damal Summer tournament when it was held on a knockout basis.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, the organisers of the meet, have extended the entry date till October 1 from tomorrow.

Twelve teams had confirmed their participation till last evening.

BCCB does it yet again

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has once again postponed the final match of last season's Second Division cricket league between Evergreen Club and Dhanmondi Pragati Sangha, again due to 'unavoidable reasons'.

The BCCB earlier on Sunday scheduled the carried over match for October 5, after a series of postponements. The revised date will be announced soon.

The finalists have been kept waiting for the showdown, which is only of academic interest as both teams have earned the right to play in this year's Milnars First Division league.

Players' performance praised

"Bangladesh players gave a good account of themselves despite the improvement in the standard of the other hockey playing nations of Asia," was the gist of the addresses made by the officials who accompanied the youth hockey team in the recently concluded qualifying meet in Kuala Lumpur to decide the three Asian representatives in next year's World Junior Championship.

Yesterday, at a press conference at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), team coach Ehtesham Sultan praised his boys for their gallant show against their more experienced opponents. Although the competition was for players from the under-21 years age group most of the other teams had enough exposure prior to this tournament. Hosts Malaysia played as many as 40 trial matches to help their players grow the much-needed match temperament.

Bangladesh team manager Ibrahim Saber, himself a quality hockey player and a champion all round sportsman of

Faridpur hockey team feted

FARIDPUR, Sept 22: The 1992 national youth hockey champions Faridpur team was accorded a warm reception recently by the Faridpur Cricket Players' Association at the local stadium, reports BSS.

Speakers at the reception congratulated the team members, officials and coaches for their achievement.

Faridpur won the championship defeating Dhaka in the final match played on August 26 at the National Hockey Stadium, Dhaka.

Speakers also stressed the need for more vigorous training and practice for future success.

The Faridpur youth hockey team also became national champion in 1987 and the senior team won the national championship in 1977.

Police Super Md Haidusiddin attended the function as chief guest. It was presided over by Cricket Players' Association president Aminur Rahman Farid.

The function was addressed, among others, by Faridpur District Sports Association general secretary Prof Md Fakuzzaman, joint secretary Prof Md Shahjahan, hockey committee secretary Prof Md Azizul Hoque Khan.

PM opens nat'l women's swimming today

Sports Reporter

In a country where national championships of various sporting events are being regularly deferred for both known and unknown reasons, the semblance of regularity shown by the authorities in launching the women's national swimming championships at about the same time it was held last year comes as a pleasant surprise.



MAHMUDA SHARIF ... four golds in 1991

The four-day meet organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation (BSWF) gets underway today at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex (DWSC).

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will formally inaugurate the meet at four this afternoon.

According to a BSWF press release, 81 participants from 11 district sports associations will take part in this year's competition.

Should the office and service teams like last year's winners Bangladesh Ansars and BTMC not take part (according to the BSWF press release), the glitter and glamour of the female natants will be considerably reduced. Ansars finished top by claiming 47 of the total 111 medals that were at stake last year, 14 of them being of the glittering kind.

self as the best individual performer with a haul of four gold medals.

With the quadrennial Bangladesh Games just round the corner and the sixth SAF Games scheduled to be held in Dhaka in December next year, the current national championships should serve as a prelude for the hectic preparations for the forthcoming sporting meets of greater importance.

LAST YEAR'S TABLE

The final medal table of last year's national women's championships:

	G	S	B	T
B. Ansars	14	18	15	47
BTMC	12	7	6	25
Rajbari DSA	8	7	6	21
Bandarban	2	1	0	3
Munshiganj	1	2	2	5
Narayanganj	0	2	6	8
Pabna	0	0	2	2

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Moghbar Kishalay Sangha registered a convincing 3-1 victory over Bashabo Tarun Sangha in the Pragati Insurance Third Division football super league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Shawkat Ali, Swapan Kumar Das and Md Ali scored for the winners while Monirul Islam reduced the margin for the losers.

Shawkat, Bipul and Jamaluddin of Moghbar and Dulal and Badrul of Bashabo received the yellow cards for rough tackling.

The result left both teams at par with two points from as many matches.

Kadamtala Sangsad shared points with Gandaria Famous Sporting Club in a scoreless draw earlier in the afternoon.

Ashiq and Shakti of Gandaria were cautioned with the yellow cards.

Kadamtala now have three points while Gandaria Famous have one from two matches each.

Two matches will be held today. Matuall Juba Sangha will play Lalmatia Club at 2:30 pm and Purbachal Parishad will take on Badda Jagaroni Sangsad at 4 pm.

DIVISION TWO

Meanwhile, the eight-team super league of the Sonali Bank Second Division football league will begin tomorrow at the Mirpur Stadium.

Except for the inaugural day, matches will be held in the evening — the first at 6 pm and the second at 7:30 pm.

Bangladesh Boys Club will play held in the evening — the first at 6 pm and the second at 7:30 pm.

Bangladesh Boys Club will play Prantir Krira Chakra in the inaugural match at 4 pm while Shantiganj Club will clash with Dhaka WASA in the day's second match at 5:30 pm.

The other four teams of the super league are, Muslim Institute, East End Club, Jurain Janata Club and City Club.

The super league is scheduled to be completed by October 17.

The top two teams will earn promotion to the First Division league next year.

Arambagh win in N'ganj soccer

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 28: Two second-half goals by experienced Mustakim helped Arambagh Krira Sangstha to win a place at the cost of Sher-e-Bangla Club in the quarterfinals of the Poura Gold Cup tournament here today at the Osmani Stadium.

After a barren first half Mustakim, the Arambagh left-winger, scored the first goal 20 minutes into the second half. Two minutes later he doubled the margin to seal the fate of the match.

Sher-e-Bangla Club, a team from Narsinghdi, fought gallantly but ran out of gas at the end of the match.

Arambagh will play either Dhaka Wanderers or BSEC (Dockeyard) in one of the quarterfinals on October 3.

TODAY'S MATCH

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha vs Rahmatganj MFS (quarterfinal).

Hornets, Eagles post vital wins

Sports Reporter

Hornets SC brightened their chances of surviving in the Partex First Division basketball league by registering their second victory in the classification round or relegation play-off of the league at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

In yesterday's first match, the Hornets' basketballers edged 57-50 past Backstroke Boys Club, who now have one win against two defeats in the five-team play-off series.

The winners, aided by fine scoring from Dipak (21) and Julian (11), enjoyed a 28-22 lead at the breather.

Rony with 16 points and Lincoln, who caged 14, tried their best but could not save the day for Backstroke.

Dhaka Wanderers once again found fortune favouring their opponents as they went down 46-49 to Eagles Club in the second classification round affair of the day.

After a tense first half, which ended with the score tie 20-20, Wanderers, who are yet to win a match in the league, played desperately to seal a victory but at the end they were three points adrift.

Toufique and Imon notched up 18 and 12 points respectively for the winners while Debashish (17) and Ibran (11) had the losers score rolling on.

Eagles Club, who have played three matches so far, have two wins against one loss.

The bottom team in the play-offs will be relegated.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Eagles Club vs Backstroke Boys Club (4 pm)

Josephites vs Wanderers Club (5:30 pm)

Funds found for ITF circuit

Sports Reporter

The first of the four legs of the 1992 ITF men's satellite circuit championships for Bangladesh-Pakistan will be held from October 5 to 11 at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex.

One hundred and nineteen players of 20 countries including hosts Bangladesh have registered their names for the Bangladesh-Pakistan circuit tennis competition.

Initially 140 players had registered their names for the (RTC), organisers of the first leg, said that like the inaugural meet last year, Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC), which has this time provided Taka three lakhs, will sponsor the meet and hence the tournament would be named the Gold Leaf ITF men's satellite circuit tennis championships.

Apart from the money received from the BTC, which will also sponsor the second leg to be held from October 12 to 18 at the Ramna Tennis Complex in Dhaka, the RTC has also received Taka 50,000



Scene from yesterday's press conference at a local hotel in connection with the first leg of the Bangladesh-Pakistan ITF men's satellite circuit tennis championship which begins in Rajshahi Oct 5.

meet but 21 of them cancelled their entries for various reasons.

Defending champion Laurence Tielemann of Italy, second-seed Zeeshan Ali of India, third-seed Sean Cole of Great Britain along with another 17 top-seeded players will directly play in the final draw of 32 players.

Four wild card berths have been reserved for the hosts, which means that four Bangladesh players nominated by the hosts will qualify directly for the 32-player finals while the rest eight local players will have to come through the qualifying competition immediately preceding the main meet.

Addressing the press at a local hotel yesterday, Zafar Imam, President of the Rajshahi Tennis Complex

from the Ministry of Youth and Sports as a special grant. The estimated budget for the meet is Taka 4,87,000.

Tracing the background, Zafar Imam, who is also a Deputy Secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), said that the fate of the tournament was very much in doubt for lack of funds. He thanked the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka for his timely intervention in this connection.

However, Zafar Imam criticised the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) for their alleged non-cooperation with the RTC. The BTF, which had reportedly promised a grant of Taka 50,000 during the first circuit tennis last November, had not yet given the sum, Imam regretted.

draw will receive cash awards for which the ITF has allotted a sum of 25,000 dollars for the circuit.

The singles champion of each leg will receive US dollars 812.50 and the doubles champions will get US 393.75 dollars. The singles runner-up and doubles runners-up will get US dollars 206.25 respectively.

Peter Malik of India will be the referees' supervisor while Lawrence D' Walsh of Holland will be the chair umpire in the tourney, Mushtaq said.

The third and the fourth legs will be held in Lahore and Karachi in Pakistan later next month. The concluding leg in Karachi will be known at the Masters meet.

Marketing Services manager of the BTC Jahangir Kabir also answered queries from the journalists.

Gazza takes a knock on Lazio debut

ROME, Sept 28: Paul Gascoigne lasted just 45 minutes of his Italian league debut for Lazio on Sunday, injuring the knee which he smashed 16 months ago, reports Reuter.

Gascoigne, who made his long-awaited comeback on Wednesday in a friendly against his old club Tottenham, was hurt in a tackle by Genoa's Mario Bortolazzi close to half-time. He failed to reappear for the second half.

His advisor Jane Nottage said: "Paul is OK. He's fine. He has just taken a slight knock on his knee."

"They took him off as a precaution, but he was going to go off at halftime anyway."

The entire Lazio camp and the 70,000 crowd had feared the worst after the England midfielder collapsed holding his right knee, in which he ruptured cruciate ligaments in the 1991 English Cup final.

Lazio coach Dino Zoff was on his feet anxiously watching developments as club doctor Claudio Bartolini dashed out to treat the 9.4 million dollar signing.

Gascoigne rose and stayed on the pitch for the remaining moments of the half in which he had played well. But he suddenly looked tentative and tested his knee, which had undergone two operations, several times.

He took his place on the bench after halftime and when Lazio scored in the 58th minute through Angelo Gregucci, Gascoigne bounded to his feet, applauding wildly.

Lazio conceded a late goal to Genoa's Michele Padovano to finish with a draw for the fourth league game in succession.

TORINO PASS UP

Torino threw away a golden chance to go clear at the top when they conceded two late

Barcelonabank Burgos 4-1

MADRID, Sept 28: Barcelona maintained their strong start to the Spanish season by demolishing Real Burgos 4-1 on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Within three minutes Altor Beguiristain had fired the champions ahead. Ten minutes later Danish striker Michael Laudrup doubled the tally and Jose Bakero hit the third in the 22nd.

Burgos replied in the final minute of the first-half with a penalty by Romanian Gavril Balint but soon after the interval Kristo Stochkov slotted home Barcelona's fourth.

Unbeaten Barcelona trial Deportivo Coruna by one point after four games. The surprise leaders maintained their 100 per cent record with a 2-0 win at Real Sociedad on Saturday.

Real Madrid managed an uninspired 3-0 victory over Albacete on Saturday and are fifth in the standings.

Training camp for SAF judo

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take part in the South Asian judo competition to be held in the Indian capital New Delhi from October 30 to November 2.

In this connection a month-long coaching camp under the aegis of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation (BJKF) began on September 25 at the National Sports Council Judo room.

Varsity soccer from Oct 1

By JU Correspondent

The five-day inter university football competition will get underway at the Mir Mosharraf Hossain ground of Jahangirnagar University from October 1.

Seven Universities, in two groups, will participate in the meet.

Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology will take part in the Group 'A' matches while Dhaka, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Chittagong University and Islamic University will compete in Group 'B'.

Hosts Jahangirnagar University will meet Rajshahi University in the opening match at 3:30pm Thursday.

Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed will inaugurate the football competition.

Meanwhile, the JU authorities have announced their team comprising 17 players.

On the team are Selim (Captain), Tushar (Vice-captain), Shamim, Swapan, Hiru, Ratan, Babu, Zahid, Rumen, Rafiq, Liton, Hakim, Zubayer, Kutub, Lipon, Alamgir and Rehan.



Volleyball refs' course concludes

Sports Reporter

The certificate-awarding ceremony among the participants of the volleyball referees' course was held yesterday at the National Sports Council conference room.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka gave away the certificates among the participants as chief guest.

Thirty-two volleyball referees including six women took part in the course which began on September 19 under the auspices of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation.

President of BVF Major General Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of the referees' board M Anisur Rahman and general secretary Ershaduzzaman spoke at the closing function.

Monirul Hoque, Anisur Rahman and ASM Mofazzal Hossain, Ershaduzzaman, three international and the last named national referee, conducted the nine-day course.



PAUL GASCOIGNE

A massive second half onslaught by Juventus failed to penetrate a packed Roma defence.

Benfica defeated Espinho 3-0, their first away victory of

Juventus, Roma fans clash in Turin

ROME, Sept 28: About 20 people, including several police officers, were slightly injured Sunday when fans of Juventus and AS Roma clashed outside the Juventus stadium in Turin before their fourth-round Italian First-Division match, reports AP.

Two young Rome residents were hospitalised with bone fractures, the news agency ANSA said. The two fans were hurt when they fell trying to scale the stadium gates.

The clashes broke out when rival groups of fans began throwing rocks, cans and other objects at each other. A small Fiat car was set on fire.

Meanwhile, at Meazza stadium in Milan, police seized 500 bottles of alcoholic drinks and arrested one fan. Police said the alcohol had been smuggled into the stadium before the match, according to ANSA.

Juventus and Roma drew 1-1 in Milan. Internazionale tied Fiorentina of Florence 2-2.

ence.

Florentina's impressive start to the season continued in Milan where Argentine Gabriel Batistuta twice gave them the lead against struggling Internazionale.

But in another rainswept game, Inter had midfielders Alessandro Bianchi and German Mathias Sammer carried off injured before the interval.

Batistuta opened the scoring six minutes into the second half and was on target again six minutes from the end after a move begun by Fiorentina's new Danish signing Brian Laudrup.

Inter were saved by equalisers from Russian Igor Shalimov and Sergio Battistini.

Napoli led bottom side Ancona after only five minutes through Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca.

They dominated play until carelessly conceding a second half goal to Hungarian Lajos Detari.

FEYENOORD FALTER

Feyenoord Rotterdam slipped down the Dutch league table to third on Sunday when they dropped a point in a 2-2 draw against home-town rivals Sparta Rotterdam.

All the goals came in the first half with Henk Fraser scoring first for Feyenoord and Hungarian striker Jozsef Kiprich stretching their lead in the 23rd minute.

Sparta struck back through Bubberman and De Getrouwe to grab a point.

FC Twente Enschede took second place in the table, behind PSV Eindhoven, after a crushing 5-1 defeat of FC Utrecht.

Brazilian Romario helped league champions PSV to their fifth win in as many matches this season on Saturday, scoring three goals in their 5-1 victory at MVV Maastricht.