

Milnars Div I league begins today

Sports Reporter
The 1992-93 Milnars First Division cricket league begins today at two city venues.
At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS), Lalmitia Club, one of the three teams relegated from the Navana Premier league last season, will take on newcomers Dhanmondi Club while at the Mirpur Pallabi ground, Rupali Bank, another team relegated from the Navana league, will play babes Evergreen Club in today's two matches.

Wari Club, who complete the relegated trio, will meet Sadharan Bima at the DCS in their opening match tomorrow.
Ten teams are taking part in this year's First Division league. They are Lalmitia Club, Rupali Bank, Wari Club, City Club, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, Dhanmondi Club, Evergreen Club, Sadharan Bima, Bangladesh Railway and Agrani Bank.

The top five teams of the first round will play in the super league with the champions and runners-up earning promotion to the prestigious Premier league next season.
The bottom five teams will compete in the relegation league with the two last finishers moving, down to the Second Division next season.

Evergreen Club and Dhanmondi Club qualified for this year's Milnars league by emerging champions and runners-up respectively in the Second Division league last season.

Victoria Club and Udit Club have made the two Premier division berths from the Milnars First Division last season.

N ganj Rifles Club shooting meet held

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 11: The annual shooting competition and prize giving ceremony of Narayanganj Rifle Club was held here today, reports BSS.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury attended the function as the chief guest and gave away the prizes among the winners.

Members of Parliament Advocate Abul Kalam, Prof Rezaul Karim and Sirajul Islam were present.
Speaking on the occasion the Home Minister lauded the role of the shooters of Narayanganj in obtaining national and international prizes. He urged them to uphold their standard and efficiency.

JU soccer

History Department routed Botany Department 13-0 in the inter-department football tournament of Jahangir Nagar University at the university ground yesterday, reports BSS.

Jimbo wins hearts, Jim match



ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 11: Jimmy Connors won over the crowd but lost out to world number one Jim Courier at the European Community tennis championship on Tuesday, reports Reuter.



JIMMY CONNORS
The 40-year old Connors drew warm applause on the few occasions he outplayed the tournament's seed, 18 years his junior.

But Courier was always in control of their first round match and won comfortably 6-3, 6-3.
Afterwards Connors joked: "If I'm still able to walk, I'd love to come back next year."

In their first round action fifth seed MaliVal Washington lost out to Dutch qualifier Tom Nijssen.

Washington, sporting a bandage around a sore knee, went down 3-6, 7-6, 7-6 to the tenacious Dutchman, who confessed afterwards he had

never before beaten a top 15-player in his 10-year career.

American Washington is currently ranked world number 12, doubles specialist Nijssen 27th.

"He simply played better and I didn't serve extremely well today," said Washington, who has won two ATP tournaments this year.

He said he had been only slightly hampered by the sore knee.

Sweden's Henrik Holm, who has claimed rapidly to 20th in the world, served 18 double faults en route to a surprise 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 defeat by Canadian qualifier Grant Connell.

He hit his second serve as hard as others hit their first," Connell said of Holm. "His serve has won him a lot of big matches but it was off-target today."

ATP FACES ACTION

Meanwhile, a Belgian Public Health Ministry is taking legal action against the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) for refusing officials permission to conduct random drug tests at the European Community Championship.

The Flemish community will lodge a complaint and the organisers will undoubtedly be prosecuted, a ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

EC tournament director Patrice Dominguez said on Monday he had allowed the ministry officials to carry out four tests during pre-qualifying on Friday but the ATP rejected their request when they returned on Sunday.

"On Friday it was under my jurisdiction. On Sunday it was

the ATP's," Dominguez had said.

The Flemish Public Health Ministry spokesman said a court could hand out penalties ranging from fines to jail sentences of up to three months.

A registered letter would be sent of the organisers urging



JIM COURIER

them to comply with the Flemish anti-doping laws in the future, he said.

"If they refuse to comply they face a suspension as organiser. They could no longer organise tournaments here for a certain period.

The spokesman said a Public Health Ministry official would meet the organisers again on Saturday to try to resolve the impasse.

An ATP spokesman said on Monday they were willing to cooperate with the local authorities but wanted to use their own drug testing programme.

Mixed bag for Chinese paddlers at Asian TT

NEW DELHI, Nov 11: China Wednesday retained the men's title at the 11th Asian Table Tennis Championship, defeating North Korea 3-0 with the help of Liu Guoliang's dogged fight-back against North Korean Li Gun Sang, reports AP.

But in the women's final, favourites China suffered a shock 3-1 defeat by Hong Kong, who won the title for the first time. Their campaign was led by two Chinese-born players, Chai Po Wa and Chan Tan Lui.

The Chinese men's victory was their 10th straight in the championship and the fifth time they have defeated North Korea in the final.

It is the first time that Hong Kong, the Commonwealth Games champions which on Tuesday edged fancied North Korea 3-2 in a titanic semifinal battle, have reached the final and topped it with the Asian crown.

Chan, the world No 10, won a cliffhanger in the reverse singles to seal the victory at the giant Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium after China pulled one back with the doubles.

Chai and Chan put Hong Kong on the road to the crown with easy wins in the opening singles, but their hopes of whitewashing the Chinese were dashed by Wu Na and Wang Chen.

IAAF revises Morceli's record

ROME, Nov 11: Algerian Noureddine Morceli's 1,500 metres world record of three minutes 28.86 seconds set in September has been revised to 3:28.82 by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) reports Reuter.

The IAAF said on Tuesday it had revised the time following a study of the photo finish of the race in Rieti, Italy.

World champion Morceli broke Moroccan Said Aouta's world mark of 3:29.46 which had stood for seven years.

Platini to co-head '98 WC committee

PARIS, Nov 11: Michel Platini was officially named on Tuesday as joint head of the organising committee for the 1998 World Cup finals in France, reports Reuter.

Platini, who quit as French team boss after the European Championship finals in Sweden last June, will share the job with former French Football Federation president Fernand Sastre.

Their presence at the head of the committee is a guarantee that we will succeed in staging the most prestigious sports event before the end of the century with the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta", French sports minister Frederic Bredin told a news conference.

Platini, who had made no secret that he would welcome a role in the 1998 finals, said: "I took part in three World Cups as a player without winning a single one. Hopefully, I will manage to win that one."

Leeds third loss in a week

LONDON, Nov 11: English soccer champions Leeds slumped to their third defeat in seven days when they were bundled out of the League Cup at First Division Watford on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Watford defenders David Holdsworth and Jason Drysdale produced second half strikes from a flying header and a penalty as their Premier League opponents went down 2-1 in the third round.

It was Leeds' seventh consecutive match without a win, and followed their European Cup defeat by Glasgow Rangers last Wednesday and a 4-0 league thrashing by Manchester City on Saturday.



Evander Holyfield (L) and Riddick Bowe clown with a cornerman wearing a "Friday the 13th" mask at the final press conference in Nevada, Las Vegas, on Tuesday before Bowe and Holyfield fight for the heavyweight title at the Thomas and Mack Centre on Nov 13.

Holyfield hints at retirement

LAS VEGAS, Nov 11: The trademark of Evander Holyfield's career has been a remarkable toughness and a warrior's love of the battle, yet the heavyweight champion said on Tuesday a small scratch he received in training recently made him contemplate retirement, reports Reuter.

Holyfield, who will defend his undisputed crown on Friday night against Riddick Bowe, has been flirting with retirement for the past year and said if he beats Bowe "real nice, I just may walk away."

But Holyfield, 30, also said, as he often has, that after fighting old timers George Foreman and Larry Holmes and journeyman Bert Cooper, he wants to fight the young, tough contenders.

"It feels good to fight somebody who people think can rock my world," Holyfield said. "I look forward to this."

So the bet among ringsiders is that Holyfield probably will keep fighting and if the wins, go against Briton Lennox Lewis, who put himself in line for a title fight by stopping Canadian Razor Ruddock recently.

Holyfield can't really explain why he reacted so strongly to being cut other than he just "wasn't made to bleed."

Holyfield, 30, was cut for the first time in his career last June when an errant elbow by Larry Holmes caught him along the right eyebrow, opening up a deep gash. The cut did not have much of an effect on Holyfield in the fight, which he won in a 12-round decision.

It did more damage to the champion's psyche. "I was a little shook up every time I looked in the mirror," Holyfield said at a news conference on Tuesday. "I almost ended my career because I got cut."

In fact, Holyfield was so shook up that he lost his confidence. But after talking with some of his cornermen and saying some prayers, the champion rebounded.

A couple of months ago Holyfield thought he had been cut again sparring session and the old doubts returned. "I took my headgear off," Holyfield said. "Assistant trainer Lou Duva said it was a scratch. But when I got cut against Holmes he said it was a scratch."

Before Holyfield discovered that it was, indeed, only a scratch, "It ran through my

mind to quit. All these years — I've been fighting 22 years — and I never got cut."

Holyfield, who will put his 28-0 record on the line in the scheduled 12-round fight, said "When you see blood you think the other guy is getting the best of it. I don't want to bleed. I wasn't made to bleed."

The champion was asked whether the cut made him concerned about the fact of life that as a fighter gets older his skin is not as resilient as it once was and that it tears more easily.

"If I got jabbed maybe I'd feel that way, but I got hit with an elbow," he said.

But when he does retire, Holyfield said, "I'll never return. I pray to God that I never come back."

Bowe, 25, came over to Holyfield after the champions said he was weary of the pressures of being the champion, and said: "Did I hear him say he was tired and wanted to be with his family?"
"You'll be with your family for quite a while after the fight," Bowe, 31-0, said, patting Holyfield on the shoulder.
"That's mighty nice of you," said Holyfield, once again displaying that he counters well only in the ring.

Gazza's goal saves Lazio

SEVILLE, Spain, Nov 11: One burst of magic from England midfielder Paul Gascoigne gave Lazio a 1-1 draw in a friendly against Diego Maradona's Sevilla on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The 25-year-old Gascoigne, who went to the Italian side this season from the English club Tottenham for a 5.5-million pound (\$8.2 million) transfer fee, gave the small crowd some of what they came to see with a nifty goal in the 38th minute.

Maradona had his moments, too, almost scoring with a bicycle kick from an acute angle and hitting the crossbar with a curving free kick two minutes from time.

Sevilla, the club Maradona joined after 18 months in the soccer wilderness following a ban for cocaine abuse, had the better of the game, one of a series of friendlies being played as part of the deal to sign the former Argentine captain.

It was Maradona's first

Napoli sack coach Ranieri

NAPLES, Italy, Nov 11: Struggling Italian First Division soccer club Napoli have sacked coach Claudio Ranieri, a club spokeswoman said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

She gave no further details and added Napoli have not yet decided who will replace Ranieri.

The post is expected to go to either former Napoli coach Ottavio Bianchi or Azeglio Vicini, who coached Italy's 1990 World Cup team.

Bianchi, a former Napoli player led the club to their first Italian League title in 1987 and a UEFA Cup triumph in 1989.

Ranieri, who became a coach after a brilliant playing career including a spell at Roma, was in charge of Cagliari before being hired by Napoli last season.

He had the difficult task of taking charge of the team after the departure of former Argentine captain Diego Maradona, now with Spanish club Sevilla.

Shimizu — seat of Japan's soccer revolution

SHIMIZU, Japan, Nov 11: When Japan became Asian soccer champions for the first time last Sunday, nowhere was their 1-0 victory in the final over Saudi Arabia more celebrated than in football-crazy Shimizu, reports Reuter.

This port city of 240,000, one hour by bullet train from Tokyo, is Japan's answer to the backstreets of Glasgow or Naples, where children play soccer as soon as they can walk.

Its team, Shimizu S-Pulse, is one of 10 signed up for a new national professional league that starts next May. And they showed their class in a preliminary tournament among the 10 this autumn, qualifying for the final against Yomiuri Verdy's at the National Stadium in Tokyo on November 23.

The match is already a 56,000-seat sell-out, an indication of how fast soccer mania is building in Japan.

Record crowds packed stadium for the 10-team tournament and next season the league hopes crowds will swell when foreign stars such as England's Gary Lineker join Japanese teams.
"Within five to 10 years, soccer will overtake baseball as Japan's most popular sport," said Nobuyuki Igarashi, a Pulse official selling club caps, T-shirts and magazines at a crowded stall in a city shopping arcade.
"As the top soccer nation in Asia, Japan is going to win the right to stage the World Cup in 2002," he said.
FIFA, the ruling body of world soccer, has said the event that year should be held in Asia for the first time. Rivals for the prize are China, South Korea, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.
League officials see the new championship as a major step to raising the standard of soccer in Japan and propelling the national team into the World Cup finals in 1994 and hosting it in 2002.
But they say their aim is not to compete with baseball, Japan's leading spectator

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Brazil, Holland win in World Super Four

TOKYO, Nov 11: Olympic champion Brazil beat hosts Japan 15-10, 15-10, 15-5 Wednesday while the Netherlands edged the United States 7-15, 15-12, 15-7, 11-15, 15-12 in second-day matches of the FIVB World Super Four men's volleyball competition, reports AP.

Brazil is 2-0, Japan and the Olympic silver medalist Dutch team each are 1-1, and the bronze medalist Americans are 0-2.

Ronald Zoodma scored one serve, three spike and eight block points for the Netherlands while Bob Samuelson and Scott Fortune each collected 13 points for the United States.

"It was a tough loss, but we still have three games left," said Fortune, the US captain.
The top team in three days of round-robin play meets the fourth-place team and the runner-up plays the third-place team in the semifinals Saturday in Osaka, western Japan.

The final is scheduled for Sunday.

Erving heads Hall of Fame nominees

SPRINGFIELD, Nov 11: Julius Erving, one of the most spectacular stars to play professional basketball, on Tuesday headed a group of 11 nominees for induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, reports Reuter.

To gain admission an individual needs 18 of 24 voters from the honours committee for election. The results will be announced in February, with enshrinement ceremonies set for May 10.

Other players nominated were Walt Bellamy, Richie Guerin, Dan Issel, Ann Meyers, Dick McGuire, Calvin Murphy, Juliana Semonova, Eileen Banks, Sprouse and Bill Walton.

Also nominated as a contributor was Grady Lewis, who participated in basketball as a player, coach and business executive.

Mount Ama Dablam scaled

KATHMANDU, Nov 11: Four members of an Australia-Canada team have climbed Mount Ama Dablam in the Himalayas, the Tourism Ministry said Wednesday, reports AP.

Team leader Richard Wilson Howes, 32, from Australia led three others through the southeast route to the top of the 6,812-metre-high (22,479-feet) peak Nov 1, a ministry statement said.

The home town of Howes was not immediately known. It was also not known here if the any one else was planning to climb the mountain.



Engineer-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Army Major General Mohammad Abdul Halim giving away the trophy to the Chittagong Area team who retained the Army athletic title at the Army Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

SA readmitted to WBC outfit

CANCUN, Mexico, Nov 11: The World Boxing Council (WBC) provisionally lifted its 17-year-old boycott against South Africa on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The decision, approved by the organisation's 134 members at its annual convention in the Mexican Resort of Cancun, will allow South African boxers to fight for WBC titles for the first time since 1975.

"In the WBC we have no colours," WBC president Jose Sulaiman said. "We are readmitting South Africa because we think laws have been established which allow the racist policy of apartheid to be overcome."

"Readmission will be provisional until the WBC is convinced racism has been eradicated in the sport," he said.
"It is subject to revision, depending on how events unfold in South Africa," Sulaiman said. "We do not want to fall into a trap if racism continues."

Officials said the decision would allow about 1,000 South African boxers registered as professionals to contest WBC titles and would permit the promotion of WBC fights in South Africa.

WBC representative in South Africa, Sam Ramsamy, presenting the initiative to lift the boycott, said boxing in his country was still riddled with problems.

"Although there are new laws which do away with apartheid, the government is still racist because it prefers the predominance of whites," he said.

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