

**Busy day for IOC chief**

Sports Reporter

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, leaves Dhaka this morning for the Bhutanese capital of Thimpu after less than a 24-hour visit to Bangladesh.

Samaranch, who arrived in the city yesterday morning on his private aircraft, will have breakfast with President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban before leaving for the Zia International Airport.

The IOC chief will spend a few hours in the Bhutanese capital before his flight back to Europe. On his way back he will again make a stopover at the ZIA for refuelling and then head for Singapore enroute to Europe.

The 72-year old Spaniard had a packed schedule yesterday.

Within an hour of his arrival he called on the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka at the latter's Secretariat office before going on a pleasure trip on the steamer Ostrich.

The IOC supreme met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the afternoon before attending a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon.

After sharing a half hour with the newsmen Samaranch headed for the Dhaka Stadium to watch the DMFA Cup Final round tie between Abahani Krira Chakra and Wari Club.

The IOC president rounded off his day's schedule by attending a dinner and cultural show in his honour at Hotel Sonargaon.

**Div I hockey**

Sports Reporter

Last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra were lucky to come out with two points yesterday when they struggled to a 1-0 win over Sonali Bank in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium.

The bankers denied Abahani until the 47th minute before Mahbub Harun who found the target to seal the fate of the match.

The Abahani forwards could not utilise any of the eight penalty corners they got.

Moreover, Abahani squandered a penalty stroke in the 40th minute.

A hat-trick by Biaka Lusal, the third in the league, steered Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club to a 3-0 triumph over Public Works Department (PWD) in the other match of the day.

Biaka Lusal put the winners ahead in the 18th minute with a nice field goal. He doubled the margin in the 53rd minute, and completed his treble scoring in the 61st minute.

**Ctg snooker**

CHITTAGONG, May 17: Two games of the pre-quarter final round of the national snooker championship were being decided when this report was filed here this evening, reports BNA.

Held at the billiard room of Chittagong Club, N A T Rouf of Dhaka Club defeated Jahangir Alam Khan of Comilla Club in 5-3 set while N C Ghose of Narayanganj Club outplayed Ismail Hussain of Chittagong Club 5-2.

Yesterday Shaheen Aftabur Reja Chowdhury of Chittagong Club defeated Adnanul Islam Chowdhury of the same club in 5-1 set, Mofazzal Hussain of Gulshan Club defeated Zagul Karim of Dhaka Club 5-0, Rashedul Alam of Dhaka Club beat Mozammel Hoq of the same club 5-4, N A T Rouf of Dhaka Club beat Fredrik Randolph of Catholic Club 5-4.

Earlier on Saturday Ismail Hussain of Chittagong Club outplayed Lloyd Gonsalves of Catholic Club 5-2, N C Ghose of Narayanganj Club defeated D W Doherty of Catholic Club 5-1, Jahangir Alam Khan of Comilla Club defeated Noel Randolph of Catholic Club 5-2 and Andrian Gonsalves of Catholic Club defeated Shaheen Aftabur Reja Chowdhury of Chittagong Club 5-3.

**Saudis canter**

RIYADH, May 17: Majed Abdullah scored twice and Saudi Arabia used a possession game to easily beat Malaysia 3-0 Sunday, giving it the Asian Group E lead with one game remaining in its first round of World Cup qualifying, reports AP.

Kuwait played Macau later Sunday and a victory over the city state would set up a Tuesday finale between the Arab neighbours in Riyadh for the lone second-round berth from the group.

Only the six first-round Asian group winners advance to the second round, from which two advance to the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Saudi Arabia improved to 3-2-0 with six points. Kuwait (2-2-0) was expected to win easily with Macau having been outscored 33-1 entering Sunday's second game.



The players of Wari Club being introduced to the visiting IOC chief Juan Antonio Samaranch before the start of their DMFA cup final round match against Abahani KC at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday evening. — Star photo

**IOC chief assures all help**

Sports Reporter



International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch yesterday carefully avoided any preemptory comments on which of the six cities — Beijing, Berlin, Brasilia, Istanbul, Manchester and Sydney — is favoured to host the 2000 Games.

Answering a question at the press conference at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday, Samaranch said, as the IOC chief he should not make any comments on who is leading the six-way race for the right to host the Games, which will be decided at the IOC Congress in Monte Carlo next September.

"As I have said in Beijing and Sydney, all the six cities are on the starting block," he said.

The IOC supreme said he was happy to be in Bangladesh, adding that he was proud to be the first IOC chief to have visited the country.

The 72-year-old former diplomat arrived in the city yesterday morning on a less than 24-hour visit. He was received at the Zia International Airport by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president Gias Kamal Chowdhury and other BOA officials as well many sports organisers were present at the airport to welcome the distinguished guest.

After having a brief meeting with the State Minister for Sports at the latter's Secretariat office, Samaranch went on a river cruise on the Ostrich, a luxury steamer.

Returning from the pleasure trip, Samaranch called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office and then attended a 30-minute press conference at the hotel in the evening.

Highlighting the IOC's achievements and its future line of action, the IOC boss said the committee will focus on unity among the Olympic members, pointing out that it is a difficult job since some national Olympic committees are very strong.

Samaranch attributed the crowning success of the 25th Olympiad in his native town of Barcelona to the 'young and

motivated' members of the 65-strong Organising Committee, adding the 'Greatest Show on Earth,' as it was dubbed, was a prime example of unity.

Answering a query on how he expected smaller nations like Bangladesh carrying the torch of the Olympic movement by defying financial and technical constraints, Samaranch said, the IOC doesn't have enough funds to promote facilities for the developing countries but it nevertheless provides support to the

chapter in the Olympic history yet on the contrary, it helped boost the IOC's drive against drugs. He mentioned that only four athletes tested positive among the 3500 who had taken the drugs test in the last Games in Barcelona.

Sweeping aside a suggestion about an alternate Games for the weaker sporting nations, the IOC chief opted that although it is true that only a handful of countries sweep the lion's share of medals, yet gradually other nations are coming up to claim their shares. He pointed out that 65 countries had their names on the final medals tally of the Barcelona Games.

He also mentioned that economics play a vital part in building a strong sporting infrastructure but motivation is the key factor. He cited Cuba's performance in the 25th Olympiad last year saying that the Cubans are not financially solvent yet they are clawing their way up the sporting ladder.

By way of reference, Samaranch said that 1994 is a very important year for the IOC as it will mark the hundred years of modern Olympic movement.

He disclosed that the IOC will hold its congress in Paris, 13 years after the last one held in 1971. Moreover, in the same year, Lillehammer, a city in Norway, will hold the Winter Games.

He further unveiled plans to set up an Olympic museum at the IOC's headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland — 'the heart of the Olympic movement'. The museum will accommodate an Olympic library, he said.

Samaranch said the IOC will extend increased technical and financial support to Bangladesh.

He also told the newsmen that during his meeting with the Prime Minister he promised to send a football trainer for the national squad and also pledged financial grant for grooming up local athletes for the forthcoming sixth SAF Games, scheduled to be held in Dhaka in December.

He also accepted an invitation to attend the Sixth SAF Games but said he would send a personal representative in case he failed to come.

Expressing his opinions on commercialism in the Olympic movement, Samaranch pointed out that the IOC needs the money for its multifarious activities and has to rely on sponsorship but that does not mean the IOC has deviated from its traditions and ideals.

On the question of doping control, the IOC supreme quipped, 'The IOC started its drive against doping from the 1968 Mexico City Games and has come a long way since. Although some may call the 1988 Seoul Games the dark

way into the net (3-0). In the second half, Wari made sure that they conceded no more goals and as a result the rest of the match passed without a goal.

**TEAMS**

**Abahani KC:** Mohsin, Rehan, Munna, Masud Rana, Alamgir, Gaus, Rumi, Zakir, Mamunul Karim (Swapan), Mamun Joarder and Ahmed (Shakil).

**Wari Club:** Bijon, Choton, Monsur, Partha, Zaved (Ripon), Haran, Kabir, Yosuf, Shoib, Sanker and Sudhir.

Referee: Shiekh Badruddin

**New Zambian side for WC named**

LUSAKA, Zambia, May 17: The Football Association of Zambia has named a new national soccer squad after 18 key players were killed in an air crash last month, newspapers reported Monday, reports AP.

The team includes six professionals competing overseas and will play its first match, with Malawi, on Saturday.

Denmark's Development Cooperation Minister, Helle Degn, said in Copenhagen of Friday that Denmark would pay expenses for the revamped 27-man squad to train there for six weeks.

The Zambians were favourites for qualifying in the World Cup and the Africa Cup of Nations.

**MSC's Russian coach in city**

Sports Reporter

Zulkin Byachisiev Ivanovich Slava, the Russian coach will train Mohammad Sporting Club this year, arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

Slava, 50, has coached a number of Russian First Division sides in his career as a coach. He was also in charge of the Iraqi national youth soccer squad back in 1989.

In another development former national and Mohammedan captain Badal Roy took over as the manager.

Meanwhile, Badal Roy handed over his number 10 jersey to Rummon-bin-Wali Sabbir who will skipper Mohammedans this season.

Former national and Mohammedan captain Abdus Salam Murshedi, who is also the football secretary of the club, handed over his shirt bearing the number nine to Shiekh Mohammad Aslam who signed for the league runners-up this year after a decade with Abahani.

**Maradona magic exalts Sevilla**

MADRID, May 17: Sevilla were inspired by the return of Diego Maradona in the Spanish league on Sunday, beating Real Sociedad 3-1 and keeping alive their chances of a place in Europe next season, reports Reuter.

Maradona, sidelined by a mixture of suspensions and injuries since April 4, set up the first two Sevilla goals before being substituted in the second half.

Defending champions Barcelona suffered a 1-0 defeat at Real Oviedo on Saturday and were joined at the top of the table by perennial rivals Real Madrid.

Madrid failed to capitalise fully on Barcelona's slip and were held to a 1-1 draw by Celta.

Both teams have 50 points with Barcelona leading on superior goal difference.

Third-placed Deportivo Coruna pulled within four points of the leaders, ending a mediocre spell with a hard-fought 1-0 win away to local rivals Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

Deportivo striker Claudio Barragan broke the deadlock, scoring in a goalmouth scramble with a fine overhead kick in the 71st minute.

Maradona, out of action for so long, was not fit enough to last the whole game. But during the first half he showed he could still be a match winner.

He set up the first goal in the 32nd minute, flicking the ball past the Sociedad defenders and passing into the penalty area, where Ignacio Conte volleyed home.

Five minutes later Maradona was again in the thick of things, sending a perfectly weighted free-kick to fellow Argentine Diego Simeone, who made it 2-0 for Sevilla.

Davor Suker scored Sevilla's third in the 46th minute to secure victory.

Sevilla are seventh in the table and have a good chance of playing in European competition next season.

Next weekend Real Madrid play host to Sevilla and Barcelona take on Rayo Vallecano.

**Berlin virtually out of race**

FRANKFURT, May 17: Berlin's troubled bid to stage the 2000 Summer Olympics virtually has no chance of succeeding because of security concerns by the International Olympic Committee, a German newspaper said Sunday, reports AP.

The Welt am Sonntag weekly, quoting unidentified but what it said were reliable IOC sources, said the Inquiry Commission had recommended that Berlin's bid be rejected.

The IOC Inquiry Commission, which inspects facilities and conditions in all cities bidding to stage the Games, visited Berlin in April.

Berlin is one of the six cities bidding for the 2000 Olympics. The others are Beijing; Sydney, Australia, Manchester, England, Istanbul, Turkey, and Brasilia, Brazil. The IOC will decide in Monaco on Sept 23.

The German capital's bid ran into trouble early, with several financial scandals shaking the local organizing committee.

There is only lukewarm public support for the Games across Germany and a vocal anti-Olympic movement has built up in the city. Its activists have burned cars, set fire to offices of corporate sponsors and staged large demonstrations.

When the IOC Inquiry Commission visited Berlin last month, anti-Olympic activists clashed with police.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch was slated to visit Berlin later this month for a ceremony but canceled the trip to avoid possible riots by anti-Olympic militants.

**IOC's chief's visit in pictures**



International Olympic Committee chief Juan Antonio Samaranch being received at the Zia airport yesterday by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain and Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) chief Gias Kamal Chowdhury (right). — Star photo



Samaranch catches a glimpse of riverine Bangladesh during yesterday's working lunch aboard the steamer Ostrich on the Buriganga. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin



The IOC chief presented an Olympic flag to the BOA. — Star photo



Samaranch signing autographs after the press conference. — Star photo



Brazilian football superstar Zico shoots the ball in a J-League match between the Antlers and Gary Lineker's Grampus Eight in Japanese city of Kashima on May 16. Zico made a hat-trick and the Antlers trounced Grampus 5-0. — AFP photo

**Comfortable win for Abahani**

Sports Reporter



Defending Senior Division champions Abahani Krira Chakra began their DMFA Cup campaign with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Wari Club in the opening match of the round-robin final leg at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

With visiting International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch in the stand, Abahani bo-

ters put up a superlative performance to snatch the win.

Earlier, the players were introduced to the IOC chief before the match started. Samaranch witnessed a segment of the first half before setting off for Hotel Sonargaon, where he will attend a dinner and witness a cultural show.

Abahani started the match emphatically going into offensive from the moment Badruddin, the referee, blew his whistle. Wari Club, who qualified for this round after emerging champions of Group D, did not even get the time to settle down when Abahani opened the account.

Seven minutes into the first half, Mamun Joarder headed home from a well-measured Masud Rana cross (1-0).

Wari's plight deepened when only three minutes later, Alamgir dribbled past two of their defenders to chip the ball into the net (2-0).

Having conceded two early goals, the Wari booters pulled up their socks and came up with solid defence for the rest of the first half but Abahani forwards were not to be denied.

Mamun Joarder, who represented Bangladesh in the World Cup Asian Zone Group F qualifying round in Japan and the United Arab Emirates, scored his second and his side's third in the 36th minute with an angular drive which was deflected by a Wari defender before making its

**Baishaki h'ball**

Sports Reporter

After trailing the first half 6-7 Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club made a remarkable fight back to snatch a dramatic 17-15 victory over Victoria Sporting Club in the Baishaki handball championship at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

For Dhaka Mariner five players Mubi, Akram, Rashedul, Helal and Sabbir found the net three times each.

Ibrahim topscored with seven goals for Victoria followed by Badsha with four goals.

In the other engagement of the afternoon Progati Boys Club outpaced Mansur Sporting Club 15-9 after dominating the first session 7-3.

Kazal led the victors' scoring with 6 goals while Swapan and Rafiq netted 3 times each. For the losers Rajjak and Raju scored 7 and 2 goals each.