

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain and members of the steering committee for the SAF Games visited the under-construction Mirpur indoor stadium yesterday. With the big sporting event only five months away the pace and present condition of the project did not really inspire confidence of having it ready before the Games. - Star photo

DMFA meeting held

Sports Reporter

A meeting of the league committee for the bifid football league 1993 was held yester-

The two-tier league introduced for the first time in country's history will begin from June 11 at the Dhaka Stadium. Ten top teams will vie for the Star Premier Division league title while the last eight teams of last year's league plus the two promotees will fight at another level known as Star First Division league for the two spots in Premier league.

Yesterday the league committee renewed its three-year contract with sponsors Bangladesh Tobacco Company. The cigarette manufacturing concern, who paid Taka 17 lakh last year, the first year of the contract, will pay Taka 18 lakh to organisers Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA).

Mohammedans win charity match

Sports Reporter

DMFA Cup championships Mohammedan Sporting Club registered an easy 3-1 victory against Narayanganj Football Club Samiti in a charity match held at the Bandar Sonakanda football ground yesterday.

Striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib once again underlined his prolific scoring form by netting two of the three goals for his

The winners took a two-one lead at half-time.

Shah Alam Babu increased the margin for the victors in the second half. Motaleb pulled one back for the local outfit. About ten thousand spectators watched the match, arranged to raise funds for the local football clubs.

H'ball course begins today

Sports Reporter

A twelve-day international Olympic solidarity course for handball coaches begins at the conference room of the National Sports Council (NSC) at 5 pm

Tom Van Linder, a handball expert from abroad, will conduct the programme to be participated by 25 handball coaches from all over the coun-

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) worked in tandem with International Handball Federation to organise the

expected crowds since the inaugural season kicked off on May honing workshop. The full list of the partici-He admits the game's aupants is: Sq Ldr M Shamsur thorities miscalculated the likely demand. "If there were five stadiums with identical Mohammed Kausar, Iqbal maximum capacity of 50,000, I Hossain Khan (National Sports believe they would be packed," Council), Mohammad Joynal Sasaki said. (Bangladesh Rifles), Nastrullah A record 146,000 fans attended last Saturday's five

Rahman, Wasim Khan, Mousum Ali (Handball Federation), Lavlu, Nazir Akhtar Mukul, Maqbul Hossain, Shahabuddin Bhuiyan, Qamrul Islam, Salahuddin Ahmed, Selim Miah, Azad Rahman, Mizanur Rahman, Munna (Dhaka), Abu Naser Md Wahid (CMKS), M Mujibur Rahman (BAF), Zahid Mahmud (Ansars), Abdul Malek (Police), Himadri Saha Moni (Jessore), Asaduzzaman (Rajshahi University), Mohammed Billal Hossain (Mohammadpur Physical Education College), Ratan Kr Sarkar (Rajshahi Physical Education College), Muhammad Iftekhar Alam (Magura) and Md Selim Alamgir Khan (Natore).

Cricket meeting today

Sports Reporter

An emergency meeting of the Second Division cricket qualifying tournament committee will take place today at 6 pm at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office.

Samba beat subdues Uncle Sam A man dressed as Uncle Sam

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, June 7: Brazil strolled to a 2-0 victory over the United States

in the opening match of the US Cup on Sunday, and made the Americans look like college kids in the process, reports Reuter.

A goal in the fifth minute from Napoli striker Careca and a second three minutes from time by Luis Carlos Winck gave the Brazilian masters their fourth victory in four games over the United States, who were completely outclassed and did not have a shot on goal until the 55th minute.

Brazil opened up a static American Defence time and again in the first half with their fluid passing and had a goal disallowed and hit the post.

Playing to the beat of the samba drums in the 44,000 crowd at the Yale Bowl Stadium, the makeshift Brazilian side were rarely forced to break sweat, and remain an unknown quantity for their forthcoming games against England and Germany.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, whose team was patched together after numerous players pulled out through injuries and club commitments, said afterwards he was satisfied with the result and the perfor-

"We considered this the most difficult game (in the US Cup) as it was the first game and the Americans had nothing to lose.

"Our team had never played together before and it wasn't fair to expect much from them."

He added that the Europeanbased players appeared tired after a long season, while homebased players had been subjected to a marathon of club games as well.

"I felt the players coming from Europe were not fresh," he said. "Sao Paulo have played 58 games in four months so I

nnot cope with the demand

from eager fans, J-League offi-

cials said on Monday, reports

Spokesman Kazuki Sasaki

said the J-League had been very

surprised at the bigger-than-

league matches, up 30,000 from

The figure compares strik-

opening week matches in mid-

ingly with the 187,000 atten-

dance at the day's six baseball

games. Baseball is along-estab-

lished crowed pleaser in Japan

with huge commercial backing.

Sasaki said Saturday's

record crowds were due to the

fact that two of the matches

were held in giant stadiums in

Tokyo and Kobe built not for

soccer but for international

the right to play up to 20 per

cent of "home" games away from

their home-town stadiums,

which in general are small and

ill-equipped in comparison with

Tokyo's National Stadium

(capacity 60,000) or the Kobe

arena built for the 1986 World

"We are hoping large-capac-

ity soccer stadiums will be built

Student Games.

soon," Sasaki said.

The 10-J-League clubs have

athletics.

Reuter.

TOKYO, June 7:

Japan's new pro-

fessional soccer

league is such a

runaway success

club stadiums ca-

didn't consider their players at the start." United States coach Bora Milutinovic was not particularly

upset by his team's loss. "It's difficult to be very unhappy when you know you are playing against one of the best

teams in the world. Meanwhile AP adds: The US soccer team was simply out manned by the Brazilians - + and so were their fans.



CARECA them 12-4, the yellow-and green clad Brazilian fans outnumbered their counterparts by about a 3-to-1 margin and outcheered them by a much larger margin.

"It made it easier for Brazil because they feel like they're playing in their hometown while we feel like foreigners," forward

Jean Harbor said. The differences in the fans was evident long before kickoff. While the singing, dancing Brazilian fans began pouring into Yale Bowl hours before the start of the game, the US fans arrived later, were quieter and American flags weren't nearly as plentiful as Brazilian flags. J-League has its hands full

He said the J-League was

repeating calls both to clubs

and their home-town authori-

ties to build bigger stadiums or

renovate grounds to accommo-

clubs currently fell short of this

LINEKER . . unlucky

standard. One of them is

Ichihara JEF United, riding

high in the league thanks to

Despite renovations com-

pleted last month, Ichihara's

home stadium can hold only

Ichihara city officials to increase

stadium capacity," a club offi-

cause crowd capacity is a mat-

about a quick improvement of

two or three years to improve

ter of life and death for us."

stadium capacities, however.

"We are negotiating with

"The bigger, the better; be-

Sasaki was pessimistic

"I think it will probably take

10,000.

cial said.

German star Pierre Littbarski.

The spokesman sali several

date at least 15,000 fans.

Parreira said recently he has doubts whether soccer ever will catch on in the United States as FIFA and US Soccer Federation officials hope, even with the help of the World Cup. "I was being asked the same

and carrying a sign reading,

"USA, We're with you," and

walking behind a US flag was

whistled at by Brazilians fans

country as the "away from home team." That's what we call it,

desender Desmond Armstrong

said. 'It certainly is dishearten-

ing. The American public

doesn't realize what we're up

against. But at least this gives

some people a taste of what it's

Clavijo, a native of Uruguay,

country to find a better life

here should cheer for their new

country. They work here, they

live here they should cheer for

But goalkeeper Tony Meola

"We live in America and

there are many ethnic back-

grounds. When we played last

year in Chicago my Dad was in

the stands and he rooted for

Italy," said Meola, whose father

Vincent played professionally in

general of the US Soccer

Federation, said most of the

Brazilian fans would have

cheered for the US team if they

were playing someone else. But

the fact remains, many times when the US team plays at

home the old country fans out-

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto

number the home-team fans.

Hank Steinbrecher, secretary

Italy in the early 1960s.

the US," Clavijo said.

was more understanding.

said he doesn't understand.

US desender Fernando

"People who have left their

all about.

"We're used to playing in the

and given the thumbs down.

question 15 years ago," he said. "I have no doubt that the World Cup will be a success. I have no doubt the World Cup will be well promoted. But whether football will ever be a success here, I have my doubts."

the current situation.'

and stay top of the table.

in Japan.

In Saturday's on-field action,

Brazilian Alcindo took his sea-

son's goal tally to six in seven

games to help Kashima Antlers

beat Yokohama Marinos 2-0

lack a marksman of Alcindo's

quality, trail in second place

Nagoya Grampus Eight to

power them to success, contin-

ues to disappoint his many fans

limped off with an injured foot

as Grampus went down 3-1 to

Osaka Gambas, sinking to

Lineker, who has scored just

once, is expected to be out for

about a week, his club trainer

S Koreans canter

past Lebanon

downed Lebanon 2-0 after

leading 1-0 at half-time in a

World Cup Asian Zone Group D

preliminary match here

corner kick in the 31st minute

to open the scoring, and

Hwangbo Kwan made it two

with a powerful shot after a

goal-front melee in the 56th

The Lebanese hardly threat-

Standings (played, won,

6 2 3 1 6 2 7

5 2 1 2 7 12 5

6 0 4 2 4 7 4

5 0 1 4 4 12 1

drawn, lost, goals for, against,

South Korea 6 5 1 0 13 1

Hah Suk-Joo headed in a

Monday, reports AFP.

ened the Korean goal.

minute.

points)

Bahrain

Lebanon

India

Hong Kong

SEOUL, June 7: South Korea

said on Monday.

ninth place, one from the bot-

The former England captain

with inferior goal difference.

Hiroshima San Frecce, who

Gary Lineker, bought by

FIFA offer for BFF

Sports Reporter

Oldrich Svab, a naturalized Swiss, may get the job of training the Bangladesh football team for the next SAF Games to be held in Dhaka next December.

A brief resume of this 49year-old Czech-born coach was received by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday. In a faxed message FIFA. the highest governing body of international football, asked the BFF for confirmation by June 15 at the latest.

A former player of the Swiss First Division league Svab has 15 years of coaching experience including a seven-year professional contract with Grasshoppers Zurich and short stints with Baden and Chur.

FIFA's initiative to provide Bangladesh with a qualified coach for the period between July 1 to December 31 came as a sequel of IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch's assurance of a football coach during his recent visit to Bangladesh.

IOC is supposed bear the brunt of all financial matters regarding the appointment of the coach.

However, the issue might yet take some time to come to a head because of the apparent indecisiveness at the decision making level. BFF officials are reportedly more interested about Peter Stubbe, a German coach, who had been in Dhaka recently. The German coach is in charge of the Thai national team at present.

Abahani face Brothers in Pabna today

Sports Reporter Reigning Star First Division football league champions Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers Union, touted as one of the three giants of local football, meet in a dress rehearsal for the forthcoming league at the

Pabna stadium today. The exhibition match between the two top teams from Dhaka holds extra interest for local fans who would see as many as four Russian footballers in action for the two

The foreign booters of both sides will be under close scrutiny of the respective club officials and coaches because the quartet will make their debut on Bangladeshi soil today.

Brothers have recruited three Russian footballers -two strikers and a medio-cum-defender while Abahani, who are to fill their quota of foreign players will have their Russian recruit defending the citadel.

DMCA meets tomorrow

Sports Reporter

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka Metropolis Club Association (DMCA) will be held tomorrow at 5 pm at the Arambagh Club premises at Motifheel.

All members have been requested to be present at the meeting.

Bahrain add to India's woe

SEOUL, June 7: Bahrain beat India 3-0 in a World Cup Asian Zone Group D preliminary match here Monday, reports AFP.

Bahrain, who were leading 1-0 at half-time through a 20th minute goal by Mubarak Khamis Murarak, dominated the match.

Murarak scored again in the 53rd minute and Khamis Eid Thani made it three a minute

The result left Bahrain on seven points in Group D, which also includes South Korea, Hong Kong, and Lebanon. India are bottom of the group with a single point.

Higuita in a serious mess

BOGOTA, June 7: Columbian soccer international goalkeeper Rene Higuita was arrested at the weekend, accused of being involved in ransom negotiations following the kidnapping of a young girl, reports

Higuita could face a 13-year sentence if found guilty. He is accused of receiving

around 62,500 US dollars for helping to negotiate the freedom of Claudia Molina, the daughter of his friend Luis Carlos Molina Yepes. Negotiations with kidnappers

are outlawed in Columbia and seen as an incitement for further kidnappings.

Wales waltz

TOFTIR, Faroe Islands, June 7: Wales beat the Faroe Islands 3-0 (halftime 2-0) in a European Group Four World Cup soccer qualifier on Sunday, reports Reuter.

two pounds (1.9 kg) less than Scorers: Dean Saunders he weighed for his last fight in (23rd min), Eric Young (31st) January when he stopped Pierre Ian Rush (69th). Coetzer in the eighth round. Attendance: 4,209.

Morrison, 24, added three

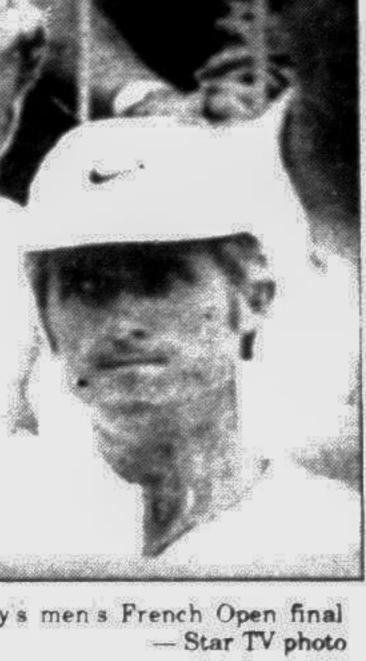
day's scheduled 12 round Wold Boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight title fight, reports Foreman, 44, tipped the scales at 256 pounds (116 kg).

Foreman is two inches (5cm) taller than Morrison Monday's fight, at the Thomas and Mack Center, is a

major heavyweight titles.

Morrison had been on his way to a title shot when Ray Mercer knocked him out in

October, 1991. Advisors to World Boxing



A trio of Courier fan forms an apt commentary on yesterday's men's French Open final proceedings.

Indonesian spirit at its peak



BIRMINGHAM, June 7: Indonesian badminton is flyieping the singles titles at the World

Championships, reports Reuter Joko Suprianto and Susi Susanti won gold in the singles while top seeds Ricky Subagja and Rudy Gunawan took the men's doubles title to complete a memorable day for the Indonesians on Sunday.

The tournament's most exciting player, Dane Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen, could only mark time.

He played like a winner for most of the week, disposing of Olympic champion Allan Budi Kusuma. But he still came up against an Indonesian he could not get past in the shape of Hermawan Susanto.

Indonesian team manager Leo Wiranata believes Stuer-Lauridsen has the potential to become a champion.

"Usually, he has got to get past three Indonesians at any major tournament before he can be champion and I think that

psychologically that weights on him, said Wiranata,

"But he's a future champion, I think. He's got my full sympathy in the task he faces each

Stuer Lauridsen, a bronze medalist at the Barcelona Olympics last year and the World Championships, remains confident of his chances of making it to the top.

"I was seeded third and I got that far, and I played some very good badminton before the semifinals," he said.

"Of course, after my game against Kusuma, I really thought I had a very good chance of making the final but you win some and you lose some and it was my turn to

At the age of 22, time is on

"I still think that at the next World Championships (in Lausanne in 1995) and at the Atlanta Olympics I will be at a very good age," he said.

"I said before this tournament I did not think my

chances were as good as they

will be in Lausanne because I will be 24 then and that's a very good age for a European badminton player.

New men's champion Suprianto went through the week without dropping a game. beating Susanto 15-5, 15-11 in the final

He was seeded second behind compatriot Heryanto Arbi and was not subject to the same pressures that triggered Arbi's early exit to unsceded Swede Jens Olsson. Women's champion Susanti

added the world crown to her Olympic and All England titles at the expense once more of South Korean Bang Soo-Hyun, who lost in three games. "We are good friends off

fighters," said Susanti. The only cloud on the Indonesian horizon was the failure to clinch two tourna-

court, but on court we are both

ment points against South Korea in last week's Sudirman Cup mixed team event.

"We are flying high," said Wiranata, then added: "But not high enough."

Grand Slam for Susi Susanti



of Indonesia became the first player to hold the Grand Slam of major badminton titles when she won

BIRMINGHAM, Ju-7-11, 11-9, 11-3 to add the ne 7: Susi Susanti World Championship women's

Indonesia's first Olympic gold medalist in any sport, is now her country's first women's



Indonesian champion female shuttler Susi Susanti is all smiles while showing the medal she won for clinching the women's World Badminton Championship title in Birmingham on June 6. - AFP photo

the World Championship here on Sunday, reports AFP. Susanti, holder of the

Olympic, All- England and World Grand Prix titles, beat Bang Soo-Hyun of South Korea

world singles champion for 13 years, she said she plans to keep playing until the Atlanta Games in 1996. wouldbe the first time since here.

1980 (when Rudy Hartono and Veraswaty Wiharjo won! that her country held both world singles titles. Both the men's finalists are Indonesians.

However, there were moments when it seemed Susanti might not make it. As in the Olympic and All- England finals against Bang, she started slowly, sometimes taking the shuttle surprisingly late.

Susanti also moved less freely than usual, several times attempting over- ambitious winners from unfavourable positions. Bang was always ahead in

the first game and led 3-1 in the second when she gave a little gesture with her first suggesting she thought an upset was close. It was not until 66 in the second game that Susanti pro-

duced three rallies in her typical relentless style, each time forcing an error. First the Korean let a clear drop and it fell in, then she

cleared wide, and then Bang went 6-9 down when she put a high clear over the baseline. Susanti went to 10-6 and then came a dangerous revival from Bang, who beat Susanti in

the Korean Open in January

and was always looking for

openings against her illustrious opponent. Bang got back to 9-10, but then again let a high clear drop into court - a costly error because Susanti immediately clinched the second game with a disguised forehand jab down

the line. "I always thought I would win the third because I am fitter," said Susanti. "I made errors to start with because I felt the tension. Each of the titles I have mean a lot to me. couldn't pick one as more im portant.

Susanti said she planned to go on the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 and then retire and

Her boyfriend is Indonesia's other Olympic singles champion Allan Budi Kusuma, who was Susanti also ensured it climinated in the quarter-finals

Council champion Lennox Lewis

Foreman, 72-3, has been giv-

ing mixed messages about

whether he will retire after this

fight, regardless of the outcome.

Morrison is a 7-5 favourite to

beat Foreman, who last won a

Foreman outweighs Morrison



Reuter.

in March. the official weight-in for Mon-

must win for Morrison if he to again be considered a serious contender for boxing's three

world heavyweight title in 1973 when he beat Joe Frazier Foreman lost it to Muhammad All the next year and retired in 1977, only to make a comeback 10 years later

pounds [1.3 kg] to the 223 [10] LAS VEGAS, June kg) he weighed in a tuneup fight have said they have had serious 7: George Foretalks with Morrison's camp against Dan Murphy, whom he man out weighed about a possible October title knocked out in the third round Tommy Morrison fight if Morrison, 36-1, gets by by 30 pound (13.6 kg) on Sunday at Foreman.