

Sport

Div I hockey

MSC begin a la Abahani

JS committee on sports meets

Koshi ends campaign in style

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha edged past Bangladesh Railway by a solitary goal in one of yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league matches at the Hockey Stadium.

Naqib scored the decider in the 59th minute while he sounded the board with a powerful stroke from the top of the D.

In the day's other league engagement, Dhaka Ansars and Sonali Bank battled it out for a one-all draw.

Solatan Htuq took Ansars one up in the 15th minute of the match through a field goal.

Sultan Ahmed drew level 50 minutes into the game when he capitalised on a penalty corner.



Sports Reporter

Tito, Arman and Aslam, who left Abahani this year after almost a decade with the Dhanmondi side — frustrated their fans with chaotic game plan. Apart from the offensive which earned them the equaliser most of the Mohammedans moves lacked sharpness.

After a lengthy patch of dis-



Action from the Star First Division football league match between Farashganj Sports Club and Bangladesh Boys Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Farashganj won the match by a solitary goal. — Star photo

Dutch defeat ROK

SEOUL, June 12: The Netherlands beat South Korea 3-0 in a World League Volleyball Group B match here today, reports AFP.

Set scores were 15-8, 15-6, 15-6.

The match leaves South Korea with five wins and three losses while the Netherlands has two wins and six losses in matches for Group B, which also includes China, Cuba, Finland and Italy.

Bayern set to get Gullit

MILAN, Italy, June 12: Bayern Munich have become favourites to sign former Dutch international Ruud Gullit, Italian press reports said Thursday, reports AFP.

Gullit, who did not go on AC Milan's tour of South Africa and Australia so he could find a club for next season, has been offered a lucrative two-year contract by Bayern, the reports said.

The veteran Dutch star has also been linked to Real Madrid and Spanish side Valencia, who have a Dutch coach Gus Hiddinck. Valencia president Arturo Tuzon on Friday denied there had been any talks.

"I have contacts with several clubs, but have yet to decide what to do," commented Gullit who is leaving Milan after six seasons.

Wilkins tops MBE list

LONDON, June 12: Ray Wilkins, the former England football captain, topped the sportsmen honoured in the Queen's birthday list today, reports AFP.

The midfielder was made an MBE for 20 years service to his sport with Chelsea, Manchester United, AC Milan, Paris St Germain and Rangers. He is still playing with Queen's Park Rangers at the age of 36.

Snooker king Stephen Hendry, a rare British success story amid the recent sporting calamities, was also made an MBE after winning his third world title last month.

The Scot, at the tender age of 24, is now halfway towards equalling Steve Davis's modern-day record of six world crowns.

Scotland soccer manager and Roxburgh is given consolation after seeing his side face almost certain elimination in their bid to reach next year's World Cup finals with the award of the OBE.

An OBE also goes to Mickey Walker, captain of Europe's women golf team whose Solheim Cup victory over American was hailed as one of the sporting highlights of last year.

Burmese booter detained for shoplifting

SINGAPORE, June 12: A Burmese Southeast Asian (SEA) Games footballer is under investigation for alleged shoplifting, a police spokesman said today, reports AFP.

The footballer, aged 17, was released on a bail of 1,300 US dollars Thursday, the spokesman said. The bail was posted by a Burmese football team official.

Police withheld his name because of his age. Crimes involving those below 18 are classified as juvenile cases and papers are not allowed to publish their names.

According to the police the youth had gone to a shopping complex next to hotel where the Burmese team members and officials are staying.

He left the department store without paying for a leather wallet and some toiletries, said to be worth about 20 US dollars.

The store's security guards detained him and called the police. He was taken for questioning and released by the police after a bail was posted.

It is not known if he would be charged in court. Burmese officials refused to speak to the press.

An official of the Games organising committee refused to comment on the matter saying this is a police case and has nothing to do with the Games.

The Games commence Saturday.

draw one-all in the inaugural match of the new-look league Friday with Public Works Department (PWD) Sporting Club, when they struggled to a similar 1-1 draw with Mukti-jodha Sangsad at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The match, which saw no goal in the first half and hardly any impressive offensive from either of the two sides, featured hosts of rough tackling forcing referee Raqibul Alam into action more often than not. One booter from both sides — Reaz of Mohammedans and Abdur Razzak of Mukti-jodha — received marching order while Razzak's teammates Chapal and Shahjada were cautioned with the yellow card as the man in black tried desperately to keep things under control.

Mohammedans without their four regular players — Barun,

orderly footballing at both ends Mukti-jodha Sangsad drew first blood in the 71st minute through Chapal. The striker, who was later shown the yellow card, silenced Mohammedan fans when he placed the ball into the net after being set one on one well inside the penalty box (1-0).

Out of the fear of losing the first match, Mohammedans put their game together and launched a number of attacks on the Mukti-jodha defence but they were not incisive enough.

Mohammedans had to wait until the 80th minute for the equaliser when Kaiser Hamid, to leap up in the air to head home a neat floater from the flank by skipper Sabbir, much to the relief of the eager fans (1-1).

Rest of the match was more or less, dominated by the men

Sporting Club by a solitary goal. After a barren first half, which featured a series of mid-field melees, Jamil scored the match-winner in the 56th minute.

Badal Das of Bangladesh Boys Club was sent off after he made a rough tackle on Rouf Babul of Farashganj Sporting.

TEAMS

Mohammedans: Kanan, Manik, Jewel Rana, Kaiser Hamid, Pappu, Shariful (Ekram Rana), Prasanta (Roxi), Sabbir, Shah Alam Babu, Naqib and Reaz.

Mukti-jodha Sangsad: Pannu, Emdad, Razzak, Shipar, Shahjada, Paritosh (Parimal), Chapal, Mizan, Rana, Zahid and Samrat.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Bima KS vs Dhanmondi Club

Brothers Union vs Wari Club

The 10th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Sports and Youth Ministry was held yesterday at the Sangsad Bhaban with State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting was informed that the sixth SAF Games will be held in Dhaka between December 20 and 31 and an amount of Tk 18.14 crore has been sanctioned to hold the Games.

Eleven events namely football, athletics, swimming, volleyball, kabaddi, tennis, table tennis, wrestling, judo, shooting and boxing will take place in the competition.

The meeting was further informed that Bangladesh competitors have already been started practicing on various events under foreign coaches.

Committee members — Mo-sharraf Hossain Manju, Mohammad Serajul Islam and Begum Raushan Ara Hena of BNP, Zainal Abedin Hazari, Mohammad Amjad Hossain Talukdar, Mir Bahadur and Mohammad Ishaque of Awami League and Secretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth M. Azizul Hque were present at the meeting.

Graf not certain

NEW YORK, June 12: Steffi Graf's foot injury is worse than it first appeared and the Wimbledon women's champion is not certain to defend her title this year, her agent said Friday, reports AFP.

Phil de Picciotto said the French Open champion has "a serious condition that will have to be taken care of in a substantial way."

He said Graf is suffering from periotitis, an inflammation of the membrane covering a bone in her right foot.

After beating Mary Joe Fernandez in the French Open final Graf returned to Germany for treatment.

"She will start training for Wimbledon this weekend," Picciotto said, adding that her appearance there was "not a certainty."

Graf, who turns 24 next Monday, regained the number one ranking by reaching the final at Roland Garros. She has won the last two Wimbledon Championships, and 12 Grand Slam titles overall.

She held the top ranking from August 17, 1987, until March 10, 1991, when she was displaced by Monica Seles.

Sports Reporter

International Master Varugese Koshi of India his engagement in the play-off meet for the qualifying round of the world chess championships for Zone Eleven with a win over Niaz Murshed, the only Grandmaster of this country.

In the original eleven-round meet, which concluded in the Iranian city of Isfahan, Koshi also beat Niaz to create a top of the table deadlock with the two along with Indian Grandmaster Dibyendu Barooah finishing with eight points each.

Playing with white pieces

The option of coming up with ten moves in one minute. This triggered off a number of blunders on Niaz's part and on the 38th move, in a vulnerable position, the Bangladeshi GM resigned.

Niaz will have to earn at least one and a half points to qualify for the next round from



Grandmaster Niaz Murshed (R) contemplates his next move against Indian International Master Varugese Koshi during their match in the play-off meet for the qualifying round of the world championship for Zone Eleven at the NSC conference room yesterday. Niaz lost to Koshi. — Star photo

ntry, at the National Sports Council yesterday.

The victory marked the remarkable lightbulb on the part of the bearded Indian IM who after losing two consecutive matches to Dibyendu and Niaz on the first two days came back strongly to exact revenge on the two GMs.

Koshi, the well-built, bespectacled Calcuttan, ended his four-match campaign with two wins against two losses. Yesterday's win bettered his record against the Bangladesh

Koshi pushed his bishop's pawn on the queen's side following the English Opening. Niaz moved his king's knight to counter that.

Throughout the match Niaz tried to work out a new variation and it dragged him into trouble when on the 18th move the GM made in a weak move with his queen and seven moves later Niaz's position became precarious.

At this stage, both men ran out of time and were left with

the next two matches against Indian GM Dibyendu Barooah, who faces a similar task. Their two-match tussle begins tomorrow with Barooah playing with the advantage of having white pieces.

If the two matches end draws then Koshi will qualify for the next round scheduled to be held in Switzerland and in the case of both the GM winning once each the dead-head which originated in Isfahan, will continue.

Waqar asserts his supremacy

LONDON, June 12: Waqar Younis showed why he is the world's top-rated bowler by picking up his second five-wicket haul of the season as Surrey took charge against joint county championship leaders Glamorgan at the Oval on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Pakistani pacesetter took five for 60 to help shut out Glamorgan for 166, deficit of 116. England vice-captain Alec Stewart weighed in with six catches behind the stumps.

Surrey then stretched their advantage by another 39 runs



Waqar Younis right from the start as they slumped to 24 for five and only

with all second-innings wickets trunct at the close on the second day of the four-day match.

Glamorgan were in trouble

gritty 70 from Tony Cottee, who shared a sixth-wicket stand of 80 with Roland LeFevre (48), gave the score some respectability.

Earlier, Graham Thorpe, watched by England manager Keith Fletcher, completed his first championship century of the season, making 104 out of Surrey's first innings 282.

Rain wreaked havoc with the country programme, washing out play in four matches.

Northamptonshire skipper Allan Lamb cracked a breezy 60 against a toiling Sussex attack at Hove.

Only 23.4 overs were possible in two brief sessions as Northants took their score to a commanding 447 for six.

Lamb thumped nine fours off 96 balls before being caught behind by Peter Moores attempting to drive pacesman Ed Giddins.

Opener Nigel Felton added only a single to his overnight 106 before edging Adrian Jones to Moores.

A battling 73 by Hampshire skipper Mark Nicholas held his side together against Kent at Basingstoke.

Nicholas hit a six and 10 fours, but it was slow going as Hampshire crawled to 232 for seven from 107 overs in reply to Kent's 275.

Martin rallies to win M'sian Open title

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12: World number one Michelle Martin clawed back from two games down to beat fellow Australian Sarah Fitzgerald and win her third successive Malaysian Open women's squash title on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Martin won 6-9, 5-9, 9-2, 9-4, 9-1 after world number seven Fitzgerald ran out of steam in the last three games.

Fitzgerald, who defeated second seed Liz Irving in the semifinals, outplayed Martin in the first two games with a lot of volley-and-drop shots.

"I knew it was going to be hard," said Martin. "The tide turned because I think she ran out of energy."

Fitzgerald said: "I thought I could win and maybe that was the problem as I lost concentration and she made me run around too much."

WASHINGTON, June 12: Brazil defender Julio Cesar said on Friday thieves had stolen 50,000 dollars of his money from the team's Washington Hotel, reports Reuter.

Two other Brazilian soccer players, forward Careca and defender Valber, reported that they had also had 7,500 dollar stolen between them.

Julio Cesar, who also lost four expensive watches, said the money, bounced from playing with Italian club Juventus during the past European season, has been left in a suitcase in Careca's room.

The burglary was discovered when the players returned after the 3-3 draw with Germany on Thursday.

He said he was too upset to play in Sunday's game against England and criticised the 50,000 dollar a night hotel as unfit for the team to stay in.

"The CBF (Brazilian Football Confederation) has to take action," he said.

"England and Germany are staying in five star hotels. We are at the end of the world where they say it's too dangerous to go out into the street."

Brazilian embassy officials said the matter had been reported to the police and had been taken up with the US government.

It's better be late than never

LONDON, June 12: Harold Larwood, the fast bowler at the centre of the most bitter dispute in the history of cricket, was finally rewarded in Queen Elizabeth's honours list today, 60 years after he last played for England, reports Reuter.

Larwood, now 88 and the central figure in the infamous "bodyline bowling tour" of Australia in 1932-33, was made a member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

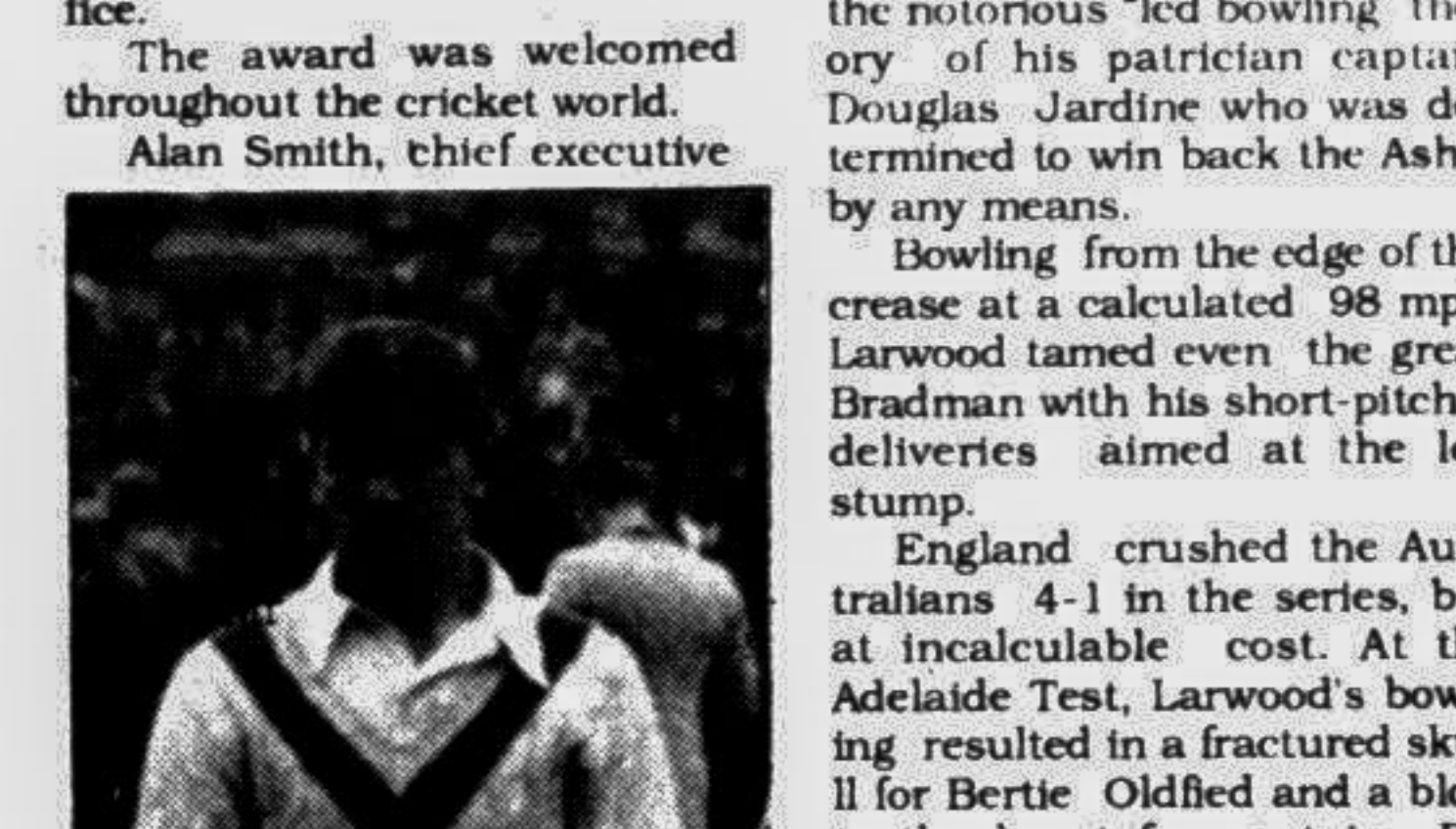
There was more than a little irony in the title of the long-delayed award.

As his lethal, short-pitched deliveries battered and bruised their batsmen 60 years ago, many Australians were so incensed they demanded the country pull out of what was then known as the empire.

He became the most hated man in Australia, and such was the depth of feeling engendered by the row he was never picked again by England.

Yet, in another curious twist, Larwood emigrated with his family to Australia after World War Two and subsequently became good friends with Sir Donald Bradman, the batting genius Larwood's bowling tactics were intended to subdue.

The long-overdue honour was due to the influence of British Prime Minister John Major, a devout cricket-lover who keeps a picture of his heroes Larwood and batsman Jack Hobbs together in his office.



HAROLD LARWOOD

of the English Test and County Cricket Board, said: "We are absolutely delighted for Harold and his family. He's a great figure in the annals of Ashes cricket and, even to this day, there are many who say he was the fastest bowler of all-time."

Larwood, who began his working life in the Nottinghamshire coal mines as a young boy leading the pit ponies, never believed he had anything to be ashamed of for his starring role in one of sport's greatest controversies.

He was told to spearhead the notorious "led bowling" the cry of his patrician captain Douglas Jardine who was determined to win back the Ashes by any means.

Bowling from the edge of the crease at a calculated 98 mph, Larwood tamed even the great Bradman with his short-pitched deliveries aimed at the leg stump.

England crushed the Australians 4-1 in the series, but at incalculable cost. At the Adelaide Test, Larwood's bowling resulted in a fractured skull for Bertie Oldfield and a blow to the heart for captain Bill Woodfull.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries hit an all-time low.

Reconciliations were such that Larwood's exclusion from the 1934 Test team was seen as a political decision made to placate the Australians.

He topped the county bowling averages in 1936, but was still ignored by England.

As a member of parliament John Carlisle, chairman of the Tory Back-Bench Sports Committee, said: "It is marvellous to think that Harold Larwood has been recognised, after all these years as a virtual out-cast. It perhaps proves that poachers can become gamekeepers."

Fight for life

LONDON, June 12: Ray Kennedy, one of Britain's most honoured footballers, is to sell his remarkable medal collection to help him in his struggle with Parkinson's Disease, reports AFP.

Kennedy, who enjoyed a glorious career with Liverpool and Arsenal, hopes to collect around 70,000 pounds when his medals are sold at auction in Glasgow later this year.

Among the prizes are three European Cup Winners' medals from his playing days at Liverpool and the FA Cup/league championship "Double" set he won as a 19-year-old forward with Arsenal.



A goalmouth scramble during yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Dhaka Ansars and Sonali Bank at the Hockey Stadium. The match ended one-all draw. — Star photo

Lebanon round off with a win

SEOUL, June 12: Lebanon beat India 2-1 in a World Cup Asian Zone Group D preliminary match here Friday, after a half-time score of 1-1, reports AFP.