

BAAF committee reshuffled

The National Sports Council Monday reorganised the ad-hoc executive committee of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF), reports UNB.

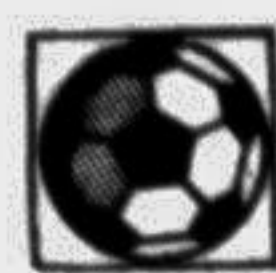
Mohammad Enamul Haq had been retained as president while M A Mannan emerged as the new general secretary of the federation.

The new office-bearers of BAAF are: President — Mohammad Enamul Haq; vice-presidents — K K Altaf Hossain and Abdul Wadud Khan; General secretary — Mannan; joint secretaries — Jahangir Faiz and Arjan Khan; treasurer — Altaf Hossain; members: Kazi Shamsul Islam, Mohd Abdur Razzak, Mrs Lutfunnessa Haq Bakul, Mohd Faruqul Islam, Shah Alam, Syed Bazul Rahman, Syed Mitanur Rahman, Mohd Talebul Mowla Chowdhury, Begum Kazi Zaheda Ali, Zinat Ahmed, Nasreen Haq (Chittagong), Begum Sofia Khatun, Begum Shamima Sattar Mimu, Nazrul Islam Rumi and Saikur Rahman Don.

Besides, the new committee also included one representative each from Dhaka Divisional Sports Association, Khulna Divisional Sports Association, Rajshahi Divisional Sports Association, Barisal Divisional Sports Association, Army Sports Control Board, Air Force Sports Control Board, Navy Sports Control Board, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation and National Sports Council.

Arambagh's steady start

Sports Reporter



Arambagh Kriya Sangstha, who finished fourth in last year's league table, began this year's campaign on a winning note when they beat Victoria Sporting Club by two goals to one in the Premier Division encounter, one of the two matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half Arambagh took the lead under the floodlights early in the second half and further consolidated their position in a match they always looked likely to win. Victoria injected some life in an otherwise lacklustre match with a goal at the end but it was too late for any attempt to ensure at least one point.

With Abahani, Mohammedans and Brothers, the top three clubs, reconciled wily nilly with their share of hardship and disaster in the first three days of 1993 Star Premier Division league the focus was on Arambagh. But they proved that they are yet to be plagued by the pressure and stake syndrome of the big teams.

Playing with the zest and openness of a just promoted team they were at their serious best against a team known these days for their tradition rather than any remarkable achievement in the recent years.

Dablu, the long haired right back, was the source of inspiration for Arambagh. Overlapping tirelessly he found Towhid, another busy man of the day, time again to cause enough head-ache to the Victoria defenders.

It was Towhid who created the first opening in the 29th minute of the first half. He nearly curled in a ball from the left but Hira's shot hit the cross piece with Arun, the Victoria custodian, well beaten under the bar.

Towhid himself took a shot at the goal minutes before the short whistle but Arun rose to the occasion this time gripping tight and fast.

Arambagh were on target eight minutes into the second half when Rabbani placed a ball on Kamal's path from a flag kick taken by Dablu and the media made no mistake to find the net with carved left footer (1-0).

Hira made up for his misfortune with a 35th minute goal, this time hitting the back of the net with a grounder following a lovely minus from Towhid (2-0).

Victoria pulled one back five minutes later when Amin guided the ball home after Jewel had done the spade work with a fine ball floated across

the Arambagh goalmouth (2-1).

WANDERERS WIN

Although tradition took a beating in the second match, day's first encounter saw it re-deemed as Wanderers began their lap in the Star First Division football league with a win. They beat Adamjee, a relatively new name, by an identical odd goal in the three margin.

Adamjee, however, shot into the lead in the first half but Zakir's imaginative football helped Wanderers to come back from behind with a late rally.

Akram of Adamjee scored a spectacular goal when he swerved a free kick from a distance straight into the Wanderers net, in the 28th minute of the match (1-0).

Mustaqim, the veteran outside left of Wanderers, slammed the ball home following a minus from the left flank by Zakir five minutes into the second half (1-1).

Befittingly enough Zair rounded off a good day's work with a pleasing solo goal five minutes before the end to ensure full points for Wanderers.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BRTC SC vs Eskaton SS (4:30)
Rahmatganj MFS vs Agrani bank (6:30)

Rain the ruiner

BRISTOL, England, June 14: Australia's cricket match against Gloucestershire was abandoned as a draw because of rain on the third and final day on Monday, reports Reuter.

Scores: Gloucestershire 211 Australia 400.

Ward wards off Hampshire

LONDON, June 14: Trevor Ward blasted his second century of the season as Kent crushed Hampshire by seven wickets to retain joint lead of the Sunday league along with Sussex, reports Reuter.

Opening batsman Ward plundered six sixes and 12 fours off 91 balls in a punishing 112, sharing an opening stand of 107 with Matthew Fleming (58) as Kent swept past Hampshire 196 to register their fourth win with 16 overs to spare.

Ward set about the Hampshire attack after medium-pacer Mark Ealham had paved the way by grabbing Sunday best figures of six for 53, his last three victims coming in the final five deliveries of the Hampshire innings.

But Sussex, who have played only five games — one less than Kent — maintained their unbeaten record as Alan Wells hit an unbeaten 92 at Hove against Northamptonshire.

Needing 215 to win, they eased home with two overs to spare.

Sussex's West Indian pace-keeper Franklyn Stephenson had earlier taken four for 27 as Northamptonshire's last five wickets crashed for only 18.

Durham recorded their first win against county opposition since August last year in any competition when they beat champions Middlesex by six wickets at Gateshead.

Durham, whose last victory was also in the Sunday league, were indebted to a match-winning stand of 93 by Phil Bainbridge (53 not out) and Stewart Hutton (44) after Middlesex managed only 158 for seven.

England batsman Graeme Hick played in Worcestershire's four-run defeat by Leicestershire despite suffering a cracked toe on Saturday in a County Championship match between the same two sides.

He was hit on the foot by a delivery from West Indian pace-keeper Winston Benjamin but England physiotherapist Dave Roberts said Hick would be fit to play in the second Test against Australia starting on Thursday.

It's a tiny crack I've told the selectors that as far as I'm concerned there should be no problem about Graeme playing at Lords, he said.

BTF committee revamped

The National Sports Council yesterday reorganised the ad-hoc executive committee of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation with Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan as president and Moazzem Hossain Khan the general secretary, reports UNB.

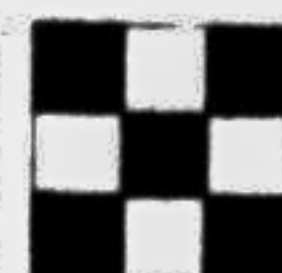
Other office-bearers of the newly formed Tennis Federation are: Vice-presidents — Prof Rashiduddin Ahmed, Fazlur Rahman Chowdhury and Zafar Imam; joint secretaries — Kazi Anwar Hossain and Syed Wahid; treasurer — Khaled Salauddin; members — Morshed Khan, Akmal Hossain, Ziaul Islam Chowdhury, Atique Rahman, Riazur Rahman Sohel, Enamul Haq Chowdhury, Farhad Zaman, Mahtabur Rahman Maruf, Mohammad Shahidullah, Begum Shirin Siddiqui, Dr SG Nahar, M A Malek (Chittagong), representatives of Khulna division, Barisal division, Rajshahi division, National Sports Council and the Dhaka Club.



Grandmaster Niaz Murshed (L) moves his king's pawn against his Indian counterpart GM Dibyendu Barooah during the last match of the three-man play-off meet of the qualifying round for the world chess championship for Zone Eleven at the NSC conference room yesterday. Niaz lost the match and hopes of reaching the next round. — Star photo

Hope is hope for wrong thing

Sports Reporter



Country's leading chess player Grand Master (GM) Niaz Murshed lost to Indian GM Dibyendu Barooah in the last match of the play-off meet of the qualifying round for world championship of chess at the conference room of the NSC yesterday to miss the lone berth up for grabs underlining once again that we are not ready to hope yet and if anyone dares despite that it will almost certainly end as the hope for the wrong thing.

Hopes soared high on June 13, Sunday, when Niaz beat Dibyendu Barooah to take a big leap at the slot of the single qualifier for the next round of the meet expected to be held in Switzerland later this year. The win, which raised Niaz's collection to two in this three man

journey, brought the senior of the two Grandmasters on the threshold of the championship. Only half a point was needed and a draw would have sufficed for a safe passage for the Bangladesh player.

The prejudicial stigma of being inauspicious associated normally with number 13 turned true yesterday as Niaz lost the revanche to allow his coeval to have the last laugh. It was a back to square one situation with all three players locked at two points each but Dibyendu's better track record in the main event confirmed it was the Indian GM's day.

Playing with white Niaz forwarded the queen's pawn to mark the beginning of this crucial match. Dibyendu was quick to counter with his black knight. Niaz was on easy street

until he made a blunder in the nineteenth move when he moved the queen's pawn and Dibyendu suddenly assumed control of an evenly poised match. The match continued upto the 44th move long enough to open Niaz's eyes about the hopeless condition he was in and the capitulation duly followed.

Dibyendu's triumph and Niaz's ultimate third position at the points table following a tie break brought the curtain down on the week long meet, which began on June 9, to resolve a deadlock.

All started in May last when Indians — GM Dibyendu Barooah and International Master (IM) Varugese Koshiy and Bangladeshi GM Niaz Murshed finished atop the points table of the eleven round meet with eight points each.

Div II cricket qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Prabhati Kriya Chakra fell just 12 runs short of the winning target of 127 in 30 overs set by Jitjira KC in one of the qualifying round matches for the Second Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Batting first the Jitjira cricketers managed 126 runs in 27.3 overs before being all out.

When the last Prabhati wicket fell to the third ball of the 30th over the scoreboard showed 115.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Khelegar Samaj Kalyan Sangha had a comfortable nine-wicket victory over Satgaon PS.

Chasing Satgaon's 86, scored in 26.4 overs, Khelegar cantered home in only 14.3 overs losing one of their opening batsmen.

Maghbaraz Kishlaya Sangha also had an easy ride at the Jagannath Hall ground against Gopibagh KC when they came out winners by a hefty 39-run margin.

The Maghbaraz batsmen gathered up 121 runs when their last man fell to the penultimate ball of their 30-over quota.

A modest four-runs-an-over target seemed too heavy for the Gopibagh batsmen as they were bundled out for 87 runs in 26.1 overs.

Healy hurt

BRISTOL, England, June 14: Australian wicket-keeper Ian Healy has sustained a broken thumb just four days before the start of the second cricket Test against England, reports Reuter.

Healy was struck on the right thumb during the third over on Saturday's first day of the tourists' match against Gloucestershire.

Australian team physiotherapist Errol Alcott said on Sunday Healy would not bat or keep wicket again for the remainder of the match but was hopeful he would be fit for the Lord's Test.

"Ian had the end of his thumb pushed back yesterday when he took one delivery in the third over," Alcott said.

"There is a break so he has the thumb in a splint and he's having constant ice treatment. It will take a couple of weeks to heal completely and he won't bat or keep again here because there's the chance he could damage it further."

"He would expect to play at Lord's but it's up to the selectors."

Healy's injury took the gloss of another highly satisfactory day for the Australians.

Matthew Hayden (57), David Boon (70), Mark Waugh (66) and Damien Martyn (51) each posted half centuries as Australia rattled up 400 all out in reply to Gloucestershire's 211.

BAF swimming

Four final and four heat events were held on the second day of BAF inter-base swimming championship at the Naval-Central Swimming Pool Complex, Banani yesterday, reports UNB.

In 200 metre Freestyle AC-2, Nurul Islam of BAF Base Zahurul Haque finished first while civilian Adil of BAF Base Matur Rahman stood first in 100 metre Breaststroke, said a press release.

In 200 metre Butterfly and 100 metre backstroke respectively LAC Zaid of Air Headquarters Unit and AC-2 Nurul Islam of BAF Base Zahurul Haque triumphed.

Smooth ride for Abahani

Sports Reporter



Captain Mahub Haroon struck twice to lead Abahani Kriya Chakra to yet another big margin victory in this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Abahani, last year's league runners-up who made their intentions clear in the very first match of the league with a thumping 9-0 victory over Bangladesh Railway, went again on rampage against Dhaka Wanderers to etch out a 5-0 victory.

Jumpon Usaid, the national ace, opened the account for the winners in the 21st minute when he unleashed a power-packed drive from a penalty corner, third of the day's eleven

that Abahani got (1-0). The skipper made his mark ten minutes later when stocky forward, set well inside the D with enough leverage, sounded the board with a scorching drive (2-0).

That was to be the last goal in the 35-minute first session although Abahani won as many as five penalty corners.

Following the pattern set in the first-half Abahani continued their relentless pressure on the Wanderers defence nevertheless the Dhanmondi outfit were made to toil for 12 minutes before getting the third goal.

On the 47th minute of the painfully lop-sided affair, Akhter Hossain found the opening in the erstwhile apparently impermeable defence (3-0). Seven minutes later Stam-e-

Noor outsmarted the Wanderers defenders before slamming home the fourth Abahani goal (4-0).

Six minutes from the final whistle, Haroon rounded off the tally with yet another field goal (5-0).

In the other match of the day, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club were held to a one-all draw by Police Athletic Club.

Shahiduzzaman took Mariner one up in the 32 minute when he capitalised on a penalty corner (1-0).

Police got the equaliser through Shahidul Islam, who made no mistake in pushing the ball into the net from a penalty stroke.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Usha KC vs Sonali Bank
Ajax SC vs Bangladesh SC

England salvage some pride



WASHINGTON, June 14: England went some way towards restoring their credibility as a soccer nation on Sunday by holding Brazil to a 1-1 draw in the US Cup, reports Reuter.

Substitute David Platt beat two Brazilian defenders to the ball to head England ahead in the 47th minute with his first touch.

Brazil defender Marcio Santos equalised in the 77th minute, racing in unmarked to head in Almir's corner from close range.

Brazil pressed for a winner in the closing minutes but could not find a way past the massed ranks of the England defence and goalkeeper Tim Flowers, who was making his international debut.

Flowers made a fine last minute save, diving to his right to stop a fierce low drive by Palhinha.

England will be relieved with the result, following defeats by Norway and the United States in their last two games.

Many England supporters had feared the worst, given their team's form and Brazil's dazzling first-half performance in their 3-3 draw with Germany

on Thursday. But despite an exciting last few minutes, both sets of players appeared to be feeling the effects of too much football.

chance to take the lead in the seventh minute when the ball slipped through two England defenders and found captain Rai completely free in the penalty area.

Flowers may have been expecting a baptism of fire but Rai's weak shot turned out to be his only real first-half save.

Central defenders Gary Pallister and Des Walker succeeded where the German defence had failed as they kept Careca and Valdeir quiet.

But England were desperately short of creativity and Brazil goalkeeper Taffarel did not have a first half shot to save despite England's seven corners.

Platt, recovering from an injury, was brought on at half-time for David Batty and the move paid off immediately as he scored after less than three minutes on the field.

England immediately began to look more confident but handed the initiative back to Brazil when, perhaps surprisingly, midfielder Paul Ince was replaced with defender Carlton Palmer.

In the 61st minute, Flowers made his best save so far, punching away Valdeir's shot which finished off a run in which the Bordeaux player beat three defenders.

Brazil had an excellent



Abahani captain Mahub Haroon about to make a drive to Dhaka Wanderers goal during yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league match at the Hockey Stadium. Abahani won the match 5-0. —Star photo

World champs ride on Riedle



CHICAGO, June 14: Lazio striker Karlheinz Riedle scored a superb headed hat-trick as Germany beat the United States 4-3 in the US Cup at Soldier Field on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Riedle, who stole like a ghost through the Americans' defence for each of his goals, scored twice in five minutes midway through the first half and put Germany 4-1 ahead with his third in the 59th minute.

But just as the Americans looked to be heading to a heavy and humiliating defeat in their first ever game against Germany, they struck back with two goals in seven minutes to set up a tense finish.

And it was German-born midfielder Thomas Dooley, goalscorer in the upset 2-0 win over England, who was the American hero again with two goals against the nation who ignored him for international duty.

But with Juergen Klinsmann marking his 50th international for Germany with the first goal in the 14th minute, the deficit was too much for the Americans to pull back, although they again proved they can compete with the best.

Captain Lothar Matthaeus, celebrating his 100th international, set up the first goal with a corner from which Klinsmann rose to head past goalkeeper Tony Meola for his third goal of the tournament.

Jeff Agoos tried to clear the ball off the line, but the referee judged it had crossed.

The Americans levelled in the 25th minute when Tab Ramos sent a long crossfield ball to Coventry City striker Roy Wegerle, who controlled it on his chest and placed it perfectly

at Dooley's feet in the box for the midfielder to blast in.

Dooley, who plays for Kaiserslautern and who only took out American citizenship last year through his father, had outpaced defender Guido Buchwald as the German defence were caught out by Ramos's long ball.

Six minutes later Meola tipped a long-range effort from Christian Ziege over the bar.

Germany continued to open up huge gaps in the US defence with runs from deep, which the

Dooley had an excellent chance to pull one back two minutes before the break when he was clear in the box but shot weakly at Andreas Koepke, and then fell as he attempted his kick the rebound.

Riedle completed his hat-trick — his 14th goal in 32 international — in the 59th minute when a long ball from Uwe Bein on the halfway line found Effenberg unmarked on the right and the Fiorentina midfielder sent in a cross to the unmarked Riedle.

As the Germans eased off and made substitutions, the Americans surged back.

In the 72nd minute, substitute Ernie Stewart, who plays for Willem II in the Netherlands, beat Kohler to a long ball from right back Lapper and his shot rolled past Koepke and over the line before Buchwald could get back.

Seven minutes later Dooley rose above the German defence to head in a John Harkes free-kick as Koepke scrambled to keep the ball out at the foot of the post. The linesman judged the ball had crossed the line.

3,000 WC tickets sold in 4 hours

CHICAGO, Ill, June 14: Three thousand World Cup tickets sold out in four hours when they went on public sale on Saturday for first and second-round games in Chicago and Washington, reports Reuter.

"The tickets went on sale for each of the five games in the two cities after earlier subscription sales to what organisers call the American 'Soccer Family' had sold out."

"We are thrilled to see that World Cup tickets are in hot demand," said Alan Rothenberg, chairman and chief executive officer of World Cup USA.

"We started our public sale procedure in Washington and Chicago so that fans in those cities could attend today's US Cup '93 Games, and I'm happy that so many people took advantage of the opportunity. It is very clear that we will achieve our goal of selling every ticket to each of the 52 World Cup matches in 1994."

Tickets went on sale in the other seven World Cup venues on Sunday — Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Orlando and San Francisco.

World Cup organisers say 1.3 million tickets will be available for next year's tournament.

Inter-varsity volleyball begins today

RAJSHAHI, June 14: Inter-university volleyball competition (Tuesdays), reports UNB.

Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof M Ansur Rahman will inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Shahjalal University, Agricultural University and Jahangirnagar University will take part in the competition.

Harkes' bold prediction



CHICAGO, June 14: The United States will reach the Second Round of the World Cup soccer finals next year — and may go further, reports Reuter.

That is the bold prediction of American midfielder John Harkes after the American side's strong performances in the US tournament against England, Brazil and Germany.

Harkes, who plays for Sheffield Wednesday in the English Premier league, said the Americans had shown they were capable of taking on the best teams in the world.

The Americans beat England 2-0 last week in their finest US Cup display. They also put up good performances in defeats by Brazil and Germany.

Harkes believes the Americans have improved considerably since the 1990 World Cup and will be tough to beat in next year's tournament in the United States.

"When we are all together and it's a full squad, then we are capable of beating anybody as we showed against England," he said.

"We have improved a great deal and come a long way since 1990. Then it was a learning experience for us. Now we have stepped up to a higher level, we are playing faster and making decisions better."

Harkes said experience was the main asset the team had acquired.

"Realistically we have got to think we are going to get to the Second Round of the finals next year. Anything less than that would be a failure for the US at the moment."

The Americans first showed they were becoming a stronger force under coach Bora Milutinovic in last year's US Cup tournament when they beat Portugal and Ireland and drew with Italy.

As World Cup hosts, the United States will be seeded next year.

"Being seeded is going to be beneficial to us because it's going to keep us apart from one of the top sides," said Harkes.

"Sometimes people say it won't make a difference but I think it will. It'll give us more confidence because we might get an easy grouping in the draw."