

Abahani smudge Bima's record

Sports Reporter
Abahani Krira Chakra crossed a hurdle on their way to regaining league championship when they smugged Sadharan Bima's unbeaten record with a one-nil victory in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Alamgir Alam of Abahani scored the match winner, a field goal five minutes from time.

Abahani Krira Chakra now share the lead in the points table along with reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club with 18 points from nine matches.

Faisal scored a hat-trick to inspire Ajax Sporting Club to a comfortable 3-0 victory against lowly Wanderers Club in the other engagement of the day at the same venue.

Faisal opened the account in the 29th minute from a penalty corner. He added two more in the 41st and 45th minute respectively to seal the fate of the match.

Ajax now have 15 points while Wanderers languish far behind with only three having played nine matches each.

Div II cricket qualifiers

Sports Reporter
Jinjira Krira Chakra moved into the semifinal of the qualifying competition for the Second Division cricket league with a facile 41-run victory over Amateur Cricket Club in the round of eight at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Batting first, the Jinjira side made 113 losing all the wickets in 27.1 overs with Faruq notching up the highest individual score of 20. Hafiz and Munna contributed 17 each while Shantu hit a useful 13.

Reza and Shahidul claimed three wickets each giving away 17 and 25 runs respectively.

The modest target of less than four runs an over was made impossible for the Amateur Cricket Club by a deadly spell from Munna. Munna, following up his useful showing with the bat, bowled superbly to dismiss five batsmen conceding only 12 runs and his brilliant effort restricted Amateur cricketers to a meagre 72.

In the other quarterfinal encounter Khelaghar Samaj Kalayan overpowered Maghbazar Kishalaya Sangha by ten wickets to win their place in the final four.

Replying the Maghbazar Kishalaya score of 89 the Khelaghar opens cantered home in 17.5 overs. Rana made 45 and Babar 34.

Tough draw for Bangladesh

Bangladesh have been placed with Asian giants Saudi Arabia and Syria in Group One in the 29th Asian youth U-19 football championship to be held in May next year, reports BSS.

According to groupings made by the Asian Football Confederation, 30 countries will take part in the championship in nine groups including one qualifying round to get berths in the final round.

The final round will take place from November 6 to 21 next year with the eight group champions, hosts and one team from Oceania Group.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh U-16 squad has been placed in Group One with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Malaysia in the sixth Asian youth championship to be held in April next year.

Twenty-seven nations will take part in the under-16 championship in seven groups including one qualifying group.

The final round of the tournament will be held in September next year.

BDR boxing ends

RAJSHAHI, June 23: A four-day inter-battalion boxing competition '93 organised by 20 Rifle Battalion concluded here on Tuesday at BDR headquarters, according to a PID handout, reports BSS.

Seventy-four competitors from 6 Rifle Battalion, Naogaon, 26 Rifle Battalion, Chapainawabganj and 20 Rifle Battalion, Rajshahi participated in 12 weight categories. The 26 Rifle Battalion emerged champions while 20 Rifle Battalion became runners-up in the meet. Sector Commander in charge Major Md Abdul Latif Hawlader witnessed the competition and distributed prizes among the winners.

Roma's new chief

ROME, June 23: A former Italian army chief of staff, General Ciro di Martino, is the new president of struggling football club AS Roma, reports AFP.

Martino replaces Giuseppe Ciarrapico, a businessman who had to resign after his arrest on corruption charges. The affair also implicated Ciarrapico's deputy, Mauro Leone, son of Italy's former President, Giovanni Leone.

Mohammedans get going



National striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib was distinctly unlucky to miss the first hat-trick of the league but Mohammedan Sporting Club had no problems in trouncing Victoria Sporting Club four-nil in the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Nakib scored two goals in the space of two minutes and missed a deserving third when his header hit the side post and Mohammedan skipper Rumman Bn Wali Shabbir knocked the rebounder home to call off a second half blitzkrieg.

Despite Mohammedans' unquestioned dominance the first half remained goalless.

Inspired by arch rivals Abahani's loss of a point following a two-all draw with Wari Tuesday, Mohammedans, who had experienced striker Aslam back in their ranks, launched all out offensive — right from the word go.

Sports Reporter

find net after this from advantageous position. Shabbir, who teamed with Arman to run off a series of lethal Mohammedan sorties, chipped the ball across the goalmouth in the 33rd minute but both Kaisar, Roxy failed to reach the flying ball. Arman missed the last Mohammedan chance in the first half when the crafty medio deposited the ball straight to Arun after Aslam and Barun each had a futile shy at the goal.

Mohammedans almost got the breakthrough they were so desperately looking for when Mahbubur Rahman Roxy attempted a drop head on a cross floated by a hard working medio Saiful Bari Titu but the ball bounced a wee bit higher and missed the goal by an inch or two.

With the midfield functioning smoothly Mohammedans lead seemed only a matter of time and it did come eleven minutes after Roxy's attempt as near as dammit.

across the turf to head the ball into the net following a cross by substitute Ikram Rana in the 40th minute (2-0).

Shabbir did the spade work for the third Mohammedan goal and Nakib, the second highest scorer of the recently concluded DMFA Cup, did the finishing to raise his tally to four in the current league in the 42nd minute (3-0).

Nakib had the chance of doing one better two minutes but his header hit the post and Shabbir, following up, found the net to mark the end of a heady day for last year's league runners-up.

Mohammedans, who got off to stuttering start this year with a one-all draw against Muktiyoddha, have now won two matches in a row to take their collection to five — one point ahead of arch rivals Abahani Krira Chakra.

Goals were galore in the first match of the day as Farashganj Sporting Club recorded an impressive three-nil victory



Victoria custodian Arun dives across to foil Mohammedan striker Nakib's attempt at goal during yesterday's Star Premier Division soccer tie at the Dhaka Stadium. Mohammedans registered a stylish 4-0 triumph.

However, Victoria, held the men in black and white in the recently concluded DMFA Cup, got the first scoring chance of the match. But Mohammedans' national custodian Syed Hassan Kanan pulled off a fine save to deprive an onrushing Hero, the Victoria forward.

It was an act of stirring the hornets' nest which Victoria went on ruing for the rest of the match. Aslam headed an Arman cross from the right but the attempt missed the post by a whisker. Nakib twice failed to

Referee Muzaffar Hossain awarded Mohammedans an indirect free-kick just outside penalty when Victoria goalie handled the ball outside his territory to foil a Mohammedan move. Shabbir deftly lobbed the ball and Kaisar, who played more like a libero, made good use of his height to head the ball home powerfully amidst deafening noise (1-0).

After a rather ungainly spell of aggression Mohammedans got their second goal when Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib dived

against Adamjee Sports Club in the Star First Division football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Tipu gave Farashganj the lead when he nodded home a minus by Jamal (1-0).

Jamal doubled the margin in the 30th minute with a fine solo effort (2-0).

Two minutes from time Amir dodged the Adamjee custodian to score the third goal to complete a very satisfying day for Farashganj (3-0).

Bradley opposes Beijing's bid



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 22: American Senator and former Olympic hero Bill Bradley has joined the campaign to stop Beijing getting the 2000 Games because of its human rights record, reports AFP.

Bradley launched his attack on the Chinese bid in a letter to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, which is meeting here this week.

The IOC will choose the host city on September 23 at a meeting in Monaco. Beijing, Sydney and Manchester are front runners in a race which also includes Brasilia and Istanbul.

Senior Olympic officials have already complained about a US House of Representatives motion against Beijing getting the Games. The officials said it was "unwanted interference."

Bradley, captain of the gold medal winning basketball team at Tokyo in 1964, said, "I would like to express my strong opposition to awarding the Games to Beijing while its government denies fundamental human rights to its citizens."

"Holding the Games in China, while its government routinely imprisons and tortures peaceful political dissidents, would confer upon China's leaders a stamp of approval by the international community which they clearly do not deserve."

The propaganda value for the current regime would be enormous, China's democracy activists would be demoralized and the image of the IOC would suffer as it worked closely with an authoritarian government to stage an event televised around the world.

"I urge you to choose another, more appropriate, venue."

Bradley's outburst comes after the House of Representatives in Washington passed a

Manchester's latest trick

MANCHESTER, England, June 23: Manchester steps up its bid to attract the 2000 Olympics on Wednesday by launching an independent foundation to help countries prepare their athletics for the Games, reports AFP.

National Olympic committees will be invited to apply to the Manchester Millennium Foundation for financial assistance for training, equipment, sports science, sports medicine and transport costs if the English city is awarded the 2000 Games in September.

The foundation will have a 25 million dollar fund, which will come from Manchester 2,000's operating budget.

motion against the Beijing bid. Copies of Bradley's letter were being distributed here on Tuesday by Richard Dicker, a lawyer with American lobby group, Human Rights Watch.

The group have spent many months publicising China's human rights record, particularly in the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, among IOC members.

"We will continue to denounce these crimes until the very last moment, in the hope that the IOC will not give the Games to Beijing," Dicker said.

"We know that China is not the only one to violate human rights. We have also attracted the IOC's attention to the Situation in Turkey in Brazil and even in Germany, but China is the country, among the six candidates, which unfortunately stands out."

Such moves have been given short shift though by many IOC members, who consider them an interference in Olympic affairs.

That response was a in turn criticised by the human rights lawyer.

"That's false," he declared. "Because respect for human rights is an integral part of the Olympic ideals."

However, many officials share the view espoused by Samaranch, who believes that hosting the Olympics would force China to open up.

Foster to take over as WA coach

PERTH, Australia, June 23: Daryl Foster, who has been described as one of the world's top cricket coaches, will return to coach Western Australia next season, the State Cricket Association announced here today, reports AFP.

Foster, at present coaching Kent in the English County Championship, will take up his position in late September.

Foster, 54, will take over from former Test swing bowler Terry Alderman, recently sacked from the coaching job after one unsuccessful season.

Foster had held the coaching position for 18 years, during which Western Australia won nine Sheffield Shield titles and six one-day inter-state championships, before he quit at the end of the 1991-92 season.

He is in the second season of a five-year term with Kent.

Foster will be assisted in Perth by former Test players Dennis Lillee and Craig Serjeant.

J-League gets another European

TOKYO, June 23: German striker Frank Ordencwiz is set to become Europe's latest footballing export to Japan, reports AFP.

JEF United Ichihara have paid FC Cologne 1.3 million marks (780,000 dollars) for Ordencwiz on a three year contract, sports Hochi newspaper reported today.

The 28-year-old is expected here in July, and will lineup alongside fellow countryman Pierre Littbarski.

However, a spokesman for JEF, currently second in the J-League table, said: "Nothing has been decided. I can't say if we are negotiating at the moment."

Injury, illness worry Aussie hockey squad

SYDNEY, June 23: Injuries and illness have disrupted Australia's preparations for their three-test field hockey series against Olympic champions Germany to get underway here on Thursday night, reports AFP.

Penalty corner specialist Todd Williams has suspected glandular fever and joins injured trio, forward Lee Bodimeade, striker Stephen Davies and goalkeeper Damon Diletti, on the sidelines for the matches, billed as replays of last year's Olympic final in Barcelona.

Germany won their first hockey Olympic gold medal in tow decades when they out-hustled Australia in a high-pressure final 2-1 last August.

Germany, rebuilding for next year's World Cup in Sydney, have proved superior to Australia in the last five years, winning seven of their 10 meetings and are the undisputed number one team in the world.

The three games to be played at the site of Sydney's proposed bid for the 2000 Olympics is the first time the two field hockey superpowers have met since Barcelona.

The series will also act as a full-scale warm-up for next month's champions trophy in Malaysia, which has drawn the world's top six nations.

With Germany gaining some new faces since Barcelona, Australian coach Frank Murray has little indication of their form, but expects them to be formidable.

"We are expecting more of the same player commitment and tight disciplined style of play from Germany," Murray said Wednesday.

"There wasn't much between us at the Olympics and being defeated taught us that you need to be very tough and treat every moment with the respect it deserves."

The matches, Australia's first for eight months, will be played under light on Thursday and on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

After this weekend's series, the Australian team flies to Singapore for a test against the Netherlands followed by the Champions Trophy.

Arnold hits back at Marsh



LONDON, June 23: England bowling coach Geoff Arnold hit back on Tuesday at Australian Cricket Academy supreme Rodney Marsh for labelling his charges pie-throwers, reports AFP.

The former Australian wicket-keeper launched his salvo after England's Ashes innings humiliation at Lord's on Monday, their seventh consecutive Test defeat.

Marsh blames the run on the English domestic programme and urges young Australian batsmen not to waste their time by looking for county experience.

"They go out there and face bowlers who are really just pie-throwers and they're not going to learn anything about the game," he said.

"There are a lot of blokes who would have given their

right arms to bat against England's attack.

"Michael Slater will probably admit that he's made better 30's or 40's in Sheffield Shield cricket than the 152 he got at Lord's."

Arnold retorted: "It's easy to knock when a side is down, but our bowlers are not rubbish. We have a lot of talented youngsters and were trying to get them through at the right time."

"I'm not really surprised the insults are flying, but it makes me laugh when I think of how many Aussies have benefited from playing in our championship cricket."

"And as for young bowlers, Martin McCaughey grew up in Australia, but he's come here through choice and is now an England candidate."

England's beleaguered players and officials received support from the Test and County Cricket Board on Tuesday.

Frank Chamberlain, the

TCCB chairman, said: "Obviously, everyone working within the TCCB is extremely disappointed that the second Test match at Lord's ended in defeat for the England team. Seven consecutive losses inevitably affects confidence and causes worry among us all."

"However, while I would expect some changes, I'm certain the selectors will not panic prior to announcing the squad for the next match at Trent Bridge."

"Many of the players who played in the first two matches have performed well in winning England sides and I see no reason why that should not happen again in the not too distant future."

"Those selected can be assured they have the full support of us all and it would be inappropriate of me to comment at this time on individuals closely associated with the England squad."

McCague's superb showing



LONDON, June 23: Australian-raised paceman Martin McCague improved his chances of an England place by bowling Kent to a 116-run victory over Middlesex in the Natwest Trophy first round on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The burly 24-year-old who wants to play for England rather than Australia, grabbed five for 26 to suggest he could be the man to solve their bowling problems.

He was supported by Dean Headley, who took three wickets against his old club as Kent easily defended a total of 282, based on half-centuries from West Indies all-rounder Carl Hooper (62), Mark Benson (60) and Neil Taylor (57).

In the only other first-class county clash Benson and Hedges finalists Lancashire crashed by six wickets to Northamptonshire, who were steered home by Rob Bailey with an unbeaten 96.

Lancashire were reduced to 70 for six at one stage before Mike Watkinson (60 not out) and Ian Austin engineered a recovery to 178 for seven.

The remaining 14 first-round ties provided an ideal opportunity for out-of-form players to rediscover their touch against minor countries, none of whom could spring an upset.

England flop Robin Smith, who looks certain to be dropped for the third Test, led the way with an unbeaten 105 including a six and 12 fours as Hampshire hammered Staffordshire by seven wickets at Stone.

International colleagues Alec Stewart and Graeme Hick followed their second-test 50s with more runs.

Stewart cracked 16 fours in a 79-ball century to see Surrey home by 10 wickets against Dorset in just 28.4 overs, while Hick was man-of-the-match for his 51 in Worcestershire's 76-run defeat of Scotland at Edinburg.

Two England hopefuls — Somerset batsman Mark Lathwell and Derbyshire seamer Dominic Cork — grabbed the inviting chance to press their international claims as well.

Lathwell blasted 103 in Somerset's 116-run win over Shropshire, while Cork snatched four for 18 in Derbyshire's 133-run defeat of Devon at Exmouth.

Meanwhile, a vintage innings by former West Indies skipper Viv Richards enabled Glamorgan to crush Oxfordshire by 131 runs at Swansea and set up a reunion with his old Pal Ian Botham in the second on July 7.

The 41-year-old smashed six sixes and 15 fours in county-

record 162 not out to lead a Glamorgan recovery from 40 for three to 322 for five off their 60 overs, while ex-England all-rounder Botham made a quick-fire 56 as Durham won by 103 runs against Wiltshire at Trowbridge.

There was also counties for Leicestershire's Tim Boon in their 75-run rout of Buckinghamshire and Warwickshire's dominic Ostler in his side's 143-run drubbing of Norfolk.

Half-centuries from Yorkshire's first four batsmen — Martyn Moxon (63), Ashley Metcalfe (77), West Indies skipper Richie Richardson (54) and David Byas (54) — paved the way for their 85-run win over Ireland.

Meanwhile, two impressive all-round performances were the key to Essex's 121-run hammering of Suffolk and Nottinghamshire's 62-run victory over Cheshire.

Pakistani Salim Malik cracked 74 and took four for 25 for Essex, while New Zealander Chris Cairns followed up his 64 with four for 18 to pull Nottinghamshire out of trouble.

Sussex's match-winners in their 114-trouncing of Wales were Bill Athey, who made 92, and Keith Greenfield with an unbeaten 96, while Mark Alleyne starred for Gloucestershire in their 110-run stroll against Hertfordshire with 73.

Opting for quantity instead



DURBAN, June 23: Organisers of the African athletics championships that open here today hope that quantity will make it a success in the absence of some of the continent's quality performers, reports AFP.

Despite a record entry of 540 athletes from 37 countries, several crowd-pulling superstars are absent from the line-up.

They include Kenya's 3,000m and 3,000m steeplechase world record holder Moses Kiptanui, as well as Matthew Birir, Patrick Sang and William Mutwol — who scored a clean sweep in the steeplechase at the Barcelona Olympics.

Other likely Kenyan absentees are Olympic 10,000m silver medalist Richard Cholema and 800m champion William Tanui.

Such notable absences have sparked a row between the athletes and Kenyan sports authorities, who say athletes who have been selected but fail to compete here will not make the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, in August.

The tussle has yet to be resolved, but some Kenyan second-stringers are making the trip to South Africa, including

Barcelona 5,000m silver medalist Paul Bitok, who will

FRANKIE FREDERICKS

once again do battle with Ethiopian bronze medalist Fita Bayissa.

In the 1,500m, the Kenyans are expected to reinforce their dominance of middle-distance events with David Kibet, ranked world second this year behind Algeria's Noureddine Morceli, and the useful Atofi Boru, who recently clocked 3 min 37 sec over the distance.

Namibia's Frankie Fredericks, the only man to win two sprint medals in Barcelona last year — silver in the 100m and 200m — is the biggest catch of the championships.

South African fans will also get their first glimpse of African women's 100m record holder Mary Onyali, the Nigeria who clocked 14:04 in 1997.

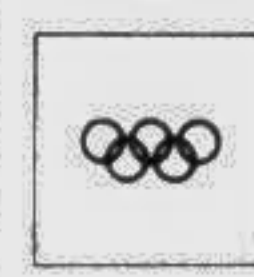
Local interest will focus on tom Petranoff, the former world javelin record holder who decided to compete at the last minute, and Olympic 10,000m silver medalist Elana Meyer, who contests the 1500m as she prepares for Stuttgart.

Eyes will also be on home-boy Bries Vorster's 400m hurdles duel with Zambian world champion Samuel Matete.

South Africa has strong medal hopes in African pole vault record holder Okkert Brits, while Mozambique will be expecting gold from Tina Paulino and Maria Mutola in the women's 400m and 800m, respectively.

The four-day championships will end Sunday after one-day break Saturday to avoid a clash with the first rugby Test here between South Africa and France.

Sydney refers to keep quiet



SYDNEY, June 23: Australian Olympic bid officials have moved to counter any international embarrassment after committee member Charles Perkins criticised rival bidder China, reports AFP.

Perkins, a prominent Australian aboriginal activist and former Member of Parliament, on Wednesday left early from the bid committee's delegation to an International Olympic Committee meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.

But Perkins denied his departure was linked to a split within the bid committee.

Earlier this week, Perkins breached Olympic protocol with implied criticism of the human rights records of China, Australia's main rival for the 2000 Games.

Perkins told a news conference in Lausanne: "We have problems in Australia, we have a long way to go... (but) we don't run over people with tanks we run people over with words."

"We have problems but we go about resolving them peace-

fully."

The remarks had an implied reference to the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing, and came at a time when Australia's IOC vice president Kevan Gosper was busy rejecting similar criticism of China's record from a US House committee.

Beijing and Sydney are considered the front-runners among the six cities seeking to host the 2000 Games. The IOC's 93 members will select the host city by secret ballot during their session in Monte Carlo on September 23.

Australian Bid Committee spokesman Ina Dose told ABC radio here Wednesday that his (Perkins) remarks are personal remarks.

Perkins denied his comments had caused a split in the Australian bid team.

"There is a false report circulating that there has been a split in the 2000 bid team and that I have been reprimanded," Perkins said.

"I came to Lausanne to back the bid."

"Yesterday I pledged that there was a united Australian

peoples bid to win the right to host the Games in they year 2000 in Sydney."

New South Wales (NSW) minister responsible for the Sydney bid, Bruce Baird, also denied there was disharmony in the bid team and that any suggestions of a split are mischievous.

The Sydney Bid Committee is led by Rod McGeoch and includes NSW premier Johan Fahey, Sydney mayor Frank Sartor, Gosper and Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates.

Perkins' remarks coincided with a charge from US Senator and former Olympic gold medalist Bill Bradley that Beijing should not get the 2000 Games because of its human rights record.

Bradley wrote a letter to IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch expression his strong opposition to awarding the Games to Beijing while its government denies fundamental human rights to its citizens.

Gosper suggested that continued US intervention could lead to a Chinese boycott of the 1996 Games in Atlanta.



An Abahani forward tries to get hold of the ball inside the Bima D during yesterday's Green Delta First Division league match at the Hockey Stadium. Abahani maintained their all-win record with sweaty 1-0 win. — Star photo