

Spot

Alexanders to Abahani's aid

Sports Reporter
League champions Abahani Krishna Chakra's wistful wait for the Russian footballers ended as two players of Torpedo Club of Moscow arrived in the city on Thursday.
Alexander Sudarikov and Alexander Dozomorov were accompanied by Mikhailovich, an official who came here to supervise the matters relating to the contract between the two clubs.
Abahani, who already have one Russian among their ranks, trail league leaders Mohammedans by one point following two draws in their four engagements so far.
Gyorgy, whom Abahani is playing in the central defence, has not really found his feet and the champs will look forward to the new Russian duo, who are likely to play in Abahani's next match against Victoria Sporting Club.

Maradona says, "No more"

BUENOS AIRES, June 25: Diego Maradona said on Thursday he has had enough of soccer and want to settle down in Argentina with his family, reports Reuter.
"I want nothing more to do with football," Maradona told reporters after arriving in Argentina.
"All I want to do is rest here with my family," the DYN news agency quoted him as saying.
Earlier this week Maradona's Spanish Club Sevilla said they had refused to pay him the million dollars owed to him on his one-year contract because he had not met his obligations to the club due to his "disordered life."
But Maradona told a throng of reporters at the airport: "Everything's perfectly all right. The season is over in Seville and I came to my country to rest."
Maradona's contract with Seville expires at the end of the month.
He dismissed reports that he had received offers to join Japan's professional league. "I don't know or want to know of any offers. I'm not interested."
"A week ago everybody blamed me for all the ills of football, and now apparently there are a flood of offers," he said.
However, his agent Marcos Franchi said Maradona would always be involved with soccer and would soon be considering several offers.
"There are many possibilities... Maradona is the biggest idol in soccer and all geniuses can surprise us with their attitudes," said Franchi.

French booter behind the bars

PARIS, June 25: A French First Division player was detained by police on Thursday over allegations that European soccer champions Marseille tried to fix to crucial end-of-season match, judicial sources said, reports Reuter.
Valenciennes striker Christophe Robert and his wife were detained in the Southern town of Perigeux, the sources said.
"Allegations have been made by Valenciennes players that they were offered bribes to let Marseille win a league match on May 20."
Valenciennes lost 1-0 and Marseille went on to clinch a record fifth consecutive titles.
Legal proceedings over the allegations, strongly denied by Marseille, were begun by the French soccer league earlier this month.
Valenciennes president Michel Coencas said he was horrified by the news of Robert's detention.
He said that while a Marseille player might have contacted one of his players, he did not think club directors were involved in the alleged rigging attempt.
"If money has changed hands, it's very serious for soccer in general and very serious for Marseille", Coencas said.

Navy aquatic meet ends

KAPTAI, June 25: The annual sailing, pulling, shooting, cross country and endurance swimming competitions of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at BNS Shaheed Moazzam here on yesterday, reports BSS.
About 150 competitors drawn from eight different ships and establishments of the Bangladesh Navy took part in the four-day meet.
Hosts, BNS Shaheed Moazzam with 29 points clinched the title while BNS Haji Mohsin with 25 points became runners-up. Besides, BNS Titumir, BNS Issa Khan and BN Dockyard trailed behind with 21, 20 and 19 points respectively.

Agrani Bank comes screaming

Brothers Union averted their second defeat in four matches when a last-minute goal by substitute Ripon baited them out against Agrani Bank in the second of the two rain interrupted engagements of the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.
Bankers had the fancied opponents wallowing in the mud with early second half lead before rain reappeared minutes from time. The resumption after a 29-minute hold up proved to be the bankers' bane.
Brothers, who had earlier given up all hopes of an equaliser and demanded the man in black to abandon the match for unplayable ground conditions, must have heaved a sigh of relief at the completion of the match because the haunting memories of their first match against Wari were wiped off for the time being.
Apart from a brief second half resurgence Brothers did nothing yesterday to earn full points. On the other hand Agrani Bank created several positive scoring chances, with Akhtar, the speedy winger, doing the spade work most of the times. Akhtar himself was twice poised for sure sitters but the muddy strip and the bout of nerves betrayed his intentions of smearing the prestige of one of the top three teams of local football.
However the first opening of the match came Brothers' way. Riaz, who switched from Mohammedans to the Gopbagh club only this year, failed to push the ball into an empty net after Agrani Bank custodian Totam had slipped badly.
Agrani Bank came screaming at Brothers shortly after this but Akhtar's curling cross went a-begging with Bakhtiar failing to flick the ball home with goalie Ponir of Brothers at his mercy.
Jahangir spoiled another golden chance for Bank when he was found wanting to give the finishing touch to a Akhtar-Munna build up.
The same player was at fault in the 34th minute, this time failing to nod properly a swerving flag kick by Abahani discard Munna.
Batling hard to find their bearings on slushy ground Brothers had another close shave five minutes before the short whistle when Akhtar's fierce volley just missed the mark.
Agrani Bank finally got hold of the slippery lead five minutes into the second half. Akhtar floated a flag kick and Shamsu made the most of the confusion of a crowded Brothers goalmouth to roll the ball into the net (1-0).
Shaken, frightened by the prospect of a second defeat with the first coming in their opener against Wari, Brothers got into the act in a more determined and desperate fashion. Their Russian recruit Boris Kudinov headed goal-wards but Bank skipper Kala retrieved the ball from the goaline with all the coolness in the world.
Kudinov once again led the Brothers' charge for the equaliser few minutes later but Bank defender Shariful made another useful goaline save to keep his side at a premium.
In fact Jahangir could have taken the pressure off Shariful and his company couple of minutes later when in a fast counter attack he discovered Ponir alone in a one to one sit-

Ripon rides to BU rescue

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Paraguyan Andres Duarte (L) and Brazilian Muller fight for the control of the ball in their Copa America match in Cuenca, Ecuador, on June 24. Paraguay lost the game 1-3 to Brazil. — AFP photo

Brazilian blaze in time

CUENCA, Ecuador, June 25: Brazil beat Paraguay 3-0 on Thursday to qualify for the Copa America quarter-finals where they will come face to face with old rivals Argentina, reports Reuter.
It was the most convincing performance so far from the Brazilians, who faced an avalanche of criticism back home following a 3-2 defeat against Chile on Monday.
Paraguay also qualified from Group B as one of the best third-placed teams. Brazil finished second while Peru, who had earlier beaten Chile 1-0, where top and a disappointing Chile were eliminated.
Midfielder Palhinha, who missed a crucial chance against Chile with the score tied at 1-1, redeemed himself by scoring two goals for Brazil.
In a rough game, Brazil midfielder Cesar Sampaio was sent off for a violent foul while Cafu and Antonio Carlos of Brazil and Carlos Gamarra and Estanislao Struway of Paraguay were also booked.
Brazil began the match late in the table and in danger of missing the quarter-finals. But their nerves were quickly calmed in the 15th minute when Palhinha scored with an intelligent lob over Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert.
The goal obliged the defensive Paraguayans to come out of their shell and the 22,000 crowd were given the unusual sight of seeing Paraguay on the attack.
They proved quite good at it and Brazil goalkeeper Zetti, playing his first game in the tournament, made some good saves.
In the 25th minute, he made a fine stop of a Roberto Cabanas shot and he managed to palm away a swerving free kick by the same player in the 33rd minute.
Jorge Nunes also fired a 30-meter free-kick narrowly wide as Paraguay provided they can attack when they need to.
Knowing they had already qualified for the quarters no matter the outcome, however, the Paraguayans slowed down in the second half.
Brazil increased their lead without having to exert themselves when striker Edmundo scored in the 61st minute with a weak shot which took a deflection that deceived Chilavert.
Palhinha completed the scoring ten minutes later when he ran on to Zinho's defence-splitting pass to beat Chilavert.
Earlier, underdogs Peru beat a disappointing and lacklustre Chile 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals.
Chile showed none of the spark, skill or tenacity which helped them to a shock 3-2 win over Brazil on Monday.
Midfielder Jose del Solar scored the vital goal from a 14th minute penalty after Pablo Zagarra had been bundled over in the penalty area.
Twelve minutes later Chile's Jose Luis Sierra missed a penalty when his shot was brilliantly saved by Peruvian goalkeeper Miguel Miranda.

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ABAHANI'S RUSSIAN DUO: Alexander Sudarikov, (extreme right) and Alexander Dozomorov, Abahani's recently recruited Russian footballers, were seen in the players lounge yesterday along with Mikhailovich (extreme left), an official who is accompanying the players to facilitate contact. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Rain the spoiler

Sports Reporter
Rain ruined yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league engagements.
The first match of the day between Railway and Azad Sporting was called off ten minutes from time because of heavy downpour. The remaining ten minutes will be played today.
With situation further deteriorating the second encounter between Mariner Young's Club and Ansars feel through. Weather permitting this match will also be played today.

BCCSL surprised over Indo denial to use Pak balls

COLOMBO, June 25: Sri Lanka's cricket board said Friday it was surprised by reports that India wanted Pakistani balls, slated for use in next month's Test series, to be replaced, reports AFP.
"So far we have not heard from (India). But if (the report) is correct, we are surprised," said Neil Perera, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL).
Perera's Indian counterpart C Nagaraj on Thursday said he reported in the southern Indian city of Madras that the Pakistani balls were of "inferior quality."
"So we are asking the Sri Lankan board that a ball of any other make which is of good quality be used in the series," Nagaraj said.
Perera said the balls from Pakistan were used during the home series against New Zealand in November and England earlier this year.
"No objections were made by both teams. Of course one or two balls went out of shape, but that was all," said Perera.
He said that one of the visiting sides had even written a complimentary letter to the importer of the "cheaper" Pakistani balls.
Australian captain Allan Border had also complained about the "poor quality" of the Pakistani balls during a tour of Sri Lanka in August.
Indian team manager Ajit Wadekar had said he preferred a made-in-England variety because the Pakistani balls "may not last more than 10 overs."
Meanwhile, Perera ruled out the introduction of neutral umpires for the Test and one-day series against India because these things cannot be done overnight.
Sri Lankan manager Duleep Mendis had earlier called for neutral umpires to prevent charges of bias during India's five week tour commencing July 9.
Sri Lankan umpires are OK... but the boys are sick of hearing comments from losing sides blaming umpiring for their defeats," Mendis said.

McDermott to fly home

LONDON, June 25: Australian fast bowler Craig McDermott has been ruled out of the remainder of the Ashes tour and will return home next week, reports Reuter.
McDermott had an operation on a twisted colon after being rushed to hospital during the second Test against England at Lord's.
With Wasim Akram weighing in with an unbeaten 91, they had reached a formidable 433 for seven at the close.
Dominic Cork's chances of bowling his way into the frame for next week's third Test were considerably weakened when he was banned from the Derbyshire attack for running three balls into his 12th over.

IGGLESDEN'S strong claim
LONDON, June 25: Pacesman Alan Igglesden reinforced his England claims with another five-wicket haul as county championship contenders Kent seized the initiative against Yorkshire at Headingley on Thursday, reports Reuter.
Igglesden, forced by injury to pull out of the squad for the first Test against Australia at Old Trafford and not chosen for the second Ashes match at Lord's grabbed five for 66 as Yorkshire were dismissed for 209 on the opening day of the four-day match.
Out-of-favour England batsman Allan Lamb also gave the selectors a reminder of his talent with a majestic 172 — his 50th century — against Northamptonshire — against Somerset at Luton.
Lamb and Kevin Curran shared a fifth-wicket stand of 212 in 60 overs as Northants rallied for 37 for three to reach 363 for six.
Lamb hit three sixes and 23 fours in a 293-ball knock.
Opener Mike Atherton, top scorer in both England innings in the second Test, continued his prolific form with 137 for Lancashire against Derbyshire at Derby.

Sweet revenge for Australia
SYDNEY, June 25: Australia, capitalising the better on their short corners, gained part revenge for their Olympic final defeat to Germany with a 3-1 win over world field hockey's number one team in the first of three Tests here Thursday night, reports AFP.
Converting two of their six short corners through Barcelona Olympic final scorer Greg Corbitt, Australia wrapped up a prestige victory with a bullet field goal through international debutante, 20-year-old forward Damien Sesto 90 seconds from full-time.
The Germans, rebuilding after the retirement of five Barcelona Olympic gold medalists including the doincering defender Carsten Fischer and striker Michael Hilgers, failed to convert any of their seven short corners.
Germany's score came from a field goal from TG Frankenthal forward Dirk Dorflinger three minutes after half-time to equalise Corbitt's 15th minute penalty corner.
Dorflinger, the 20-year-old making his international debut, was unlucky not to put the Germans in front in the 49th minute when his fierce shot hit a post and rebounded clear of the Australian goal.
It was the Germans' first look at the newly-laid synthetic astro turf surface that will host the 8th International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Cup here from November 23-December 3 next year.
It was an encouraging performance from the Germans, who only arrived here early Wednesday morning, but coach Paul Lisseck was not using that as an excuse for the opening Test defeat.
"I thought my team played excellently against an Australian team which hasn't changed much since the Olympics," said Lisseck.
"Australia scored the better from their short corners and my team had several good chances, which we didn't take."

CAKE DENIES AUSSIE CAKE-WALK
OXFORD, England, June 25: Cambridge first year student Russell Cake on Thursday became only the third Englishman this season to score a century against the Australians, reports Reuter.
Cake, whose previous highest score in first-class cricket was 83 against Leicestershire, made 108, including 19 boundaries, as the Combined Universities scored 298 for seven declared in reply to Australia's 388 for five.
Australia were 178 for four in their second innings at the close.
"I enjoyed facing Warner. I found I could read most of his deliveries."
The universities began at 107 for two needing a further 132 to avoid the follow-on and the target was reached for the loss of two more wickets.
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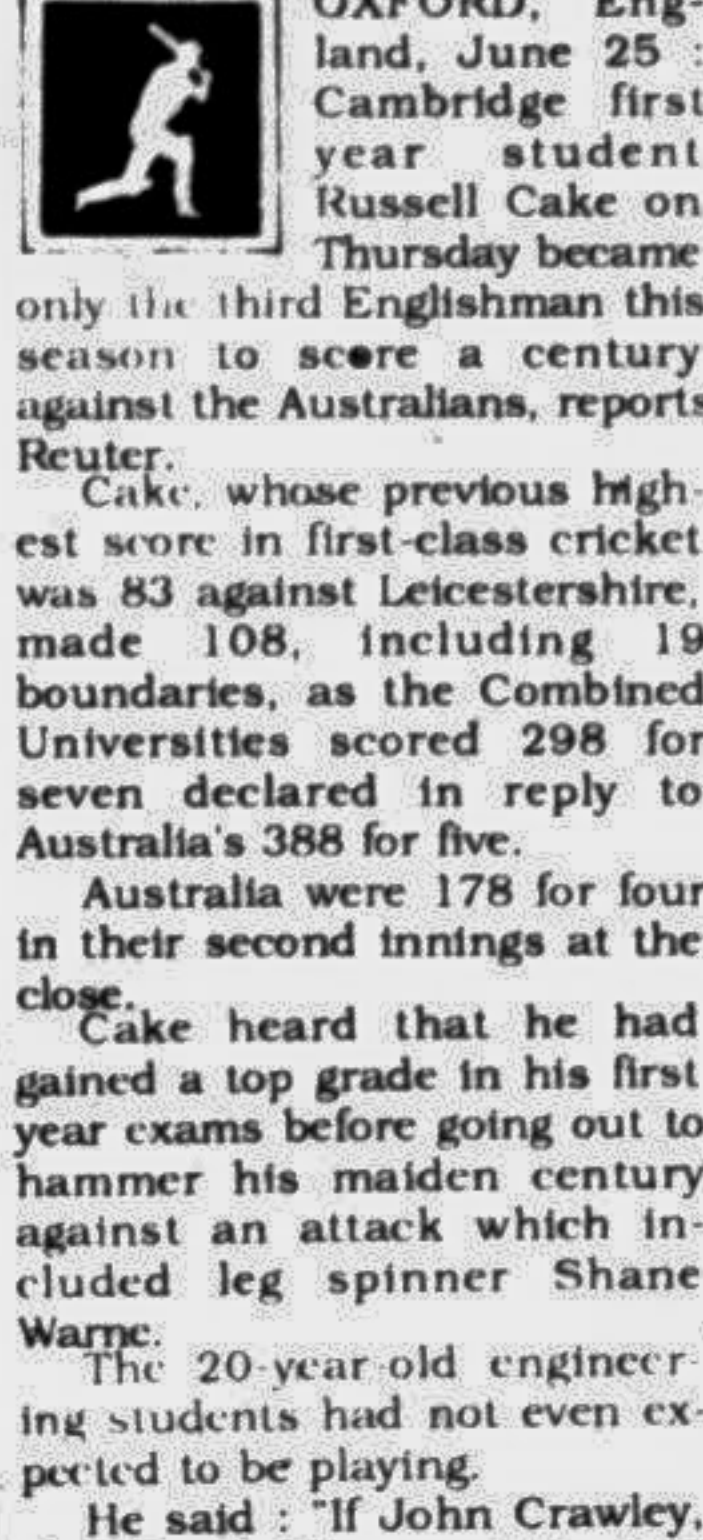
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State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain (second from left) and Brig (Retd) Hannan Shah (next to him) are seen leading the 1993 Olympic Day run. — Star photo

Cake denies Aussie cake-walk



M WAUGH ... 84

MARK TAYLOR AND MARK WAUGH completed half centuries in Australia's second innings with all four wickets falling to paceman Rob MacDonald.
G. Lovell st Zoehrer b Warne 20
J. Snape c Waugh b Holdsworth 18
M Windows b Reffel 36
J Wileman not out 10
S Shephard c Waugh b Julian 5

Extras: (b-7, lb-12, w-1, nb-28) 48
Total: (for seven wickets declared) 298
Did not bat: J Hallett, R Pearson, R MacDonald
Bowling: O M R W
Julian 16.5 2 67 1
Reffel 15 5 43 1
Zoehrer 17 4 53 0
Warne 22 7 45 3
Waugh 5 2 19 0

Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-94; 3-154; 4-207; 5-249; 6-285; 7-298.

AUSTRALIA: Second Innings (Overnight 178-4)
M Taylor c Shephard b MacDonald 57
M Hayden c Montgomerie b MacDonald 18
M Waugh b Snape 84
T Zoehrer c Montgomerie b MacDonald 0
B Julian c Wileman b MacDonald 18
S Warne c Montgomerie b Snape 47
M Slater not out 3
Extras: (lb-4, w-2) 6
Total: (six wickets declared) 233
Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-107, 3-107, 4-153, 5-208, 6-233.
Bowling: O M R W
Hallett 7 1 26 0
MacDonald 23 1 80 4
Pearson 5 0 37 0
Gallian 7 0 37 0
Snape 8.5 1 49 2

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The Germans, rebuilding after the retirement of five Barcelona Olympic gold medalists including the doincering defender Carsten Fischer and striker Michael Hilgers, failed to convert any of their seven short corners.
Germany's score came from a field goal from TG Frankenthal forward Dirk Dorflinger three minutes after half-time to equalise Corbitt's 15th minute penalty corner.
Dorflinger, the 20-year-old making his international debut, was unlucky not to put the Germans in front in the 49th minute when his fierce shot hit a post and rebounded clear of the Australian goal.
It was the Germans' first look at the newly-laid synthetic astro turf surface that will host the 8th International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Cup here from November 23-December 3 next year.
It was an encouraging performance from the Germans, who only arrived here early Wednesday morning, but coach Paul Lisseck was not using that as an excuse for the opening Test defeat.
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Noman Zaidi (extreme left), Sarfraz Ahmed Khan and Taslim Osman (signing papers), all three from Pakistan, arrived in Dhaka on Thursday to bolster Usha Krira Chakra's campaign for their first ever league championship. — Photo NAK