



Manik (r), a defender of Star First Division league promotees East End, is about to go for a sliding tackle against Bima's Mintu in the first of yesterday's two league matches at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Schools TT from August 2

Sports Reporter
A table tennis championship for the school students will be held under the auspices of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation from August 2 to 5. All interested schools have been requested to complete their entry formalities by June 27. The organisers will bear the expenses covering the travel, lodging food and daily allowances of only one school team from each of the five divisions — Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal. However, the school teams from the districts will only be provided with lodging. Divisional sides comprising one official, three boys and three girls will be entitled to the above mentioned privilege.

The same player-official break-up will apply for the district school team which will get boarding facilities from the organisers. No entry fee is required and the entries will be received every day from five to seven pm at the BTTF office.

Monsoon h'ball

Sports Reporter
The Phoenix Insurance Monsoon handball competition '93 will begin from the first week of August. Any team from the First Division or Second Division or for that matter any district sports association will be able to play in this tourney. Interested teams have been requested to contact the Bangladesh Handball Federation by June 25 to confirm their participation.

Cricket camp

Sports Reporter
A month-long cricket coaching programme for boys under-16 will begin from July 15 at the Basabo play ground. Interested players have been requested to contact either SB Chowdhury between 5 to 8 pm at the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association or Mitu/Russel of Basabo Tarun Sangha for further details.

The only one

ZURICH, July 6: Spain were the only country to apply to stage the 1996 World Indoor Championship when bids closed on June 30, FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Communications really matter

BERNE, July 6: Three former Soviet republics, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, have been barred from European Football Union (UEFA) Club competitions next season because of poor communications facilities, reports Reuter. UEFA also said on Monday that security of players and officials could not be guaranteed in Armenia and Azerbaijan because of unstable political situations. UEFA said the increase in new members following the break-up of the Soviet Union made it necessary for extensive preliminary rounds in the European Cup, with 41 clubs entered, and the Cup Winners' Cup with 42. UEFA said that in the preliminary rounds the nine new entries in the European Cup and the 10 in the Cup Winners' Cup would be drawn against unseeded clubs. No changes from last season's format were planned in the 64-team UEFA Cup. Seedings would be announced just before the first round draws in Geneva on July 14, UEFA said.

PWD come cropper at last

Sports Reporter
Public Works Department (PWD) suffered their first defeat when giant slayers Wari Club beat them by a solitary goal in the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. PWD were reduced to ten men shortly after the start as referee Nazir Hossain marked the beginning of an evening of agonisingly biased refereeing by giving the marching order to defender Kakon. It was like breaking a butterfly in the wheel as Kakon collided with a Wari player for a common ball. As if to prove that the ouster of the unfortunate player was not an accident, the man in black made life miserable for the office team with improper and whistling for the rest of the match. Although Wari players went unpunished for offences, that drew yellow card from the referee in the case of PWD players, the eventual winners could not drive home any extra advantage in an otherwise lack-lustre match. The poor condition of the ground did not help matters either. In fact the ninth-minute goal apart the match had very little to offer for the few football buff who braved the inclement weather to see the clash between the two middle tier teams. Both had enhanced their reputation with fine performances against the top teams in the earlier matches of year's league, was not found easily and his only attempt was a poorly placed grounder that Humayun covered well. Both Wari and PWD have six points from five matches. **POINTS SHARED** East End and Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha shared points as the Star First Division encounter held at the same venue earlier ended in a two-all draw. The first half of the match saw both teams locked at 1-1. Sagar gave East End an early lead when, the right back neatly converted a penalty as referee awarded this year's one of the two promotees a spot kick for a handball by a Bima defender inside the dreaded zone (1-0). Jahangir restored parity for the insurance men when his powerful shot of a faulty clearance slipped under the arm of custodian Mohsin in the 23rd minute of the match (1-1). Bima took the lead three minutes into the second half when Mintu latched on to a Mizan pass to beat an advancing East End custodian (2-1). Nine minutes later Kaushik fired the ball into the net after former Brothers player and present East End captain Mamun Babu set him up with a good ball (2-2). East End now have four points from as many outings while Bima go up to two from four matches. **TODAY'S MATCHES** Dhanmondi vs Wanderers (4-30) Brothers vs Arambagh (6-30)

Copa America's glitz is gone

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, July 6: Dreyer, the absence of leading players and a half-empty stadium undermined the status of the Copa America, reports Reuter. The tournament, supposedly the pride and joy of the South American Football Confederation (CSF), was relegated to little more than a glorified training session by teams more interested in the South American World Cup qualifiers which begin later this month. The continent's giants, Brazil and Argentina, who beat Mexico 2-1 in Sunday's final, admitted they had other priorities. Argentina coach Alfio Basile said throughout his aim was to find the ideal team to face Colombia, Paraguay and Peru in Group A. His Brazilian counterpart Carlos Alberto Parreira said he would have been happier for his country not to take part at all. Parreira, who already knows the team he would like to put out but rarely can because of club commitments, left his best players at home to rest. None of Uruguay's European-based players, several of whom have made a big impact on the Italian league this year, took part. Colombia's top player Fustino Asprilla played two matches, Bolivia's Irwin Sanchez, based with Portugal's Boavista, played 30 minutes as a substitute and the United States rested all but one of their exiles. It would be absurd for us to keep one squad together for four months to play the US Cup, the Copa America and the World Cup qualifiers. It would be impossible to keep the group united for so long.

Thorpe's feat

LONDON, July 6: Graham Thorpe became the first England player for 20 years to make a century on his Test debut on Tuesday, reports Reuter. Thorpe's unbeaten 114 helped England reach 422 for six before they declared to set Australia a victory target of 371 on the final day at Trent Bridge. The Surrey left-hander, who resumed on 88 with England 362 for six, needed only eight balls to complete his century. He joined an elite band of 14 England players who have scored a hundred on their Test debut. The last one to achieve the feat was Frank Hayes against the West Indies at the Oval in 1973. Thorpe's great moment came in the fifth over of the morning when he hooked Bredon Julian for four. He hit 11 fours in his innings which lasted 340 minutes and was scored off 280 balls. England declared after Thorpe and Nasser Hussain (47 not out) had stretched their seventh-wicket stand to 113 with 60 runs off 10 overs. The declaration gave the England bowlers 77 overs in which to bowl out Australia and reduce the current 2-0 series deficit. England passed 400 for the first time in 11 Tests.

S Waugh, Julian deny England as

Australia hold on to a draw

NOTTINGHAM, England, July 6: Steve Waugh and Brendon Julian combined to deny England a remarkable victory over Australia in the third Ashes Test today, reports Reuter. After England's bowlers, spearheaded by a three-wicket burst by paceman Andrew Caddick, caused a mid-afternoon collapse, Waugh and Julian defied them throughout the final two hours of play. With Australia, set an almost impossible 371 to win, reduced to 115 for six at tea an unlikely England win looked highly probable. But Australia's seventh-wicket pair frustrated all England's efforts in the final session to finish on 202 for six. The touring team remain 2-0 ahead in the six-match series. England's recovery, after looking for the first three days to be heading for a third defeat in the series and their eighth successive Test loss, was begun on the fourth day by a great century from captain Graham Gooch. It was completed by a debut Test century by left-hander Graham Thorpe, who made an unbeaten 114 and shared a 113-run partnership with Nasser Hussain (47 not out). They rattled up 60 runs in the opening 45 minutes before Gooch declared at 422 for six. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard on the final day of the third cricket Test between England and Australia at Trent Bridge on Tuesday: **ENGLAND:** First innings 321 (R Smith 86, N Hussain 71, M Hughes 5-92) **AUSTRALIA:** First innings 373 (D Boon 101, M Waugh 70) **ENGLAND:** Second innings (overnight 362-6) M Lathwell lbw b Warne 33 M Atherton c Healy b Hughes 9 R Smith c Healy b Warne 50 A Stewart lbw b Hughes 6 G Gooch c Taylor b Warne 120 A Caddick c Boon d Julian 12 G Thorpe not out 114 **AUSTRALIA:** Second innings N Hussain not out 47 Extras: (b-13, lb-9, nb-9) 31 Total: (six wickets declared) 422 **Fall of wickets:** 1-11; 2-100; 3-109; 4-117; 5-159; 6-309 **Did not bat:** M McCague, P. Such, M. Ilett **Bowling:** O M R W Hughes 22 8 41 2 Julian 33 10 110 1 May 38 6 112 0 Warne 50 21 108 3 S Waugh 1 0 3 0 Border 5 0 11 0 M Waugh 6 3 15 0 **AUSTRALIA:** Second innings M Taylor c Atherton b Such 28 D Boon c Stewart b Caddick 26 M Slater b Such 26 D Boon c Stewart b Caddick 18 M Waugh b Caddick 1 A Border c Thorpe b Caddick 2 S Waugh not out 47 I Healy lbw b Ilett 5 B Julian not out 56 Extras: (b-5, lb-5, w-4, nb-5) 19 Total: (for six wickets) 202 **Fall of wickets:** 1-46; 2-74; 3-75; 4-81; 5-93; 6-115 **Bowling:** O M R W McCague 19 6 58 0 Ilett 18 5 44 1 Such 23 6 58 2 Caddick 16 6 32 3 **Result:** match drawn **First Test:** Australia won by 179 runs (Old Trafford) **Second Test:** Australia won by an innings and 62 runs (Lord's) **Fourth Test:** July 22-26 (Headingley) **Fifth Test:** August 5-9 (Edgbaston) **Sixth Test:** August 19-23 (The Oval)



GRAHAM THORPE... dream debut

Gooch joins 8,000 club

NOTTINGHAM, England, July 6: England captain Graham Gooch became the eighth player to score 8,000 Test runs when he hit a century against Australia on Monday, reports Reuter. World's leading Test run-scorers (tabulate under player, country, Tests, runs, average, centuries scored): Allan Border (Australia) 144 10425 50.85 25 Sunil Gavaskar (India) 125 10122 51.12 34 Javed Miandad (Pakistan) 121 8689 53.30 23 VV Richards (West Indies) 121 8540 50.23 24 David Gower (England) 117 8231 44.25 18 Geoff Boycott (England) 108 8114 47.72 22 Gary Sobers (West Indies) 93 8032 57.78 26 Graham Gooch (England) 104 8017 43.80 19 Includes updated third Test scores.

Hurt Hughes worries Simpson

NOTTINGHAM, England, July 6: Australian coach Bobby Simpson said he was very concerned about the groin injury which sidelined strike bowler Merv Hughes midway through the fourth day of the third Test against England on Monday, reports Reuter. "We are very worried about it. He will not bowl again in the match and has a problem high up in the groin area," Simpson said at the end of a day which saw England climb back from the brink of defeat. "We will not know how serious it is until he has rested for a while. The nature of the injury is such, though, that we expect him to be pit in time for the fourth Test at Headingley." Simpson praised the batting of England captain Graham Gooch and Test debutant Graham Thorpe but said: "The pitch is still perfect for batting and we are confident of getting a draw." The pair had combined to defy the Australian attack for most of the day, almost certainly preventing the visitors taking a third victory in a row and thus making sure of retaining the Ashes. Gooch made 120, his 19th Test century, while Thorpe was unbeaten on 88 at the close as England reached 362 for six an overall lead of 310. It left England manager Keith Fletcher a happy man at last. "I've got a smile on my face for the first time in six months," he said. "I hope that today will be a turning point for us." "This match has shown we have got young quality players. Of course, Graham Gooch will be irreplaceable but Thorpe, Nasser Hussain, Martin McCague and Mark Ilett have all contributed much to our effort in this match. "If you have young players around, it always brings a breath of fresh air into the set up. "We have had the best atmosphere in this dressing room that I've known—and the young players have lifted it a bit. "And the youngsters may well have made Graham Gooch perform a bit better too. Veteran Gooch, 40 later this month, began the day with close friends insisting that he would quit as captain if England collapsed to yet another Test defeat. But, after resuming on 12 and carrying England's hopes of survival on his shoulders, Gooch was soon at his imperious best—becoming, at 103, only the eighth batsman in history to complete 8,000 Test runs. He was eventually out after batting for almost five hours and hitting a six and 16 fours. Thorpe was understandably elated with his own performance. "I'm delighted to play as well as I did not my debut—but I just want to finish the job tomorrow. I want a hundred, and I want England to win," he said.

Australia find Midas touch

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6: Spain, the worst team in the on-going hockey Champions Trophy, Tuesday ended their hopes of getting any farther in the tournament when they lost 5-1 to Australia, reports AFP. Spain, who went down 0-2 against Germany Saturday and lost 1-2 to Malaysia Sunday, watched helplessly as the Australians ran circles around them, slamming in three goals within the first half. Tono Iglesias saved some pride for the Spaniards when he sounded the board in the 51st minute with a laudable hit. The defeat virtually ended Spain's run for the trophy and left them pointless at the bottom of the table, with only the Netherlands and Pakistan left to play. The victory, meanwhile, improved Australia's chances following its 2-1 triumph over Pakistan Saturday and the bitter 0-1 loss to the Netherlands Monday.

Mendis defends Warnaweera, Muralidharan

COLOMBO, July 6: The bowling action of Sri Lanka's two match-winners, Jayananda Warnaweera and Muttiah Muralidharan, has once again come up for debate just three days before the Indians arrive here for a five-week tour, reports AFP. The state-run daily news on Tuesday quoted cricket manager Duleep Mendis as saying that despite allegations by visiting sides that Warnaweera and Muralidharan were "chuckers" it was the umpires who had the last word. "Anyone can write or say anything, but for the selectors or anyone to take action there should be some evidence like the bowlers being called for throwing by the umpires. Otherwise on what grounds can be drop them," Mendis said. Warnaweera, a medium-paced off-cutter and right-arm off-spinner Muralidharan, took 26 of the 40 wickets to fall to pilot Sri Lanka to their first Test wins over New Zealand in December and England in March. New Zealand captain Martin Crowe led the "chucker" charge against Warnaweera while the English press criticised both Warnaweera and Muralidharan after their side were humbled in the one-off Test. Mendis, a former Test captain, said that national selectors picked the players on their performances and as long as the bowlers delivered the goods they will come into consideration for selection. "Some are very bitter if they lose, they try to find excuses for the defeats starting with weather, wickets, umpires or even suspect bowling actions. All these problems tend to crop up only if you lose," Mendis said.

Gani Smriti

SOCCER
Sports Reporter
Sonali Club, aided by a fine hattrick by Liton, cruised into the final of the Gani Smriti football tournament when they beat Friends Sporting Club Reds in the second semifinal yesterday. Zillur and Obaidul scored once each to complete the winners tally while Kanchan and Nayan netted once for the losers.



NEVER MIND THE TIME & PLACE IN THIS FATES BAZAR: Disappointed spectators snapped in their different divisions as both the matches of the Green Delta First Division hockey league fell through because of heavy downpour. Weather permitting the two matches will be played today. Police play Sonali Bank at 2-30 while Abahani take on Usha at 4-15. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman.