

Hockey league resumes July 11

Sports Reporter
The Green Delta First Division hockey league will resume on July 11. Sunday with Abahani Krira Chakra and Usha KC playing the remaining part of the July 7 match after a gap of three days, said a BHF press release issued yesterday. The league was suspended from yesterday after the crucial league tie between Abahani and Usha Krira Chakra ended in a Basco on June 7, Wednesday, following a brawl among the rival players after 39 minutes of play. Fixture of the league matches will be bodily shifted.

Ganges chess from today

Sports Reports
The Ganges Travel Active chess competition gets underway today at 4 pm at the chess room of the National Sports Council. More than hundred players are taking part in this six-day long Swiss league championship.

Dutch hold on

KUALA LUMPUR, July 8: World hockey champions the Netherlands stayed in the fight for the final of the Champions Trophy Thursday after edging no-hopers Spain 2-0 in a toughly-fought battle, reports AFP. The Dutchmen, showing little of their dazzling form that earlier beat Malaysia and Australia, played clumsily for the most part against the Spaniards but chanced on two opportunities to win. The victory, their third in the six-nation tournament, put them in the race for the final along with top contenders Germany and Australia, scheduled to play later Thursday. Spain, who are virtually out of the tournament with fur losses, kept the Dutch defenders busy with some creative moves but hails in their attacks saw Netherlands Taco Van Den Homet scoring twice in the 39th and 58th minutes. The Netherlands play Germany Friday in their last preliminary game before Sunday's final.

Khulna DSA Cup from today

KHULNA, July 8: The eighth DSA Cup football tournament will begin at the Khulna Stadium tomorrow, reports UNB. Sixteen teams of the district will take part in the tournament. Participating teams are Young Muslim Club, Victoria, Abahani, Muslim Sporting, Town Club, Banker's Club, Cosmos Eleven, Shipyard Club, Newsprint Mill, Mongla Bandar, Platinum Jute Mill, Moharpara Club, Mousumi Eleven, Metropolitan Police, Brothers Union and Central Club. News Print Mill and Platinum Club will face each other in the opening match of the tournament. Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Mukitadir Chowdhury will inaugurate the tournament.

Friends in Ctg Div II semis

CHITTAGONG, July 8: Chittagong Friends Club squeezed into the final of C J K P Second Division football league defeating Little Brothers 5-4 in tie-breaker at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA. Little Brothers played well dominating most of the seventy-minute match but they failed to capitalise on two sure chances, one by Ripon on the fifth minute and the other by Towhid at the 28th minute. Both shot the ball far away from the unguarded post. Abahani Junior will play against Regency Club in the second semi final tomorrow.

Americans want another shot

MISSION VIEJO, California, July 8: The US national soccer team, who lost 4-3 to Germany last month in the US Cup, will play a rematch against the World Cup champions this December in Palo Alto, California, reports Reuter. The December 18 match at Stanford Stadium, one of nine US venues for the 1994 World Cup, will take place one day before the World Cup draw is held in Las Vegas. The stadium near San Francisco requires extensive renovations to meet standards set by FIFA, the world governing body. This match will provide an opportunity for FIFA and the many visiting dignitaries to see that the stadium will be well on the way to being ready for next year, Peter Bridgewater, the San Francisco venue director, said in a statement on Wednesday announcing the rematch.

Mohammedans outclass Rahmatganj as Nakib notches first treble

Sports Reporter



Fabulous finishing by striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, who scored three of Mohammedan's four goals in first half to score the first hat-trick, left luckless Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society thoroughly outclassed as the title aspirants posted their fourth win in five matches in the Star Premier Division football league in style at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The prolific scoring form of the young member of the national team as underlined in his three strikes yesterday once again took the player at the top of the individual scorers' list in the league this year. Nakib now has eight goals to his credit, two more than Rumi Rizvi Karim of Mohammedan's arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra.

Quicker and more clinical in execution than last year, Nakib tipped off a mauling for Rahmatganj as early as in the first minute of the match. Shabbir pushed the ball inside the Rahmatganj box immediately after the kick-off and the lithe striker, perhaps as unsettled as the opponent defenders, shot the ball straight into the goalie's lap in haste; the power packed shot slipped out of Milton's tummy but none of the Mohammedan players were around to utilise the opportunity.

The black and whites, looking absolutely drilled and lethal in their approach, did not have to rue the miss for long when in the fourth minute Nakib latched on to a neat through after Roxy had won the ball and the striker, who had earlier scored a hat-trick in the semifinial match against Arambagh in the recently concluded DMFA Cup, nipped in from left to unleash a left-footed grounder that gave Milton, the Rahmatganj custodian, no chance (1-0).

Rahmatganj never recovered from this shock with Mohammedan midfield functioning superbly the result looked a foregone conclusion. Saiful Bari Titu, noticed rarely because of the awesome presence of skipper Rumman Bin Wali Shabbir — the unmistakable live wire of Mohammedan attack, was the pick of the lot. With Arman, Mohammedan's exciting new signing from Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, showing interest only in distribution, the onus of winning balls from their midfield counterparts fell on Titu and he performed the job admirably. Shuttling between defence and offence with-out any fuss, Titu scored Mohammedan's last goal yesterday, his second in consecutive matches following the one in Mohammedan's 3-1 win against Agrani Bank in the pre-

vious match. However, Titu had to wait quite a while for his turn as Nakib, demonstrating the pace and panache of a goal getter had the Mohammedan defence in trouble in a very rare show of aggression but Maqbul and Ranjan got in a tangle to allow the Mohammedan defenders



IMTIAZ AHMED NAKIB... first treble of the league.

scored two more to register league's first hat-trick. Shabbir, who caught the eye more by his unbecomly behaviour and constant griping against the referee than by his scheming skills, gave a flash of his brilliance in floating a beautiful cross from the right in the 25th minute and Nakib suddenly appeared from nowhere to get a glance of his head, good enough to catch Milton napping (2-0).

Ten minutes later, Arman set Shabbir on one of his customary languid runs down the right flank, the chip followed duly and Nakib leapt clear to head the ball home powerfully and the north-western gallery, quite densely crowded by the Mohammedan supporters, burst into a deafening uproar (3-0). The pattern set from the first minute of the match remained unchanged as Mohammedans kept on steamrolling their unfancied opponents with consummate ease and felt authority. Nakib missed two more chances, once trying to do too much alone. Rahmatganj, who are in search of their first victory yet,

BCCSL wants it airtight

COLOMBO, July 8: The Indian cricket team will be helicoptered daily from the Sri Lanka capital to the venue of their opening three-day match in the northwest as part of tight security arrangements for the tourists, cricket officials said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Indian squad are due here Friday for a five-week tour and will play their tour opener against a Board XI in Kurunegala, 93 kilometers (57 miles) north of here, from July 12 to July 14. The visitors will be flown daily from Colombo to Kurunegala in a helicopter chartered from a private travel firm since there are no major hotels in the northwestern region, cricket board sources said.

Normally a visiting side playing in Kurunegala would be given accommodation in central Kandy, less than an hour's drive away, but the Indians were to be the first cricket tourists ever to be helicoptered to garies due to security reasons, the sources said.

The team is also likely to travel by air from here to the ancient capital of Kandy where the first Test would be played from July 17 to July 22.

However, the team would probably be flown to the central region only once since they would be provided accommodation in Kandy for the duration of the match, the sources added.

India will play two other Tests and three one-day internationals in Colombo.

Under a stringent security plan for the Indian tour, the Sri Lanka police will deploy scores of extra men at match venues and at hotels where the visiting team would be staying, official sources said.

Cricket board president Tyrone Fernando has said that since Sri Lanka and India were "very close neighbours" extra security measures were needed as there were "various factors involved."

Zico on his way home

TOKYO, July 8: Brazilian striker Zico left for home today only hours after masterminding the rise of a small town club to the top of Japan's professional soccer league, reports Reuter. Kyodo news agency said Zico would receive treatment for a leg injury and be back in Japan for the start of the second stage of the new league's inaugural season on July 24. Officials at his club, Kashima Antlers, could not immediately be reached for comment.

A 2-0 win on Wednesday evening over Urawa Reds gave the Antlers, outsiders three months ago, 13 wins from 16 games and a place in the play-off for the 1993 championship as winners of the first half of the season.

Zico, who scored a spectacular hat-trick in the opening match, has suffered nagging injuries and started in only three games but has played a key role as shadow coach, supervising training and directing games by radio telephone from the stand.

One of Japan's other expensive imports, Gary Lineker, has been out for several weeks because of an injury to his toe.

Bouncer regulations stay



LONDON, July 8: Pakistan failed in a bid to ease bouncer regulations at the International Cricket Council on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Its proposal, backed by West Indies, but opposed by England, to scrap the controversial one-bumper-per-batsman-per-over regulation was put on hold.

That will encourage England when they head for West Indies this winter. But the two year-old experimental law seems certain to disappear at next summer's ICC meeting.

A first gathering of the world's top Test umpires in England next month has been told to find a workable alternative.

"The thorny matter of fast short-pitched bowling was a matter for lengthy discussion at today's meeting," said retiring ICC chairman Sir Colin Cowdrey.

It was clear that a majority were concerned that the current experimental law has real

disadvantages but also something sensible has to be put in its place."

Pakistan's suggested alternatives were two bouncers per batsman per over or to apply the existing regulation to unrecognised batsmen only.



WALCOTT... new ICC chief

The umpires' conference, to be attended by two from each of the nine Test-playing countries, will make recommendations to a new ICC cricket committee under the

chairmanship of Clyde Walcott.

The 67-year-old former West Indies Test star was unanimously elected to succeed Sir Colin. The ICC also made several other important decisions. Batting and bowling performances on Rebel Tours will not be considered for first class records. But the third umpire and TV replay system was ordered to be used at all Test and one day internationals where facilities are available.

England and Australia to give up their power of veto but "important" ICC proposals to require a three-quarters majority instead of the current two-thirds.

Marlin McCague style test qualification cases to be examined with the possibility of stricter rules in the future.

Ireland were granted associated member status and will join 21 other 'minnows' in Kenya next February to fight for three World Cup places.

But Scotland, Nepal and Thailand all had their applications deferred for one year "pending further examination."

Lewis enlivens Lausanne GP



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, July 8: Carl Lewis ran the fastest 200 metres of the year on Wednesday, defeated the Olympic and world champions in the process and picked up 100,000 dollars for a night's work at the Lausanne athletics Grand Prix, reports Reuter.

Lewis, who was paid 60,000 dollars for two races plus 40,000 dollars for media and sponsorship appearances, clocked 19.99 seconds, seven-hundredths of a second ahead of world champion Michael Johnson.

His Santa Monica Track Club teammate Mike Marsh, the Olympic champion, was well back in fifth place.

"I was very determined out there," said Lewis, who earlier finished second to American champion Andre Cason in the 100 metres.

"It's still early in the season, it's going to be a great season."

The eight times Olympic champion will run the 200 for the first time ever at a World Championships next month and on Wednesday's evidence he is going to be the man to beat.

He was clearly ahead of Johnson in the straight and eased up noticeably near the line, raising his arm in a victory wave as he crossed the finish.

"I am stronger than I have ever been," said the American, who turned 32 six days ago.

"But I've only run four 100s and four 200s this season. This race gives me a lot of confidence."

In the 100, Lewis, the world champion and world record holder, was well down at the start on Cason who shot out of the blocks as if he were jet-propelled.

"I got out very quickly," said Cason. "I started to wonder where everyone was. At 80 metres I felt my opponents coming back. I had lost the focus."

It was Devers's third Grand Prix victory in less than a week.

The meeting, watched by an enthusiastic crowd of 25,000 crammed into the Olympic Stadium, also featured consummate exhibitions of one-lap hurdling by Olympic champions Kevin Young and Sally Gunnell.

Young, who hurt his heel when he clattered through the final barrier at the Stockholm Grand Prix on Monday, made no mistake on Wednesday, clocking a year's best of 47.37 seconds despite gusting winds which made conditions par-

ticularly difficult in the back straight.

"I am very happy with my race," Young said. "I was very confident."

Gunnell established an important psychological edge over her main rival Sandra Farmer-Patrick with an untroubled victory after trailing until the 10th and final flight.

American champion Farmer-Patrick, second to Gunnell in Barcelona, showed the tension in the first clash between the two women this year when she false-started.

Farmer-Patrick was away quickly but Gunnell bided her time and cleared the final hurdle marginally ahead of the American.

The Briton then accelerated smoothly and won comfortably by three metres in 53.86 seconds. She is the only woman to run faster this year.

"I was very determined out there," Gunnell said. "There had been quite a lot of tension."

The men's 200 provided the high point of the night but there was still plenty of interest left in the meeting long after Lewis had left the track.

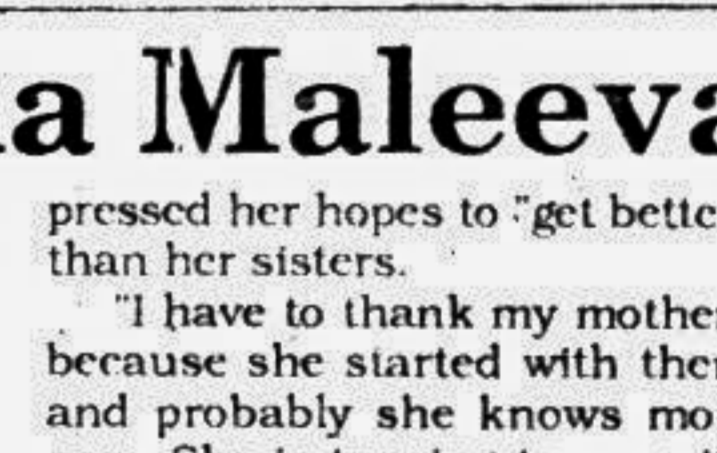
With Olympic champion Lewis deciding to forgo the long jump this year and concentrate on a sprint double in the World Championships, his compatriot Mike Powell took the opportunity to reaffirm his status as the favourite for Stuttgart.

Powell, who broke Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world record in the 1991 Tokyo World Championships final, leaped 8.51 metres, his best of this year.

There were year's best also for veteran American Johnny Gray, who clocked one minute 44.27 seconds in the 800, and Kenyan Ismael Kirui who ran 13:06.71 in the 5,000.

Kirui, who headed compatriot and world cross country champion William Siget across the finish line, is the younger brother of the new world 10,000 metres record holder Richard Chelimo.

Carl Lewis



Otley, Russian Olympic bronze medalist Irina Privalova and American Olympic 200 gold medalist Gwen Torrence to clock 10.82 seconds.

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pressed her hopes to "get better" than her sisters.

"I have to thank my mother, because she started with them and probably she knows more now. She is turning to me with just more experience."

"But I still have to prove that I'm better than them, because I'm not yet better. There is a lot of time until I get better than them," said Maleeva, who is ranked 11th against Manuela at 13th and Katerina at 17th this week.

"Tennis is so competitive that the difference between the number three and number 15 player is not big ... you can beat anyone."

"Of course, I want to be in the top five or whatever, but I'm not playing thinking about the rankings. If I play well, I'll be there," added the 18-year-old.

Maleeva, fired four aces and received another 11 free points on her serve against the French Open finalist, who once took a 3-1 lead in the second set but was totally outclassed by the aggressive Bulgarian.

Magdalena Maleeva moves up



TOKYO, July 8: Magdalena Maleeva, the youngest of the three talented Bulgarian sisters, smashed aside Mary-Joe Fernandez 6-3, 6-4 in the first round of the 250,000-dollar Gunze tennis tournament here Thursday, reports AFP.

Maleeva, who was seeded above her elder sisters Manuela and Katerina for the first time at the French Open in May, needed just one hour to beat the American, and then ex-

Petr Korda hits back in time

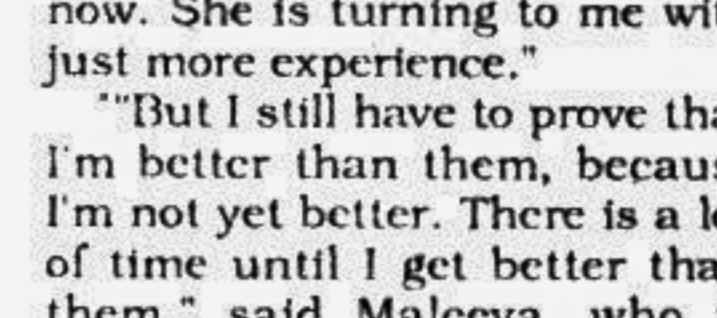
TOKYO, July 8: World number nine Petr Korda from the Czech Republic shrugged off a slow start to beat American Chuck Adams in first round of the 250,000 dollar Gunze tennis tournament here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 25-year-old from Prague, last year's French Open finalist, committed five double-faults, one on a break point in the fifth, in his first three service games to go down 1-4 before losing the opening set.

But Korda soon steadied himself and never faced another break point on his way to a 4-6, 7-6(7/4), 6-3 win over the 70th ranked American.

"The timing of my strokes was not good especially in the beginning, because I didn't hit many balls from the baseline in the previous couple of weeks. But I could hit much better in the end of the set," said Korda, who advanced to the fourth round at Wimbledon a week ago.

Magdalena Maleeva



The leader of the Italian team GB-MG, Mario Cipollini puts on the yellow jersey after having won the fourth stage of the Tour de France on July 7 in Avranches, France.

First laurels for Kashima Antlers

TOKYO, July 8: Kashima Antlers won first laurels in Japanese professional soccer on Wednesday, finishing the opening half of the season at the top of the table after beating Urawa Reds 2-0 away, reports Reuter.

Despite the absence of top Brazilians Zico and Sartori Alcindo, the Antlers played a fast, aggressive game in the first half and then threw everything back into defence.

The victory put Antlers through to the play-off for the 1993 league title in November.

The other finalist will be the winner of the second half of the season, which begins on July 24.

With 13 wins from 16 games, Antlers cannot now be caught by second-placed Yokohama Marinos or Ichihara JEF United before the season midpoint, even if they lose both remaining games.



The leader of the Italian team GB-MG, Mario Cipollini puts on the yellow jersey after having won the fourth stage of the Tour de France on July 7 in Avranches, France. — AFP photo

Cameroon on the verge



JOHANNESBURG, July 8: Cameroon, long one of African soccer's superpowers, face possible elimination from the African Nations Cup this weekend, reports Reuter.

The two-time African champions need victory in their Group One qualifier in Benin to keep alive slim hopes of making the final tournament in Tunisia next March.

The match is one of 12 Nations Cup qualifiers being played around the continent at the weekend as the race for places in the 12-team final tournament reaches fever pitch.

Cameroon, ironically still favoured for a World Cup place next year, trail Gabon by a point in their group with two matches each remaining.

Gabon host outsiders Niger in Liberville on Sunday in their penultimate match and must then travel to Benin on July 25 where, on form, they should secure a place in the 12-team finals.

Cameroon, who lost 1-0 to Zimbabwe in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday, take a squad top-heavy with European-based professionals to Contonou for the game against a Benin team who have lost all four of their previous matches.

Included in the Cameroon team are French First Division players Joseph-Antoine Bell, Jean-Claude Pagal and Francois Omam-Biyik, scorer of the opening goal at the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy in a shock 1-0 defeat of holders Argentina.

Only hosts Tunisia, holders Ivory Coast and Sierre Leone have already qualified for the finals, but they are likely to be joined by Burundi, Egypt and Zaïre after this weekend's matches.

Tiny Burundi, who have never before qualified for the Nations Cup finals, will go through if they beat Guinea in a Group Six match in Bujumbura on Sunday.

Egypt will secure a place from Group Eight with victory over Morocco on Friday and Zaïre should ensure top place in Group Four against Kenya in

Torino hope to get Gullit

ROME, July 8: Italian Cup holders Torino hope to clinch the signing of Dutchman Ruud Gullit today, reports Reuter.

"We are expecting a decision from Gullit by tomorrow," Torino general manager Giacomo Randazzo said on Wednesday.

"Milan are not interested in him any more, they are not standing in our way but encouraging us," he added.

Zimbabwe, also fresh from a World Cup triumph, should take a full tally of points from their match against minnows Mauritius in Harare on Sunday.

In Group Two, co-leaders Ethiopia and Nigeria both face tough away matches. Ethiopia are in neighbouring Sudan on Sunday while Uganda host the Nigerians in Kampala on Saturday.

Senegal, who hosted the last tournament in 1992, must beat Sierre Leone in Dakar on Sunday to stay in touch with the leaders in Group Three.

The final round of qualifying matches will be played on the weekend of July 23-25.