



Action from yesterday's crucial Star Premier Division football league between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium. Brothers rallied from 0-2 down to force a draw. — Star photo

Junior Gold Cup

COX'S BAZAR, July 18: Uttara Club defeated Ramu Little Eleven 3-0 in the third round robin league encounter of Junior Gold Cup tournament at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

Samir scored twice while Rishi once in the second half. Mohammedans will play against Rakhain Sporting Club tomorrow.

Khulna football

KHULNA, July 18: Moheshwar Pasha Club, aided by a hat-trick from Joshi, moved to the semifinals beating Khulna Newsprint Mills Club 6-0 in the second quarter-final match of the KDSA football tournament at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

Bankers and RRF will compete tomorrow.

Sherpur soccer

Nalitabari Thana Dal defeated Jhinaigati Thana Dal by 1-0 in the inter-thana football tournament played at the local Darogali Pura ground this evening, reports UNB.

Zakir scored the match-winner of the final 15 minutes into the game.

Five teams took part in the tournament organised by the Sherpur District Sports Association.

No entree to WC for the losers

NAIROBI, July 18: Kenyan track stars who miss the national trials will not get a ticket to next month's World Championships in Stuttgart, reports AFP.

Only the first three runners across the finish line in each event on July 29 will be selected, Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) secretary David Okeyo warned on Saturday.

The selection clampdown is a threat to the many runners who earn their living at Europe's big-paying track meetings. The KAAA hopes most will return next week though.

During Olympics trials last year there was a "wild card" system. The first two to finish were automatically selected and the third position went to any athlete who had performed consistently well throughout the season.

But many athletes complained that they were unfairly denied a chance to compete in the Barcelona Olympics.

"Since selection will be based on the first three to finish, the trials are a must," Okeyo said. He added that Kenyans competing in Grand Prix meet in Europe and US are expected back home early next week.

US dominate Pan-Am juniors

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada, July 18: The US dominated the Pan American Junior athletics championships here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The US squad led a field of 24 nations with 46 medals, including 17 golds and 18 silvers. Cuba was second overall with 23, including 11 golds and eight silvers. More than 300 competitors took part in the event for age 19 and under athletes.

Hosting the hemispheric event was seen as a boost to this city's bid for the 1999 Pan American Games. The Dominican Republic and Colombia have also made formal bids for the event. A decision on the site will be made next March.

Brothers spoil MSC mirth

Sports Reporter



Former Mohammedan Player Mizan scored two goals in ten minutes as Brothers Union staged a strong rally to snatch a point from title-aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

On a slabby, well nigh unplayable ground Mohammedan took a two nil lead at first half. Beslubbered by mud, players of both sides slipped, allowed to give an otherwise entertaining match a look of a comedy of errors.

Misspasses were galore as easy chances went a-begging as ball got stuck in the mud and Brothers Union were the worst sufferers.

Though down by two goals Brothers played positively through the match with Nurul Huiq Manik producing a virtuoso performance to outshine his counterparts in the midfield.

DMFA Cup champions Mohammedans took an early lead before the Gopibagh boys had settled down on an unpredictable ground.

Arman slipped in a cross across the Brothers goalmouth and veteran striker Aslam duly nodded the ball towards the goal but Nakib the top scorer of the league stole his thunder by pushing the goal-bound ball into the net in the 3rd minute to raise his tally to ten (1-0).

Brothers slowly took control of the midfield and created a couple good scoring opportunities. In the 11th minute Mizan, who played for Mohammedans last year, had the possession of the ball inside the box following a misunderstanding between Kaiser and Barun but the lanky striker hung on to the ball too long to allow the Mohammedan defence recover in time.

Five minutes before the breather Brothers got another chance but this time Sadequul Islam Uttam dilly-dallied after Ripon had won the ball to set him free inside the box.

The black and whites doubled their lead a minute before the short whistle when Aslam leapt perfectly to head home a neat cross by skipper Rumman bin Wali Shabbir Amid resounding applause of the north-western galleries of a near jampacked stadium (2-0).

Undaunted by this setback and encouraged by the susceptibility of Mohammedan defence and midfield Brothers started their second half campaign with renewed vigour.

Mizan signalled the Brothers resurgence in the 4th minute when he cashed in on a flawed

SEA Games success pegs Singapore up

SINGAPORE, July 18: Singapore is to quadruple spending on sports promotion after making its best ever showing in the Southeast Asian Games here in June, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong announced Saturday, reports AFP.

He said the government would increase its annual grant to four million Singapore dollars (2.4 million US) after accepting a recommendation from the Ministry of Community Development and the Sports Council.

Goh said the increased grant would be used for employing more coaches, scholarships for deserving athletes, better training schemes and facilities, and that special unit would be set up to manage outstanding athletes and sports organisations.

He added that a semi-government organisation, Singapore Pools, would also increase its annual contribution to four million Singapore dollars.

attempt by Mohammedans' national custodian Kanan to hit the back of the net (1-2).

Ten minutes later Mizan was again in the thick of action this time winning the ball from Mohammedan left back Barun and with Mohammedan defence in complete disarray the injury prone striker again found the net.

Mizan missed a chance of hat-trick minutes later when he delayed in shooting from inside the box with the tired, beleaguered Mohammedan defence wilting under relentless brothers assault.

Mohammedans got a move or two in the middle of the Brothers assault but none of their players including the redoubtable Shabbir succeeded in serving the ball across the goal mouth with the men in orange showing remarkable cool and composure in handling pressure. However, once Shabbir set Nakib free with a beautiful through ball the lean and hungry striker spoiled the chance while trying to dodge the goalie instead of flicking the ball first time.

Few minutes later Brothers right back Pijush Nandy felled Shabbir on the left flank to mark the end of the 28th encounter between Mohammedans and Brothers since the latter's promotion to Senior Division football league.

The draw Mohammedans' second since their one all draw against Muktiyodha in the league opener, leaves Mohammedans with a collection 12 from seven matches.

They are still a point ahead of arch rivals Abahant Kriira Chakra, who have eleven points also from seven matches.

Brothers, far too behind in the race for their elusive first ever league title, now have nine points from seven matches.

DULL DRAW

Farashganj Sporting Club and Dhanmondi Club shared points in the Star First Division football league encounter played earlier at the same venue.

Jamal put Farashganj ahead in the 31st minute of the first half, while Dhanmondi's Jafar restored parity 20 minutes into the second half.

WASTED WISDOM

From today on the matches of the Senior Division leagues will be played on the pitch adjacent to the western galleries again. In a rather quixotic move the authorities had decided to hold yesterday's crucial match between the topguns of local football on the central pitch of the Dhaka Stadium for security reasons. The outcome of their myopic decision was that, the cricket pitches, laboriously made to facilitate the national cricket side's preparation for the forthcoming ICC Trophy, were totally ruined. The decision was a sequel to the directive issued by the National Sports Council chairman and State Minister for Youth and Sports Saidek Hossain.



Honduran skipper Juan Castro trips over as American Chris Henderson dribbles past him during the CONCACAF third round soccer match in Dallas, Texas on July 17. The American maintained their hundred per cent winning record with a lone goal victory. — AFP photo

Alcindo highest scorer in J-League

TOKYO, July 18: Brazilian import Alcindo Sartori helped Kaishima Antlers to victory in the just ended first stage of Japan's inaugural professional football league with 14 goals, reports AFP.

The midfielder was league top scorer ahead of Mamon Angel Diaz, an Argentine import forward who scored 12 for Yokohama Marinos, and Khiro Nagashima who scored nine goals for Gamba Osaka at Third.

The Antlers secured the first-stage title worth 50 million yen (467,000 dollars) on July 7. They ended the first half with 13 wins and five defeats.

In a close competition, Verdy Kawasaki took second spot worth 20 million yen in prizes on 12 wins and six losses, while Yokohama Marinos ended in third with 11 triumphs and seven defeats for 10 million yen.

The Shimizu S-Pulse was fourth with a win-loss record of 10-8. The JEF United Ichihara and Sanfrece Hiroshima each had 9-9 but fifth spot went to JEF united on goal differences.

The Yokohama Fluegels took seventh place on 8-10, while Gamba Osaka ended in eighth also with 8-10.

In the first half that started on May 15, the Nagoya Grampus Eight finished ninth with 7-11. The last among 10 club teams was Urawa Red Diamonds with 3-15.

A total of 1.52 million spectators attended the 90-match first stage, averaging 16,900 spectators a game, the league office said.

Lalas leads Americans home

DALLAS, Texas, July 18: Defender Alexi Lalas headed home Chris Henderson's corner kick 29 minutes into the game here Saturday, giving the United States a 1-0 victory over Honduras in the Gold Cup football tournament, reports AFP.

The victory gives the US team a 3-0-0 record in the round-robin preliminaries. The US team won the Group A runners-up, to be decided today in Mexico, in a semifinal Wednesday here.

The defeat eliminated Honduras (1-2-0), who could have won the group with a victory over the US squad. The result means Jamaica will advance to a semifinal next week at Mexico against the Group B champions.

The goal by Lalas was his third of the year off corner kicks.

The US team outshot Honduras 16-13. US goalkeeper Tony Meola made five saves, twice denying Honduras on Break-aways.

Thomas Dooley injured his right ankle in the 36th minute and was replaced by Dominic Kinnear. Dooley is listed as probable for the semifinal.

Lankans precariously placed



KANDY, Sri Lanka, July 18: Continuous rain disrupted the first Test once more as Indian pace bowlers Kapil Dev and Manoj Prabhakar rocked Sri Lanka on the second day at the Asgiriya Stadium here Sunday, reports AFP.

The umpires called off the final session's play due to rain and poor light after Kapil and Prabhakar had sent Sri Lanka crashing to 24 for three before the tea break.

There was no play in the morning session due to a moist wicket caused by overnight rain. Bad weather had also wiped out play on the first day.

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin won the toss and had no hesitation in asking the home side to bat.

But just when Kapil and his opening pace partner were getting into their stride a light shower halted play just 50 minutes after the Test match finally got underway.

Play did not resume after the abrupt stoppage.

Kapil in sight of New Zealander Richard Hadlee's world bowling record of 431, began his quest for the plum in grand style with a wicket in his very first over.

Seasoned opener Roshan

Mahanama played an unusually half hearted stroke on the leg-side to give Kapil his 421st wicket in his 125th Test match. Only former Indian batting wizard Sunil Gavaskar has played in a similar number of Tests for India.

Prabhakar then took the wickets of Chandika Hathurusinghe and Aravinda de Silva in two overs to leave Sri Lanka precariously placed at 8 for three.

All three Sri Lanka batsmen were out to poor stroke-making but that did not undermine the fine bowling efforts of Kapil and Prabhakar.

Hathurusinghe slashed just outside his off stump and was well held at gully by Anil Kumble who took a similar catch in the next over to dismiss De Silva.

De Silva paid the penalty for being hasty and tried to drive a lifting ball that flew straight to Kumble.

Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga survived a shock start when he was dropped on o by his counterpart Azharuddin at second slip off Prabhakar.

But the Sri Lankan captain and Asanka Gurusinha, both left-handers, managed to hang on grimly before the rains saved Sri Lanka further humiliation at 24 for three.

Prabhakar ended with two or 13 off six overs while Kapil fin-

ished with one for 10.

Earlier, India brought in pacesman Javagal Srinath for left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju to go in with a tight pace-spin attack.

Sri Lanka included fast-medium bowler Dulip Lyanage in the final eleven instead of batsman Sanath Jayasuriya who played in the last Test against England in March.

With rain interfering at regular intervals the Test match hangs in the balance.

Another day of rain could well spoil any chances of a decision.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the second day's play in the first cricket Test between India and Sri Lanka here Sunday:

Table with columns: SRI LANKA: 1st Innings, R S Mahanama c More b Kapil Dev 0, U C Hathurusinghe c Kumble b Prabhakar 4, A P Gurusinha not out P A de Silva c Kumble b Prabhakar 1, A Ranatunga not out 7, Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) 2, Total: (3 wkts) 24. Bowling: O M R W, Kapil Dev 5 1 10 1, Prabhakar 6 1 13 2, Srinath 1 1 0 0.

Larkins takes on Australia



DURHAM, England, July 18: Former England opener Wayne Larkins mauled Australia's back-up pace attack with a spectacular 151 for Durham on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Larkins, who faced only 192 deliveries, lashed 27 fours and two sixes as he spurred English cricket's newest first-class county to 385 for eight declared at the close on the opening day of the three-day match.

Australia's pace bowling, with Merv Hughes recovering from a groin strain and Craig McDermott out of the tour after surgery for a twisted colon, again looked innocuous.

The moderate form of support seamers Brendon Julian, Paul Reiffel and Wayne Holdsworth is the touring team's main concern ahead of the fourth Ashes Test starting at Headingley next Thursday.

Hughes, who is now the lone spearhead in McDermott's absence, was badly missed as Larkins and another former England opener, Graeme

Fowler, launched Durham to a stand of 91 in only 18 overs.

Holdsworth suffered more than anyone, conceding 40 runs from 30 new-ball deliveries, and although he later took two wickets they cost 118 runs from 18 wayward overs.

Julian recovered from similar early mauling to stem the flood of runs marginally by dismissing Fowler (41) and Paul Parker (two) during consecutive overs, both falling after making mistimed pulls.

Holdsworth finally ended Larkin's spree, having him caught to slip just before tea when he needed seven more runs to beat Durham's highest first-class score — 157 by Australian Dean Jones in the inaugural championship season last year.

Larkins stole the spotlight from Ian Botham, playing his final match against Australia in what he has said is to be his farewell season.

Botham's contribution was 32 from 37 deliveries, including six fours, before he sliced drive to point off the medium pace of Steve Waugh.

Australia were punished towards the end of the day by West Indian pacesman Anderson Cummins, the county's overseas signing this summer, who hammered 69.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the three-day match between Durham and Australia on Saturday:

Table with columns: DURHAM: First Innings, G Fowler c Healy b Julian 41, W Larkins c Taylor b Holdsworth 151, P Parker c Martyn b Julian 2, S Juttton c Boon b Beiffel 47, P Bainbridge c Border b Holdsworth 3, I Botham c Julian b Waugh 32, A Cummins c Healy b Hayden 69, C Scott c and b May 5, P Berry not out 24, Extras: (lb-4, w-1, nb-6) 11, Total: (for eight wickets declared) 385.

Fall of wickets: 1-91; 2-95; 3-232; 4-246; 5-249; 6-296; 7-317; 8-395; Did not bat: D Graveney, S Brown.

Bowling: O M R W, Holdsworth 18 1 118 2, Julian 25 0 62 2, Reiffe 21 7 50 1, Waugh 14 3 50 1, May 16 4 63 1, Hayden 7.4 1 24 1, Martyn 6 1 14 0.

AUSTRALIA: Matthew Hayden, Mark Taylor, David Boon, Allan Border (captain), Steve Waugh, Damien Martyn, Iaan Healy, Brendon Julian, Tim May, Paul Reiffel, Wayne Holdsworth.

Botham can't wait till the end



LONDON, July 18: Former England all-rounder Ian Botham has decided to call a halt to his glittering first-class cricket career when Durham's match against Australia ends on Monday, reports Reuter.

Botham, who played 102 Tests for England, said at the start of the season that it would be his last because he did not think his body would stand up to the gruelling demands of the cricket circuit much longer.

Durham's cricket director Geoff Cooke said on Sunday that the 37-year-old Botham wanted to bow out two months before the end of the season to spare himself any further aches and pains.

"Ian has spoken to me about his plans and we have to respect what he wants to do," said Cooke.

Botham will be available for Durham's remaining Sunday league matches this season.

Cooke blotted reports that Botham may rejoin his old county Worcestershire next year to play one-day cricket.

"Ian has no intention of carrying on next year in any playing capacity for any body," he said.

Botham started the season with hopes of regaining his Test place and finishing on a high note as part of England's Ashes campaign.

But despite being mentioned by the selectors a couple of times, there was no call-up

for the veteran. Botham scored 32 against Australia in front of nearly 6,000 spectators at Durham on Saturday.

His first-class career began in 1974 with Somerset who he played for until he moved to Worcestershire in 1987.

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Middlesex ride on John Carr



LONDON, July 18: Middlesex batsman John Carr, back in county cricket after leaving the game four years ago, hit a career-best 192 not out as the championship leaders all but trounced Warwickshire on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Carr's seven-hour innings and a season's best six for 38 from England off-spinner John Emburey took Middlesex to within two wickets of winning by an innings with a day to spare at Edgbaston.

Middlesex took a first innings lead of 150 thanks to Carr, who has secured a regular middle-order place with consistently solid performances since returning last season.

Carr, who hit 23 fours, engineered a major recovery after his side slumped to 90 for six in reply to Warwickshire's first

innings of 237 on Friday.

With Warwickshire failing to exploit a turning pitch, Carr put on 150 for the seventh wicket with Emburey (55) as the last four Middlesex wickets added 297.

Emburey then reduced Warwickshire to 142 for eight at the close, Middlesex claiming the extra half hour in an attempt to finish the game but failing to polish off the tail.

Second-placed Surrey, 30 points behind Middlesex before the current round of matches but with a game in hand, sustained their title challenge by crushing Gloucestershire by an innings and 66 runs at Guildford.

Pacesman Martin Bicknell, who captured five for 41, and Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Yunis, with three for 44, dismissed Gloucestershire for 162 after they faced a first innings deficit of 228.

Bicknell's haul took him past 50 first-class wickets for the season while Waqar's match figures of nine for 86 moved him to within four wickets of the landmark.

England off-spinner Peter Such and slow left-arm bowler John Childs each took five wickets for champions Essex, whose batsmen then ran into trouble against Leicestershire at Southend.

Essex, in pursuit of 288 to win on a turning pitch, lost England captain Graham Gooch and John Stephenson before the close as they struggled to 42 for two.

Such, who captured five for 80 to end with match figures of 10 for 146, and Childs, who took five for 64, bowled Essex back into contention after they trailed by 88 on first innings.

Leicestershire were dismissed for 199.