

Narrow win for Wanderers

Sports Reuter
Dhaka Wanderers Club recorded a narrow one-nil victory against Azad Sporting Club in the only possible encounter of the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

League resumed yesterday after a gap of four days as continued rainfall rendered the ground unplayable. However, the temporary respite in the schedule proved to be of little use as yesterday's second match could not be held because of the poor condition of the ground further worsened by prolonged spell of showers in the morning and the subsequent pounding caused by the first match.

Kaisar scored a field goal eight minutes from time to seal the fate of the match.

Wanderers were the better of the two outfits controlling most of the match as the four penalty corners would suggest.

The win takes Wanderers' tally to six points from 12 matches while Azad remain on seven from 13 matches.

Junior Gold Cup soccer

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAR, July 20: Uttara XI booked the last semi-final berth of the Junior Gold Cup football tournament when they registered a narrow 2-1 victory over Protishruti Club in the last round-robin league match at the local stadium today.

Younus and Tito netted once each for the winners, who will be up against Junior Mohammedans in the first semifinal on July 22, while Shimul pulled one back for the losers.

Khulna soccer

KHULNA, July 20: Brothers Union beat Mohammedan Sporting Club 2-1 in the last quarter-final match of the KDSA football tournament at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

Krikta and Kamal scored once each for the winners in the second half while Mizan returned one for Moham medans converting a spot-kick moments before the final whistle.

Moheshwar Pasha will come up against Barikers Club tomorrow.

Ex-Soviet player for J-League

TOKYO, July 20: Osaka Gamba, one of the 10 teams in Japan's new professional league, has signed a former midfielder in the Soviet Union's World Cup team, a club official said today, reports Reuter.

He said that Osaka had signed Sergei Aleinikov, 32, on a two-and-a-half-year contract from Italian team Lecce. He gave no details of the payments.

Aleinikov played in two World Cups for the Soviet Union, in Mexico in 1986 and in Italy in 1990.

Gamba finished eighth in the first series of the league which ended on July 14. The second half begins on July 24.

Russian pair on top

BIENNE, Switzerland, July 20: Evgeny Baryev and Alexander Khalifman held the lead Tuesday after the fourth round of the Bienne International Grandmasters chess tournament, reports AP.

The two Russians, who have 3.5 points, could be joined in the top spot if either Mikhail Gurevich of Belgium and Ian Rogers of Australia win their adjourned match.

India's Viswanathan Anand, ranked second in the world and the top-rated player at Bienne, beat Limbit Oll of Estonia to narrow the gap on the leaders. Anand has won his past two matches after a slow start in which he only managed two draws. He now has 2.5 points.

Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland, at 62 the oldest player in the tournament, and 19-year-old Gata Kamsky of United States, one of the youngest, tied in Monday night's match.

Judit Polger of Hungary, the youngest player and only female in the tournament drew with Jeroen Piket of Netherlands in the fourth round match. She suffered her first loss in her third-round contest against Evgeny Sveshnikov of Russia and trails badly on 1.5 points.

Barcelona still a Bubka jinx

BARCELONA, Spain, July 20: Ukrainian Sergei Bubka fell well short in his attempt to extend his world pole vault record as his Barcelona jinx struck again on Monday, reports Reuter.

Bubka cleared 5.61 metres at an athletics meeting in the Catalan city but failed three times at 5.81, his outdoor world record is 6.13 metres.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between BRTC SC and Sadharan Bi Ma Krira Sangstha at the Dhaka Stadium. BRTC won the match by a solitary goal. — Star photo

Victories for Wari, BRTC

Sports Reporter
Wari Club dealt a rather severe blow to moribund Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society when the former pulled off a two-nil victory at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half one-nil.

It was another luckless outing for the hapless Rahmatganj, who suffered their sixth defeat in eight matches, despite putting up a brave but futile show.

Giant-slayers Wari Club were on the defensive right from the word go but succeeded in getting the goals on the breaks.

Maqbul, who won his spurs recently by scoring a goal in Wari's two-all draw with champions Abahani Krira Chakra, scored the first goal on a treacherous ground in the 28th minute of the match capitalising on a Chanchal pass (1-0).

Rahmatganj staged a strong rally in the second half but their forwards, Ranjan and Lokman, let them down with some appalling finishing.

Wari removed the last vestige of any possibilities of a Rahmatganj comeback when

Shoeb scored the second goal at the fag end of the match (2-0).

With yesterday's win Wari took their collection to nine from eight matches.

Rahmatganj crawling slowly but certainly towards relegation remained on their previous collection of two points from eight matches.

BRTC'S FIRST WIN
Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) recorded their first win when they beat Sadharan Bi Ma Krira Sangstha in the Star First Division football league played earlier at the same venue yesterday.

Mizan scored the match-winner 19 minutes into the second half with an angled shot (1-0).

The goal did not bring any change in the pattern of a thoroughly lack-lustre match.

The transport men badly needed the victory which might prove crucial in deciding their fate. With yesterday's two points BRTC take their tally to six from eight matches and are now in relatively safe waters; with full points from yesterday's encounter they might have just ward off the threat of relegation to Second Division next year.

While BRTC strengthened their position in their bid to stay in the Senior Division football league the insurance company found themselves in a bit of a soup following yesterday's outcome which saw no change in their position with seven points from eight matches.

LEAGUE SUSPENDED
The Star Premier Division and First Division football league matches have been suspended for the next three days due to unplayable condition of the ground following heavy downpour.

The decision was taken yesterday in compliance with suggestions made by the club representatives at the DMFA meeting held on Monday.

The matches will remain suspended from today and resume on July 24 with Dhaka Wanderers Club taking on babes Bangladesh Boys and Arambagh KS playing Muktyjodha Sangsod.

All the remaining matches of both the leagues will be bodily shifted, said a DMFA press release yesterday.

McKoy, Jackson meet again

NICE, France, July 20: Olympic high hurdles champion Mark McKoy goes head-to-head with his arch-rival and close friend Colin Jackson for the second time this season on Wednesday in a high-powered clash at the Nice Grand Prix, reports Reuter.

The two fastest men this year have each made their

mark as they vie for the psychological advantage ahead of next month's World Athletics Championships.

Jackson, the European champion and record holder, defeated the Canadian Olympic champion in the Rome Grand Prix last month.

McKoy responded a personal best and the fastest time of the season, 13.08 seconds, in Lille this month.

The race promises to be the highlight of the Nice meeting featuring Olympic silver and bronze medalists Tony Dees of the US and Briton Colin Jarrett, plus German Florian Schwarhoff and Cuban Emilio Valle, fifth and sixth in Barcelona.

Only American Jack Pierce, dual third with Jarrett in Barcelona and with the third fastest time this year, is missing from the top six Olympic finishers.

European champion Jackson was favourite to win Olympic gold after setting the fastest time in the heats only to hit the third hurdle and finish seventh.

The women's 400 metres hurdles also promises fireworks as Britain's Olympic champion Sally Gunnell closes in on the World record in her commanding build-up to the World

Championships.

There is a strong Kenyan contingent in the middle-distance events, with new 10,000 metres record holder Yobes Ondieki expected to lead the way in a 3,000 metres.

The 800 metres looks like being dominated by the Kenyans with Olympic champion William Tanui and silver medalist Nixon Kiprotich challenged by compatriots Paul Ruto, Robert Kibeta and Lucas Sang.

And the 1,500 is another likely to be an all African affair with 5,000 metres world record holder Said Aoutita of Morocco facing as many as six Kenyans led by Moses Kiptanui, Joseph Chesire and David Kibet.

The women's 100 metres is a private American-Jamaican international meet, with three sprinters from each country including Olympic champion Gail Devers and Barcelona silver medalist Juliet Cuthbert from the Caribbean island expected to face off.

Cuthbert is entered for both the 100 and 200 metres and may opt for the short distance, but Jamaica's other leading woman sprinter, Merlene Ottey, is sticking to the 200 and avoiding Devers.

LONDON, July 20: World record-holder Carl Lewis and Olympic champion Linford Christie will race each other over 100 metres in Gateshead on July 30, reports AP.

The long-awaited race, announced Tuesday by organizers of the Vauxhall Invitation meet in northeast England, will assure each man a reported \$150,000 — \$15,000 per second.

Negotiations for a head-to-head showdown have been in the works ever since Christie won the gold medal in Barcelona last summer. An ailing Lewis had failed to qualify for the 100 metres at the US trials.

Plans for a race in Tokyo last September fell through, as did proposals for a meeting in Las Vegas in May.

Andy Norman, who advises Christie on his racing schedule, secured the deal after weeks of negotiations with Lewis' manager Joe Douglas.

It will be the first meeting between the two since the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, where Lewis took the gold in a world record 9.86 seconds and Christie finished fourth in European record 9.92 seconds.

The Gateshead race will come just two weeks before the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.

Lewis has raced four times over 100 metres this year. He has failed to win race but has posted good times — a wind-aided 9.90 seconds at the US outdoor championships and 10.07 seconds at Grand Prix meets in Lille and Lausanne earlier this month.

Christie is unbeaten in seven races this year, with a best time of 10.06 seconds.

Lewis has a 12-1 edge in career meetings with Christie. The British sprinter's only success came at the Grand Prix meet at Monte Carlo in 1989.

"Without a shadow of a doubt, Carl is the greatest athlete of all time," Christie said. "No one can approach what he's done over the years. But in a 100 metres, he's got to take me seriously."



Scene from the Green Delta First Division league encounter between Dhaka Wanderers and Azad Sporting Club at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Wanderers recorded a lone goal win. — Star photo

BCCP's plans

ISLAMABAD, July 20: Pakistan will host a four-nation Asia Cup cricket competition this year, an official of the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) said Monday, reports AFP.

In addition to Pakistan, teams from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will participate in the two-week tournament planned to start in the last week on December. BCCP secretary Shahid Rafi told a news conference.

He said a tour of India by the Pakistan cricket team for a three-Test series this year was on the cards, but depended on approval from the government.

If the proposal does not materialise, Zimbabwe will be invited to tour Pakistan, he said.

Rafi said the Pakistan team would tour New Zealand in February to play five Tests and five one-day matches.

Runners comply with KAAA deadline

NAIROBI, July 20: All Kenyan runners currently competing in Europe's Grand Prix meetings have confirmed they will take part in the national trials for next month's World Championships in Stuttgart, reports AFP.

The athletes had been warned they would not be selected if they shunned the trials.

The Kenyan Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) secretary David Okeyo said to day the track stars had telephoned him to say they will run in the trials in Nairobi on July 29.

"I am so glad that our international athletes have heeded my recent warning that no one will be considered for selection for the World Championships unless he or she takes part in the trials," Okeyo said.

He said the first three runners to finish would be automatically selected if they had attained qualifying standards. The deadline for qualifying times is August 4.

So far 91 athletes have qualified, but Kenya's quota for the World Championships is 28 runners, Okeyo added.

He denied reports that Yobes Ondieki, who set a new world record in the 10,000 metres ten days ago, would be entered for the 5,000 metres to defend the title he won in Tokyo two years ago.

Gunnell angered by pay disparity

LONDON, July 20: Sally Gunnell, Olympic champion in the 400-metre hurdles, is angry at the disparity in pay between men and women athletes, reports AP.

Gunnell reacted to a report by a women's track and field committee that says she receives \$15,000 per meeting in Britain while men's Olympic 100-metre champion Linford Christie gets \$45,000.

"If the figures are correct then the situation is quite wrong and unfair when the both of us are current Olympic champions," Gunnell told the Evening Standard newspaper in Nice, France, where she is due to compete Wednesday.

"As I understand it the margin between men and women tennis players at Wimbledon has been narrowed down to about 10 percent," Gunnell said. "Yet in athletics the two top champions of our country seem to have a gender difference of 33 percent."

"If this is true, then I'm angry on behalf of all other top British women athletes. I'm concerned about establishing a reasonable equality of paying British women athletes all the way down the scale provided we keep on improving our present standards."

Headingley a conundrum

LONDON, July 20: Predicting Headingley Test heroes is about as haphazard as picking Grand National winners, reports AFP.

Each time you put your money on the leading cricketers thoroughbreds and without fail an also-ran, long written off as a three-legged nag, comes up on the rails and steals in glory.

It's a different ball game at Headingley. A horses-for-courses ground, the experts call it, a peculiarly English place suited to a peculiarly English-style bowler — the medium-fast seamer.

So it was a surprise when England, instead of recruiting a specialist or two, chose instead to stick with the squad that so startled their fans at Trent Bridge (by not losing for the eighth time in a row).

Most had expected a wily old pro, master of the secrets of seam and swing on damp, green pitches, to be drafted in to unsettle Allan Border's Australians.

Remember Neil Mallender? Remember Steve Watkins? Two unfashionable bowlers from unfashionable, off-the-beat countries, perfectly suited to Leeds conditions, who devastated the opposition and were then quietly put out to pasture.

Watkin from the Welsh borders of Glamorgan appeared at the ground two years ago and took match figures of five for 93 on his debut as the West Indies lost by 115 runs.

Last year it was Mallender's turn, nicknamed "Ghost" because of his white hair and bleached complexion, who cantered in with eight victims to send the Pakistanis tumbling to unlikely defeat in their turn.

Both could have been in line for a recall this time, particularly Watkins, who is currently enjoying a fine season.

England's current pace attack, in contrast, rely more on pure pace (Martin McCague) or bounce (Andy Caddick).

Graeme Hick was another possible option, a batsman offering part-time off-spin as an emergency back-up to an all seam attack.

The England selectors, however, felt loyalty was the best way of getting up a team with a self-esteem still as brittle as cut crystal, despite the brave showing in the last Test.

But there is still the possibility of an unexpected English hero. Pace bowler Martin Bicknell, who moves the ball in the air, could emerge from relative 12th-man anonymity to play a leading role.

Or perhaps the dark horse will come from the Australian bowling ranks this year. With Craig McDermott injured and the mustachioed Merv Hughes not at his brisling best, perhaps Brendon Julian, or Wayne Holdsworth or Paul Reffel, will suddenly find their wicket-taking range.

One thing is for sure. Headingley is a results pitch (there has not been a draw there for the last 11 Tests).

Logic — and the record books — also suggests that spinners are superfluous baggage here. Thus Tim May and Peter Such, if England risk relying totally on the quicker bowlers — should expect more time with a drinks tray rather than a ball in his hand over the next few days.

Not so Shane Warne, a man who could turn a pin-pong ball sharply off a billiard table.

Warne, wearing leg spin spells long since extinct in England, has become a highly popular tourist, except with top order batsmen. Mark Lathwell, in particular, has cause to shun the man.

The 21-year-old Somerset opener, a reluctant boy-wonder less sure than the British press that he was ready for the international stage, scored 20 and 33 in his debut at Trent Bridge and was looking more and more the part in the second innings until 'Hollywood' was handed the ball.

Lathwell retreated immediately into his shell and the runs dried up. He couldn't have treated a rattle snake with more respect and eventually fell to Warne without offering a stroke.

That Lathwell survived in the England squad for this match is to the selectors' credit. To drop him would have smacked off panic and been unfair to a player still serving his apprenticeship at the crease.

But Warne will probably fancy opening with the new ball if Lathwell leads out the England innings in Graham Gooch's place again.

If England really wanted to win this Test, of course, they would order the groundsman to grow a thick cover of clover and parsley — ideal vegetation for the seaming ball — and pray for clouds cover and the odd burst rain to maximise the chances of swing.

That option might have been possible in the days of WG, not so now.

Every-vigilant marketing men now roam cricket's corridors of power. Forget tactical advantage — their credo is spell out in pounds, shillings and pence.

Who wants a lively, English-style pitch if it means the match ending in three days said all that extra gate money going to waste?

So perhaps, with the seamers still morthalled and the money men on their side, the Australians will have nothing to fear in Leeds after all.

Bruno back on Lewis' list

LONDON, July 20: The Lennox Lewis-Tommy Morrison heavyweight title bout is definitely off for this year. But Lewis vs Frank Bruno looks to be back on again, reports AP.

Snags in finding a date and venue for the fight between World Boxing Council champion, Lewis and American fighter Morrison have led to a postponement until next February at the earliest.

Meanwhile, a deal for an all-British clash between Lewis and Bruno — announced earlier this year but then called off — is again close to reality.

Earlier this month, Lewis manager Frank Maloney announced a two-fight, \$10-million deal for Lewis that would match the fighter against Morrison this fall and former champion Evander Holyfield next spring.

Maloney also said a title unification bout with International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association champion Riddick Bowe could take place next summer.

But the Lewis camp was unable to reach agreement with Caesars Palace in Las Vegas for a possible Nov 5 date for Lewis-Morrison, and a proposal from the newly-built MGM Grand was turned down.

"They gave us a Dec 30 date for Lewis and Morrison, but that wasn't acceptable," Maloney said. "But their offer of the last week in February and first week in March was OK for Lennox."

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FRANK BRUNO

Rozsa now an Australian

CANBERRA, July 20: Hungary's world record holder Norbert Rozsa was granted permanent Australian residency status here today and will be eligible to represent Australia at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, reports AFP.

In a coup for Australian swimming, 21-year-old Rozsa, who has swum four of the five fastest 100-metre breaststroke times in history, was granted residency under the "distinguished talent" category in a special ceremony at Parliament House.

Rozsa catapulted to fame when as the 22nd ranked breaststroke he swept to the 100 metres crown at the 1991 World Championships in Perth, Australia, in world record time.

Later that year he further trimmed the world mark for the distance to one minute 01.29 seconds at the European Championships in Athens.

"We don't make a practice of recruiting swimmers from overseas," Australia Swimming executive director Simon Allatson said here today. "Norbert has been training in Perth as a member of the Hungarian swim team on several occasions in the last few years and he obviously liked the lifestyle and made his decision after last year's Barcelona Olympics to emigrate to Australia."

"He made that decision on his own volition and when we became aware of that we moved very quickly to enable him to get his permanent residency as soon as possible, given that he had expressed a desire to represent Australia at the 1996 Olympics."

The need for the quickness of the residency was based on eligibility requirements so that he can be selected in the Australian team in 1996, and in fact we are looking at the possibility of getting him to swim for Australia in 1995."

Rozsa has been training at the Western Australian Institute of Sport in Perth with coach Gerry Stachewicz.

Stachewicz said Rozsa's left Hungary on good terms with the national team and he had decided to make the move to Perth because of a variety of factors, but primarily because of the political and social situation in eastern Europe.

"Norbert was in the thick of things and decided he could pursue his future better away from Hungary," he said.

Allatson revealed that dual Russian Olympic gold medalist Alexander Popov has submitted an application in Moscow for permanent Australian residency.

"His coach, Gennadi Touretsky, is currently the head swim coach of the Australian Sports Institute in Canberra and Alexander may have long-term aspirations in that area, but at the moment his application is designed just to enter and exit Australia."

"He is not at this stage under consideration for Australian representation as the way Norbert obviously is."

"He is still swimming for the Russian team and our interest is having Alexander train Australia, because it benefits our sprint freestylers, we have put him under no pressure, nor are we under any expectation that he will swim for Australia."

At this stage Popov's position is different to Norbert's.