

Hockey league resumes today

Sports reporter The Green Delta First Division hockey league resumes today after a rather prolonged recess due to inclement weather.

BAF basketball

BAF Base Bashar defeated BAF Base Pahar Kanchanpur 64-35 on the third day of the BAF inter-base basketball championship at the BAF Sports Complex, Kurmitola yesterday, reports BSS.

Four-a-side football

Four-a-side inter-friends soccer match between Blue and Red at the Azampur ground yesterday ended in a 1-1 draw. Mukul scored for Blue while Arif of Red equalised from a Suman pass.

Chittagong TT

CHITTAGONG, July 29: Rahela Alam Tmu of Bangladesh Women Association (BWA) High School won triple crown in the Chittagong District Women's badminton competition at the stadium gymnasium here this evening, reports BSS.

Martinez ever ready

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont, July 29: Top seeded Conchita Martinez overcame jet lag and a change of court surfaces to overwhelm American Camille Benjamin 6-0, 6-3 at the 375,000 dollar women's hardcourt tennis tournament on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Coming from Europe, the first match is always a little difficult and the balls were flying a little bit, said the sixth-ranked Martinez. I just tried to be aggressive and it wasn't that bad for a first match.

Schultz pulls out

SAN JUAN, July 29: Top seed Brenda Schultz pulled a groin muscle during the first set of her opening-round match Wednesday and withdrew from the \$150,000 Puerto Rico Open, reports AP.

Schultz was leading Rosanna de Los Rios of Paraguay 5-3 at the time. The Dutchwoman is expected to be ready for the US Open.

Jivotnikov's heady debut

Sports Reporter Oleg Jivotnikov, the 29-year-old Russian striker, scored a hatrick on his debut as title-aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club erased the memories of an uninspiring evening with a three-nil victory against Public Works Department (PWD) in the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half of lack-lustre soccer, the large number of Mohammedan supporters who thronged at the stadium to see the Russian duo in action, unleashed their long pent-up ecstatic emotions as the black and whites made an unconvincing return to winning ways following their dismal performance in the drawn encounter against Brothers Union in the previous match.

In a surprisingly quiet first half Mohammedans, despite the presence of the two Russians - Taguive Mourat and Oleg Jivotnikov - failed to make any impression. Mohammedans started the match in 4-3-3 formation with Taguive Mourat tagged in the midfield along with skipper Rumman Bin Wali Shabbir and Arman.

Oleg Jivotnikov joined Aslam and Nakib in the three-man front line while Katsar, Barun, Jewel and Titu formed a rather impoverished deep defence. The overhauling in the line-up had its effect as the popular club struggled to find their rhythm and the fact that Taguive Mourat was an utter flop did not help matters much.

Tossed to and fro more by the patient clapping of the eager supporters in the terraces than any discernible display of sense and skill the kinky haired Russian in number eight jersey was a moving load of rubbish.

Only once in the first half Mohammedans were close to scoring. Aged Aslam was poised advantageously in the small box but the overweight striker did not have the reflexes to overcome the desperate challenge of the PWD last defender. Rather the office had better chances of shocking their fancied opponents. Midway through the first half Reza cut in from the left to take a prompt and reasonably powerful shot at goal but national custodian Syed Hassan Kanan

managed to parry the ball away to safety. There were other moments of discomfiture for Mohammedans as the energetic PWD forwards led by opportunistic Mushtaq kept on probing. Mohammedan defence with Taguive Mourat being of no help even to the defenders Titu had to restrict himself to the defence temporarily forgetting his duties of propping up the offence. Except for the last twenty or thirty minutes he virtually played the role of a right back. While Mourat's achievement on the first day was limited to a well-earned yellow card, Jivot-



OLEG JIVOTNIKOV

nikov slowly but surely made his mark as a useful player if not as an outstanding one. Tall and stout this pallid player convinced everyone of having a lethal left foot and enough stamina and prowess to worry the local defenders. He missed two excellent scoring opportunities at the onset of the second half. First he spotted a lovely Shabbir through by failing to beat a helpless PWD goalkeeper and then he couldn't toe in an angled half-pass half shot from Aslam from handshaking distance. Just when a dismissive conclusion about him too was in the air, Jivotnikov redeemed himself with a snap goal. A shabby piece of marking by the PWD defenders left him free goalmouth and as a neat, almost addressed cross by Shabbir came along his way he just nodded the ball home much to the delight of the MSC fans in the seventh minute of the second half (1-0). He was again the man of the moment 13 minutes later when

he took the PWD defence by surprise with a quick finish on a midfield through from inside the box (2-0). Jivotnikov made sure that quite a few tongues and lips will be twisted to pronounce the rather outlandish name when he caught the PWD defence unaware with delightful positional sense and unleashed a thunderous close range volley with his redoubtable left foot on a flag kick to notch the only second hatrick of the league six minutes before the close (3-0). Incidentally Abdou Rahimov, another Russian player who won the hearts of the Mohammedan supporters with an amazing penchant for scoring, got a hatrick against PWD. However it is the very indigenous Intiaz Ahmed Nakib who scored the first hatrick in this year's league as Mohammedans drubbed Rahmatganj 4-0 couple of weeks ago.

With this win Mohammedans have retained their position at the top of the points table with 16 points from eight matches while PWD, who created a stir at the beginning by holding mighty Abahani to a one-all draw, remain at eight from as many outings.

FARASHGANJ'S FIRST

Farashganj Sporting lasted their first defeat in the Star First Division football league as babes East End handed them a stunning 3-1 defeat in the day's first match played earlier at the same venue. The winners led the first half 2-1. However it was Farashganj who shot into the lead when Shimu scored in the 12th minute of the match. Kaushik of East End restored parity in the 27th minute and nine minutes later experienced Mamun Babu took the promotes ahead. East End completed the tally 15 minutes into the second half when skipper Liton scored his side's third goal and the fourth of the match. The win brightens East End's chances of winning promotion to Premier League with ten points from eight matches. Farashganj could not add anything to their collection of nine from eight matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Fakirerpool vs Dhanmondi (4:30) Abahani vs Brothers (6:30)

Taylor going great guns

MANCHESTER, England, July 29: Mark Taylor, acting as Australia's skipper, revelled in the role with his second century of the summer at Old Trafford on Wednesday, reports AFP. Taylor, who scored 124 on the same ground in the first Test, followed up with a magnificent 122 to drive the tourists to 282 for three against a weakened Lancashire side.

Against an attack that badly missed Pakistan ace Wasim Akram, Taylor and Matthew Hayden put together 117 on an easy-paced pitch after 90 minutes were lost to rain. Hayden, dropped on 56, was trapped lbw to paceman Peter Martin for 61 but Taylor coasted on to his third century of the tour. It took him 212 minutes and he hit one six and 11 fours. After taking runs almost at will, Taylor finally skied a catch to backward square-leg off spinner Alex Barnett with the score on 243. He had batted 247 minutes and faced 191 balls. Martin won his second lbw decision to get rid of Mike Slater (20) just before the close but Damien Martyn kept the tourists in control with an undefeated 70.

Table with columns: M, A, Taylor, c, DeFreitas, b, Barnett, 122, M, L, Hayden, lbw, b, Martin, 61, D, R, Martyn, not out, 70, M, J, Slater, lbw, b, Martin, 20, M, E, Waugh, not out, 4, Extras, (lb 1, nb 4), 5, Total, (3 wkts), 282, Fall of wickets, 1-117, 2-243, 3-275, To bat, S, R, Waugh, T, J, Zoehrer, M, G, Hughes, S, K, Warner, T, B, A, May, W, J, Holdsworth.

England eves made to sweat

LONDON, July 29: England had to work hard for a four-wicket win over West Indies in the women's World Cup at Arundel on Wednesday, reports AFP. A good performance in the field kept the West Indies down to 120 in 59.4 overs, at 63 for one, with Janette Brittin in full cry, England were in charge by the tea break. But Caitie Hodges went to the second ball after the break and a middle-order collapse left England reeling at 76 for five and then 100 for six.

All-rounder Jo Chamberlain then pulled the side round with an unbeaten 34 from 46 deliveries and Debbie Stock (7), in her first innings of the tournament, stayed with her to hit the winning runs with 13.5 overs to spare. Today, England face Holland and New Zealand meet Australia in the tournament's decisive matches. An England win will see them through to Sunday's final at Lord's providing New Zealand beat Australia. If Australia win, then these three sides will be level on points and the finalists will be decided by run rate. Unofficially, Australia have the edge in this department with 3.432, followed by England 3.342 and New Zealand 3.03.

Finidi, another addition to Ajax

AMSTERDAM, July 29: Ajax, who bought Frank Rijkaard from AC Milan on Tuesday, completed their third transfer of the week on Wednesday by signing Nigerian international striker George Finidi, reports AFP. Finidi, who impressed the club on a pre-season training camp in Finland, is currently with Sharks Calabar in Nigeria. He will team up with Dutch international Peter Van Vossen, signed from Anderlecht last week, as Ajax try to fill the gap left by Dennis Bergkamp's departure for Internazionale in Italy. Club treasurer Arie van Os revealed on Wednesday that Rijkaard, who has been given a two-year contract by Ajax, cost only 725,000 dollar.

Perfect start for France

CAEN, France, July 29: France made the perfect start to a busy soccer season by beating Russia 3-1 in a friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Franck Sauze, Eric Cantona and Jean-Pierre Papin scored in the first half for France, back in action after a three-month break. Russia's only goal came through French sweeper Laurent Blanc, who diverted into his own goal a shot by Manchester United's Andrei Kanchelskis. France now face a crucial World Cup Qualifier in Sweden on August 22.

Prabhakar, Sidhu set a new record India in control at Colombo

COLOMBO, July 29: Opener Manoj Prabhakar and Navjot Sidhu set up a record-breaking opening wicket stand to put India in the driving seat on the third day of their second Test against Sri Lanka here Thursday, reports AFP. Despite losing two wickets in the space of five runs just before the close, India ended the day on 205 for two in their second innings to secure a huge 317 run lead.



Sri Lankan opening batsman Roshan Mahanama through with a spectacular cover drive off Indian medium paceman Kapil Dev during the second day of the first test in Colombo on Wednesday. Sri Lanka were all out for 254 in reply India's first innings score of 366.

caught by wicket-keeper Ashley de Silva. The morning session undoubtedly belonged to Anil Kumble who mesmerized the local batting line-up with three wickets in nine balls. Sri Lanka continuing from an overnight 200 for four, lost five wickets for 11 runs before the last pair of Pramodya Wickramasinghe and Jayananda Warnaweera added 36 vital runs to reduce India's first innings lead. Kumble playing his 12th Test ended with best figures of

Warnaweera played the innings of their life to delay the team's first innings fate. It was left to the nippy pace bowler Prabhakar to uproot Warnaweera's stumps 40 minutes before the lunch interval. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the third day of the second cricket Test between Sri Lanka and India today: INDIA: First innings 366

Table with columns: SHRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 200 for four), R Mahanama c More b Prabhakar, 22, C Hathurusinghe b Kumble, 37, A Gurusinghe lbw b Prabhakar, 4, P A de Silva c Azharuddin b Kumble, 22, A Ranatunga c Srinath b Kumble, 88, H Tilkeratne c More b Srinath, 28, A M de Silva c Amre b Kumble, 0, R S Kalpage c More b Srinath, 1, D K Lyanage lbw b Kumble, 2, G P Wickramasinghe not out, 11, J Warnaweera b Prabhakar, 20, Extras: (b-9, lb-5, nb-1, w-4) 19, Total, 254, Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-58, 3-85, 4-96, 5-207, 6-207, 7-209, 8-218, 9-218.

Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W, DeFreitas, 17, 2, 41, 0, Martin, 20, 5, 63, 2, Watkinson, 14, 1, 68, 0, Barnett, 20, 1, 87, 1, Gallian, 9, 0, 22, 0.

Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W, Kapil Dev, 11, 4, 26, 0, Prabhakar, 15, 5, 43, 3, Srinath, 17, 5, 42, 2, Kumble, 24, 3, 87, 5, Chauhan, 10, 1, 42, 0.

Christie takes on Lewis today

GATESHEAD, England, July 29: Sprint stars Carl Lewis and Linford Christie settle their grudges here on Friday in Britain's richest ever race just two weeks before the World Championships, reports AFP. Both Lewis, probably the greatest athlete of all time, and 100m Olympic champion Linford Christie will earn 100,000 pounds (150,000 dollars) each in this eagerly-awaited head-to-head between Sprinting's hottest stars. Lewis, who goes for his fourth consecutive world 100m title in Stuttgart, Germany, has said Christie has been avoiding him this season. Christie strongly denied the accusation, and the off-track bad feeling has helped sell tickets in their 13th meeting over 100m. Temporary seats have been put up in the stadium, which usually holds 11,500, to cope with the 14,000 attendance expected by the meeting's promotions officer, Stan Long.

Christie has only once finished ahead of Lewis, four years ago in Monte Carlo, as 'King Carl' had not qualified for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics when Linford struck gold. And Lewis has not been slow to remind his rival he won a 'soft' Olympic final. Though Christie's brief statement to the press on Wednesday implied it was not a special event by saying his preparation would be 'the same as for all my races,' a loss to Lewis would be a major psychological blow before Stuttgart.



Sprint king Golam Ambia of Bangladesh Army about to breast the tape in the men's 100m at the second summer athletics meet at the Army Stadium yesterday. Ambia equalled the national mark of 10.4 seconds.

Armydominate Day Two

Bangladesh Army led the medals table with 12 golds, 10 silvers and 5 bronzes at the end of the second day in the second summer athletics competition at the Army Stadium yesterday, reports BSS. BJMC followed with five golds, five silvers and four bronzes ahead of Bangladesh Navy with two golds, one silver and one bronze. Bangladesh Army's Golam Ambia asserted his ascendancy

in men's 100m sprint when he won with a time of 10.4 seconds equalling his previous time set in 1991. Mahub Alam to Bangladesh Ansars and Ashabuddin of Bangladesh Customs got the silver and bronze medals respectively. In the women's 100m sprint, Bangladesh Customs' Rehana Parveen snatched the gold with a time of 12.2 seconds dethroning fastest woman Firoza Khatun, who finished a poor fourth. BJMC's Lovely Begum and Nilufar Yasmin finished second and third clocking 12.4 seconds and 12.5 seconds respectively. Younus Ali of Army won the gold medal in men's 20 km walk in one hour 44 minutes 47.0 seconds. Army's Saifuddin Titu and Mahub Alam took silver and bronze respectively. Results of other events finalised on the second day: Hammer throw (men): Gold - Monimul Huq (Army), 56.28 metres; Silver - Golam Mostafa (Army), 56.10 metres; Bronze - Momtaz Mollah (BJMC), 51.30 metres.

400m sprint (women): Gold - Lubna Mahmud (BJMC), 57.6 seconds; Silver - Sumita Goswami (BTMC), 57.9 seconds; Bronze - Nasima Begum (BJMC), 59.8 seconds. 400m sprint (men): Gold - Farid Khan Chowdhury (Army), 48.4 seconds; Silver - Giasuddin (Army), 48.7 seconds; Bronze - M A Bari (Navy), 51.1 seconds. Triple jump (men): Gold - Nazrul Islam (Army), 15.24 metres; Silver - Ferdous Hossain (BAF), 14.14 metres; Bronze - Bont Aming (Army), 13.49 metres. 5000m run (men): Gold - Layek Sheikh (Army), 15:24.9 seconds; Silver - Abul Kashem (Ansars), 15:43.0 seconds; Bronze - Azmal Hossain (Customs), 16:10.0 seconds.

When strong men come together

MELBOURNE, July 29: A record number of countries and participants are expected at the 65th world weightlifting championships for men and women to be held here in November, Australian Weightlifting officials said, reports Reuter. Organisers said 70 countries had already entered the championships, beating the previous record for a weightlifting competition set at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, when 65 countries participated. The organising committee had predicted 80 countries would take part, about 30 more than at any other World Championships, and now that looks likely, tournament organiser Paul Coffa said in a statement. The last championships were in Germany in 1991, when 48 teams entered.

Medals table at the end of the second day events (fabulate under teams, golds, silvers, bronzes): Bangladesh Army 12 10 5, BJMC 5 5 4, Bangladesh Navy 2 1 1, BTMC 1 3 1, Bangladesh Ansars 1 2 4, Bangladesh Customs 1 2 3, Rajshahi University 1 0 0, Bangladesh Air Force 0 2 2. Note: Two silvers were given in two events and no bronze medal was given in three events. ERRATA The mix-up in the sports page in our yesterday's issue regarding the captions of the second summer athletics pictures is regretted.

Table with columns: CAEN, France, July 29: France made the perfect start to a busy soccer season by beating Russia 3-1 in a friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Franck Sauze, Eric Cantona and Jean-Pierre Papin scored in the first half for France, back in action after a three-month break. Russia's only goal came through French sweeper Laurent Blanc, who diverted into his own goal a shot by Manchester United's Andrei Kanchelskis. France now face a crucial World Cup Qualifier in Sweden on August 22.



Ted Dexter (L), chairman of England selectors, addresses the newsmen at a press conference called in the wake of the selection of Michael Atherton (R) as the new England captain after Graham Gooch stepped down after his side lost the fourth Test at Headingley.