

Div One hockey

Sports Reporter
Wari Club and Azad Sporting Club finished their Green Delta First Division hockey league engagements on winning high at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Azad Sporting and Bangladesh Sporting Club at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Azad won the match by three goals to nil. — Star photo

Wari had a tough time against Dhaka Anars before finally coming through 2-1 victors while Azad Sporting had it done with all the ease in the world when they etched a 3-0 triumph over Bangladesh Sporting Club.

In the first match of the day, Azad led the first half 1-0. Shyamol, Pappu and Tatal scored once each for the winners.

Azad ended their league campaign with 10 points from 15 matches while Bangladesh Sporting Club, who also rounded off their league engagements, yesterday, remained stuck to six.

In the day's second match, Wari got their goals from Shaheed and Taleb while Masud Rana reduced the margin for the losers.

Wari Club have 16 points from 15 encounters and Anars, who have a game in hand, are at 14.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Wanderers vs Railway (2:30)
Mariners vs Ajax (4:15)

Schools TT

Sports Reporter
Mahbub and his Dhaka DSA teammate Tuhiin will fight it out in the boys' singles final of the Green Delta schools table tennis championships at the National Sports Council gymnasium today.

Mahbub stifled a late rally by Biplob of BCSIR School to prevail 21-14, 21-17 and 22-20 while Tuhiin had a comparatively easy sailing against Shaon of St Gregory's School en route to the final. He won 21-17, 21-19 and 21-16.

Later Shaon won the third-place decider with a 21-18, 21-16, 21-15 triumph over Biplob.

In the girls' singles, Gaibandha's Sumi set up a date with Rajshahi's Tumpa in the final.

Sumi made a quick work of her teammate Jamie 21-16, 21-16 and 21-14 while Tumpa's passage to the final was even easier when she brushed Patuakhali's Hosne Ara aside 21-9, 21-14 and 21-11.

Hosne Ara had a five-set affair later in the evening when she had to be at her best to dispose Jamie 21-18, 17-21, 18-21, 21-16 and 21-15.

The four-day meet ends today. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will grace the concluding day as chief guest and later give away prizes among the winners.

Khulna Div I soccer

Victors led the first half 2-0 through goals from Jahangir and Rabi while Hemayet completed the tally in the second half.

Referee Altat warned Hemayet of Moheshwarpasha and Rabi and Shahid of Victoria with the yellow card.

Bankers Club will face Town Club tomorrow.

Mariners' GM today

The biennial general meeting of Dhaka Mariner Young's Club will be held on Friday at 6:30 pm at the Sicily Chinese Restaurant in the city, reports UNB.

In the general meeting, a new executive committee for the next term will be announced and prizes of the club's inter-sports meet will be distributed.

According to club sources, ASM Ali Khabir, a renowned businessman, has been made the new president of the club while Asaduzzaman Kohnoor retained the post of general secretary.

Polygram wins WC TV rights

LONDON, Aug 10: World Cup organisers have sold exclusive television rights for the draw of the 1994 soccer tournament in the United States to Dutch entertainment company Polygram, reports Reuter.

Polygram officials told a news conference on Monday that their artists will record the World Cup 1994 theme and a compilation album which will be released before the month-long event starts in June.

British rock singer Sting is favourite to record the theme song. Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti hit the top of the charts with the 1992 World Cup theme Nessun Dorma.

It is the first time television rights to the draw have been sold and 750 million people are expected to catch the event — a 90-minute mix of entertainment and soccer — at Cesar's Palace in Las Vegas on December 19.

Officials gave no figures for the deal with World Cup organisers.

Sport

Fletcher's moment of truth

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 10: Team manager Keith Fletcher admitted after England's latest Test defeat on Monday that it would be "bloody difficult" to get the side back on track, reports Reuter.

"At the moment, we have young and inexperienced players in the side, but they are learning," said Fletcher after England's eight-wicket fifth Test defeat by Australia — their fourth loss in the six-match Ashes series.

England have lost eight Tests this year under Fletcher's management, but he appealed to the media to get behind both him and new captain Mike Atherton.

"We were going nowhere with the older players and at Trent Bridge in the third Test the decision was made to introduce new blood.

"It's not going to be easy to get England back on track — in fact, it's going to be bloody difficult," said Fletcher.

Atherton, captaining his country for the first time, is under no illusions about the task facing him.

"Australia played better than us and deserved to win, as they have done all series," he said.

"The way they have played, 4-0 is the right scoreline and there is a big gulf between the two sides.

"What we have to try to do is identify a pool of young players of the future — people who have the bottle for Test cricket — and stick by them."

Caniggia banned from int'l soccer

ZURICH, Aug 10: Claudio Caniggia, the Argentinian winger who was banned by Italy's football authorities last season for cocaine abuse, was excluded from international competition by FIFA on Tuesday, reports AFP.

But Caniggia, who played for Roma, may still play in next summer's World Cup finals in the United States. His ban runs until May 8, although the case will be re-examined by FIFA's executive committee.

Football's world governing body also announced a three-match ban for Peru's Jorge Soto for assaulting an opponent during the World Cup qualifier against Argentina on August 1.

Soto, who was also fined 5,000 Swiss francs, will miss Peru's qualifying matches against Colombia, Paraguay and Argentina.

The Colombian federation was hit with a hefty 100,000-Swiss-francs fine after the national team breached FIFA rules and played friendlies with advertising on their shirts.

Nigeria was fined 20,000 Swiss francs and warned its national stadium could be suspended if security was not improved after crowd trouble during the match against Algeria on July 3.

Algeria was fined 10,000 Swiss francs and threatened with expulsion from the World Cup if there was any repeat of their squad's behaviour in the match against Ivory Coast on July 3.

The Algerians, who lost 1-0 to an injurytime goal, surrounded the referee in protest for several minutes.

Speight steers Sussex home

LONDON, Aug 10: Martin Speight blasted a Natwest Trophy warning to Glamorgan on Monday by slamming Sussex to a nine-wicket thrashing of Worcestershire in the English County Championship, reports AFP.

Speight tuned up for Tuesday's semifinal with the Welsh County by belting 71 off just 40 balls with eight fours and four sixes to clinch Sussex's fifth win on the trot in all competitions.

Speight, whose 50 came from just 27 deliveries, shared a second-wicket stand of 88 with Bill Athey after Neil Lenham had put Sussex on the way to victory with 55 including nine fours.

Worcestershire had begun the final day in a near hopeless position, being 122 ahead with only two wickets in hand, and

they added 44 before being bowled out for 337. Nottinghamshire also triumphed, crushing Yorkshire by 115 runs thanks to sponsor Andy Afford, who snapped up five for 77 as Notts overcame injury problems to bowl Yorkshire out for 220.

Notts reduced the visitors to 101 for eight, but were held up by a ninth-wicket stand of 105 between Craig White and Jeremy Batty.

Batty struck a career-best 50 with six boundaries, while White reached an unbeaten 74 in 194 minutes, hitting seven fours.

The day's two other matches were drawn after rain restricted play in both.

Play did not start until after lunch at Durham, where Derbyshire's John Morris took his final day in a near hopeless position, being 122 ahead with only two wickets in hand, and

and 12 fours. Resuming on 86 for two in their second innings — 89 ahead — Derbyshire moved to 182 for five before calling a halt by declaring.

Meanwhile, Surrey, lifted by David Ward's first championship century of the season, were let down by the weather against Kent at Canterbury.

Acting captain Monte Lunch declared at 305 for three, setting Kent a target of 303 in a minimum of 42 overs, when rain intervened before the home side could start their chase.

Ward had moved from Saturday's 69 to his ton off 187 balls with 15 fours, finishing unbeaten on 151 in 224 minutes to add to his first innings 61.

Earlier, he and Darren Bicknell (81) extended their second-wicket partnership to 177 before Bicknell was caught.

The role Bruno wants to play

NEW YORK, Aug 10: Part-time actor Frank Bruno is looking for a new role — heavyweight boxing champion, reports AP.

Bruno, who has appeared in children's plays and television shows in England, meets WBC champ Lennox Lewis on Oct 1 at Cardiff, Wales, in the first all-British heavyweight title bout.

"I won't be acting when I fight Lewis," Bruno said. "It will be for real."

Bruno and Lewis exchanged glares and insults Monday at a "High Tea" news conference with a British theme. "Pomp and Circumstance" was played as "palace guards" rolled out a red carpet for the fighters, who then posed with a woman dressed as the queen.

"This is an historic event in England," said Dan Duva, Lewis' promoter. "The atmosphere for the fight is going to be electric."

About 40,000 fans are expected to attend the fight at Cardiff Arms Park. The bout will be televised live by HBO.

Both fighters said the late start won't bother them.

Although some are calling it "The Battle of Britain," Bruno doesn't consider Lewis a countryman. Lewis was born in London and lives there now, but he represented Canada

when he won the gold medal at the 1988 Olympics.

"He's not British," Bruno said. "Nobody cares about Lennox Lewis in England. I'm the one who's famous. I have homes named after me. I have

"He's a loser," said Lewis, who is 23-0 with 19 knockouts. "And he's jealous of me because I'm a winner."

If Lewis beats Bruno, he will make his next defence against Tommy Morrison next March in Las Vegas. But the fight the public wants to see is Lewis against Bowe, who holds the WBA and IBF versions of the heavyweight crown.

Lewis, who beat Bowe for the gold medal in Seoul, said he hopes a rematch will take place after the Morrison bout.

"I think the American public is sick and tired of seeing Bowe fight a bunch of bums," Lewis said. "It's about time he stepped into the ring with a real fighter."

Lewis will earn about \$10 million, while Bruno will get \$1.5 million plus a share of the gate. But Bruno said he's not fighting Lewis for the money.

"This is personal," he said. "Lewis is going around acting like he's Sugar Ray Leonard or Muhammad Ali. He's strutting like a peacock, but he hasn't earned it."

Lewis, who became WBC champion in December when the organization stripped Riddick Bowe, said he's more British than Bruno.

"I've boxed more British fighters than he has," Lewis

theaters and children and dogs named after me. I even have a flower named after me. Lewis is a nobody. When he flew back to London after getting the title, only four people showed up to greet him.

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Pernfors takes it too hard

MASON, Ohio, Aug 10: Mikael Pernfors, unsettled by his recent victory at the Canadian Open, lost 6-4, 6-2 Monday to Malival Washington on a quiet opening day at the ATP Championship, reports AP.

Washington, the No 15 seed, played aggressive tennis and was never in trouble against Pernfors, who was looking to build on his surprising victory in Montreal a week ago.

"I still had a little bit of trouble concentrating," the 30-year-old Swede said. "I was thinking about what happened."

The top eight seeds had first-round byes in the \$1.65 million tournament, including top seed and defending champion Pete Sampras.

Sampras will play Bryan Shelton of Atlanta in the second round Tuesday. Shelton advanced with a 7-6 (8-6), 4-6,

6-1 victory over Guillaume Raoux of France.

Only four seeds played Monday, and they all won: No 12 Alexander Volkov of Russia, No 13 Cedric Pioline of France, No 15, Washington and No 16 Henrik Holm of Sweden.

Pernfors is in the third year of a comeback from Achilles' tendon surgery. Progress had been slow until this summer — he finished 1991 ranked No 239 and inched up to No 237 last year.

The Canadian Open victory moved him to No 37 in the computer rankings and made him a celebrity again. He's not yet comfortable with that, either.

"Three weeks ago, nobody cared about what I did on the tennis court," he said. "Now everybody cares."

"It's a lot more hectic. People are calling me at the hotel room all the time. I've got to deal with that again."

Pernfors also found himself dealing with a weak first serve

Monday, which left him on the defensive all match.

"I was able to put pressure on him," Washington said. "He was not really able to do anything to hurt me."

Volkov came closest to an upset Monday with his 6-1, 6-7 (7-3), 7-5 victory over Jaime Yzaga of Peru. Volkov showed up Sunday figuring he wouldn't have a match until Tuesday.

"When I saw the draw, I said, 'That's it,'" Volkov said. "I said it was going to be two sets against me."

Luckily for Volkov, Yzaga got off to a slow start and then crumbled with a chance to win in the third set. Yzaga went up 3-0, but Volkov tied it 4-4 as Yzaga became erratic.

"He was nervous," Volkov said. "I think he lost his concentration a little. In the third set, I was cool."

Holm beat Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands 7-5, 6-4 and Pioline downed Brett Steven of New Zealand 6-3, 6-3.

Flight of a modern Icarus

PARIS, Aug 10: When it comes to flying like an eagle, perhaps no human comes closer than Didier Favre, reports AP.

He is spending the summer soaring atop the Alps by hang glider, swooping past majestic peaks, alighting for the night, taking off the next day to complete a 1,200-kilometre (750-mile) odyssey.

The 46-year-old Swiss adventurer took off June 20 from the hills of southern France near Monaco. After two bouts with bad weather that cost him 12 days, he is now winging around the Swiss Alps.

There was a lot of rain in the beginning, and lots of mistrals (northerly winds) that slowed me down," Favre said in a telephone interview from an inn in Zinal, 2,400 metres (7,870 feet) high near the Matterhorn. "But morale is excellent."

Favre, who lives outside Geneva, started several small companies before devoting himself full-time to hang gliding and environmental causes. He is making his second attempt at what he calls "the mad crossing of the Alps."

Last year he had to abandon his trek after a few weeks because of a "stupid accident," in which he broke his arm. This time though the hard part's over and he hopes to complete the remaining 700 kilometres (440 miles) and land in Ljubljana, Slovenia, by Aug 15.

His path is taking him from France over Italy, across the length of Switzerland, over the Tyrolean regions of Italy and Austria to the Slovenian capital.

"All that is thanks to solar energy, the thermal currents," Favre said.

Bad weather forced Favre to stay in the French alpine town of Les Arcs for four days, then grounded him for eight days in Valle d'Aosta in Italy. Twice he tried to leave Valle d'Aosta, but each time had to turn back after floating about for a bit.

Twice also he has had to climb, 1,000 metres (nearly 3,300 feet), with all his gear to reach points from where he could take off. He never relies on motor vehicles.

"People don't understand how a man can do such a thing without an engine," said Favre, who has 15 years' hang gliding experience. "But up there you're just like a bird. You're free, you don't fear anything."

Favre carries two or three days' worth of food amid his 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of gear but usually stays with shepherds he comes across in the mountain meadows where he lands. Sometimes he camps outdoors, using a sleeping bag and small stove he carries.

His flight instruments are a compass, map, anemometer to measure wind and variometer to show speed of altitude change, which helps find ascending wind currents.

"Ninety percent, of people think that you take off, fly around for 10 minutes and

land," Favre says. "I'm showing that you can truly fly."

He's usually aloft for four hours or so, averaging 20 kilometres per hour (12 mph), but sometimes reaching 60 kph (37 mph).

Favre never takes off before 1 pm waiting for the air to heat up. The best flying time is 2-6 pm. He says, as a setting sun doesn't provide enough thermal currents.

"In mid-afternoon the southern flanks of mountains are best because of exposure to the sun, and later in the afternoon the western flanks are better," he says. "Watch eagles fly sometime — you'll see they use the same principle. It's very subtle, but extraordinary. I try to rise to the west, then descend in as straight a line as possible."

Solar power could solve the world's energy needs, Favre says, "but there are always political problems, we need to change our esprit, and that's why I'm doing this."

He's getting some sponsorship from Energie 2000, a Swiss organization promoting solar energy, through the cost of his trip is only around 15,000 francs (dfrs 2,500).

"And not a single franc for gasoline," Favre said.

He's already mentally filing his next flight plans, in the skies over the mountains of Chile and Nepal.

"Here I am, flying over glaciers at 4,000 metres," he said. "Every day I fly with eagles, falcons and bearded vultures."

Secrets of Indian success

COLOMBO, Aug 10: A ban on late night parties and women in players' hotel rooms contributed to India's successful tour of Sri Lanka, reports Reuter.

Although controversy raged on the pitch, India behaved impeccably off it following the introduction of a code of conduct by cricket manager Ajit Wadekar.

Wadekar said on Tuesday after the 1-0 victory in the three-Test Series: "One of the reasons for the vast improvement in the team's playing is the enforcement of the code of conduct."

Last year, after losing one and drawing three of their four Tests in South Africa, the code was drawn up to instil some discipline in the squad.

The move seems to have paid off as India whitewashed England 3-0, then beat Zimbabwe in a one-off Test before touring Sri Lanka.

Captain Mohammad Azharuddin admitted after the second Test triumph in Colombo that one of the reasons for their defeat in South Africa last year was because they enjoyed too many late nights

and dinner parties thrown by Indian expatriates.

The code re-defined what the players may and may not do on international duty.

— Players cannot attend any private dinner or function

— Players must behave properly with the threat of unspecified penalties for wrongdoers.

— Wives and girlfriends are barred from hotel rooms.

There was one exception to the no-women rule. All-rounder Kapil Dev was allowed to have his wife along for the latter part of the tour because of his status as most-capped player.

Despite the code, players of both sides traded insults during matches. Allegations of ball tampering, sledging and damaging the pitch were all levelled at opponents. There were also accusations of bad umpiring.

The acrimony lasted right to the end of the final draw Test on Monday but Azharuddin played down the incidents. "There was no strain in on-field relationships. It always happens when there is a lot of pressure on. Everybody tends to go over the top," he said.

Sri Lanka's skipper Arjuna Ranatunga was philosophical. "I do not accept sledging and unnecessary incidents on the field, but it was one of the toughest series we had for a long time."

He said that off-field relationships between the sides were cordial.

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Lankans lot stronger, wiser

COLOMBO, Aug 10: Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga has said the tough three-Test series against India taught Shri Lanka many lessons that could be successfully applied in the series against South Africa later this month, reports AFP.

"We learned a lot. It was one of the toughest home series we have had," Ranatunga told AFP on Monday shortly after Sri Lanka drew the third Test at Colombo's P Saravanamuttu Stadium.

"We know why sometimes our plans didn't work. But we are really happy to see our main batsmen click in time. The top-order finally did well. It has given us a lot of confidence," said Ranatunga.

The 29-year-old skipper said that having played against a well-balanced side like India, the Shri Lankans were better-prepared for the series against South Africa.

The South Africans arrive here late Tuesday, a day ahead of schedule, for a five-week tour that includes three-Tests and three one-day internationals against Shri Lanka. India won the three-Test series by virtue of their 235-run win in the controversy-ridden second Test. The first Test was abandoned as a draw due to rain.

Despite Ranatunga's confident remarks it was clear that serious problems remained to be resolved including team selections and poor planning by the team during play that compounded matters further for the home side.

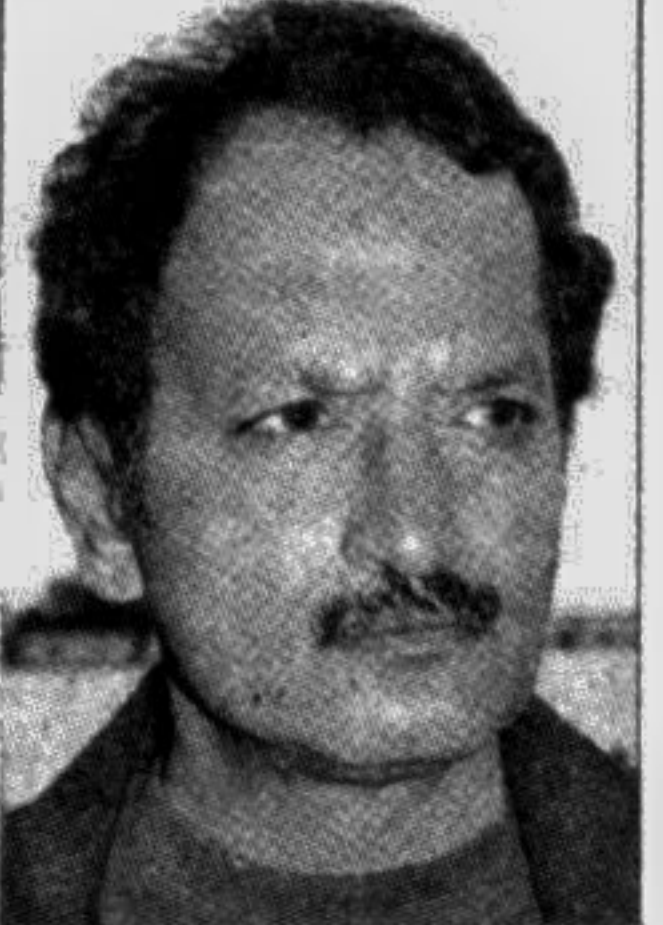
The Shri Lankan selectors, who came in for severe criticism during the series, were faced with a crisis right from the start when Test-discard Sanath Jayasuriya staked his claim with a century against India in a three-day game.

Jayasuriya's batting performance and mounting public support for his inclusion stumped the selectors ahead of the first Test.

Nevertheless, they dropped him from the first and second Test before picking him for the third. The selectors made a wrong move by leaving out the country's leading seamer Champanka Ramanayake from the second and third Test without even seeing him bowl in the washed out first Test.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan, who together with off-cutter Jayananda Warnawera helped Shri Lanka to their first wins over New Zealand and England, was also dropped from the second Test to make way for debutant Ruwan Kalpage.

Then, three players were dropped in one go for the third Test — Kalpage after just one Test, wicket-keeper Ashley de



Ajit Wadekar

except official ones.

— Players are barred from going outside the hotel without the manager's permission.

— Players must be properly dressed in whites and not shorts and casual clothes at the ground.

Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla (C) tries to get past Peruvian defenders Jose Carranza (D) and Jose Soto during their World Cup soccer qualifying match in Lima on August 8.



Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla (C) tries to get past Peruvian defenders Jose Carranza (D) and Jose Soto during their World Cup soccer qualifying match in Lima on August 8. — AFP photo