

Hockey league title decider today

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Mohammedi Sporting Club will be gunning for a win today in their match against arch rivals Abahani Krira Chakra to complete a treble of Senior Division league titles.

In the last match of this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium, only a win can ensure Mohammedans the title whereas for their traditional foes Abahani the task is a wee bit easier as the Dhanmondi side needs only a draw to have their hands on the title that has been elusive for the last couple of years.

Nevertheless when the two teams walk into the stadium, the men in black and white will certainly be in a confident frame of mind after having retained the service of all the three Pakistani recruits for the crucial tie. On the other hand Abahani will be without Pakistani power as all of their four foreign players left Dhaka to take part in the domestic engagements.

Meanwhile, Independence Day Cup champions Usha Krira Chakra finished this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league engagements with a winning note when they beat Dhaka Ansars by two goals to nil yesterday.

Usha, who had already ensured third position in the league with a win over Sadharan Biman in their previous match, led the first half 1-0 through a field goal from Guddu two minutes from the short whistle.

Another field goal just a minute away from the final whistle by Kismat widened the margin.

Usha ended with 24 points.

In the other match of the day, Sonali Bank registered an emphatic 3-1 victory over Bachelors Sporting Club in their last match.

Ultimatum for DMFA

Sports journalists of different dailies and news agencies yesterday asked the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) to accept the demands of the photo journalists by Sunday next, reports BSS.

According to a memorandum submitted to the DMFA president yesterday, the sports journalists expressed their concern at the indifference of DMFA in accepting the demands of the photo journalists, who have been boycotting the football league matches for the last 15 days in protest against a DMFA decision.

DMFA officials made some objectionable remarks about photo journalists and came up with some unacceptable conditions regarding the access of the lensmen to the stadium.

The sports journalists warned that if the demands of the photo journalists were not met by Sunday, they would boycott the football league matches from Monday.

Army aquatics

Hafidur Mukhlesur Rahman of Mymensingh Area emerged as the fastest swimmer in the Army aquatic meet when he won the men's 50m freestyle with a time of 26.54 seconds at Savar Cantonment yesterday, according to a ISPR press release.

Besides, seven events including 3-metre springboard diving were also settled.

Lewis won't be paid a dime

STUTTGART, Aug 12: Eight times world champion Carl Lewis is not being paid to take part in the fourth World Athletics Championships, his manager said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Nobody has given him a dime," Joe Douglas, manager of the Santa Monica Track Club, told reporters.

Amar Brahma, manager of world 1,500m champion Nouredine Morelli, said this week Lewis was being paid by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to take part in the championships starting on Saturday.

Brahma has also said Morelli will not defend his title here unless there is prize-money. No money is on offer but winners of each event will get a new Mercedes car.

IAAF headquarters move to Monaco

STUTTGART, Aug 12: The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) agreed on Wednesday to move its headquarters from London to Monte Carlo, reports Reuter.

The governing body voted for the move at a meeting of its congress ahead of the World Championships which start on Saturday.

The IAAF says the move should enable it to make substantial savings in operating costs. The body has been offered free accommodation in Monte Carlo.

Dozmorov defies a *deja vu*

Sports Reporter

only to be thwarted by Abahani's Russian defender Georgy Dozmorov turned out to be the saving grace for Abahani Krira Chakra as the reigning champions denied a possible *deja vu* with a hard-earned one-nil victory against Public Works Department (PWD) on the opening day of the second round of this year's Star Premier league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The doughty Russian, who had earlier brought Abahani back from the death-throes with an inspirational performance in their last first round match against arch rivals Mohammedans, spectacularly drove home a free-kick from about 25 metres midway through the second half to relieve the sky blue supporters of haunting memories. Abahani managed a one-all draw with the same team in this year's league opener on June 11.

Yesterday's Abahani were little different from the disjointed lot seen at the onset of the league some two months ago. Nothing went right for them despite their territorial dominance in the first half.

Mamun Joarder came across couple of scoring chances as did skipper Rizvi Karim Rumi but none managed to get the ball past a confident Saidur, the PWD custodian.

PWD, who almost froze Abahani in the first half when Shamim cut across from right

The goal knocked the stuffing out of a determined PWD outfit and another beautifully taken free kick by Dozmorov just missed the target. Then Gaus, one of the few in-form Abahani players, took a thunderous shot from the top of the tango box but the ball whistled past the cross piece.

Although Tanveer Mazhar Tanna, one of the influential official, punched the air in delight

as the man in black blew the long whistle, the worries that plagued the Dhanmondi team in the first round appeared very much there. Unless coach Salahuddin managers to exercise the side of the gremlins, Abahani will have to depend on stroke of luck and brilliance like that of yesterday's.

ARAMBAGH WIN

That striker Samart Narkasupurana scored two goals on his debut as Arambagh beat Victoria 3-2 in the first match of the day played earlier at the same venue.

Victoria, however, led the first half 2-1.

Rubel and Hero gave Victoria the lead. Narkasupurana pulled one back before the short whistle.

He scored once again in the second half while his teammate Kamal slotted home the deciding goal for winners.

ABAHANI KC: Mohsin, Shakil, Munna, Georgi, Masud Rana, Dozmorov, Sudarikov (Mamunul Karim), Zakir, Rumi (Swapan), Gaus and Mamun Joarder.

PWD SC: Saidur, Shamim, S. Mansoor, Kakon, Montu, Shamim Jr, Riplob, Babu (Prince), Joy, Reza (Haroon) and Mustaque.

Referee: Nazir Hossain.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rahmatganj vs Agrani Bank (4-30)

Mohammedans vs Muktijoddha (6-30).

Krabbe set to get off hook



STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 12: German sprinter Katrin Krabbe is almost certain to win her battle to avoid a four-year doping ban and should be able to compete next year, senior athletics sources said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) sources said the governing body would be unable to impose the ban on the double world champion and two German teammates because of legal complications with the case.

The IAAF came to the conclusion after studying a new report on the legal complexities of the case, said the sources.

"The IAAF will be unable to act against Krabbe under its doping rules because of the problems with the German law. She will probably be OK to run next year," one source told Reuters after a meeting of the IAAF Congress here.

Another IAAF source confirmed the reporter's findings which also applied to Krabbe's teammates Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr.

The three former East Germans have been suspended

for the past year after admitting taking the drug Clenbuterol.

Krabbe and Breuer tested positive during training in July 1992.

But the German Athletics Federation (DLV) apparently has no legal right to test the athletes in training because of a commission in its rules, the same legal loophole that helped Krabbe and Breuer avoid a similar ban last year.

The IAAF would risk a major battle if it tried to impose a four-year ban.

There is no point the IAAF putting the case to its arbitration panel because it will fail to impose a ban," a second source said. "The legal system is the same as last year. It's back to square one."

Last September the DLV recommended a four-year ban on Krabbe, current world 100 and 200 metres champion, Breuer, who won 400 metres silver at the last World Championships, and Derr.

But in March the DLV arbitration panel was forced to reduce the bans on Krabbe and Breuer to one year and Derr is due to finish her suspension in April.

But the IAAF has suspended the athletes until its ruling council comes to a decision. The council is due to meet soon.

The failure of the DLV and IAAF to impose a penalty is a major setback to the anti-doping campaign in athletics.

Some officials believe the IAAF may delay a final ruling until a meeting in November to avoid bad publicity at the World Championships which start here on Saturday.

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Perkins overcomes all odds



KOBE, Japan, Aug 12: Australia's double world record holder Karen Perkins shook off the flu to win the men's 800-metre freestyle while another Olympic champion fainted on the opening day of the Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships here yesterday, reports AFP.

Costa Rican Claudia Poll outduelled Nicole Haislett of the United States in the final 50 meters to win the women's 200-metre freestyle.

"I beat my best time. That's what I am happy about," Poll said. "It's not because I beat someone who won an Olympic gold medal."

The 20-year-old University of Costa Rica student finished in a championship record time of 1:58.85, one tenth of a second ahead of Haislett. Japan's Suzy Chiba came in third at 1:59.56.

Poll's tie was the second best of the year and shaved her previous personal record of 1:59.30.

Germany's Franziska van Almstic covered the 800 metres in 1:59.97 in winning six gold

medals last week at the European Championships in Sheffield, England.

Perkins, who won the 1,500-metre Olympic gold last year in a world record time, clocked 7 min 50.51 sec, 0.17 sec faster than his own two-year-old championship record.

But Perkins, 20 on Saturday, fell far behind the world record of 7:46.80 he set in Sydney in February, 1992.

Fellow-American Brian Reitter followed him home at 55.59 with Japan's Hajime Ito third at 56.54.

The woman's 100-metre backstroke went to another American, Lea Loveless, as she clocked 1:01.35, compared with her personal record of 1:00.82, the fourth best in history.

Teammate Barbara Bedford came in 0.19 sec behind at 1:01.54 and Japan's Yoko Koikawa was a distant third at 1:03.21.

"I had no fever this morning," he said.

Perkins only rested half an hour before competing and finished sixth in the 200-metre freestyle won by Josh Davis of the United States in 1:48.50.

New Zealand's Trent Bray was second in 1:49.69 and another American Ugur Tamer third in 1:49.80.

China, who won four golds and broke two world records at Barcelona, did not take part as their top swimmers were peaking for their own national games.

The Australian was yet to regain full confidence and said he did not expect to crack a record in the 1,500 metres on Sunday. "It's too long. I'm not really fit."

Olympic silver medalist Jeff Rouse won the men's 100-metre backstroke in a mediocre time of 54.85, 0.99 sec off the world record he set in powering the United States to a record-tying 4x100 metre medley finish at 3:41.00.

They came together on 151 after opener Mark Taylor, leading the side in the absence of Allan Border, was dismissed for 78.

Earlier, Matthew Hayden wrote himself into the Australian record books by becoming the first player to pass 1,000 runs on an Ashes tour without playing in a Test.

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