

Rain reigns at Dhaka Stadium

Sports Reporter
Unplayable ground condition led to the deferment of the 4th Asian Cup Winners Cup tie between Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Radiant Club of Maldives as heavy downpour rendered the Dhaka Stadium slippy, to the extent of unfit yesterday.
Weather permitting the match will be played today with the starting time remaining unchanged. The match is scheduled for a 6 pm start. Match commissioner Milan Dutta of India, now in Dhaka in connection with the first of the two second-round matches between Mohammedans and Radiant will be a worried man if elemental fury remains unabated today.
Players apart, the three Sri Lankan supervisors — Mahasena, Arif and Ranasinghe — will also look forward to the completion of the match. Otherwise, it is long, unfruitful wait for the trio.

BHF picks 27

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation has initially selected 27 hockey players to form a national team for the 4th Asia Cup men's hockey tournament to be held in the Japanese city of Hiroshima from November 5 to 14, reports UNB.

The squad was announced yesterday after a three-day open trial at the Hockey Stadium from August 17 to 19.

The selected players are: Rahmat Ali Asir, Mamunur Rashid, Abdullah Piru, Khurshid Alam, Mahboob Harun, Zahid Hasan Raju, Alamgir Alam, Akhter Hossain (Abahant KC), Md Kamrul Ahsan Ejaz, Mahfuzul Alam Nixon, Haider Alam, Mohammed Sadeq, Zahid Biswas (Mohammedan SC), Tushar Kanti Hawlader, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Irteza Quader Guddu, Zahurul Islam Mitul, Rafiqul Islam Kamal, Ehtesham Hossain (Usha KC), Shamim Ahmed, Md Sharafat, Musa Miah (Ajax SC), Isa Mia, Mohammed Shahid and Byaka Lusat (Martiner Youngs Club), Jahangir Alam and Mohammed Shahjahan (Bangladesh Army).

The selected players have been asked to report to the general secretary of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation on August 25 (Wednesday) at 5 pm with their kits.

A total of 12 teams, divided in two pools, will compete in the prestigious Asian meet.

The participating nations are: Bangladesh, Japan, Oman, Sri Lanka, China, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand, India, Singapore and Uzbekistan.

Reserve: North Korea, Macau and Iran.

Fed Cup b'ball

Josephites Club and Eagles Club won their respective matches in the Purabi General Insurance 6th Federation Cup basketball championships at the wooden floor gymnasium in Dhaka Saturday, reports UNB.

In the first match, Josephites Club registered an easy 83-44 points victory over Barisal Cadet College after dominating the first half by a narrow 26-24.

Asif scored 26, Mamun and Kim caged 16 each for the winners while Parvez contributed 19 and Sayeed 6 for the losers.

Eagles Club defeated Rajshahi Reshompati Boys Club by 51-39 points in the other match. The winners were trailing 18-24 points during the first session.

Toufique scored 14 and Inon 13 for the Eagles Club while Jahangir made 12 and Bobby 9 for the Rajshahi team.

Emburey peps up Middlesex hopes

LONDON, Aug 21: John Emburey scored a century on his 41st birthday to put championship leaders Middlesex on course for another vital win at Lord's on Friday, reports Reuter.

Emburey, dropped by England after a brief comeback in the fifth Ashes Test earlier this month, craked 120 including 12 fours as Middlesex reached 402 against Northamptonshire, who promptly slumped to 174 for seven.

Surrey's championship hopes, in contrast, were smashed to all parts by Derbyshire's batsmen at Ilkeston. Acting captain Peter Bowler hit 143 and John Morris contributed a brilliant 127, including 92 in boundaries.

Pakistani Test paceman Waqar Younis hit back with four wickets but was also spoken to by umpire Ray Julian for swearing. His side finished the day on 30 for one, trailing by 203.

Somerset also had a bad day, slipping to the brink of an innings defeat against Leicestershire. They finished on 151 for nine, still 57 in arrears.

West Indies skipper Richie Richardson hit an 87-ball half-century as Yorkshire took a grip on the Roses match with Lancashire. With two days to play, they lead by 282 with seven wickets in hand.

Aussies claw their way back



LONDON, Aug 21: Merv Hughes and Shane Warne, the two bowlers who have dominated the series, put

Australia back in contention on the third day of the final Test against England today, reports Reuter.

Four wickets fell in the final session after England looked to be heading for an invincible lead.

At the close England, who earlier dismissed Australia for 303, were 210 for five in their second innings — an overall lead of 287.

Australia, already 4-0 ahead

advantage. Earlier in the session off-spinner Tim May had accounted for Graeme Hick and four top order wickets had fallen in the space of 29 runs.

Alec Stewart, with a unbeaten 14, and Mark Ramprakash on 12 prevented any further disaster.

Gooch, who in the course of his innings overtook David Gower as England's most profitable run scorer, looked to be heading to a deserved century in what could be his last Test.

Having announced he will not go on the forthcoming tour of West Indies, there is no certainty he will be recalled next year.

Maynard, who had never looked comfortable, unwisely attempted to hook a ball from Hughes from outside the off-stump and lobbed it straight to Paul Reiffel at square leg. He had made nine.

It was all the encouragement Hughes needed. After bowling poorly in his first two spells in which 50 runs were scored from 11 overs, the mustachioed Australian rediscovered his old fire.

His next ball was a vicious, rearing bouncer which new batsman Nasser Hussain could only fend straight into the hands of Mark Waugh in the gully.

Alec Stewart prevented the hat-trick but six runs later Warne struck the most important blow of all when a sharply turning leg break found the edge of Gooch's bat to give Healy a catch behind the stumps.

Warne almost had new batsman Mark Ramprakash with a similar delivery later in the over, but this time Healy missed the sharp chance.

Stewart and Ramprakash struggled throughout the remainder of the session but unless they can forge a long partnership on Sunday, Australia will still fancy their chances of taking the series 5-0.

Healy had earlier frustrated England in the opening session when Australia resumed at 239 for eight.

His ninth-wicket stand of 52 with Warne was ended in Angus Fraser's second over when the paceman had warned caught by Stewart behind the stumps.

But the final partnership of the innings proved even more profitable, adding a further 55 as Healy played England's pace bowlers with ease.

Last man May, with a tour aggregate of only 12 before the match, more than doubled that as he scored 15 before also falling to the Fraser-Stewart combination.

Healy, who had gone to the crease with Australia in deep trouble at 164 for five, finished unbeaten on 83.

Fraser, playing his first Test for 2 1/2 years because of injury, finished with five for 87.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the sixth and final Test between England and Australia at the Oval today.

ENGLAND: First innings 380 (C Hick 80, A Stewart 76, G Gooch 56, M Atherton 50).

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 239-8).

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| M Taylor c Hussain b Malcolm | 70 |
| M Slater c Gooch b Malcolm | 4 |
| D Boon c Gooch b Malcolm | 13 |
| M Waugh c Stewart b Fraser | 10 |
| A Border c Stewart b Fraser | 48 |
| S Waugh b Fraser | 20 |
| I Healy not out | 83 |
| M Hughes c Ramprakash b Watkin | 7 |
| P Reiffel c Maynard b Watkin | 0 |
| S Warne c Stewart b Fraser | 16 |
| T May c Stewart b Fraser | 15 |
| Extras: (b-5, lb-6, w-2, nb-4) | 17 |
| Total: | 303 |

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-30, 3-53, 4-132, 5-164, 6-181, 7-196, 8-196, 9-248.

| Bowling: | O | M | R | W |
|----------|------|---|----|---|
| Malcolm | 26 | 5 | 86 | 3 |
| Watkin | 28 | 4 | 87 | 2 |
| Fraser | 26.4 | 4 | 87 | 5 |
| Such | 14 | 4 | 32 | 0 |

ENGLAND: Second innings

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| G Gooch c Healy b Warne | 79 |
| M Atherton c Warne b Reiffel | 42 |
| G Hick c Boon b May | 36 |
| M Maynard c Reiffel b Hughes | 9 |
| N Hussain c M Waugh b Hughes | 0 |
| A Stewart not out | 14 |
| M Ramprakash not out | 12 |
| Extras: (b-5, lb-10, w-1, nb-2) | 18 |
| Total: (for five wickets) | 210 |

| Bowling: | O | M | R | W |
|----------|----|---|----|---|
| Hughes | 20 | 6 | 77 | 2 |
| Reiffel | 13 | 4 | 36 | 1 |
| Warne | 21 | 7 | 41 | 1 |
| May | 16 | 3 | 41 | 1 |



Australian Ian Healy leaps up in the air to keep a lifter from England paceman Angus Fraser during his gritty knock of 83 in the sixth and final Ashes Test at the Oval yesterday. Australian first innings folded on 303, 77 runs behind. — AFP photo

In the six-match series, will still face a difficult target in their second innings. But with the Oval pitch continuing to favour the batsmen, a large total could still be in their reach.

Hughes took two wickets in successive balls and then Warne took the vital scalp of Graham Gooch just as England were attempting to cement their

if it was his swan song, it was a fine one. Following his imperious first innings of 56, he scored an authoritative 79 which was a mixture of watchfulness and aggression.

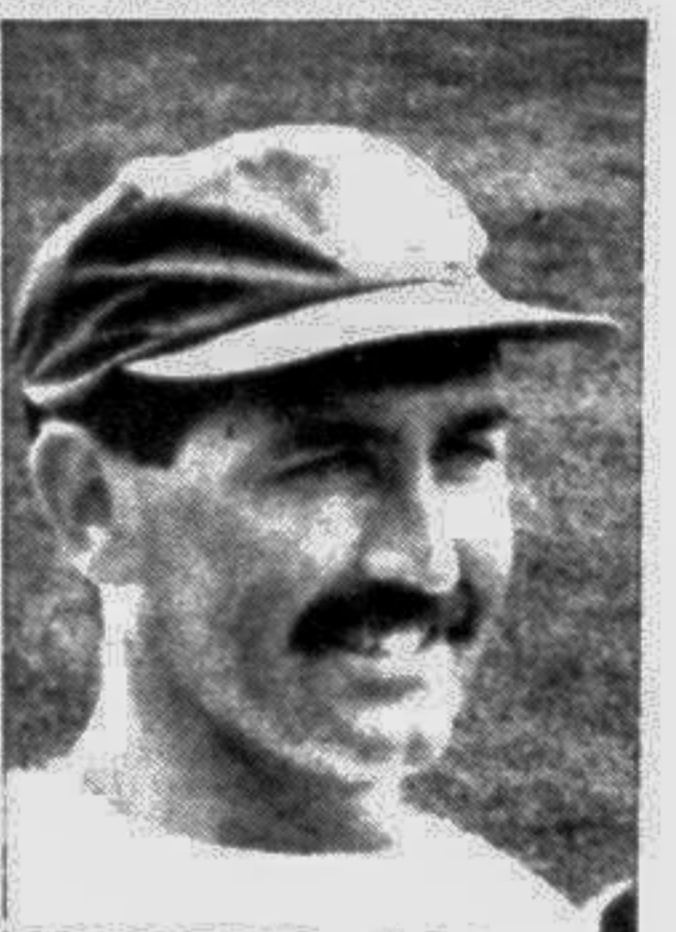
It took him to a total of 673 runs for the series and a Test aggregate of 8,293, the fifth highest in the world behind the record of 10,678 held by Allan Border.

The Australian captain was the first to walk across and shake his hand after he overtook Gower's total.

Gooch was fifth out as Australia fought their way right back into the match in the evening session.

After captain Mike Atherton (42) had needlessly thrown away his wicket soon after lunch with a careless slash wide outside the off-stump, Gooch and Graeme Hick resolutely took England into an overall lead of 234 with nine wickets in hand shortly after tea.

But then Hick (36) mistimed a pull which flew straight to David Boon at wide mid-on and 23 runs later Matthew



GRAHAM GOOCH

Gooch gets past Gower

LONDON, Aug 21: Graham Gooch became England's leading run-scorer in Tests on the third day of the sixth and final Ashes Test against Australia at the Oval on Saturday, reports Reuter.

England's leading run-scorers (tabulate under Tests, runs, average, 100s.)

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|------|-------|----|
| Graham Gooch | 107 | 8293 | 43.81 | 19 |
| David Gower | 117 | 8231 | 44.25 | 18 |
| Geoff Boycott | 108 | 8114 | 47.72 | 22 |
| Colin Cowdrey | 114 | 7624 | 44.06 | 22 |
| Wally Hammond | 85 | 7249 | 58.45 | 22 |
| Len Hutton | 79 | 6971 | 56.67 | 19 |
| Ken Barrington | 82 | 6806 | 58.67 | 20 |
| Dennis Compton | 78 | 5807 | 50.06 | 17 |
| Jack Hobbs | 61 | 5410 | 56.94 | 15 |
| Ian Botham | 102 | 5200 | 33.54 | 14 |

S Africa bank on the bowlers

KANDY, Sri Lanka, Aug 21: South Africa picked six specialist bowlers for the first one-day international on Sunday against Sri Lanka in the three-match limited overs' series, reports AP.

"We've decided to revert a bit from our usual one-day combination. We have opted for an extra bowler who should give us the cutting edge over Sri Lanka," skipper Kepler Wessels said during a training session Saturday.

The visitors preferred all-rounder Pat Symcox, who bowls off spin for his international debut ahead of veteran springbok batsman Jimmy Cook.

The rest of the attack will be made up of pacemen Allan Donald, Fanie de Villiers, Richard Snell, Brian McMillan and Hansie Cronje.

In the only previous meeting between the two countries since South Africa's return to international cricket, Sri Lanka won a thriller by three wickets at Wellington, New Zealand, in a 1992 World Cup preliminary. Sri Lanka's impressive one-

day record make the visitors start the series as underdogs.

"The tag suits us well. We'll give our best shot. We've have a very balanced combination," Wessels told the Associated Press.

Since beating Pakistan in the Asia Cup final in 1986, Sri Lanka are yet to lose a one-day series at home. During the last 12 months they've beaten Australia 2-1, New Zealand 2-0, England 2-0, and India 2-1 this month.

The 14-member home side for the Sunday's match at the Asigriya Stadium in this central tourist resort town will include leg-spinner Upul Chandana and off-cutter Kumara Dharmasena.

They replace bowlers Jayananda Warnawera and Dulp Liyanage who were in the team that won the last two one-dayers against India.

Left hander Hashan Tillekeratne, dropped for the last one-dayer against India, is expected to return at the expense of medium fast bowler Champaka Ramanayake.

In the only one-dayer played here, Imran Khan's Pakistanis

beat Sri Lanka on run rate in a rain-intervened game in February 1986.

Besides the one-day internationals, South Africa will also play three tests in the capital, Colombo. The first one will begin on Aug 25.



British hurdler Colin Jackson (R) pants his jubilation after winning the men's 110m event in a record time of 12.91 seconds at the World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart on August 20. Tony Jarret, his compatriot, finished seconds ahead of American Jack Pierce. — AFP photo

Secret of aerodynamics

LONDON, Aug 21: A NASA scientist who once opened the bowling for his school with Imran Khan revealed on Friday the "reverse swing" secret of Pakistan's pace bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, reports Reuter.

Rabi Mehta, writing in Britain's New Scientist magazine, said the two bowlers had discovered they could swing the ball the wrong way by reversing the normal method of swing bowling and bowling with the scuffed side of the ball facing forward.

Conventional swing is achieved by bowling the ball with the shiny surface facing the oncoming air.

Normally batsmen can tell whether a bowler plans to bowl in-swingers or out-swingers by his grip and action. But Waqar and Wasim are capable of bowling an in-swing with an out-swinging action.

Their success, particularly against England, led to widespread accusations last year of ball-tampering which they denied. The authorities did not take any action.

Before Waqar and Wasim, pace bowlers only achieved uncontrolled reverse swing by bowling extremely fast with the smooth side facing forward.

But Mehta said even medium-pace bowlers could now bowl reverse swing using the Pakistani method although it could only be achieved with a cricket ball with the additional seam, known as quarter-seam, normally only used in first-class matches.

"There is no magic about reverse swing," said Mehta who divides his time between the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Stanford University and a NASA research centre in California.

"Bowlers who learn to use both normal and reverse swing will be able to bowl in-swingers and out-swingers with the same bowling action."

Mehta's explanation for the reverse swing phenomenon is based on aerodynamic forces near the surface of the ball.

The ball's seam interferes with the flow of air surrounding the ball. Turbulence on the rougher side of the ball causes the ball to swing, depending on which way the seam is angled.

"While it is clear that the rougher one side of the ball is, the better the prospects are for reverse swing. It is quite possible to achieve reverse swing — even in England — without resorting to dirty tricks," Mehta said.

Mehta said he opened the bowling with former Pakistani Captain Khan for the Royal Grammar School in Worcester, Southern England, in 1972.

Jackson's condign riposte

STUTTGART, Aug 21: Colin Jackson emphatically quashed accusations that he is a choker under pressure when he smashed the world 110 metres hurdles record to win the World Championship title for the first time on Friday, reports Reuter.

The 26-year-old Welshman produced a controlled, flowing performance over the hurdles and the sight of his time on the clock — 12.91 seconds — erased the nightmare of last year's Barcelona Olympics from his mind. Jackson's time was on hundredth of a second faster than the previous record set by American Roger Kingdom in Zurich four years ago.

More importantly the Briton, a disappointing seventh in Barcelona last year despite being the pre-race favourite, was finally rewarded with a world title to match his immense talent. "I came to show that Coltri Jackson is the world's best," he said. "I knew I was in good shape... I am very pleased, especially after the disappointment of the Olympic Games."

Before the championships American rival and Olympic silver medalist Tony Dees accused

Jackson of not having the nerves to survive under real pressure, calling him a "choker when it really matter."

Dees left the track with egg on his face, ironically coming in last after hitting several hurdles badly near the end.

Jackson rose to the first hurdle first. Despite intense pressure from Dees and compatriot Tony Jarrett in the two lanes to his right for the first 50 metres, the Welshman moved away from his rivals over the last two hurdles.

Jackson pointed with his index finger to the sky with a broad smile across his face as he crossed the line ahead of Jarrett who clocked 13.00 with Olympic bronze medalist Jack Pierce of the United States third in 13.06.

Asked whether he had answered the choker accusations, Jackson said: "All the championships in the past I have had injuries and, not performed to the level that I had shown before hand."

"This is the first time I have been fresh and clean. I ran to my capacity and it turned out to be a world record."

Jackson has beaten Olympic champion Mark McKoy of Canada many times since the

Olympics and went within 0.06 seconds of the world record in the Italian ski resort this summer against a head wind.

But the 1988 Olympic silver medalist and reigning European champion was desperate for a world-class title to ensure his name was written in athletics history as a champion.

His whole season has been geared to Friday's big night.

Whatever the financial rewards on offer, Jackson was careful not to step onto a track unless he was 100 per cent fit.

Earlier this month he pulled out of the richest meeting in athletics in Zurich because of a slight twinge in his back. The caution paid off.

Jackson can now regard himself a full member of the exclusive club of great sporting heroes from Wales alongside legends like Barry John and Gareth Edwards from Rugby Union, the country's favourite sport.

But he admitted the race was not perfect because he clipped a few hurdles and suggested he could go even faster.

"It was not a perfect race. My coach will go over it on the video and I'm sure he will see some way of improving it," he said.

Age catching up with Lewis?

STUTTGART, Aug 21: A sprinting era, perhaps the most glittering and certainly the longest in athletics history, has finally ended with the defeat of Carl Lewis in the world 200 metres final, reports Reuter.

Lewis's third place on Friday signalled the first time the 32-year-old American has ever finished a major championships without a gold medal.

"I will be back next year," Lewis pledged. "I feel I have three more years."

"I'm not slower, I just didn't do the job on the day."

Despite Lewis's brave words it is impossible to see him returning with the speed and style that has entranced sports lovers during the past decade.

Since the first World Championships in Helsinki 10 years ago, Lewis has been consistently the best sprinter and long jumper in the world.

His only losses in a World Championships or Olympic Games before this year were to Joe DeLoach in the 1988 Olympic 200 final and to Mike Powell in the 1991 Tokyo long jump.

Defeats to a drug-fuelled Ben Johnson in the 1987 World Championships and the 1988 Seoul Olympics 100 metres finals are not recognised by athletics authorities. Johnson

tested positive in the Seoul Olympic final and later admitted to a court of inquiry that he had taken steroids during the 1980s.

After a slow start this year, Lewis qualified fairly easily for the World Championships and consecutive defeats by Olympic and now world 100 metres champion Linford Christie were dismissed as trivial in the context of the Stuttgart event.

"I'm stronger and faster than I was 10 years ago," Lewis consistently maintained.

Signs that age is finally catching up with Lewis were evident in the 100 metres heats, when he looked sluggish at the start and ran without the elasticity of old.

He finished only fourth in the 100 metres final and, without the long jump or relay to fall back on all depended on Friday's 200 metres.

Lewis looked close to his peerless best in the second round less convincing in the semifinal and out of his depth in the final.

He was measured and controlled at a post-race news conference. "I think I have been written off more than anybody in history," he said. "I have been written off more than anybody has been written in."

Lewis said none of his close friends has yet come to him. looked him straight in the face and said it was time to retire.

He then added that he was having a house built.

"I have no choice. I have to continue to race because I have no furniture."

Lewis will certainly race again and maybe win big races.

But it will be 1995 before he can again compete on the global stage when the next World Championships are held in Gothenburg.

And although Lewis clearly harbours hopes of competing at the 1996 Atlanta Games, the sands of time are fast running out.

O'Brien tested
STUTTGART, Aug 21: World decathlon record holder Dan O'Brien needed all of his experience to fend off a fierce challenge to his position as the greatest all-round athlete at the World Athletics Championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

The American defending champion, who held a slim four-point lead overnight after the first five events of the decathlon, came off best in a fascinating battle with Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus who had a remarkable second day of four personal bests.

The 27-year-old O'Brien, who missed last year's Barcelona Olympics after a disastrous performance at the US trials, successfully defended his title with a total of 8,817 points.

Hamalainen, fifth after the first five events, was second 93 points behind on 8,724 with Germany's Paul Meier third on 8,548.

O'Brien was forced to lift his form after Hamalainen recorded four personal bests, including the fastest ever time in a decathlon high hurdles of 13.57 seconds. His other bests came in the discus, pole vault and javelin.

The outcome was not decided until the last event, the 1,500 metres. Hamalainen crossed the line ahead of O'Brien but his time of four minutes, 39.34 seconds did not earn him enough points to dethrone the American, who clocked 4:40.08.

The Belarus athlete's brilliant 13.57 in the 110 hurdles was followed by another personal best in the discus of 49.26 metres.



Scenes from the fourth round matches of eighth schools chess championship at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday. — Star photo