

BCCB out of its depth

Sports Reporter

The emergency meeting of the executive committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday ended in a. literal whimper.

Called on to take stock of the complicated and confusing situation now prevailing in the sports arena over the control of the Dhaka Stadium the meeting, attended by 14 of the 31 members with Foreign Minister and board president Mustafizur Rahman in the chair, however, saw the BCCB avert a possible disaster.

According to Aminul Islam Mont, general secretary of the BCCB an emotion-charged Mustafizur Rahman yesterday offered to resign as the head of the present committee.

Occupied by the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), organisers of the Senior Division football league, Dhaka Stadium, according to a directive of the National Sports Council (NSC), the supreme governing body of country's sports, should have been under the thack and rape of the BCCB for the preparation of the Bangladesh cricket team.

Hence the emergency meeting finally opted for 'wait and see' policy as the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, who is also the NSC president, has assured to hand over Dhaka Stadium by September 15, at the latest.

Maradona refused US visa

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 26: Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona was quoted on Wednesday as saying he had been refused a US visa and might go to Cuba instead for a physical check-up, reports Reuter.

The stocky former Argentine captain, whose career stalled after his arrest on drug charges two years ago, blamed the visa refusal on two pending legal cases in Argentina and Italy.

Maradona, who is considering returning to Argentine soccer, said he was consulting his lawyer but may well seek to have the check-up performed in Cuba, a country whose president, Fidel Castro, he has repeatedly praised.

"It wouldn't be just to spite the Americans although it would be, to some extent," DYN, a local news agency, quoted him as saying.

Al Rakib emerges champion

Abdullah Al Rakib of Narayanjan High School emerged unbeaten champion in the 8th schools chess championship securing eight points at the end of the ninth and final round yesterday, reports UNB.

National chess player Rakib completed his fixture with a draw against Enamul Hossain of St Gregory's School at the NSC chess room in the afternoon.

National sub-junior runner-up Hossain Arif of Green Herald School and Monwar Noor of Mottijheel Govt Boys School completed their engagements collecting seven points each. But in the tie-breaker, Hossain Arif finished runner-up scoring 35.5 and Monwar Noor became third with 34 in the progressive score.

Four players have secured six and a half points each. Of them, Tipu Sultan of Dhaka Collegiate was placed fourth and Mahfuzur Rahman Imon of Magura Govt High fifth scoring 37 and 35.5 respectively in the tie-breaker.

In the junior group for students upto Class V, Yanur Rahman Royal of Jhenidah GK School became champion securing six and a half points.

Sajeda Begum of Khilgaon Girls' High School finished top among the girls obtaining five points and received a special award.

Finance Secretary and president of the Bangladesh Chess Federation Nasimuddin Ahmed was present at the closing ceremony as chief guest and distributed prizes.

Sixty-two promising chess players, representing 55 school teams across the country, took part in the nine-round competition.

Angels too high for Eagles

Sports Reporter

Star-studded Angels Club notched a hat-trick of titles when the reigning champions retained their title clipping the wings of Eagles Club in the final of the Purabi General

Eagles, who won a hard-fought match against Josep whites in the semifinal, played well within their limitations, but in the end, the flair and experience of Angels made all

The six-team competition began on August 20. Six teams — Angels, Eagles, Khulna Abahani, Jessore Customs Club, Rajshahi Reshampaty Boys' Club and Barisal Cadet



Players and officials of Angels Club who won the Purabi General Insurance 6th Federation Cup basketball tournament beating Eagles Club in the final at the wooden floor gym yesterday. — Star photo

Insurance sixth Federation Cup basketball tournament at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Favourites Angels who won the match 74-51 led the first half 44-27.

As expected Angels led by skipper Mamun gave well-drilled demonstration of lethal lay-ups and devastating drives. For Angels who brushed aside Khulna Abahani in the semifinal Rangy Dulal, fleet-footed Siddiq and Prosenjit sold dummies to their markers with telling effect.

Siddiq, in fact, emerged as the joint-topscorer of the match with Eagles' Imon. Prosenjit and Dulal were among the other notable scorers of the day, scoring 16 each.

the difference. Nevertheless, Imon and Lincoln of Eagles with scores of 18 and 16 respectively showed that they too had players to match Angels' class but may be too few in number.

Angels took the Taka 5000 cash award for champions, while runners-up Eagles were richer for Taka 3000.

State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

College — split into two groups — took part in this seven-day long meet.

TEAMS

ANGELS CLUB: Mamun, Jem, Dulal, Raju, Siddiq, Rehan, Kabir, Mamun Jr, Jemy and Zaidi.

EAGLES CLUB: Toufiq, Imon, Shakil, Hasan, Chhotan, Zaki, Naimul, Mahfuz, Helal, Lincoln, Rehan and Raju.

Referee: Mainul Ahsan Manju

Umpire: Imtiaz Khan Babul.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Table with 4 columns: Year, Champions, Runners-up. Lists winners and runners-up from 1983 to 1993.

Money matters for Morcelli

BERLIN, Aug 26: Noureddine Morcelli, who has talked more about pursues than personal bests in recent weeks, attacks the eight-year-old world mile record on Friday as part of his bid for the biggest jackpot in athletics, reports Reuter.

The Algerian, whose demands for prize-money caused controversy at the recent World Championships, approaches the Berlin Grand Prix meeting as one of eight athletes still in the running to win 20 one-kilogram bars of gold.

The 20 bars, estimated to be worth 200,000 dollars, will be awarded to athletes who win their events at all four of this season's new series of lucrative meetings in Oslo, Zurich, Berlin and Brussels.

After victories in the dream mile in Oslo and the 1,500 metres at Zurich's Weltklasse meeting in the past two months, Morcelli has everything to run for as he attacks the world mark of three minutes, 46.32 seconds set by Britain's Steve Cram in 1985.

Morcelli threatened to boycott the World Championships in Stuttgart, which finished on Sunday, because officials refused to pay prize-money. But faced with the threat of a ban which would have ruled him out of Berlin and next month's Brussels meetings as well as the next Olympic Games, the Algerian turned up in Stuttgart and put on a brilliant performance to defend his 1,500 metres title.

In his present form, finely-tuned by a training stint at altitude in Switzerland earlier this month, the 23-year-old Morcelli has a good chance of erasing the name of one of Britain's

greatest middle-distance stars from the record books.

"I have been after Steve Cram's world mile record for some time and gone close a few times," said Morcelli, who faces another clash with Spain's Olympic champion and world silver medalist Fermín Cacho in Berlin. "I think I can run well."

Kenyan Moses Kiptanui, the world 3,000 metres steeplechase champion, is confident he can break his own world record of 7:28.96 in the 3,000 flat which he set in Cologne last year.

"I hope the weather's good. If the pacemaker is good I should be okay for a win and a record," Kiptanui said.

Ottey on a winning run

LINZ, Austria, Aug 26: Merlene Ottey of Jamaica, a week after winning her first major title by taking the 200 metres at the World Championships, won the 100 metres Wednesday night at the IAAF Gugl meet, reports AP.

Ottey was clocked in 11.11 seconds, and beat long jump champion Heike Drechsler of Germany, who ran a rare dash and finished second in 11.36. Juliet Cuthbert, another Jamaican, was third in 11.40.

"It's a lot easier to run as a world champion," Ottey said. "I've got nothing to prove anymore. I would have liked a better result, but it was cold tonight."

Bruny Surin led a 1-2 Canadian finish in the 100, clocking 10.11. Ateeq Mahom was second in 10.27, while American Calvin Smith finished third in 10.29.



Abdullah Al Rakib (L) of Narayanjan High School, who emerged champion in the eighth schools chess championship, seen with runner-up Hossain Arif (C) and third-finisher Monwar Noor at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday. — Star photo

Cricket ratings

LONDON, Aug 26: Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne is ranked among the world's top five bowlers after his Ashes-winning exploits in England, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old Victorian leaps 11 places to fifth, the same slot as teammate Tim May, who is now 10th, the highest-rated off-spinner from any country for several years.

Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis still leads the Coopers and Lybrand bowlers list, while West Indies opener Des Haynes retains the top batting slot.

Both Wessels and Hudson made 39 not out to place South Africa in a comfortable position in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 331.

The left-handed Wessels had two fours while Hudson scored six boundaries during their 144-minute stay.

The South African innings was interrupted for 35 minutes by poor light and rain which also robbed 20 minutes of play in the morning session.

The South African opens handled Sri Lanka's spin trio sensibly after deciding to consolidate themselves ahead of Friday's rest day.

Only off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan managed to earn special respect with his ability to turn on any wicket. Both batsmen were made to walk the tightrope whenever Muralidharan bowled.

The 35-year-old Wessels, in particular, showed he could bat out whole sessions and was able to keep the spinners at bay with his wide experience in Test cricket.

Hudson, however, was fortunate to remain after Roshan Mahanama dropped him at second slip off seamer Promodya Wickramasinghe in the ninth over. The right-han-

Springboks start cautiously



MORATUWA, Sri Lanka, Aug 26: South Africa made a cautious but confident start as Sri Lanka's bowlers struggled to achieve a breakthrough on the second day of the first Test here Thursday, reports AFP.

Skipper Kepler Wessels and Andrew Hudson shared an unbroken opening wicket partnership as South Africa reached 81 for no loss against a bowling attack packed with three specialist spinners.

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der at the time was on 17. South Africa's pace duo of Allan Donald and Brett Schultz took nine wickets between them to help bowl Sri Lanka out 53 minutes after the lunch break.

Donald and Schultz took two more wickets to end up with figures of five for 69 and four for 75 respectively.

Left-hander Hashan Tillekeratne scored his third consecutive half-century but missed his maiden ton for a third time when he was the last man ruled out leg-before to left-armed Schultz for 92.

The tireless Donald and Schultz later expressed immense satisfaction at their performance on a slow track.

"It was tough going out there. I am very happy to get those four wickets," said Schultz who celebrated his 23rd birthday Thursday.

Off-spinner Pat Symcox, however, had a hapless day once again and finished giving away 100 runs without a wicket in his Test debut.

The other spinner, left-armed Clive Eksteen, also playing his first Test, did not bowl a single over after failing to make any impact on the first day.

It was vice-captain and seamer Hanse Cronje, who made the breakthrough in the morning when he sent back Ruwan Kalpage in the 11th over to end a menacing sixth wicket partnership.

Kalpage shared a 90-run stand with Tillekeratne before being well held by wicket-keeper Dave Richardson who took his fourth catch after the left-hander had made feeble contact with an out-swinging from Cronje.

Schultz yanked wicket-keeper Pubudu Dassanayake 15 runs later forcing Tillekeratne to abandon his sedate role and

bat aggressively to pilot Sri Lanka to an adequate first innings total. His 258-minute knock contained 13 boundaries.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the second day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Tyrone Fernando Stadium at Moratuwa near Colombo on Thursday.

SRI LANKA: 1st innings (241-5 overnight) Mahanama b Schultz 53 Hathurusinghe c Richardson b Donald 1

Curusinha c Richardson b Donald 26 A de Silva c Wessels b Schultz 27 Ranatunga c Richardson b Donald 44

Tillekeratne lbw Schultz 92 Kalpage c Richardson b Cronje 42

Dassanayake b Schultz 7 Wijetunga b Donald 10 Wickramasinghe c Rhodes b Donald 11

Muralidharan not out 2 Extras: (lb-11, nb-4, w-1) 16 Total: (all out) 331

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-77; 3-100; 4-157; 5-168; 6-258; 7-273; 8-285; 9-313.

Bowling: O M R W Donald 28 5 69 5 Schultz 31 2 12 7 4 Eksteen 14 4 44 0 Cronje 26 14 32 1 Symcox 28 3 100 0

SOUTH AFRICA: 1st innings Wessels not out 39 Hudson not out 39 Extras: (nb-3) 3 Total: (for no loss) 81

Bowling: O M R W Wickramasinghe 7 2 26 0 Curusinha 3 0 3 1 Kalpage 11 5 11 0 Wijetunga 9 1 20 0 Muralidharan 11 3 18 0 De Silva 1 0 3 0

Umpires: B Aldridge (New Zealand) and KT Francis (Sri Lanka).

Prabhakar to play for Warwickshire

BIRMINGHAM, Aug 26: Indian all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar is set to join English county Warwickshire on a one-year contract, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old has agreed personal terms with the county for the 1994 season and the deal will be finalised as soon as he receives permission from the Indian board.

Prabhakar will be the deputy for South African paceman Allan Donald, who is likely to be required by the republic for their tour to England next year.

Courier, Graf top seeds for US Open

WHITE PLAINS, New York, Aug 26: World number ones Jim Courier and Steffi Graf on Wednesday were made the top seeds for the US Open, which begins on Monday, the United States Tennis Association announced on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Courier, the Australian Open champion and French Open and Wimbledon runner-up, is seeded first for the second consecutive year after recapturing his top ranking from Pete Sampras earlier this week.

Wimbledon champion Sampras is seeded second, ahead of two-time defending US Open champion Stefan Edberg.

Graf will be the Open's top woman seed for the sixth time in the last seven years. The French Open and Wimbledon champion regain the top ranking after Monica Seles was sidelined with a stab wound.

Third seed Martina Navratilova has been seeded for a record 19th consecutive year at the Open, surpassing the mark of 18 years shared by Chris Evert and Jimmy Connors.

Joyner-Kersey meets Gunnell at Sheffield

LONDON, Aug 26: Jackie Joyner-Kersey is to race against Olympic and world champion Sally Gunnell in a 400 metres hurdles race at Sheffield on Sunday, reports AP.

The Olympic and world champion heptathlete has raced the distance before and has a personal record of 55.05 seconds compared with Gunnell's world record of 52.74.

Gunnell set the world mark when she won the gold medal (javelin), Gail Devers (100m and 110m hurdles) and Jealri Miles (400 metres).

Devers will run in the hurdles event.

Kohl deems Berlin ideal site for 2000 Games

BERLIN, Aug 26: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said on Wednesday that Berlin, divided for decades by the Cold War, would be the ideal site for an Olympic Games in a reunited Europe, reports Reuter.

Kohl, in a commentary written for Thursday's Die Welt newspaper, said the Games in Berlin would help heal the worldwide divisions caused by the Cold War.

Berlin is one of five cities bidding to host the 2000 Games.

"Berlin was a symbol of the division of Europe for so many years," Kohl wrote. "As a result, there can hardly be a city better suited to breathe life into the Olympic spirit of peaceful competition and international understanding."

Ran gives Edberg jitters



COMMACK, N.Y., Aug 26: Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden, ranked No 3 in the world, was given an unexpected scare by 20-year-old Eyal Rah of Israel before winning 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 Wednesday night in the second round of the Hamlet Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

Edberg, who starts defence of his US Open title next week, had to rally to overcome Ran, an Israeli soldier ranked 262nd who is making his tournament debut in the United States.

In earlier matches, Sergi Bruguera of Spain, the No 3 seed, eased into the quarter-finals with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Patrick McEnroe; fifth-seeded Michael Chang beat Andrei Cherkasov of Russia 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 and eighth-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia beat 19-year-old countryman Yevgeny Kafelnikov 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Ran landed 71 percent of his first serves to Edberg's 53 percent and took advantage of Edberg's nine double-faults to keep the tournament favorite in trouble.

Edberg went up 3-0 on the way to running out the first set, but Ran won the first four

games of the second set. A service break in the sixth game of the third set put Edberg ahead, but it took three match points, two against service in the eighth game, for him to close it out.

"I never saw him before," Edberg said. "But I figured I better speak to Jonas Svensson about him. He beat Jonas 6-1, 6-3 in the first round."

"He's a good counter-puncher and moves well on the court. I gave him a chance and he took it."

Ran, who used a lob and strong passing shots to keep Edberg at bay, said, "When I was down 3-0 at the beginning, I wondered if I could play with him. After I won my first game I got confidence and started hitting out."

"I have a lot of improving to do, especially to come to the net more."

"I'd say I was more frustrated than worried," Edberg said. "I wasn't serving well. I missed volleys. I knew what I was doing wrong, but sometimes it takes time to get it corrected."

"After I lost the second set I said, 'This isn't the end of the world. Just concentrate and get into the third set.'"

Bruguera, the French Open champion, overcame uncomfortably hot, clammy weather in

dispatching McEnroe.

"It was very hot and I had to work hard, but to win you always have to work hard," the 22-year-old Spaniard said.

Bruguera, ranked fifth in the world, seldom left the baseline, depending on passing shots and a strong service return to eliminate the 76th-ranked McEnroe, who had his service broken in the final game of each set.

Volkov, ranked 14th, said he benefited from the heat while Kafelnikov "didn't stand up to the weather. He was dying in the heat out there."

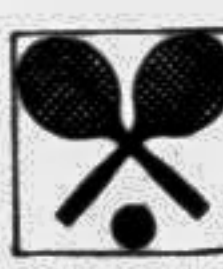
Kafelnikov, stumbling on the defensive through the last two sets, said, "It was too humid. I need to work on conditioning."

Chang endured his seventh three-setter in his last 10 matches. He went almost three hours Tuesday night in beating Christian Ruud of Norway 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 and needed three hours to eliminate Cherkasov.

"It was difficult to come back on court so soon" after the Ruud match, Chang said. "What made it difficult was the weather. It was hot and humid and I was drained."

"Andrej made me work for every point. The first set and a half was very frustrating."

Seles wants everything back



NEW YORK, Aug 26: Tennis star Monica Seles says in a television interview she still can't swing a racket nearly four months after being stabbed by a spectator during a tournament but vows to get back in shape and become the world's best female player again, reports Reuter.

"For me, to get back to any level is going to take a lot of hours to put in, tennis-wise to get back the feeling of the ball and everything," she told ABC's "Primetime Live" in an interview to be broadcast today.

She added, "But I think for me I'm going to have to deal with it emotionally also. It did happen. It's not a bad dream... in a way I lost everything because of the stab. I have to start out from the scratch to get back where I was."

"But I think that is going to make me a stronger person. And I always rise up to the challenge and this is going to be another challenge that I'll look up to."

It was the first time that the top-seeded Yugoslav-born Seles has spoken about the April 30 stabbing in Hamburg by a de-ranked man who was a fan of her chief rival Steffi Graf.

The 19-year-old, who is unable to defend her title at the upcoming US open, told ABC's Diane Sawyer that she looks forward to the challenge of a comeback but has not had the courage to look at the scar from her wound.

Seles said: "I think as soon as I'll be able to physically swing a racket and hit a ball, I'm going to go out there and swing it. And I'm going to practise hard."

Seles had been undergoing a rehabilitation programme at the Steadman Hawkins clinic in Vail, Colorado, but a

spokeswoman for the tennis star said the interview took place at an undisclosed site in Florida.

Seles said, "I didn't look at the injury, I still can't. I've never looked in the back... it's not something that I want to do. It just reminds me too much of what actually happened. So I don't know how it looks from the back, but it is doing better and better."

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remember pretty much of sitting on the bench (during a changeover), and suddenly... I just felt pain, something was wrong, I saw blood.

"And I thought, who, and then... all I remember, I looked back and I saw this person holding his hand up again, you know like he wants to stab me."

She said that Graf came to visit her at the hospital and neither could speak.

"Steffi came for about three minutes in the hospital. I think both of us just you know don't know what to say to each other really... very emotional I think for the both of us, it must have been very hard on her too."

Easy ride for Muster

UMAG, Croatia, Aug 26: Thomas Muster of Austria easily defeated Joan Francisco Altur of Spain 6-4, 6-2 Wednesday to advance to the quarter-finals of the dlr 400,000 Croatian Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Muster, seeded No 1 and ranked 12th, shone with a good base-line game and deep passes into Gorzic's side.

Except for a break for 1-1 in the first set, Gorzic was the clear underdog. Muster's powerful, precise serves kept him off balance.

Muster's next opponent is Juan Gisbert of Spain, who has already upset two clay specialists. After defeating Jose Francisco Altur of Spain in the previous round, Gisbert downed Alberto Mancini of Argentina, 7-6 (7-5), 3-6, 7-5 Wednesday.

No 2 seed Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden defeated Claudio Mezzadri of Switzerland, 6-3, 6-7 (7-3), 6-4, and Gabriel Markus of Argentina easily beat Ctislav Dosedel, Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-2.



MONICA SELES