

Sport



Milon, the Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society goalkeeper, helplessly looks back as Abahani's Russian defender Gyorgi's spot kick kisses the net during their Star Premier Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Spikers lose Asian meet opener

Bangladesh lost to defending champions China in straight sets on the inaugural day of the 7th Asian Men's Volleyball championship in the Thai city of Korat yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier in the morning, Governor of Korat formally opened the nine-day 16-team prestigious competition. P. e-sident of the Asian Volleyball Federation Madsul Deshai was present at the opening ceremony as a special guest.

China came across little resistance from Bangladesh for a 15-2, 15-3, 15-6 win in their Group D foe at the Korat Rachamangkala Gymnasium, according to a message received in Dhaka last evening.

Australia defeated the Philippines 15-10, 15-6, 15-2 in the inaugural match of the championship, played at the same venue in the morning.

Bangladesh will take on Australia today in their second group match, the Philippines on Monday (Sept 13) and their last group match against Qatar on Wednesday (Sept 15).

Jhelun, Sumi start well

Sheikh Moynudin Waiullah Jhelun and Sharmin Shirin Siddique (Sumi) earned top positions among the men and women competitors in the first leg of the SAF Games tennis training tournament which concluded Friday at the National Tennis Complex, reports UNB.

In the men's group, Jhelun secured 10 points with five win and one loss to finish top among the seven competitors while Hira Lal, also with 10 points, placed second in the tie breaker.

Jhelun lost his only match to Faisal Syed-Haq 6-2, 4-6, 4-6 while Hira Lal lost to Jhelun 5-7, 5-7.

Shovan Jamaly was placed third and Faisal Syed-Haq fourth in the tie breaker after both secured eight points.

In the women's group, Sumi won the top slot securing full 12 points while Hosne Ara Rina earned the second position with 10 points after losing her only match to Sumi.

Sathi Sarker and Yasmin Ahmed Urmi finished third and fourth, collecting eight and six points respectively.

The second leg of the six-leg series begins Monday at the same venue.

Maradona plans int'l comeback

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 11: Diego Maradona is thinking about an international comeback in the wake of Argentina's 5-0 drubbing by Colombia last weekend, reports AFP.

Maradona began his comeback to club football on Thursday when he signed a one-year contract with Newell's Old Boys, despite previous claims of retirement after an unhappy season in the Spanish league with Sevilla.

On Friday, he said "It's like coming back to life. I wasn't thinking of playing in the national side again but after what happened on Sunday, everything is changing in my head. I cried a lot."

"If the national coach Alfio Basile calls me, I'd have to see." The name of Maradona, who was sacked by Sevilla at the end of last season, was chanted by Argentine fans after the rout by Colombia.

Meanwhile, Maradona also explained his choice of Newell's rather than Argentinos Juniors, the club where he started his professional career, aged 16.

"I like Argentinos a lot but the club seems to be slipping a bit, while Newell's are full of ambition."

"In theory, I'll play my first match with Newell's on October 7, but ideally I'd like to be fit enough to play in the derby against Rosario Central on September 19."

Abahani barely make it



Defending champions Abahani Kri-ra Chakra managed a face-saving lone goal victory over unfancied Rahmatganj MFS in the only match of the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

With this victory, Abahani KC have earned 23 points from 15 matches but are still three points behind league leaders Mohammedan SC who bagged 26 points, also from 15 encounters.

Rahmatganj MFS, who held Abahani to a goalless draw in the first phase of the league, however, remained at the bottom with seven points from 15 outings.

Yesterday, Abahani's Russian defender Gyorgi scored the match-winning in the 22nd minute of the first half from a spot-kick.

Abahani got the penalty when Rahmatganj defender Badal handled the ball in the penalty box leaving referee Abdul Aziz with no choice but to point to the dreaded spot.

Rahmatganj booters strongly protested the decision which disrupted the match for about five minutes.

Abahani KC, who virtually squandered their title hopes after two consecutive draws against Victoria SC and Agrani Bank in the earlier matches, also disheartened their fans yesterday playing a lacklustre game.

They were seemingly short of ideas and played aimlessly for most of the time.

Lokman of Rahmatganj spoiled an easy chance in the 15th minute of the first half as he failed to push the ball home off a Sohel pass with the Abahani goalie to beat.

Abahani's Russian midfielder Sudarikov, and winger Mamun Joarder both came close to score twice — Sudarikov in the first half and Mamun in the second half — but Rahmatganj custodian Milon rescued his team brilliantly on both occasions.

Rahmatganj partly dominated the match, especially in the second half.

Badal of Rahmatganj, Gyorgi and Ahmed of Abahani KC were cautioned with the yellow card for rough charging.

TEAMS

Abahani KC: Mohsin, Alamgir, Munna, Rehan (Shakil), Masud Rana, Gyorgi (Ahmed), Sudarikov, Dozmarov (Swapan), Zakir, Mamun Joarder and

Rumi. Rahmatganj MFS: Milon, Badal, Rubel, Suflan, Jaglu, Azim, Pappu (Mushtaq), Alfaz, Shoel (Javed), Lokman and Ranjan (Shamsuddin).

BOYS WIN

In the Star First Division football league, Bangladesh Boys defeated lowly Adamjee SCC 2-0 at the Hockey Stadium.

By virtue of this victory, Bangladesh Boys have secured 16 points from 14 matches while Adamjee SCC have only three points from 14 matches. The Adamjee side are virtually relegated to the Second Division.

Bayazid put the winners ahead in the 22nd minute by a nice header off a Liton minus (1-0). Skipper Liton consolidated the lead adding another goal in the 42nd minute from a nice shot taken from goalmouth melee (2-0).

TEAMS

Bangladesh Boys: Tota, Shuyro, Kutub, Saroj, Milon (Rakhal), Nasim, Swapan, Bhutto, Liton, Badal Das and Bayazid (Mintu).

Adamjee SCC: Sakhawat (Noman), Riad, Abul, Shabbir, Sohel, Sharif, Dolan, Mukul, Majed (Babu), Akram (Liton) (Badasha), and Salam

Tapie may've to sell players



MARSEILLE, Sept 11: Bernard Tapie, boss of European champions Marseille, said on Friday he might be forced to sell players following his decision to withdraw legal action against the club's European Cup ban, reports Reuters.

Tapie's 180-degree turn, less than 24 hours after winning a provisional order in a Swiss court reinstating his team to the European Cup, saved international soccer from chaos.

The International Football Federation (FIFA) had called a crisis meeting on Friday morning and threatened to suspend France from all international competition unless Marseille abandoned its court action.

Tapie's decision to drop legal moves against the European Football Union (UEFA), which

barred Marseille from the European Cup on Monday over a bribery scandal, was announced just before the meeting ended.

The Marseille president told a news conference no conditions were attached to his decision and that he had acted solely to save France from FIFA sanctions.

But he said he might have to sell one or two of his five foreign players to make up for the loss of considerable European Cup revenue this season.

"With five foreigners in the squad it is always possible to take advantage of an opportunity, but it cannot involve any of the regular team members," he said. That would exclude strikers Alen Boksic of Croatia and German Rudi Voeller but leave the way open for one or more of the other three to leave — Portuguese forwards Paulo Futre and Rui Barros and Yugoslav midfielder Dragan Stokjovic.

Marseille have estimated a European Cup ban would cost 120 million francs (22 million dollars) in lost earnings.

Tapie said he hoped to reduce the losses by playing in the International Cup Against South American champions Sao Paulo of Brazil and in the European Super Cup Against Parma of Italy.

But he said UEFA had not yet given Marseille permission

to play the matches.

The Sao Paulo match is scheduled for December 12 in Tokyo and dates for the two-leg tie against Cup Winners Cup champions Parma have still to be fixed.

The games would be expected to net Marseille 45 million francs (8 million dollars) from television rights. "My room for manoeuvre was limited not by fear of actions aimed at me personally but because I don't have the right to bring about the discomfiture of French football," Tapie said of his decision to abandon legal steps.

"It would not have been reasonable to expose French football to FIFA sanctions even if in my heart and conscience I felt I was defending the interests of Marseille in leading this fight."

He said French Football Federation president Jean Pournet-Fayard, called to the Zurich meeting with FIFA and UEFA chiefs, had told him there was only one chance in a thousand that France would have escaped sanctions.

A suspension from international competition would have thrown all five French clubs out of this season's European Cup and left the national team out of next year's World Cup finals.

Monaco are now set to take Marseille's place in the first round of the European Cup next week and Auxerre will replace Monaco in the UEFA Cup.

Karpov-Timman Game 4 drawn

ARNHEM, Netherlands, Sept 11: The fourth game of the FIDE World Chess Championship between Anatoly Karpov of Russia and Jan Timman of the Netherlands ended in a draw today after 20 moves and three hours' play, reports Reuters.

The players are now level at two points each. The next game will be played on Sunday with Timman having the advantage of the white pieces. The winner of the 24 game match will be the first player to score 12.5 points.

US firm secure TV rights for WC cricket

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: A US firm has secured television rights for cricket's 1995 World Cup to be jointly hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, a spokesman for the three-nation organising committee said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Pakistan-India-Sri Lanka World Cup Organising Committee (PILCOM) convenor Jagmohan Dalmiya said WorldTel, a US television marketing firm, had bought worldwide rights for the sport's premier limited overs tournament.

"PILCOM has entered into a profit-sharing contract with WorldTel with a minimum guaranteed payment," Dalmiya said.

He refused to divulge the amount involved in the contract, which cricket sources said could be around 10 million dollars.

The contract provides for a guaranteed minimum payment to the joint hosts and profit sharing on a 75-25 ratio thereafter, the sources said.

Two London-based companies were also in the running for the television rights, one of which was backed by India's state-owned television network.

Wells pleads his case well

LONDON, Sept 11: Sussex batsman Alan Wells pressed his case for a place in England's tour squad to the West Indies early next year with a century against Yorkshire at Scarborough on Friday, reports Reuters.

Wells, who hit a six and 15 fours in his 123 off 232 balls, was watched by England Test selection adviser Alan Knott as he scored his sixth century of the season.

He and former England opener Bill Athey (112) shared a stand of 230 in 77 overs which enabled Sussex to declare at 397 for eight on the second day of the four-day county championship match. Yorkshire were 43 for one at the close.

Alan Fordham (71) and Robert Bailey (75 not out) helped Northamptonshire finish the day 69 runs ahead with seven first innings wickets intact against Derbyshire at Derby.

Northamptonshire are hoping to finish second in the championship, which has already been won by Middlesex.

Fordham and Bailey shared a stand of 136 in 32 overs as Northamptonshire reached 196 for three in reply to Derbyshire's 127.

Friendship run

TAIPEI, Sept 11: A group of 12 Chinese athletes arrived in Taiwan on Friday to start the first leg of a 3,000-km (1,860-mile), two-week "Friendship run" from Taipei to Beijing, reports Reuters.

The Chinese and about 12 Taiwanese runners would start the two-week relay run in Taipei on Sunday, organisers said. The second leg of the run will begin in Shanghai on September 15 and end in Beijing on the 27th.

Terry Alderman bids adieu



PERTH, Sept 11: Terry Alderman, the Australian swing bowler best remembered for his ability to mesmerise English batsmen on their home pitches, announced his retirement from first-class cricket here on Friday, reports AFP.

Alderman's decision follows his shock sacking as Western Australian coach after one season in the job he took over from Daryl Foster.

Foster, who quit the coaching position with Western Australia to concentrate on coaching duties with Kent (in the English County Championship), will now return to the job with the state, as well as retaining the Kent post.

Alderman, still angry over the way he was dumped after one summer in which the state's fortunes slumped seriously, said on Friday: "I have shut the door on my chapter with Western Australia. I have no plans to become

involved in the game anywhere else. I have a new career in Perth in real estate, and that is all I want to say."

Alderman, 37, a veteran of 19 years in the first-class scene, was on holiday with his family in Queensland in April when he was phoned by the chief execu-

He was the hero of Ashes campaigns in England in 1981 (42 wickets at an average of 21.26) and 1989 (41 wickets at 17.36) and was the greatest wicket-taker in the history of Western Australian cricket, with 433 scalps at 24.13.

His performances for the state surpassed even those of legendary fast bowlers Dennis Lillee and Graham McKenzie.

In Sheffield Shield cricket, Alderman claimed 384 wickets — a total bettered only by the incomparable Clarrie Grimmett, who collected 513 for Victoria and Australia.

Alderman appeared in 41 Tests, capturing 170 wickets at 27.15, with a best of 6-27 against England in Brisbane in 1990. In 65 limited overs internationals he snapped up 88 wickets at 23.36.

He also had successful seasons in England with Kent and Gloucestershire.

TERRY ALDERMAN

tive of the Western Australian Cricket Association, Chris Smith, the South African-born former England batsman, and told of the association's decision.

Alderman said at the time he

Six teams for CAB meet



NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Six Test-playing teams will compete in a forthcoming limited overs tournament to mark the diamond jubilee on India's Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), reports Reuters.

The schedule of matches between November 7-27 at 15 venues around India was finalised on Friday.

Pakistan, South Africa, Sri

Zimbabwe-Surrey match drawn

LONDON, Sept 11: Zimbabwe and Surrey drew their three-day cricket match on Friday, reports Reuters.

Scores: Surrey 304-7 declared and 189-9 declared, Zimbabwe 221-9 declared and 196-6.

One more for brilliant Bubka



LONDON, Sept 11: Sergei Bubka crowned yet another triumph season on Friday when he won the men's overall Grand Prix athletics title and walked away from London's Crystal Palace richer by 130,000 dollars, reports Reuters.

The Ukrainian cleared 6.05 metres on a cold, wet evening to win the title, then celebrate by unsuccessfully attempting to break his own year-old world record of 6.13.

Bubka's second effort at 6.14 came desperately close as the bar teetered for a full second before finally falling.

American Sandra Farmer-Patrick won the women's title when she reversed last month's World Championship result in the 400 metres hurdles.

Farmer-Patrick led from start to finish to beat Briton Sally Gunnell into second place.

It was partial revenge for Farmer-Patrick, who lost to Gunnell in Stuttgart despite being first over each of the 10 flights.

The Grand Prix final, usually an anti-climax at the end of a hard season, was given extra spice by the amount of money at stake and the number of athletes in contention for the overall titles.

World champion and record-holder Noureddine Morceli set the early pace with a scaring last lap in the men's 1,500 metres.

Morceli, who broke the world mile record last Sunday, clocked 53.2 seconds for the final 400 metres and is the only person this year to run faster

than his final time of three minutes 31.60 seconds.

World javelin champion Jan Zelenzy of the Czech Republic thrust himself briefly into contention with a throw of 88.28 metres before Bubka's winning vault which gave him the overall title on the statisticians' special scoring tables.

World long jump champion

Mike Powell of the United States was the final athlete with a chance to upstage Bubka but his final leap was a foul.

Bubka said it had been the most exciting Grand Prix final he had taken part in.

"The conditions were very dangerous for the pole vault," he said. "But I'm satisfied, I'm happy."

The 1993 circuit came to a close in London on Friday with the ninth and most successful final yet staged.

About 2.3 million dollars of prize money was at stake with overall winners Sergei Bubka and Sandra Farmer-Patrick, walking away with 130,000 dollars each.

Ollan Cassell, head of the Grand Prix Commission and an International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) vice-president, said there had already been discussions with Japanese officials.

"We have got to have the sponsors and the Japanese have them," he said. "But at the moment they don't feel they are ready."

"We would have to start the season in April and stage the final in September."

At present the Grand Prix circuit, which comprised 16 meetings plus the London final this year, starts in May.

Cassell also said South Africa was a possibility, although there had been talks yet.

The decision to pump huge sums of money into the Grand Prix final injected extra interest into a meeting which has often been an anti-climax.

The final neatly complemented last Friday's Brussels meeting, the final of the Golden Four series, which divided 20 one-kilogram bars of gold between five athletes.

"You hear so much about it. It is where the money is, said Caren Kemmer, a member of the past two US Olympic volleyball teams.

Beach volleyball gets its first test in a multi-sport event next year at the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg, Russia, but the US Olympic Committee and Brazil are among the nations optimistic the sport will make an Olympic debut alongside its wooden-floored cousin at Atlanta.

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Whitaker still WBC champion

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Sept 11: Pernell Whitaker of the United States retained his World Boxing Council welterweight title on Friday with a draw against Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez, reports Reuters.

Juges Mickey Vinn of Britain and Franz Marti of Switzerland scored the 12-round fight 115-115. Judge Jack Woodruff of the United States scored the bout for Whitaker 115-113.



Colin Jackson of Britain (third from left) on her way to winning the men's 110 metres at the IAAF Grand Prix athletics meeting on September 10 in Crystal Palace. Jackson won in 13.14 seconds.