

Dalmiya dispels doubts over Pak tour of India

NEW DELHI, Sept 21: Jagmohan Dalmiya, president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), today asserted that Pakistan would be touring India as scheduled, reports PTI.

The tour is scheduled to start with the six-nation Hero Cup tournament of CAB (beginning from Nov 7) as part of its diamond jubilee celebrations nationwide.

Dalmiya, who is also the convenor secretary of the Pak-Indo-Lanka joint bid committee of the World Cup, said the Pakistan cricket board has confirmed the tour during his recent visit to the country and that he has "no information to the contrary."

He was reacting to a report today which quoted BCCP officials Arif Ali Khan Abbasi and Shahid Rafi expressing doubts over Pakistan's tour of India.

Dalmiya said in a fax message from Calcutta that after the Board of Cricket Control cleared a tour, the only way it can get cancelled is if the government has the power to restrain players from appearing in matches.

Dalmiya said this happens sometimes due to security reasons as in the case of India's non-participation at Sharjah.

The CAB president said the other requirements like foreign exchange, etc, are not major problems.

"There has not been any hitch whatsoever since we had our last meeting when the BCCP confirmed the Pakistan's tour."

Dalmiya said therefore he was confident that there was "No truth in the report."

Asked to comment on Abbasi and Rafi's doubts over the tour, Dalmiya said: "They have not conveyed any such doubts to me."

Dalmiya said the Hero Cup has been planned carefully, keeping their concerns in mind.

"Not a single match has been assigned to the Pakistan team in the riot-prone or sensitive areas. This had been extensively discussed and clarified to the BCCP during my recent visit to Pakistan," Dalmiya said.

Incognito charges against SL bowlers

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Sept 21: A New Zealand umpire who officiated at Shri Lanka's recent home Test series against South Africa said Tuesday he received an anonymous letter claiming two Shri Lankan bowlers were "chuckers," reports AFP.

Umpire Brian Aldridge said the letter, supported by newspaper clippings, claimed Shri Lankan bowlers Kahakatchchi Warnaewra and Muttiah Muralidharan were chockers.

"I showed it to John Reid (the former New Zealand captain who was the series referee) and we had a bit of a laugh. Next day John got one, and so did the South African team," said Aldridge.

"They had been sent by someone who was obviously a bit sour. The local officials believed they were not from another player but a former administrator."

"By encouraging me to call one of the bowlers for throwing during the Test series, he was perhaps hoping to discredit the Shri Lankan Board of Control and the Selectors," he said.

Warnaewra, who bowls off-cuts was not in the series but Muralidharan, off-spinner, was in the Shri Lankan side.

"I felt the eyes were on me when he first came in to bowl at my end. After a while I stepped back but didn't see anything wrong with his action. Later, from square leg and point, I found his action was different but not a throw."

"He bowls a faster one occasionally which some opposing players might think is close to a throw," said Aldridge.

Chosen by the International Cricket Council to stand with Shri Lankan umpires for the three-match series — won 1-0 by South Africa — Aldridge later received more mail which suggested I was supposed to be neutral and told me to go home to South Africa."

Stulce faces a life ban

LONDON, Sept 21: American Olympic shot put champion Mike Stulce faced a life ban Tuesday after failing a drug test at last month's World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, reports AP.

Stulce, who won the gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics last year and the bronze in Stuttgart, tested positive for the second time in his career.

"Both the 'A' and 'B' samples have been confirmed positive," said Jayne Pearce, spokeswoman for the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the sport's governing body.

Rahmatganj skating on thin ice, but Victoria frozen to death

Sports Reporter

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society (MFS) sent traditional Victoria Sporting Club skating down without knowing whether they

Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) in one of the two Star First Division football league yesterday.

At the hockey stadium, Boys trounced BRTC 7-2. The winners led the first half 3-0.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between BRTC and Bangladesh Boys at the Hockey Stadium. Bangladesh Boys recorded a thumping 7-2 win.

will have the axe of relegation coming on them as they registered an important 2-0 victory in yesterday's Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The win is no guarantee for Rahmatganj's survival, but certainly boosted their struggle for survival. They have played their part having 13 points from the 18 matches.

They have to keep their fingers crossed with a rather selfish and existential hope that Arambagh, who have one match left with 12 points in their kitty, would come a cropper against Wari in their last match.

However Victoria are gone as a team. They have finished their eighteen match engagements with 12 points.

Yesterday, Rahmatganj put up a spirited display and fully deserved the win. However

Rahmatganj full-back Badal confirmed the win when he converted a spot kick 36 minutes into the second half. The Shri Lankan referee awarded them the penalty kick when Victoria's Sohel fouled Rahmatganj's Ranjan inside the box 2-0.

Iqbal of Victoria was cautioned with the yellow card for deliberately handing the ball.

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Milon, Badal, Rubel, Sufian, Jagu, Azim, Nazim, Mushtaq (Javed), Sohel (Angur), Lokman and Ranjan.

VICTORIA SC: Arun (Aslam), Aman, Sohel, Iqbal, Farhad, Kongpuk, Zia Babu, Biplob (Zakir), Hiro, Leekamerdal and Moshi (Twofli).

Referee: Che Mat (Shri Lanka).

BOYS' FEAST
Promotes Bangladesh Boys feasted on lowly Bangladesh

Frazier fends Maleeva off



TOKYO, Sept 21: American Amy Frazier eliminated fifth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-1, 6-4 Tuesday in the first round of the Nichirei International ladies tennis championship, reports AP.

Fourth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, the highest seed in action Tuesday, trounced American Lisa Raymond 6-2, 6-4 in 73 minutes.

Sixth-seeded American Lindsay Davenport outlasted Japanese women's singles champion Mana Endo 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 in a more than 2 1/2 hour battle at the Ariake Colosseum.

After her lopsided loss in the first set, Maleeva, ranked 18th in the world, threatened to turn things around at the start of the second set, taking a 40-0 lead on Frazier's serve. But Frazier, ranked No. 74, won the next five points.

Maleeva suffered a fatal ser-

vice break in the 10th game, bowing out of the 1-hour 23-minute match with a crosscourt shot wide and a forehand into the net.

"I think I hit my ground strokes very well and moved well. She (Maleeva) made some errors," said Frazier.

The 17-year-old Davenport, ranked 21st in the world, said she battle against the 22-year-old Endo, who won the All-Japan Tennis Championship on Sunday, was a tough match but a good beginning in Japan.

"I served well but my ground strokes sometimes go off. I am trying to make forehands my big weapon," said Davenport, who won the 1992 US Open junior singles and doubles titles.

Endo said, "She (Davenport) constantly served well but my serves were getting worse as the match went on."

Seventh-seeded Naoko Sawamoto of Japan won the last nine games in a row in a 3-6, 6-

Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain takes on Japanese qualifier Rika Hiraki, second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina meets China's Li Fang and third-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan plays Karin Kschwendt of Switzerland in first-round matches Wednesday.

The winners earned two lonas and comfortably led the first half 12-3.

Earlier, in the day's first match, BRA Recreation Club beat Anirban Sangskritik Sangha 34-30 in a keenly contested match.

The winners, who earned two lonas, trailed 11-18 in the first half.

Chandigarh heat annoys Aussies



CHANDIGARH, India, Sept 21: The Australian Davis Cup tennis team trained Monday in intense heat and humidity that left them drained, reports AP.

Adding to their discomfort was the uneven practice courts adjoining the Centre Court at the Chandigarh Lawn Tennis Association Stadium which hosts this week's semifinals with India.

The players hurriedly left the court for the comfort of their dressing room as soon as non-playing captain Neale Fraser said, "Enough."

The temperature pushed close to 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) and the only respite was provided by brief periods of shade when clouds passed over.

"It is very hot and humid," Fraser said after the practice session.

The visitors trained Sunday on the Lake Club courts, where a breeze blowing across the Sukhna Lake had provided welcome relief from the burning heat.

Fraser gave Wally Masur, Jason Stoltenberg, Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge 10 minutes break in between sets.

Fraser hoped the experience would stand them in good stead when the tie gets underway Friday. "Hopefully, they will find it gets better during the match."

He also said the stadium grass courts on which they had their first workout on Monday were irregular and not as true as the outside surface and the Lake Club courts.

"They have not been played on for many months, that is what it looks like," he said. "It needs a lot of cutting, mowing, watering and playing for a grass court to come into ideal conditions.

"We haven't got on to the Centre Court yet. When we do, we will know more," he said.

Fraser said that despite the complaints, the Australians were happy to play on grass, their favoured surface.

Match referee Stephen Winyard of England gave the venue a certificate of merit before Fraser voiced his reservations.

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On the opening day hosts Comilla beat Savar in straight sets.

Army v'ball on
COMILLA, Sept 21: The annual volleyball championship of Bangladesh Army began at Comilla Cantonment today, reports UNB.

The players had to repeatedly change their sweat-soaked T-shirts and drink liquids to

stay hydrated.

American Amy Frazier makes double-fisted backhand return during her first round match of Nichirei women's tennis tournament against Bulgarian Katerina Maleeva yesterday. Frazier moved into the second round with a 6-1, 6-4 victory.

— AFP photo

Sport

Barada breaks Martin down

DUBAI, Sept 21: Sixteen-year-old Egyptian Ahmed Barada nearly pulled off a shock win against third seed Brett Martin of Australia in the first round of the Dubai Classic squash tournament on Monday, reports Reuters.

Barada saved three game points in the opening game before winning a sudden-death finish and then went on to lead by two games to one.

Martin fought back to win the match 16-17, 18-5, 11-18, 15-7, 15-6, in exactly an hour, but he was full of praise for the teenager.

"This boy showed tonight that he is a player for the future. I had to work very hard to beat him," said Martin, winner of the Hong Kong Open three weeks ago.

Barada, who won the Arab Championship in Bahrain two days ago, matched his opponent stroke-for-stroke until he tired during the closing stages.

"I am just pleased to have the chance of being on court with players like Brett. This is the way I will learn the game," said Barada.

The Egyptian is ranked 68th in the world, having moved up more than 100 places this year.

World champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan was a man in a hurry as he scored a 15-1, 15-7, 15-6 victory in 34 minutes over Hong Kong number one Abdul Faheem Khan.

Jansher now plays South African qualifier Craig Van Wath, who caused an early surprise with a 15-13, 15-9, 8-15, 15-6 victory over Scotland number one Mark MacLean.

Australian Anthony Hill upset the rankings when he beat England's world number nine Chris Walker 15-5, 12-15, 15-10, 11-15, 17-14 in 61 minutes.

Schools b'ball

Tejgaon Shaheen School, St Nicholas School and Nabakumar Institution won their respective matches in the National King Fan schools basketball tournament at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, BAF Shaheen School beat St Gregory's School 58-53 after leading the first half 30-15.

Anwarul scored 24 and Fahim 20 for the winners while Ayub caged 34 and Moinul six for the losers.

St Nicholas School registered an impressive 61-24 victory over Bangladesh Navy School in the day's second match. The victors led the first half 34-14.

Abdul Ali contributed 29 and Nirmal 14 for the winners while Manzur and Faisal scored eight and six points respectively.

In the third match, Nabakumar Institution outplayed Mirpur Siddhanta School 46-19 after leading the first half 20-6.

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Karpov keeps Timman at bay



AMSTERDAM, Sept 21: Anatoly Karpov held off a strong attack by Jan Timman Monday night as the ninth game of the FIDE Chess World Championship match ended in a draw after 47 moves, reports AP.

Karpov now leads the match by 5 points to 4. Six of the nine games have been drawn.

Timman used the same opening moves as when he played the Russian ex-world champion for the first time in the 1966-67 European Youth Championships.

At that occasion a dynamic and sacrificial game was drawn after just 18 moves by the two 15-year-olds.

Monday's game went into the Torre attack, which is considered a fairly simplistic opening and rarely is used in top level play. White gives up a bishop for a knight on move 4 to gain a

hold on the centre.

After the players castled on different sides of the board, both began attacks, with Timman marching his pawns up on the queenside and Karpov on the kingside.

Tension heightened as the game looked to depend on which player could win the race to the other's king first.

But the Dutch Grandmaster managed to attack and defend at the same time and began to get the upper hand.

Victor Korchnoi, who twice played Karpov for the world title and was observing the game, said the Russian lost control of the position after move 20.

"Many Grandmasters would have gone to pieces in this kind of position, but somehow Karpov manages to defend a bad position quite smoothly," said Dutch Grandmaster Genna Sosonko, also watching the game.

"It you want to beat Karpov,