

Nat'l soccer team to play friendlies in Rajshahi

Bangladesh national football team, now preparing for the sixth SAFF Games under Czech-born Swiss coach Oldrich Svab, will play two exhibition matches in Rajshahi against local teams, reports UNB.

The national squad will take on the Rajshahi Players' Welfare Association today and face the Rajshahi Club Samity tomorrow.

Both the matches, scheduled to be played at the Rajshahi Stadium, will begin at 2:30 pm.

Shabbir and Saidur, however, will not be in the Rajshahi four due to injury.

A 35-member team will fly to Rajshahi this morning. Earlier, the national side played four exhibition matches — two in Chittagong and one each in Jessore and Khulna.

The draw goalless with Chittagong Mohammedans in their inaugural match in the port city and beat Chittagong Abahani KC 4-2.

The national team drew one-all with Jessore DSA in Jessore and outplayed Khulna 4-1 in Khulna.

FH Majumder snooker

Sports Reporter

Eight second round matches of the second FH Majumder memorial snooker championship 1993 were held on Monday at the Narayanongj Club billiards room.

Anwar Hossain of Narayanongj Club (NC), Mofazzal Hossain of Gulshan Club (GC), J F D'Costa of Dhaka Club (DC), Frederick Randolph of Ctg Catholic Club, National Champion NC Ghosh of NC, Kamrul Huda of DC, former champion Reshadul Ameen of DC and A Gonsalves of Ctg Catholic Club won their respective matches.

Aussie World Cup chances cut down

SANTIAGO, Nov 9: Injuries to two key players have undermined Australia's prospects of winning their duel with Argentina for a place in next year's World Cup finals in the United States, reports Reuter.

"We are desperate," Australian coach Eddie Thomson said on Monday after captain Paul Wade injured an ankle in training here and sweeper Ned Zelic suffered a ligament injury playing for his German club Borussia Dortmund.

"Both injuries" really cut down our chances against Argentina," Thomson said.

Australia and Argentina drew 1-1 in the first leg of their qualification play-off in Sydney nine days ago. The second leg is in Buenos Aires on November 17.

Wade, who marked Diego Maradona in the first leg, was due to repeat his role in the return clash but his chances of playing appear slim after being injured on Sunday.

"His ankle is really swollen but it is not clear yet if it is broken or not," Thomson said.

Zelic was injured at the weekend and Thomson said the sweeper, who provided a brilliant pass that led to Australia's equaliser in Sydney, would not be able to play in the second leg.

WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Nov 9: Leading rankings in women's tennis as issued by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) on Monday.

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
3. Martina Navratilova (US)
4. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
5. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
6. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
7. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
8. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
9. Jennifer Capriati (US)
10. Anke Huber (Germany)
11. Manuela Maleeva Fragiere (Switzerland)
12. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
13. Kimiko Date (Japan)
14. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
15. Mary Pierce (France)
16. Zina Garrison Jackson (US)
17. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
18. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
19. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)
20. Lindsay Davenport (US)

Div II hockey

Sports Reporter

Farashgonj Club beat Udity Club 3-0 in one of the Green Delta Second Division hockey league matches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In day's first match, Quddus, Shoab and Saidul found the net once each for the winners.

In the other match of the day, Zlam caged the winner in Cantonian Sporting Club's 1-0 victory over Agrani Bank Club.

Tarun set the ball rolling

Sports Reporter



Surja Tarun set the ball rolling in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league when they beat theoretically stronger Gulshan Youth Club by a surprisingly comfortable margin of eight wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium in yesterday's one of the three matches.

Emerging from their ten-wicket thrashing to Brothers Union last Sunday, Tarun needed 41.4 overs to collect the necessary 151 runs for victory, losing only a pair of wickets in the process.

On a wicket that behaved quite spitefully in the morning mainly because of the overnight dew, Tarun skipper Imran had half the job done for his side by sending Gulshan to bat first after winning the toss.

Left arm spinner Nafees took the cue from promising medium pacer Sajal who made early inroads with the new ball.

Imran started Gulshan's slide by dismissing Sajid Hassan, son of former national player Roqibul Hassan who had recently been in England in connection with an MCC coaching programme for young cricketers.

Although Sajid's partner Liton lived albeit dangerously, Sajal, Imran's young new ball partner sent back Shahidul Alam Ratan, Gulshan's wicket-keeper, who joined them from Mohammedans only this year.

This heralded the arrival of former Indian Test opener Arun Lal and the pair took the score to 86 from 39 before the left arm spinner stepped in to claim the first of his four wickets — getting one through the defence of Liton who grafted a patient 37 off 93 balls.

Arun followed him to the kiosk almost immediately for a circumspect 26 giving a wicket to compatriot Rajinder Singh, the man behind Tarun's creditable win. The Indian played a solid unbeaten innings of 58 later in the day to make a non-sense of the struggle by the Gulshan batsmen.

Only Ashok Malhotra, the stylish north Indian with a smack of Test experience, handled the accurate Tarun bowlers with any degree of freedom.

making 38, the highest score in Gulshan innings off as many balls.

Nafees had Malhotra caught by Indian Sanjeev Sharma and then sealed any chance of a Gulshan recovery by casting veteran Rafiqul Alam for a nought. His final figures were an impressive haul of four wickets for 22 runs.

Sajal, the young seamer bagged two for 28, followed by Imran and Rajinder who took one apiece.



RAMAN LAMBA 122

Opener Ujjal played a dour knock of 47 not out to make up for the twin losses of Moni and Mashuq when Tarun began their chase for the victory target of 151.

However, Rajinder Singh's experience was Tarun's insurance against any uncalled for collapse more due to butterflies in the stomach than any penetration in Gulshan's attack. He duly obliged them with a sobering knock of 58, not out.

Joydev Basak, who played the key-role in Gulshan's eight-wicket win against Victoria in the first match on Sunday, failed to extract any life from the slow, low-wicket which

dried out later to ease the pressure of the batsmen.

FIRST TON

Indian Test discard Raman Lamba had the honours of hitting the first ton of this year's domestic season on the wheels of the traditional *leaver rideau* Damal Summer tournament when he blasted 122 against hapless Udity at the Pallabi Cricket Ground yesterday.

Lamba's 107-ball innings featuring three sixes and nine fours formed the core of GMCC's huge collection of 255 for eight wickets, so far the highest team total after Udity skipper sent his opponents to make the first use of the wicket.

The Indian, who is leading GMCC this year, was ably supported by Mahbubur Rahman Selim who too clobbered three sixes in a power-packed innings of 67.

Veteran Munir got two wickets for 34 runs at the beleaguered Udity bowlers.

Udity in their turn could manage 104 for six wickets when they ran out of their share of 45 overs attributing in the process another landmark to their conquerors once again — victory by 151 runs — so far the biggest margin of win by any team.

GMCC were not day's only team to sweep all the honours at stake. Some of it were left for Bangladesh Biman who skittled Victoria Club for the season's lowest total so far at the Dhaka Stadium.

With India Wilson and Shanu taking three-wicket apiece, not to mention consistent Babul's bag of two Biman prized Victoria for 58 in 34.3 overs.

Victoria skipper Kajal scored 18 to mark himself out as the lone man to get into the double figures.

Jahangir and veteran Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu knocked off the necessary runs for Biman in 19.1 overs without being separated. Jahangir remained unbeaten on 39 while Bachchu could manage only eight in a total of 55.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani vs Kalabagan (Dhaka Stadium)
Brothers Union vs Dhanmondi (DCS)

High Court uphold TWI TV rights for Hero Cup

CALCUTTA, Nov 9: The Calcutta High Court today refused to vacate the order passed yesterday and directed the government of India and all other concerned departments not to interfere with the live telecast of the five nation Hero Cup cricket tournament matches by the London based Transworld International (TWI), reports PTI.

Justice NK Mitra while issuing the order after hearing the respondents, which included government of India Dooradashan, All India Radio and the Ministry of Telecommunications, observed that there was no reason for vacating the order passed by the court yesterday.

Justice Mitra also ordered that the matter appear before a regular bench immediately after the court re-opens on November 16.

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) yesterday filed a writ petition submitting that despite obtaining the permissions and sanctions from the concerned authorities and deposit of required fees, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry was threatening to disrupt the live telecast of the Hero Cup Matches by TWI.

Lure of lucre

SINGAPORE, Nov 9: Any Singapore athlete who wins an Olympic gold medal will also take home a lot of cash — Singapore one million dollars (28,000 US dollars) to be exact — as part of the latest incentive scheme to encourage more amateur athletes to compete the Singapore National Olympic Council said.

An athlete who wins Olympic gold will get one million dollars in cash while a team which wins a gold medal will receive two million dollars (US 1.125 million dollars), the council said in a news release on Tuesday.

The awards are sponsored by a local soft drink company associated with the giant Coca-Cola company.

No Singaporean athlete has won an Olympic gold medal.

Champions at the Asian Games will receive 250,000 dollars (US 157,000 dollars) and teams 500,000 dollars (314,000 US dollars) up from the current 75,000 dollars (US 47,000 dollars) and 150,000 dollars (US 94,000 dollars) respectively.

Commonwealth Games gold medalists will receive 100,000 dollars (US 62,800 dollars) and teams 200,000 dollars (US 125,000 dollars) up from 30,000 dollars (US 18,800 dollars) and 60,000 dollars (US 37,000 dollars) while top winners in the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games will receive 10,000 dollars (US 6,280 dollars) and 20,000 dollars (US 12,500 dollars) respectively.

Singapore won 50 gold medals at this year's SEA Games its highest total ever.

Bad news for Belgium

BRUSSELS Nov 9: Captain Georges Grun, sweeper Marc Emmers and striker Marc Degryse will miss Belgium's decisive World Cup qualifier against Czechoslovakia on November 17 through injury, reports Reuter.

All three are missing from a squad of 17 announced by coach Paul Van Himst on Monday; Belgium just meet a draw in the Group Four tie to ensure a place in next year's finals.

No luck for Shri Lankans



BOMBAY, Nov 9: Favourites West Indies warned rivals in the five-nation Hero Cup limited-overs tournament of their awesome form with a convincing 46-run win over Shri Lanka here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The West Indies, fresh from a spectacular win in the recent Champions Trophy in Sharjah where they overrode World Cup holders Pakistan, proved too strong for the hapless Shri Lankans.

Sent to bat first on a lively wicket the West Indians piled up 268 for eight in the allotted 50 overs with left-handed opener Brian Lara topscoring with a strokeful 67.

The Shri Lankans, in reply, were restricted to 222 for eight despite a defiant 104 from left-hander Hashan Tillekaratne. Seamer Winston Benjamin took five for 22.

Tillekaratne, who hit seven boundaries in his maiden one-day hundred, shared the man-of-the-match award with Benjamin.

It was Shri Lanka's sixth straight defeat in one-day internationals. The islanders lost all their four matches in Sharjah and were beaten by hosts India in Sunday's Hero Cup opener in Kanpur.

South Africa and Zimbabwe, who play each other in Bangalore Wednesday, are the other teams taking part in the 21-day tournament being organised to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

Each team plays the other once in the round-robin league with the top four moving up into the semifinals. The final is billed for November 27.

West Indies batting heroes were Brian Lara (67) and Jimmy Adams (55) after they were reeling at 26 for two on a fast wicket where the ball flew around in the first hour.

Desmond Haynes, leading West Indies in the absence of Richie Richardson who chose to rest for the match, failed to score before edging a ball from seamer Pramodaya Wickramasinghe to Roshan Mahanama at second slip.

Phil Simmons, voted man-of-the-series in Sharjah for three splendid half centuries, made

only three when Mahanama grabbed his second catch off the other seamer Dulip Liyanage.

Left-handed Lara added 78 for the third-wicket with Carl Hooper (38) and 61 for the fifth with Adams to boost the score.

West Indies were 220 for seven by the 46th over but Tailender Anderson Cummins slammed a strokeful 41 off just 19 balls in the slog overs to take the score past the 250-run mark.

Off-spinner Ruwan Kalpage was Shri Lanka's most successful



H TILLEKARATNE ... 104

ful bowler with three for 64 in 10 overs. Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga took two for 44.

West Indies went into the match without Richardson and pace bowlers Curtley Ambrose and Kenneth Benjamin.

Shri Lanka made three changes from the side that lost to hosts India in Sunday's opener. Batsmen Aravinda de Silva and Asanka Gurusinha and seamer Champaka Ranayake were replaced by Chandika Hathurusinghe, Muthiah Muralidharan and Duleep Samaraweera.

In the next match Wednesday, South Africa will take on

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first innings in the Hero Cup one-day international between West Indies and Shri Lanka being played at the Wankhede Stadium here today:

WEST INDIES:

Lara c Muralidharan b Ranatunga	67
Haynes c Mahanama b Wickramasinghe	0
Simmons c Mahanama b Liyanage	3
Hooper b Ranatunga	38
Arthurton st Kaluwrithana b Muralidharan	6
Adams st Kaluwrithana b Kalpage	55
Harper lbw b Kalpage	20
Murray not out	11
Cummins c sub (Ramanayake) b Kalpage	41
Benjamin not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-18, w-8)	27
Total: (for eight wickets, 50 overs)	268

Full of wickets: 1-10; 2-26; 3-104; 4-111; 5-172; 6-211; 7-220; 8-268

Did not bat: C A Walsh	
Bowling: O M R W	
Wickramasinghe	10 2 54 1
Liyanage	8 0 24 1
Hathurusinghe	2 0 22 0
Ranatunga	10 1 44 2
Kalpage	10 0 64 3
Muralidharan	10 1 41 1

SHRI LANKA: Mahanama lbw b Benjamin 11; Hathurusinghe b Benjamin 1; Jayasuriya c Haynes b Benjamin 2; Tillekaratne b Benjamin 104; Samaraweera c and b Harper 25; Ranatunga st Murray b Hooper 14; Kaluwrithana c Arthurton b Hooper 10; Kalpage not out 29; Liyanage b Benjamin 3; Muralidharan not out 4; Extras: (b-1, lb-14, nb-2; w-2) 19

Total: (for eight wickets, 50 overs) 222

Full of wickets: 1-10; 2-16; 3-21; 4-72; 5-118; 6-143; 7-204; 8-214

Did not bat: GP Wickramasinghe

Bowling: O M R W	
Walsh	8 2 25 0
Benjamin	10 8 22 5
Cummins	8 2 37 0
Harper	5 0 3 1
Simmons	10 0 38 0
Hooper	9 0 49 2

Result: West Indies won by 46 runs

Sevilla's best sans Maradona



MADRID, Nov 9: Diego Maradona brought Sevilla RC lots of headlines and lots of headaches last season.

Without the Argentine superstar this season, the club is only making headlines with its best start in almost half a century, reports AP.

Sevilla have 15 points and sit atop Spanish soccer's topsy-turvy First Division after 10 rounds, something the club hadn't managed this far into a season since the 1947-48 campaign. Sevilla have won five of their last six matches and have lost only once.

"Ole Sevilla" is how a recent headline read.

Six teams have headed the 20-team First Division in 10 weeks, so Sevilla's stay might be short. But several off-season

Argentine ticket touts run amok

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 9: Hundreds of fans rioted on Monday after the Argentine Football Association (AFA) halted ticket sales for the second-leg of Argentina's World Cup play-off against Australia on November 17, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

The president of AFA blamed the riot on "trouble-makers". The brawl started after AFA stopped selling the tickets at its head offices because gangs of youngmen had jumped a six-block-long queue and barged into the building.

As soon as the doors were shut hundreds of people, some of whom had lined up overnight and then stood for hours under a scorching sun, flew into a rage, smashing shop windows, damaging cars and scuffling with police. No arrests were reported.

The mayhem died down when police spread the word that AFA was now selling tickets across town at the River Plate Stadium where the tie is due to be played. AFA president Julio Gronadona told a radio interviewer that this was the first time such a row had erupted during the sale of tickets for an international match.

"We never had such a massive attendance on a first day of sale and we never had any problems ... surely there were people who went there to make trouble and try to profit from it," he said.

Local radios reported that touts around the stadium were asking three times as much as they had paid for tickets, the most expensive of which had an original price of 60 dollars.

changes suggest they may remain among the league's top four — not bad for a team that haven't finished that well in the last 10 seasons and have won only one league title.

The absence of Maradona, who started well last season but gained weight and lost interest quickly, and a new face at the helm have apparently made a difference.

Luis Aragones, one Spain's most respected coaches with stints at Barcelona and Atletico de Madrid, has Sevilla emphasizing the counter-attack.

"Aragones has been playing like a team," said Eloi Sansa, a reporter with the Barcelona-based sports daily El Mundo Deportivo. "Last year there was too much attention on Maradona, and he really didn't drive himself very hard here."

Argentine international midfielder Diego Pablo Simeone and Croatian striker Davor Suker have emerged from Maradona's shadow. Simeone is the team's leader and, going into Wednesday's away match against No. 19 Lorosnes, Suker's nine goals are second only to the 10 scored by Barcelona's Brazilian goal machine Romario.

"Sevilla is a team that you expect something from every year, and every year they disappoint," said Miguel Alvaro of the Madrid sports daily Marca. "This year they're playing like you expect."

Nobody is counting out Spain's two big-budget clubs. FC Barcelona have won the last three seasons and four of the last nine. Real Madrid have won the other five of the last nine seasons a streak from 1985-86 to 1989-90.

Athletic de Bilbao won the league in 1983-84, the last time the winner wasn't one of the big two.

"I'd say the chances are about one in 10 that Barcelona

Soccer results

Sports Reporter

Two Zaur goals led Little Friends Club to a 2-0 victory over Kadamtala Sangha in the Progoti Insurance Third Division soccer league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

In another tie, at the same venue, Maghbazar Kishalaya beat Aminbazar by one goal to nil.

Didar scored the decider. The third match, held at the Mahakhali T & T ground, Matuail Jubo Sangha and Dil-kusha Sporting Club split points in a one-all draw.

Hazrat Ali put Matuail in the lead with a 38th minute goal while Shahidullah scored the equalizer in the 61st minute.

Meanwhile, today's scheduled matches of the Sonali Bank Second Division football league will be held on November 12. The other matches will be bodily shifted.

or Real Madrid won't win again," Sansa said. "But this will keep it very interesting for a time."

Sansa's personal favorite is Deportivo de La Coruna, last year's surprise team that eventually finished a strong third. "They have more depth this year and I'd give them a slight edge over Sevilla," he said.

Just behind Sevilla are Barcelona, Deportivo de La Coruna and Valencia, each with 14 points. Real Madrid are in sixth place with 12 points and are much improved after an abysmal start.

The division will play an unusual round of mid-week matches on Wednesday and Thursday to allow members of Spain's national team a few extra days to prepare for their decisive Nov 17 World Cup qualifier against Denmark in Seville.

Nine of the 10 league matches are set for Wednesday, but perhaps the most interesting pairing will be Thursday with Real Madrid at Valencia.

On Wednesday it will be Tenerife vs. Barcelona; Athletic de Bilbao vs. Deportivo de La Coruna; Rayo Vallecano vs. Real Sociedad; Lleida vs. Albacete; Racing de Santander vs. Zaragoza; Atletico de Madrid vs. Osasuna; Oviedo vs. Valladolid; and Celta vs. Sporting de Gijon.



Action from yesterday's Progoti Insurance Third Division football league match between Little Friends Club and Kadamtala Sangha at the Outer Stadium. Little friends beat Kadamtala 2-0. — Star photo

FIFA won't welcome cheats



ZURICH, Nov 9: Cheating players who feign injury at next year's World Cup finals in the United States

will be automatically booked under FIFA's latest crackdown on time-wasting, reports Reuter.

FIFA's referees' committee has ruled that all injured players will be taken off the pitch immediately by stretcher for treatment on the sidelines during World Cup games except those with serious head injuries or cuts.

Referees will be told at a pre-World Cup training camp in Dallas, Texas next March that any player returning quickly to the field after being stretchered off for treatment must be booked for ungentlemanly conduct.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said on Tuesday FIFA was determined to stop the time-wasting tactics and deal

with the cheats.

"Time-wasting and feigning injury is all cheating and players should be aware that we are offering a spectacle to fans and television and that they should not feign injury or indulge in time-wasting," said Blatter.

"Taking players off the pitch will prevent, as seen in experiments in the Asian World Cup qualifying tournament in Qatar, the feigning of injuries."

"They do not want to be taken off the field if they are not really injured," he added.

FIFA also plans to tackle time-wasting at free kicks by employing linesmen to deal with defensive walls to ensure no deliberate encroachment of the