

## U-19 booters leave for Riyadh today

**Sports Reporter**

Having hardly trained a day together, the members of the Bangladesh national youth football team leave for Saudi Arabia today to take part in the 29th Asian Youth football championship beginning in Riyadh from June 6.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), the supreme body for local football announced a 24-member national squad yesterday including four officials.

Bangladesh who have been placed in Group A along with hosts Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Syria will play their first match against the hosts on the opening day of the five-day meet scheduled to conclude on June 8.

Bangladesh are pitted against Hong Kong in their second match on June 6 while their last encounter will be on June 8, against Syria.

With the just concluded DMFA Cup getting all the attention coach Ashraf, who is in charge of Premier Division Club Muktijoddha Sangsod Krira Chakra failed to get all the players together for a single day since the operation of the residential camp in Mirpur Sports Village from April 27 as most of the players were with one or the other team playing in the curtain-raising meet of the domestic season.

**SQUAD**

Goalkeepers — Dulal Hossain Dhanu (Abahani), Arifur Rahman Pannu (Victoria), Kishore Kumar Dutta Manu (Muktijoddha).

Defenders — Monwar Hossain Munna (East End), Kajal Ganguli (Bangladesh Boys), Biplob Marma (Mohammedan), Bishu Das (Agrani Bank), Indradul Haq and Mansoor Ali (Abahani), and Santosh Kumar Roy (Farashganj).

Midfielders — Mohammad Arman (Muktijoddha), Paritosh Dewan (Mohammedan), Alfaz Ahmed and Sajedur Rahman Tusher (Arambagh), Rahmatullah Bhutto (Brothers) and Zahid Hossain (Mohammedan).

Strikers — Zulfikur Mahmood Mintu (Abahani), Jamal Hossain (Agrani Bank), Mohammad Salauddin (FWD), Kazi Kaushik Ahmed (East End Club).

The four officials are: Manager Kazi Mithu, assistant manager — Mozammel Hoq Mukta, Coach — Sheikh Ashraf Ali and Assistant Coach — Abu Noman Nannu.

**BCCB calls up 70**

**Sports Reporter**

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) called up 70 players for a camp in connection with the preparation for the coming International Youth cricket tournament scheduled to begin in Malaysia on July 28.

Eight teams including only Test-playing country Sri Lanka, hosts Malaysia, Bangladesh, UAE, Denmark, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea and East and Central Africa will take part in the fortnight-long meet which will be played in round robin league basis.

The selected players have been asked to report at the BCCB office on June 6 at 8:30 am.

Meanwhile, two players — Sajal Chaudhury and Shamsul Arefin — have been selected by the BCCB to take part in the MRF pace bowling training course in India. The players are expected to leave Dhaka on June 4.

## NZ-England first Test begins today

# Morrison, Kiwis' only hope



**LONDON, June 1:** New Zealand are ready to gamble on the fitness of Danny Morrison in an attempt to give their pace attack a cutting edge in the first Test against England starting at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Plagued by injuries that are sidelining their bowlers, the touring team are beginning to resemble an army with shields but no swords, prompting desperate measures to avoid being over-run in the opening battle of the three-Test series.

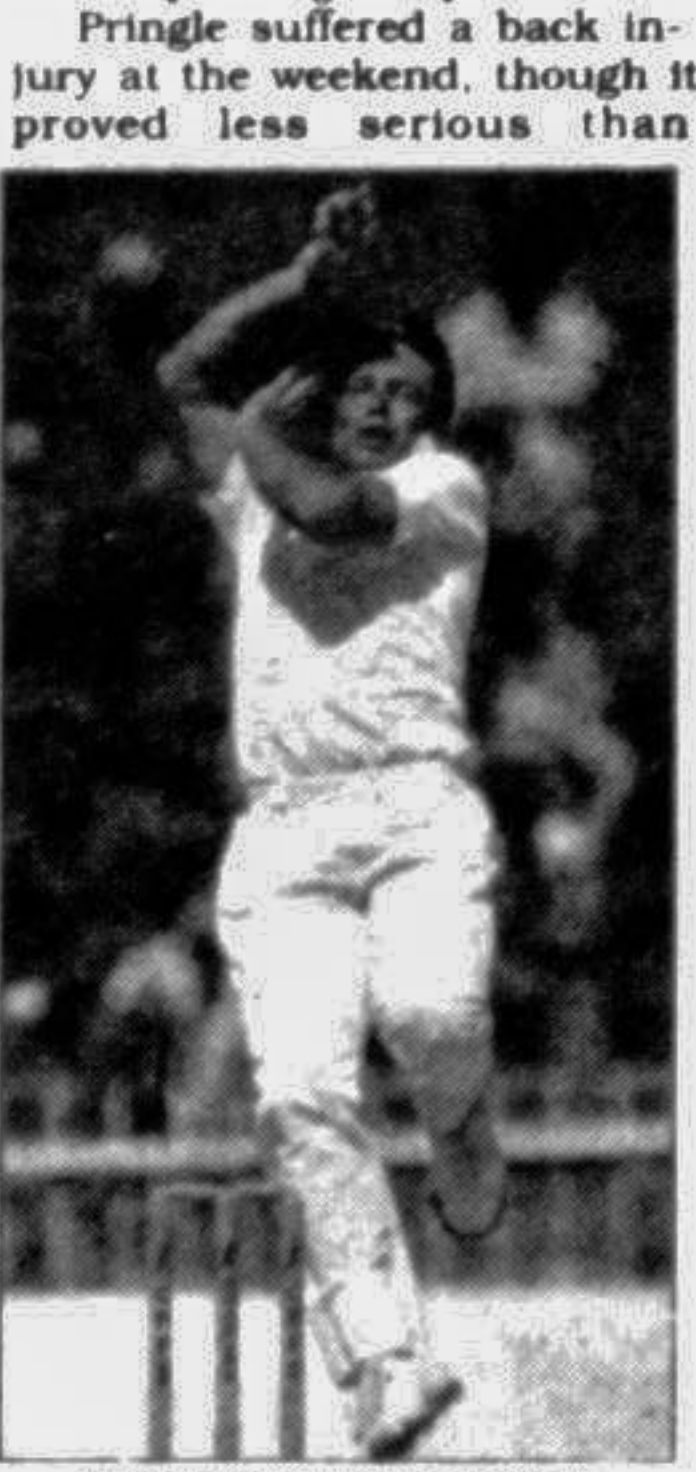
With only three fully-fit pacemen — Dion Nash, vice-captain Gavin Larsen and the quick but expensive Heath Davis — the New Zealanders' concern over their limited options was underlined by captain Ken Rutherford.

"In the end it comes down to numbers," he said. "Danny might just have to play even though he's not fully fit because he's our one proven Test wicket-taker."

"Heath Davis is obviously in the frame but his figures don't really add up. That's not being unkind — it's a fact. He has been going for more than six runs an over throughout the tour and we can't really afford that," added Rutherford.

Morrison, who has played only one first-class game on tour, was troubled initially by a groin strain, then broke down with a hamstring injury during the first one-day international against England at Edgbaston on May 19.

Chris Pringle is already ruled out of the Test and fel-



**DANNY MORRISON**

low paceman Michael Owens, called up when Simon Doull was forced to return home with a damaged right bowling shoulder, is highly doubtful with hip and groin problems.

Pringle suffered a back injury at the weekend, though it proved less serious than

Illingworth.

England have brought only five specialist batsmen to Trent Bridge, so that with Steve Rhodes as the wicket-keeper and pace-bowling all-rounder Craig White set to win his first Test cap, there are places for four out of six bowlers.

If Illingworth holds sway and England field a balanced attack, both slow bowlers would play — off-spinner Peter Such returning after being omitted from the West Indies tour and left-arm spinner Richard Stemp making his Test debut.

That would leave fast-medium bowler Angus Fraser certain to fill one of the two places left, with fellow pacemen Devon Malcolm, Philip DeFreitas and Mark Illott competing for the remaining berth.

The make-up of England's attack will be influenced by the pitch, which offers the prospect of heavy scoring.

England team manager Keith Fletcher said: "It looks to me as if it will be hard work out there for the bowlers. It should be fairly flat, and with not too much pace in it either."

That verdict may at least hearten New Zealand's batsmen, of whom the accomplished Martin Crowe must urgently shake off a spell of wretched form.

Crowe's last five tour innings have produced 31, 0, 1, 10 and 14.

If ever there was a moment to reinforce his reputation as New Zealand's best batsman, then this is surely it.

## Pre-World Cup tourney begins in Canada

# Trial of strength for teams



**TORONTO, June 1:** Canada, who failed to qualify for the World Cup finals on their own doorsteps, get a taste of the action this month when seven competing nations play pre-tournament friendlies in the country, reports Reuter.

**It'll be public's choice!**

**ZURICH, June 1:** The American public — rather than soccer writers — will decide which is the most spectacular team at this month's World Cup finals, reports AP.

FIFA on Wednesday said that the daily newspaper, USA Today, would publish a toll-free telephone number for voters to dial up and record their choice.

FIFA announced the Entertainment Award in May as part of its continuing effort to make soccer more attractive. It wants teams to be judged for lively and positive play to combat tedious, defensive tactics which plagued the finals in Rome four years ago.

Spokesman Guido Tognoni said FIFA decided that American — rather than international — newspaper readers would be the jury in order to promote the sport in the United States.

A Harris Poll earlier this year in the United States found that only 20 per cent of Americans realised the finals were being staged in their country and only 25 per cent realized the World Cup involved soccer.

Bolivia, Brazil, the Netherlands, Morocco, Spain, Switzerland and champions Germany all play in Canada ahead of the month-long competition which starts on June 17 in Chicago.

Canada play Germany, the Netherlands, and Brazil. The first match was Canada against Morocco in Montreal on June 1.

Fans in Toronto will be eager to see the likes of Germany's Thomas Hassler and captain Lothar Matthaus while Edmonton hosts the star-studded Brazilian team.

Tickets are still available for all the games, although Germany's appearance in Toronto on June 8 is virtually sold out except for some seats in the upper sections of the Varsity Stadium near the corner of the pitch.

The games have excited fans in communities around Canada and are expected to raise the profile of Canada's most popular summer sports by bringing the stars to play.

The German community in Canada is abuzz with news about the team and the game against Canada is a huge event.

"If you could read your own Canadian press in German you would know that they are all excited about it," said a spokesman at the German consulate in Toronto.

"I think the game is already sold out and they did not even need to advertise," he said.

Canada's three German-oriented newspapers — The Canada Courier, Echo Germanica and Deutsche Press — have

all carried articles on the upcoming game in Toronto.

Soccer, football to the world outside of North America, is Canada's second most popular sport after ice hockey.

"We are Canada's most popular summertime sport, no ifs ands or buts," said Kevin Pipe, spokesman for the Canadian Soccer Association.

He said the number of registered soccer players has risen every year for the past 10 and expected the pre-World Cup games in Canada to push numbers even higher next year.

Since the Canadian soccer league folded two years ago there have been no professional leagues in Canada and high-calibre players have had to seek their fortune elsewhere in countries such as Portugal, Switzerland and Britain.

**Army hockey**

**BOGRA, June 1:** Four more matches of the Army hockey championship were played at the Bogra Cantonment yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Host Bogra area defeated the Dhaka Engineers by a solitary goal.

The Savar area drew 1-1 with the Mymensingh area.

The Jessore area beat the Rangpur area.

The Jessore area beat the Rangpur area 1-0 on Tuesday while the match between the Chittagong area and the Anti-Aircraft artillery ended in a goalless draw on the same day.

**Abahani demand action**

**Sports Reporter**

Abahani Krira Chakra, the yet uncrowned new DMFA Cup champions celebrated their acrimonious achievement by calling for a wholesale punishment of the organisers of the curtain-raising meet.

In a voluminous press release issued yesterday, one of the most popular clubs of the country accused organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) of orchestrated conspiracy which according to them culminated in the chaotic finale marked by poor refereeing and police atrocities.

While felicitating runners-up Brothers Union, Abahani who refused to take their trophy on Tuesday as a mark of protest at 'unwholesome atmosphere,' sought immediate measures against those responsible for the undesirable incidents that spoiled the spirit of occasion.

**Bashabo complete quorum**

**Sports Reporter**

Bashabo Tarun Sangha have completed the eight-team quarterfinal quota of the Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying meet when they thrashed Dilkusha by seven wickets in their Group H final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Earlier, seven teams — Oasis Club, Gopibagh Seven Brothers, Khelaghar SK, Tuhin Smriti Sangsod, Falcon Eleven, Srijon KS and Sunrise SC moved into the quarter-finals as respective group champions.

In the day's only match Bashabo Tarun who bundled out Dilkusha for 115 in 35.5 overs reached the victory target of 116 in 21.1 overs with a 92-run partnership between Nadim and Salder for the third wicket.

Salder who propelled his side to an easy victory remained not out on 46, while Nadim hammered a sparkling 47.

Earlier, in the Dilkusha innings new-ball bowler Pappa finished with a five-wicket haul. His seven-over spell cost him only 16 runs.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Quatrain rhyme scheme

5 Wood-shaping tool

8 Dither

12 Rocket acronym

13 "Ostentatious?"

14 Pocket bread

15 Confined

17 Enjoy the library

18 Aspect

19 Style of spicy cuisine

21 Hibernia

24 Coop occupant

25 Problem for Dr. Seuss' Bartholomew

28 Ballot

30 Audio receiver?

33 Kimono accessory

34 Earl Hines' nickname

35 Praiseful verse

36 Teensy

**DOWN**

37 Never again?

38 It'll open doors for you

39 "Fat farm"

41 Kachina worshiper

43 Tropical vegetable

46 "Get Started" (song)

50 Actor John, of "Roots"

51 It's worn with a tuxedo

54 Dray

55 Wally of old TV

56 Completes

57 Foot-baller's

Solution time: 21 mins.

**CRYPTOQUIP**

"V X L H A L E V X" NW

E J Z X N M Z I U C L H L S H C H N Z A X E J Z I S W N V V L M M Z V E L H

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR LUNCH TODAY, PROFESSIONAL KARATE INSTRUCTOR ASKED FOR CHOP SUEY.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals C

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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## Fed Cup fixtures

The Beximco 12th Federation Cup football tournament, organised by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), will begin on June 11 at the Dhaka National Stadium, reports UNB.

Beximco Group, a leading business house, is sponsoring the prestigious Federation Cup for the first time and will provide ten lakh taka for the tourney.

Twenty-four teams — all the 20 Premier and First Division clubs along with four selected teams from Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions — will compete in the country's major soccer meet which resumes after a two-year break.

In the first phase of the tournament, 20 teams will compete on a knockout basis, split in four groups.

Group A — Wari Club, Rahamatganj MFS, Victoria SC, Dhaka Wanderers Club and Abahani KC (Khulna Division).

Group B — Agrani Bank, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, Sadharan Bima KS, Farashganj SC and Tiger Club (Dhaka Division).

Group C — Arambagh KS, Muslim Institute, Dhanmondi Club, Bangladesh Boys Club and Diganta Prasari Sangha (Rajshahi Division).

Group D — Muktijoddha Sangsod KC, Shantinagar Club, PWD SC, East End Club and Feni Soccer Club (Chittagong Division).

On the opening day (June 11), Rajshahi Diganta Prasari will take on Dhanmondi Club while Feni Soccer Club meet Shantinagar Club.

The eight-team robin league will begin on June 19 with four group champions and the semi-finalists of the last meet — Brothers Union, Mohammedan SC, Abahani KC and Youngmen's Club Fakirpool.

Defending champions Brothers Union and Youngmen's Club Fakirpool have been placed in Group One together with the Group C and D champions while runners-up Mohammedan SC and Abahani KC are placed in Group Two with the champions of Group A and B.

The two semifinals are scheduled for June 28 and 29. The final match in scheduled for July 1.

## Atherton, England's player-of-year

**NOTTINGHAM, England, June 1:** England captain Mike Atherton was named as his country's player-of-the-year on Tuesday, and then pledged to score more Test hundreds in the coming 12 months, reports Reuter.

Atherton emerged from the recent series in West Indies with 510 runs at an average of 56.44 to follow his 553 runs at 46.08 in last season's Ashes Tests.



Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario exults after beating France's Julie Halard in the quarter-finals of the French Open in Paris on Tuesday. Arantxa won 6-1, 7-6 (8-6). — AFP photo

## Berasategui moves into semis

**Star Report**

Unseeded Alberto Berasategui of Spain forced his way into the semifinals of the French Open at Roland Garros yesterday afternoon.

The 20-year-old Spaniard, playing in only his second French Open, compelled the number 5 seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia — the only survivor one in his half of the draw — to bow out of the tournament.

Berasategui won in straight sets 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in an hour and forty minutes in the quarterfinal on the Centre Court in front of a capacity 12,000 crowd.

Berasategui, who had reached the third round of the French open last year, was very calm throughout and put in as many first serves as possible. He did not try to beat the big-serving Croat with his service but relied on the unforced errors of his more illustrious opponent.

Everything went sour for Ivanisevic. His forehands deserted him and backhands and drop volleys hit the net more often than not. In fact, he was so desperate in the third set to come back into the game after being two sets down that he committed far too many unforced errors for a player of his stature.

Berasategui will now meet Magnus Larsson of Sweden, a cool customer, in the semifinals.

AP adds: Magnus Larsson saved six match points Wednesday against little-known Hendrik Dreckmann, then stormed back to reach the semifinals of the French Open as the German teenager collapsed.

The 19-year-old Dreckmann, ranked only 89th, was on the brink of becoming one of the least-expected semifinalists in tournament history. But he unraveled after failing to convert the six match points late in the third set, enabling Larsson to win 3-6, 6-7 (1-7), 7-6 (7-3), 6-0, 6-1.

Larsson, 24, turned pro in 1989 and has won four events, but only once before reached the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam — losing to Wally Masur in last year's US Open.

During the first two sets, he appeared totally outmatched by Dreckmann, who displayed agility, a strong forehand and remarkable confidence.

Most impressive was the second-set tiebreaker, when Dreckmann displayed an array of brilliant shots, ranging from a crisp cross-court pass to a remarkable retrieve of a drop shot. He seemed totally unfazed by his glaringly misplayed smash of a Larsson lob that enable the Swede to break serve in the 10th game and set up the tiebreaker.

But in the ninth and 11th game of the third set, Larsson turned the match around by coming up with aces and other winning shots to save the series of match points. He won the tiebreaker easily, and Dreckmann offered little opposition in the last two sets.

The Swede ended with 19 aces to five for Dreckmann, who had 11 double faults.

Dreckmann entered the tournament with 5-8 tour record this year and an 0-5 record on clay. He had played in only one previous Grand Slam — the Australian Open in January — and lost his first-round match in straight sets.

Here, he beat a low-ranked qualifier in the first round, upset 15th-seeded Carlos Costa of Spain in the second, overcame American veteran Richey Reneberg in the third, and crushed a lethargic Aaron Krickstein in the fourth.

Larsson, who arrived here with a 8-10 won-lost record this season, also had to face only one seed to advance through the upset-depleted lower half of the men's draw. He beat No. 9 Todd Martin in five sets in the third round.

While Larsson has a chance at further glory Friday, world No. 1 Pete Sampras must wait another year to resume his frustrating quest for a French Open title.

His four-set quarterfinal loss Tuesday to Courier dashed his dream of becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win four Grand Slam titles in a row.

But Sampras, despite being a quarterfinal loser here three years in a row, is convinced he can someday add the French title to his Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open crowns.

Courier ended a four-match losing streak to Sampras and showed the top seed who ruled on clay — they had never met before on the surface. Ahead is possibly a tougher task — a rematch with Brugnera, who ended Courier's two-year reign last year.

The sixth-seeded Spaniard hasn't lost a set in five matches here. Last year, he didn't lose a set until his five-set win over Courier in the finals.

The women's semifinals are scheduled for Thursday — an all-Spanish match between No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and No. 3 Conchita Martinez, and a keenly awaited showdown between top-seeded Steffi Graf and No. 12 Mary Pierce, who has broken the tournament record by losing only six games in her first five matches.



Swede Magnus Larsson serves to Peruvian Jaime Yzaga in the fourth round of the French Open in Paris on May 30. Larsson won 6-3, 6-2. — AFP photo

## Edberg made to sweat

**BECKENHAM, England, June 1:** Top seed Stefan Edberg blew hot and cold as he began his acclimatisation to grass court tennis on Tuesday, reports Reuter.