

Curtain comes down on soccer fiesta tonight

Sports Reporter

World Cup USA '94, the fifteenth world championship of professional football, draws to a close a few hours into midnight tonight with favourites Brazil and Italy poised to add a new chapter in history. The classy contest, a connoisseur's delight, will inevitably produce a team with four championship titles, an unprecedented achievement in the 64-year-old annals of the game. The most desired finale of a tournament replete with upsets is scheduled to start at 1-35 am (BST) Monday at the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, tonight.

By tomorrow morning the aficionados in the country who, like millions in many other countries with no direct involvement with the 24-team meet, have been gasping, weeping, praying and, of course, swapping sleeping times for their favourite teams, will have known the new kings of soccer till 1998.

It has been a long trek since the tournament opener between reigning champions Germany and Bolivia at the Soldier Field Stadium in Chicago on June 17. An Edmund would have said, "The wheel has come full circle." Indeed it has. The month-long carnival is only a match away from its conclusion after having traversed a trail littered with controversy drama, novelty and upsets.

If Brazil had to wait 24 years in the purgatory, Italy's fourth go at the title needed an era to materialise. While Parreira's boys can draw psychological comfort from the last meeting of the two teams in a finale, Sacchi's Azzurris would do well to keep in mind the predatory skills of Paolo Rossi and the pipe-smoking Enzo Bearzot who helped Italy to their last title in 1982.

Fans who love flowing soccer like wine, song and poetry are yet to acquit Dino Zoff's Italy from the charge of causing an aesthetic violence in Spain as Rossi's hat-trick sunk a Brazilian team deemed the best since 1970.

An antithesis of the rhythmic crescendo of the samba, the Italians, true to their tradition, have this time a style which is staccato, spasmodic and spurry. Relying heavily on midfield pressing and no nonsense defending, Italy may try to upset the Brazilians with some incisive, frenzied early aggression tonight.

Because once the Brazilians get into groove on a pitch ideally paced for their cadenced moves, the Italians despite the presence of gifted footballers like Roberto Fagiolini and Donadoni are likely to be at the receiving end.

Burdened with a midfield not endowed with the creative genius of the bygone days, Brazil of '94 will look forward to their odd couple of Romario and Bebeto for breakthroughs, but the marked difference of this team from the past outfits is its defence. For an ideal blend of caution and aggression, the quartet of Jorginho, Branco, Marcio Santos and Aldair — with the last two coming in as emergency replacements — is probably the best at the moment.

It will be either Brazil or Italy who will have the last laugh or longish spell of blues, but no soccer lover could have asked for more in a finale.

Roberto Baggio, the best footballer of the world on one side, and the irrepressible Romario on the other, each credited with a haul of five goals. All the *masalás* for a sumptuous dish of soccer!

Brazil, Italy vie for record 4th title

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flied Roberto Donadoni went down with a pulled muscle.

Team captain and sweeper Franco Baresi has been missing since the second game with a leg muscle injury and midfielder Alberigo Evani has been out since the opening game.

Brazil also had similar defensive problems at the start of the tournament but appear to have sorted them out.

Mozer and Ricardo Gomes pulled out with injuries before the tournament started and were replaced. Ricardo Rocha suffered a groin injury in Brazil's opening game and left-sided defender Leonardo was suspended for four games for elbowing American midfielder Tab Ramos in the face.

Leonardo's replacement, Branco, scored the winner that gave his team a 3-2 quarterfinal victory over the Dutch.

Sunday's game presents an intriguing contrast in styles.

Brazil, which won the title in 1958, '62 and '70, represents soccer at its colourful best. Its players are flamboyant to the extent of being outrageous and always try to score goals with style.

Italy, winner in 1934, '38 and '82 and loser to Brazil in the 1970 final, is a soccer traditionalist relying on ultra-strong defence and swift counterattacks. Right now, the injury and suspension-hit Italians won't worry how their goals are scored.

"We want to win the title, no matter if we will miss important players," Sacchi said Friday. "I can rely on a group of players who survived desperate situations, who reversed almost impossible results, who won games short-handed."

With a minute to go against Nigeria in round two, the Italians were losing and on the

way out. Baggio conjured a goal from nothing to force the game into extra time and fired the winner from the penalty spot for a 2-1 triumph.



Roberto Baggio

They were his first two of the competition in Italy's fourth game. Baggio had been pilloried by fans and the media for not delivering what Italy expected but now he is producing a masterful display of goal-scoring.

He scored the winner two minutes from the end against Spain in the quarter-final and hit the two goals in Italy's 2-1 semifinal victory over Bulgaria.

That was five goals in three games and suddenly Italy was in the final.

Baggio is the player whose standout performances disguise the general mediocrity of the team. His absence on Sunday would be devastating for the Italians.

"Baggio is one of the greatest players," Sacchi said. "It would be a bad blow for us if he

can't play. Others will have to work harder to make up for his absence if he does not recover."

Since limping out of Wednesday's semifinal 19



Romario

minutes from the end of the game, Baggio has been unable to train.

"It does not hurt when I walk, but I can feel it when I flex the muscle," he said. "I hope I can play."

If he doesn't, the task of breaking down an efficient Brazilian defence, which has allowed only three goals in six games, will fall to Gianfranco Zola, whose World Cup has lasted only 14 minutes.

Zola was harshly expelled against Nigeria after entering the game as substitute and missed the next two games through suspension.

While unheated Brazil has cruised smoothly to the final with five victories and a tie, Italy has crawled there.

Starting with a 1-0 loss to Ireland, the Italians overcame

the expulsion of goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca to edge Norway 1-0 and then qualified in third place after tying Mexico 1-1.

Then came Baggio's late-game heroics against Nigeria and Spain and his two-goal performance against the Bulgarians.

Like Baggio, Brazilian strikers Romario (five goals) and Bebeto (three) have hogged the spotlight. But the defence, often Brazil's Achilles heel, has been another standout feature.

Goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel, the only Brazilian squad member who plays in Brazil, also has impressed with his safe handling.

"Brazil is the best prepared team in the Cup," Taffarel said. "We're ready to lock it up Sunday with a golden key."

Brazil and Italy are tied 2-2 in World Cup play.

Italy won 2-1 in the 1938 semifinal at Marseille, France and went on to win the title.

Brazil crushed Italy 4-1 in the 1970 final in Mexico with some of the most breathtaking soccer ever played, and gained a 2-1 triumph in Buenos Aires eight years later to take third place in the tournament.

In 1982, Italy edged Brazil 3-2 at Barcelona on the way to winning the title.

Likely lineups: Italy — Gianluca Pagliuca, Roberto Mussi, Luigi Apolloni, Antonio Bannari, Paulo Maldini, Demetrio Albertini, Dino Baggio, Nicola Berti, Roberto Donadoni, Roberto Baggio, Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Brazil — Taffarel, Jorginho, Branco, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Mazinho, Mauro Silva, Dunga, Zinho, Bebeto, Romario.

Referee — Sandor Puhl, Hungary.

The Midnight File

Two Arab diplomats missing in Algeria

ALGIERS, July 16: The ambassadors of Yemen and Oman went missing Friday in the Khemis El Kechra region near Algiers, Algerian security services said today. A vehicle in which both diplomats had been travelling was found Saturday near the spot where they went missing, the sources said, reports AFP.

US lifts sanctions against ISRO

BANGALORE, India, July 16: The United States has called off its two-year-old sanctions against India's premier state-owned space agency, clearing the way for new space technology deals between the two countries, a senior Indian official said today. Washington had slapped sanctions against the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) over a proposed Russian sale of cryogenic engines to India, reports Reuter.

Clinton tells Assad

US committed to peace in Middle East

DAMASCUS, July 16: US President Bill Clinton has told Syrian leaders Hafez Al-Assad the United States is "committed to comprehensive peace" in the Middle East, the official Syrian news agency Sana reported today, says AFP.

It said Clinton's pledge came in a telephone conversation between the two leaders Friday, during which they discussed the Middle East peace process and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's new regional tour starting Monday.

They were speaking shortly before the announcement of the first ever summit meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein in Washington on July 25.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Thursday recognised Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East War.

"We have admitted to Syrian sovereignty over the Golan on many occasions," he said. It was Israel's first public admission of Syrian sovereignty over the strategic plateau.

Christopher is due to begin a new shuttle mission between Israel and Syria to try to revive bilateral talks stalled since the February 25 Hebron Mosque massacre.

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However, the rank and file of the AL are now waiting for the package of agitational programmes likely to be announced by Sheikh Hasina from the June 27 rally in the city.

Sanskritik Jote launches agitation from Aug 1

By Staff Correspondent
The Sammlita Sanskritik Jote will organise rallies and demonstrations throughout the country next month to resist the fundamentalists.

To gear up the movement against the collaborators in the Liberation War and to resist the 'fatwabaz' reactionary elements, the Jote sub committee has decided to hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar on August 1.

Another rally of the cultural activists will be held at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 14. The Jote will organise demonstrations in every district town.

The sub committee at a meeting yesterday decided to organise demonstrations at seven important points of the capital.

The meeting was participated by Kamal Hossain, Aly Zaker, Asaduzzaman Nur, Gohar Kuddus, Fakir Alamgir, Devprashad Devnath and others.

During this period the telecommunication service with UK, USA, Canada, Bahrain, France, Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka and some other countries will be interrupted temporarily, it added.

Bangladesh T and T Board regretted the inconvenience to be caused to its subscribers.

Launching ceremony of S M Ali's books today

By Staff Correspondent
A novel titled 'Rainbow Over Padma' by S. M. Ali, one of the most renowned journalists of Asia and Founding Editor of The Daily Star, will be published posthumously today (Sunday) at 5 pm at the auditorium of the National Museum, Shahbagh.

Published by the University Press Limited (UPL), the book launching ceremony will be attended by National Professor, Professor M Shamsul Huq as chief guest.

Prof. Khan Sarwar Murshed, Poet Shamsur Rahman, Dr. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Prof. Rehman Sobhan will take part in the discussion.

The Rainbow Over Padma is a political novel set against the grim economic and political climate in Bangladesh.

S. M. Ali passed away in October, 1993, and could barely finish the final draft of the novel.

Judicial activism needed

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ing a chronological evaluation and development of universal concern vis-a-vis universal code of human rights, said "Unfortunately no part of the world is free from human rights abuse. Human rights violations anywhere are, and must continue to be, the concern of the whole international community regardless of where they occur."

The Dutch ambassador discarded the notion that the human rights concept should be evaluated in terms of state sovereignty. He also disfavoured the criticism of those who opined that instead of universality human rights should be seen in the light of history, culture and religion of

projects. "In our country, he said 'the implementation part of the laws relating to human rights in more challenging and the lawyers have special role to play in this regard.'"

Amirul Islam said the commitment of the lawyers for the rule of law, equal protection under the law, independence of the judiciary and access to justice has been universal. "Irrespective of any party affiliation or political opinion of the lawyers we are also concerned about violation of human rights and the victims of violation who are often disadvantaged socially, economically and even politically," he added.

Barrister Islam said that



Seen at the inaugural session of a human rights training programme organised by the Bangladesh Bar Council at the South Hall of the Bangladesh Supreme Court building yesterday are (L to R): Dr Kamal Hossain, Mrs Gajentaan, wife of the Dutch Ambassador, Mr Henricus Gajentaan, Justice M H Rahman and Attorney General Aminul Huq.

a specific country or region. "The content of certain individual rights cannot differ from place to place," he said adding that the question of national law is being raised in many places as a mere pretext to deny citizens their rights, he added.

He appreciated the sense of cooperation and open mindedness in Bangladesh among not only lawyers but also the government officials, academicians and politicians to discuss issues in constructive dialogue and with a positive approach to furthering human rights in Bangladesh. "Bangladesh can be proud of a tradition of tolerance and harmony," he said. "It has egalitarian, but also individualistic traditions."

Gajentaan said, the legal profession in Bangladesh has a special responsibility and very important role to play in promotion of democratic governance and respect for the human rights.

Dr. Kamal Hossain said that societies where human rights — civil and political — were curtailed were marked by an absence of checks and balances on the use of power as well as by an absence of rule of law. This resulted in arbitrary exercise of power and lack of accountability which in turn led to widespread corruption and conditions of insecurity.

Dr. Hossain said there must be a clear recognition that true, real, meaningful and authentic development must be "human-focused" or people-centered and based on respect for human rights in designing development programmes and

NSC lottery draw results

The fourth draw of the sports development lottery, run by the National Sports Council, was held at the conference room of the council in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda was present at the draw programme as the chief guest and announced the winning number of the first prize amounting to Taka 20 lakh. The number was gha 0299916.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, Chairman of the Lottery Committee and Irrigation Secretary Nazrul Islam, officials of the National Sports Council lottery committee, different national sports federations and a large number of ticket buyers were present.

The lottery offered 582 prizes totalling Taka 50 lakh including the first prize of Taka 20 lakh, three second prizes of one car each and four third prizes of Taka one lakh each.

The second prize winners are: Uma 0568577, Gha 0802199 and Kha 0545196.

The third prize winners are: Kha 0593126, Ga 0155581, Kha 0275588 and Kha 0042753.

Speaking on the occasion, the Information Minister said the lottery has made a significant public awareness to help the sports sector through buying the tickets.

FBCCI, ADB team discuss private sector investment

The visiting members of the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) met with leaders of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in Dhaka yesterday and exchanged views with them on private sector investment, reports UNB.

They discussed issues relating to the growth and promotion of private sector investment policy implementation, exchange rate factors, infrastructural facilities, utilities and their costs.

The ADB team comprising six Executive Directors representing Australia, USA, Turkey, New Zealand, China and Bangladesh assured all possible cooperation for promotion and growth of the private sector.

They said although the ADB at present did not expand their operation in direct financing of projects in the private sector, they were in favour of opening up the opportunity.

Led by Peter McCawley, Executive Director, the team include N Cinnamon Dornis (USA), Temona Kerman (Turkey), Colin Pratt (New Zealand), Zhou Yuequn (China) and Quazi Shamsul Alam.

The meeting was also addressed by Salahuddin Kasem Khan, S H Kabir, Fakrul Islam, A S M Quasem, Mirza Abu Mansoor, M H Rahman and Nurul Islam.

US closes Rwandan embassy in Washington

WASHINGTON, July 16: The United States on Friday closed the Rwandan Embassy in Washington, ordered diplomats to leave the country in five days and began steps to remove Rwandan representatives from the UN Security Council, reports Reuter.

The White House said the moves were aimed at bringing an end to the fighting in Rwanda and a growing disaster that US officials said has displaced 5.3 million people out of a total population of 8.1 million.

Kim's funeral delayed by two days

SEOUL, July 16: North Korea said today it was delaying the funeral of its late President Kim Il-Sung by two days and officials in South Korea called it a sign of possible problems in choosing his successor, reports Reuter.

Official Radio Pyongyang said the funeral was being delayed from Sunday until Tuesday because of the increasing numbers of mourners wishing to pay their respects.

Local bodies effectiveness

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hour long session included institutional responsibilities of the city corporations, their development priorities, resource mobilisation and involving citizens in urban development.

Acting as the moderator, Prof Rehman Sobhan initiated the discussion on the responsibilities of the local bodies by posing a series of questions: are the functions and responsibilities entrusted to the mayors adequate for them to meet the expectations of the electorate? Is there further need and scope for the devolution of more power to the city corporations? Who should be entrusted to develop a development plan for the cities? What should be the relationship between the development authorities and the city corporations.

Former Dhaka city mayor Abul Hasnat opposed placing of government agencies concerned under the city corporations under the existing set up. He, however, urged the government to consider the setting up of a metropolitan government similar to those in Manila and Jakarta.

The immediate past mayor of Dhaka, Mirza Abbas, also opposed placing of government agencies concerned under the city corporations at the moment, but said that there should be better coordination among them.

He, however, noted that he had failed to get together the members of the coordination committee — headed by the mayor and the chiefs of these agencies being members, to attend the meetings.

He suggested that the coordination committees should be strengthened and should either be headed by the mayor or the LGRD minister to provide adequate importance to the committee.

The LGRD minister said the problems in coordinating with the government agencies being faced by the city corporation is also a problem faced by the government as a whole.

He denied that the government was encroaching on the

authority of the city corporations or in their budget making process, but added that if government allocations are sought, then the government has the right to re-adjust only that portion of the budget.

"If they can mobilise their own resources and satisfy the needs of the citizens, then certainly they can function without any interference of the government."

Mohammad Hanif said he is not being given a free hand to do his job and the primary obstacles originate from the deputed government officials at the corporation.

The mayor of Chittagong suggested placing low interest funds with the city corporations to build low-cost housing in the cities and using part of the development surcharge at the port in Chittagong. The appointment of the chief executive officers (CEO) of the city corporations by the government also came under fire.

Eimi Watanabe, Resident Representative of UNDP, said that the donors would very much like to see more involvement of the city corporations in the design process of development plans. Along with the necessary amendments being discussed, she said, the possibility of privatising some utility services also needs to be explored.

Salam Talukder however, said that earlier attempt was made to privatise the garbage disposal services the Gulshan and Baridhara areas but the plan was later shelved because of the high cost quoted by the private firms. "It is not cost-effective."

He denied that the government was encroaching on the

বাংলা একাডেমী
ঢাকা।
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলা একাডেমীর সম্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলা একাডেমীর বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ১৯৯৪ তারিখ শুক্রবার অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

যে সকল সদস্যের চাঁদা বাকি আছে একাডেমীর সদস্য বিধি ৪ (ক) ধারা অনুযায়ী তাঁদেরকে ১৫ আশ্বিন ১৪০১/০৩ সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯৯৪ তারিখের মধ্যে চাঁদা পরিশোধ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ইতোমধ্যে কোনো সদস্যের ঠিকানা পরিবর্তিত হয়ে থাকলে তাও লিখিতভাবে জানানোর অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

অনিসুর রহমান
উপপরিচালক
পরিষদ উপবিভাগ
বাংলা একাডেমী ঢাকা-১০০০।

বাংলা একাডেমী জাতির মননের প্রতীক

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