

Bima begin on winning note

Sports Reporter
Sadharaan Bima Krira Sangstha started their Star First Division football league campaign with a 3-1 win over the giants of the vesteryears Dhaka Wanderers Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Sadharaan Bima, who finished fifth last year, led the first half 2-0, with Shakhawat spearheading the winners attacks.

The fleet-footed striker headed home a cross from Palash in the 30th minute and then set up the second goal for Munra by a measured through three minutes before the breather.

Wanderers, a reputed outfit of the past, reduced the margin in the 80th minute when Harun unleashed a powerful left-footer from outside the box.

But Bima consolidated the lead six minutes later when substitute Akram sealed the fate of the match, shooting into an open net after beating the onrushing Wanderers custodian Narayan in the air.

Palash of Dhaka Wanderers and Mithu of Sadharaan Bima were cautioned with the yellow card for foul play.

TEAMS
Sadharaan Bima: Himu, Ayub, Biplob, Mithu, David, Munna, Mong Bathui, Zakaria, Shakhawat, Abul Hasan (Akram) and Palash.

Dhaka Wanderers: Narayan, Yusuf, Kamal, Polash, Bhutto, Hera, Nurul Islam, Liton (Zakir), Harun, Belal (Proshanto) and Shaifik.

Referee: Golam Mostofa

TODAY'S MATCHES
Victoria SC vs Eskaton Sabuj Sangha 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium).

Rahmatganj MFS vs Shantinagar Club 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium).

Mohammedan SC vs Fakirerpool YMC 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Schools chess
Sports Reporter
Thirteen players jointly shared the top slot with full four points on completion of the fourth round matches of the ongoing ninth schools chess tournament at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

The current leaders are: Abdullah Al-Rakib, Abu Sufan, Enamul Hossain, Tipu Sultan, Adnan Faisal, Ruhul Islam, M Hassan Imam, M Javed, Shiku Sharafat Hossain, Mahbubul Alam, Enamul Huq, Saiful Islam and Shamim Akand.

Half a point crowding the second place are: Yanur Rahman, Sadequul Huq, Ashraful Islam, Khaled Hassan, Ashiqul Huq and Rathindranath Sur.

Mansur SC lift OK Sports Cup
Sports Reporter
Mansur Sporting Club clinched the title of the second OK Sports Cup juvenile football tournament defeating Sorai United Club by the odd goal in three in the final at the Sorai United Club ground yesterday.

Wahid scored both the goals for the winners while Nuru pulled one back for the vanquished.

Managing Director of the sponsors, Habibur Rahman, gave away the prizes among the winners.

ESPN's big deal
NEW DELHI, Aug 1: The US sports television network ESPN has wrapped up a deal worth 40 million dollars to telecast domestic and international cricket in India over the next five years, reports AFP.

The deal, which excludes the 1996 World Cup to be hosted in the Indian sub-continent, was finalised by ESPN and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) recently, a BCCI source said today.

The source said a formal announcement would be made in mid-August after "some problems relating to this are sorted out."

ESPN is still worried about the extent of co-operation it will receive from Doordarshan, the state-run television, he said.

The London-based Trans World International (TWI) went to court last year when Doordarshan refused to give it satellite uplinking facilities to telecast the five-nation Hero Cup tournament in India.

TWI won the legal battle, but Doordarshan has turned down ESPN's offer of a two-year arrangement for telecast of cricket matches to Indian audiences, the BCCI source said.

Cooperation with Doordarshan, which reaches more than 40 million homes across India, is crucial for the success of the deal which the state-run network sees as an encroachment on its territory.

Shocker for world champs

COLOMBO, Aug 1: World one-day kings Pakistan were shocked by a Sri Lanka Board XI when the home side squeaked through to a two-wicket win with three balls to spare in a limited-over game here Monday, reports AFP.

After restricting the mighty Pakistan side to 195 for 8 in 47 overs, the Board XI made 198 for 8 in 46.3 overs, thanks to a gussy unbroken stand of 23 runs in 14 balls for the 9th wicket between Eric Upashantha (18) and Ajith Weerakody (3).

The Board XI needed seven runs off the last over from paceman Waqar Younis. But it was an overthrow to the boundary that clinched the issue for the home side.

Upashantha had cracked left-arm spinner Amir Sohail for two successive fours in the penultimate over to once again lift the hopes of the huge crowd that was cheering from almost the boundary line.

It was a match of swinging fortunes after Younis sent back opener Athula Samarasekera in his first over. But a useful contribution from skipper Sanath Jayasuriya (29) and a top-score of 41 by Sanjeeva Ranatunga steadied the top-order.

Younis, finally found his form to finish with 3 for 48 while leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed took 2 for 30.

Earlier, Pakistan could make only 195 for 8 despite another half century (62) from Malik, who lost the toss to his counterpart Jayasuriya.

Paceman Ravindra Pushpakumara, helped by overcast weather conditions, returned the best figures of 3 for 26.

Pakistan play the first of three one-day internationals against Sri Lanka here Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the one-day cricket match between the Sri Lanka Board President's XI and Pakistan on Monday:

PAKISTAN
Saeed Anwar c Dasanayake b Pushpakumara 0
Amir Sohail c Pushpakumara 45
Inzamamul Haq c Chandana b Upashantha 3
Salim Malik c and b Jayasuriya 62
Basit Ali run out 19
Asif Mujtaba c Weerakody b Dharmasena 1
Rashid Latif c Weerakody b Jayasuriya 10
Akram Raza b Pushpakumara 19
Waqar Younis not out 16
Mushtaq Ahmed not out 6
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-2, w-10) 14
Total: (for eight wickets, 47 overs, innings closed) 195

Fall of wickets: 1-1: 2-30: 3-60: 4-101: 5-105: 6-146: 7-149: 8-183.

Did not bat: Ashfaq Ahmed

Bowling:
Pushpakumara 10 2 26 3
Upashantha 7 0 41 1
Weerakody 6 0 40 0
Dharmasena 10 1 27 1
Jayasuriya 10 1 36 2
Ranatunga 4 0 23 0

SRI LANKA BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI
A. Samarasekera c Latif b Waqar 2
S. Jayasuriya c Ashfaq b Malik 29
S. Ranatunga run out 41
R. Kulwirathana lbw b Mushtaq 13
H. Wickremaratne c Mujtaba b Mushtaq 13
P. Dasanayake b Waqar 13
U. Chandana c Mujtaba b Waqar 19
K. Dharmasena run out 23
E. Upashantha not out 18
A. Weerakody not out 3
Extras: (b-5, lb-11, nb-3, w-5) 24
Total: (Eight wickets 46.3 overs) 198

Fall of wickets: 1-2: 2-55: 3-92: 4-102: 5-127: 6-128: 7-175: 8-175.

Did not bat: R Pushpakumara

Bowling:
Waqar 9.3 0 48 3
Ashfaq 6 0 26 0
Raza 8 1 22 0
Malik 7 0 27 1
Mushtaq 10 0 30 2
Sohail 6 0 29 0

Result: Sri Lanka Board President's XI won by two wickets.



The Argentine superstar Diego Maradona (2nd-L) poses along with the Brazilian soccer stars Branco (L), Dunga (2nd R) and Bebeto before a brief exhibition match staged in the studios of a Buenos Aires television station on July 31. The world champions won the four-a-side match 7-4. — AFP photo

Umpiring, Taylor's concern

ADELAIDE, Australia, Aug 1: New Australian cricket captain Mark Taylor has instructed his players to avoid any controversy when they tour Sri Lanka and Pakistan later this year, reports AP.

The Australian squad of 14, the first Test party to be led by Taylor since the retirement of Allan Border earlier this year, will leave Sydney on Sept. 1 for an eight week tour.

The players currently are attending a training camp to help prepare them for the conditions of the subcontinent.

Australia's last visit to Pakistan in 1988 was soured by threats to abandon the tour, while England (1987) and New Zealand (1990) both had run-ins with umpires and their hosts while on tour.

"We have talked a bit about Pakistan, but we really don't want to put too much emphasis on previous tours," Taylor said Monday.

"There have been quite a few negative from other tours and we don't want that to be a distraction to us. We have to adapt to the conditions and the customs we meet over there."

Taylor said he is confident

the Australian players will cope with the different culture.

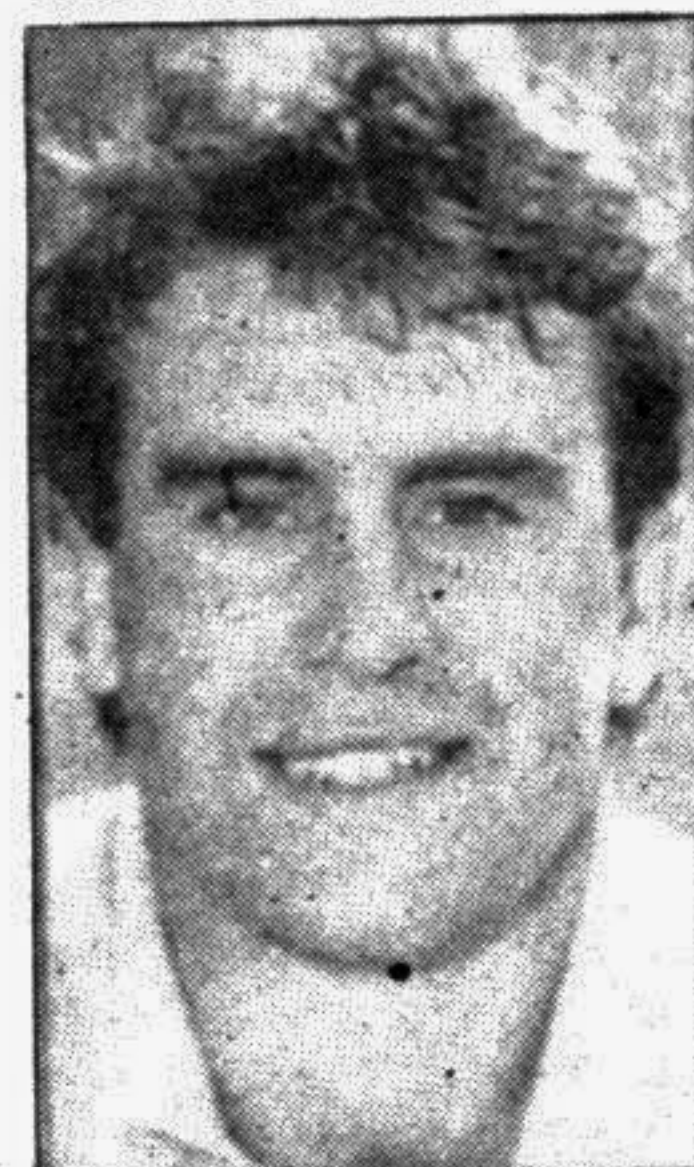
"The word we get back now is that the hotels are quite good and the only real problem is the water," he said.

He said he wants to ensure the younger players coming into the Australian team — including Gavin Robertson, Jo Angel and Damien Fleming — can make an immediate contribution.

"A B (Border) left the side in good shape and we have a good platform to work with," he said.

"I think I'm a personable sort of a bloke and I want to chat to the young blokes one-on-one to make sure they are going well and that we can get their input."

The Australians have not played since mid-April and their first break in almost two years has allowed key players David Boon (knee), Ian Healy (ankle) and Craig McDermott (knee) to regain fitness after undergoing surgery.



MARK TAYLOR
"We have to go to Pakistan with a clear mind and to expect some good, hard cricket."
Taylor was groomed as Border's heir for the two years

Swimmers leave for Delhi

A 14-member swimming team leaves Dhaka today for New Delhi to participate in the three-day eighth Asia Pacific age group swimming competition beginning there from August 5, reports BSS.

Mohammed Solaiman will be the manager of the team and Arun Kumar Nandi will act as co-manager. Maksudur Rahman is the coach while Kamaluddin will be a representative in the team.

The swimmers in the team are — A Hamid Ripon, Moniruzzaman, Nazmul Kabir, Zaman Hossain, Alamgir Hossain, Masud Rana, Ramzan Ali, Abdullah Al-Moktadir, Abdul Awal and Shahriar Khan.

IAAF coaches' course begins
The IAAF Olympic Solidarity coaches' course began on Monday at the conference room of National Sports Council, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF), in co-operation with the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), has organised the IAAF level one coaching programme.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain opened the 16-day programme.

BAAF president M Enamul Hoq, BOA vice-president Capt (Retd) Siddiqueur Rahman and BAAF general secretary M A Mannan also spoke on the occasion.

About thirty athletics coaches from across the country are taking part in the course.

Eidi Alizant of Iran and Australian John Hommen are the two IAAF trainers conducting the course.

Hooper pulls Kent through

LONDON, Aug 1: West Indian star Carl Hooper's all-round talent saw Kent home over Gloucestershire in a 20-over thrash, reports AFP.

Hooper scored 61 in Kent's daunting 227-4 and then chipped in with two vital wickets in the middle of Gloucestershire's innings.

The home side were left 50 runs short, but in a day interrupted by rain the spectators saw nearly 400 runs scored off only 40 overs.

Kent move up to fourth in the table, 10 points behind the leaders but only one more win away from second place.

Leaders Warwickshire were frustrated by the weather. They piled up 239 against Derbyshire at Chesterfield but saw the match abandoned before the home side could begin their reply.

Glamorgan defeated Somerset by five wickets with six balls to spare in a match reduced by rain to 24 overs at Swansea.

Devastating De Villiers

LEICESTER, England, Aug 1: South African paceman Fanie de Villiers produced a telling performance five days ahead of the second Test against England by capturing six for 67 to wreck Leicestershire on Sunday, reports Reuter.

De Villiers, who is expected to make the most of traditional seamers' conditions in the Headingley Test starting on Thursday, helped to dismiss Leicestershire for 167, putting the touring team in charge.

South Africa, with a first innings lead of 103, extended it to 154 by making 51 for one in their second innings before a heavy thunderstorm in mid-afternoon ended play on the second day of the three-day match.

De Villiers has emerged, at 29, as a high-Class pace bowler almost recognisable from the cricketer who struggled to make an impact for Kent during his one season in county cricket in 1990.

With three wickets overnight in Leicestershire's 74 for four, De Villiers snapped up three more in the morning session, taking his tour haul to 26.

The highlight of his pre-lunch spell was wonderfully athletic tumbling return catch to dismiss tailender Alan

3000m mark on Morcelli's mind

MONTE CARLO, Aug 1: An attempt on the 3,000 metres world record should highlight a glittering night of athletics in Monaco on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Algerian Noureddine Morcelli, who already holds the mile and 1,500 metres world records, will be bidding to break the seven minutes 28.96 seconds set by Kenyan Moses Kiptanui in Cologne two years ago this month.

Morcelli missed the mark by just a couple of strides — 0.28 of a second — at the same meeting last summer, but is expected to better it this time.

Two other African world record holders are in the field of 16 — Ethiopian Haile Gebresilasie (5,000 metres) and Kenyan William Singel, who broke the 10,000 metres best in Oslo last month.

Italy's Francesco Panetta, European 3,000 metres steeplechase champion, and Kenyans Ismael Kirui, world



DE VILLIERS, 6 for 67

career, but was ultimately thwarted by fellow paceman Richard Snell.

Snell bowled wicketkeeper Paul Nixon for 33 to end a plucky last wicket stand of 38 with Alamgir Sheriary.

When South African batted again, left-arm paceman Mullyally had out-of-form opener Andrew Hudson lbw for nine with a delivery that kept low in his opening over.

Gary Kiersten (18 not out) and Hansie Cronje (24 not out) were batting with increasing confidence when the rain came.

OFFER FOR CRONJE
Meanwhile, South African batsman Hansie Cronje has been asked by Leicestershire to become their overseas player next season.

Opener Phil Simmons, the country's current signing, is likely to be in the West Indies squad touring England in 1995 and Cronje is seen as the best replacement.

"Perhaps a season of county cricket would make me a better player, and discipline would be good. Above all else my aim is to do well for South Africa and when I make my decision, which will be in the next two weeks, it will be based around that," said Cronje.

Warren's words of worry

SYDNEY, Aug 1: Australian soccer's most respected former player today warned his country would be doomed to mediocrity internationally unless the domestic league was scrapped and replaced with a new competition, reports Reuter.

Former national team captain Johnny Warren wants the complete overhaul of Australia's semi-professional National Soccer League (NSL) to improve standards and increase public and corporate support.

Warren, 51, made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1973 for his services to the game, said the NSL, with a majority of clubs aligned to Australia's Greek, Italian and Croatian communities was stunting soccer's growth.

Warren made the last of his 46 international appearances at the 1974 World Cup in West Germany.

Warren's words of worry

WARREN'S WORDS OF WORRY
Warren, 51, made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1973 for his services to the game, said the NSL, with a majority of clubs aligned to Australia's Greek, Italian and Croatian communities was stunting soccer's growth.

Warren made the last of his 46 international appearances at the 1974 World Cup in West Germany.

With a keen sense of timing Kiptanui set a world best in the two miles, the imperial equivalent of the 3,000 metres, at Hechtel, Belgium, on Saturday, with 8:09.01. He shaved more than three seconds off the previous best set by Moroccan Khalid Skah a year ago.

McDonald said, "There are absolutely no plans for Kiptanui to run against Morcelli over any distance in the future."

The meeting, the last before the European Championships begin in Helsinki on Sunday, will also spotlight the latest appearance of Sergei Bubka, who came back from his failure to win the gold medal at the Goodwill Games with his 35th official world pole vault record at Sestriere on Sunday.

Bubka, who cleared 6.14 metres and won a bonus prize of a 130,000 Ferrari, will be appearing at one of the few venues where he has not set a world record in the last 10 years.



Action from yesterday's lone Star First Division football league match between Sadharaan Bima KS and Dhaka Wanderers Club at the Dhaka Stadium. Bima won the match 3-1. — Star photo



VICTORIOUS BUBKA: Ukrainian pole vault champion Sergei Bubka flashes the V-sign after setting a new record of 6.14 metres at an international athletics meeting in Sestriere, Italy on July 31. — AFP photo