

Sport

Akram to skipper Dhaka XI



AKRAM KHAN

final list of fifteen players yesterday for the Moin Uddowla Gold Cup cricket tournament to be held in the Indian city of Hyderabad from August 13 to 19.

National player Akram Khan will be the skipper of the Bangladesh side, which will compete in the 16-team event under the banner of Dhaka Eleven.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, among the four national players included in the side that won the seven national international youth cricket tournament recently, has been appointed as vice-captain.

The two other national players included in the side are Jahangir Alam, Enamul Haq Moni.

Four players — Bidoyut, Biplob, Salkat and Plabon who were on the four of Malaysia — have been dropped.

The Dhaka Eleven which will leave for India tomorrow will play their first match on the inaugural day of the seven-day meet.

SQUAD

Akram Khan (captain), Aminul Islam Bulbul (vice-captain), Enamul Haq Moni, Jahangir Alam, Naimur Rahman Durjoy, Khaled Masud Pilot, Zaved Omar Belim Golla, Zakaria Intiaz Mostadir Litu, Sohail Islam, Mehrab Hossain Opt, Morshed Ali Khan Sumon, Rakib Hasan Bappi Sajal Ahmed, Hasibul Hossain Shanta.

School hockey from Aug 19

The first-ever school hockey tournament, will begin at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium on August 19, reports UNB.

Seventeen teams, divided in two groups, will compete in the country-wide knock-out basis tournament organised by Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF).

Dhaka Residential Model School will take on Noakhali Zilla School in the opening match at 3 pm.

The participating teams are: Group A — Barisal Zilla School, Lalmatia Housing Society School, Rangpur High School, Armanitola Govt High School, Dhaka Residential Model School, Noakhali Zilla School, Dhaka Nabakumar Institute and Faridpur Maizuddin High School.

Group B — Mymensingh Zilla School, Gazipur Harinam High School, Sylhet Police Line High School, Narayanganj High School, Dhaka Govt Laboratory School, Cox's Bazar Chakoria Govt High School, Ahmed Bawani Academy, Patuakhali Govt High School and Rajshahi Medical Campus High School.

The final will be held on August 28.

Atherton laughs it off

LEEDS, England, Aug 9: Mike Atherton denied South African accusations on Monday that his side had been guilty of "ridiculous" appealing during the drawn second Test, reports Reuter.

South African captain Kepler Wessels suggested some England close fielders had played an unfair role in the dismissals of Gary Kirsten and Jonty Rhodes who were both unhappy to be given out caught behind the wicket.

"There's a few vociferous people in the England team," said Wessels. "They put pressure on the umpires and that's not necessarily fair. There were a few appeals that were ridiculous, but there's nothing you can do about it because that's the way the game seems to be these days."

But Atherton countered: "If you believe the ball has hit the bat, or bat and pad, then you go up for it. There's no crime in appealing if you think you deserve a wicket."

Wessels, meanwhile, admitted he was "very concerned" about his injured strike bowler Allan Donald.

"Allan is to have more treatment on his injured toe and hopefully he will be okay or the last Test at the Oval. But it's worrying."

C'wealth Games squad named

Sports Reporter

A twenty-three member Bangladesh contingent will leave Dhaka for Canada on Friday to take part in the fifteenth Commonwealth Games to be held from August 18 to 28 in Victoria.

Although the accent in selecting the competitors has been on shooting as the high ratio of ten shooters in a total of fifteen would suggest, some of the more proven medal prospects like Ateeq, Kazi Shahana Parveen are not there reportedly owing to personal problems.

Noted among those picked are Saiful Alam Rinki, gold winner in the sixth SAF Games in Dhaka and Asif Hossain.

The other members of the shooting team are Toufiqur Rahman, Haider Ali, Golam Mohiuddin Haider, Nasiruddin, Firdousi Parveen, Razia Naushad, Lovely Chaudhuri.

Two officials — the Chinese coach and an interpreter will complete the shooting equip.

Bimal Chandra Tarafdar, the fastest man of South Asia will form the two-member athletes team. Hurdler Abdur Rahim Nayeem is the other member of the rather pinched section. Syed Bazul Rahman will accompany the team as the athletics official.

Qarar Mizanur Rahman, the young natant, who came under the spotlight in the last SAF games will form the swimming team along with veteran swimming ace Mokhlesur Rahman.

Mozammel Huq, the lone gold winner for Bangladesh in boxing in the seven-nation Games held last December, is the solitary boxer picked for the Commonwealth countries.

Bashir Ahmed and Inamul Haq secretary general and vice president respectively of the

Bangladesh Olympic Association will accompany the contingent as the CGA representatives.

Abdul Hamid, a former footballer turned sports commentator now playing the dual role of a BOA member and a newsman will travel with the team in the capacity of general team manager.

Mehabul Islam is the second shooting official in the team apart from Nurul Alam who though designated as an official will in reality be performing the job of an interpreter for the Chinese coach.

Fazlul Haq, a Member of Parliament and also a Bangladesh Football Federation member will lead the tour party as the chef de mission.

Taka 25 lakhs have been earmarked for the preparatory and travelling expenses.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between Shantinagar Club and Muslim Institute at the Dhaka Stadium. The game ended goalless. — Star photo

New rules may usher chaos

LONDON, Aug 9: English soccer's top managers warned of a chaotic start to the new season as the law was laid down to them on Monday, reports Reuter.

Premier league managers met to be told that tough new directives introduced by FIFA at the World Cup are to be applied in English soccer this season.

It means a change in emphasis to the offside law, a clampdown on the tackle from behind and tough action from referees on dissent, abusive language and time wasting.

Injured players will also have to be moved off the pitch to be treated, as they were in America.

But Premier league managers felt there was little wrong with English soccer and predicted a huge rush of early season red and yellow cards.

They were also upset that the law changes were confirmed less than a week before the start of the English season.

Queen's Park Rangers manager Gerry Francis, one of eight Premier league managers at the meeting, said: "I hope things are not going to be as bad as one or two of us felt. The World Cup was a success, but there was a real increase in red and yellow cards there."

"I hope that doesn't happen here. The rules on the tackle from behind have always been there. We must not put the referees under too much pressure to book players just for tackling," Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United, and Arsenal boss George Graham both left without comment.

But League Managers Association chief executive Steve Coppell said: "Things are going to be totally different. We have just seen a season that was a success by any standards. Then we saw a World Cup played in totally different conditions."

"Now those conditions have been imposed on us by FIFA. The initial weeks of the season will be very difficult. Not only for the managers and players,

but also for the referees," Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, said: "Managers have every right to be worried. We are in danger of giving our game the wrong image."

"Referees will have full co-operation from managers and players if they show some consistency. But it would be totally wrong to take a heavy-handed approach."

Premier league chief executive Rick Parry said there was not turning back: "These are not proposals. They are instructions coming down from FIFA, so it is not a debate. It is fact."

Friendly brews unfriendliness

BUCHAREST, Aug 9: Romania's soccer chiefs were at odds on Monday about a planned friendly against England in October, reports Reuter.

National team manager Anghel Iordanescu told a news conference he did not want his team to play in London, but Soccer Federation boss Mircea Sandu said the game was too important to miss.

"Such a game will not benefit our European Championship preparations because no other opponent in our group is similar in style to British soccer," Iordanescu said.

But Sandu told the conference: "It will be played whether Iordanescu agrees or not. It's top quality soccer and it's too important to be missed."

Iordanescu led Romania to the quarter-finals of the World Cup in July, but rumours have circulated since that he might leave the country.

But on Monday he confirmed he had agreed to stay on until the European Championship finals in England in 1996 if Romania qualify.

"It's true that I have received some interesting offers and the money I was offered would give me sweet dreams," he said.

"I rejected all the proposals and I began preparations for the first official game to be played on September 8 against Azerbaijan," he added.

Iordanescu is under contract with the Romania Soccer Federation until 1996, so for two years he will not leave Romania for any other country or soccer club," Sandu said.

Iordanescu made himself unpopular with the Romanian media during the World Cup finals by barring press access to the players.

"I apologise now to journalists but they must understand that before a crucial match like those against the US or Argentina the players need peace and quiet to concentrate. The good results we had confirm I did the right thing," he said.

Dhanmondi notch first win

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society suffered their first defeat in the Star First Division football league when Dhanmondi Club handed them a 1-0 defeat in one of the two matches held at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The old Dhaka outfit which was demoted to the First Division last year missed a couple of easy chances before conceding a 55th minute goal that ended their winning run after convincing victories over Muslim Institute, Shantinagar and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Milon scored the match decider to earn the Dhanmondi outfit their first victory after two draws and one loss. But Rahmatganj who enjoyed the better of exchanges were deprived of the lead in the 20th minute when their midfielder Azim shot wide off the mark from inside the box.

Fifteen minutes later Akhter delayed to shoot into an open net and Dhanmondi defender Ata cleared for a corner.

In the other match of the day two promotees to the First Division this year shared points in a lacklustre goalless draw.

The draw left Muslim Institute to collect their first point from three matches while Shantinagar bagged two playing same number of outings.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Wari Club vs Fakirerpool YMC 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium) Mohammedan SC vs Arambagh KS 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Sangbad World Cup quiz draw held

Sports Reporter The lucky draw of the four-phase World Cup quiz competition organised by the Bengali daily "Sangbad" was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Saadeq Hossain graced the occasion as chief guest.

Jules Nyongha new Cameroon coach

YAOUNDE, Aug 9: Jules Nyongha, given the job of restoring Cameroon's soccer pride, has won a pledge of non-interference from the government, reports Reuter.

Nyongha, appointed last week to replace sacked Frenchman Henri Michel, said Sports Minister Bernard Massoua had promised not to interfere with team selection.

"He has also promised to grant adequate logistics for the smooth functioning of the team," Nyongha told Reuters on Sunday. His first match in charge will be an African Nations Cup qualifier against Swaziland in Mababane on September 3.

Political meddling and greed are blamed for the disappointing display by Cameroon's Indomitable Lions' at this year's World Cup finals, where they failed to get past the first round.

German-trained Nyongha is Cameroon's top local coach, having guided five teams from the Second Division to the First, for a decade until the American debacle, during which the Lions dominated African soccer, he was assistant coach to the national squad.

Nyongha's appointment as the first Cameroonian put in charge of the national side for 20 years has been well received.

"I hope the government gives Nyongha top-class treatment similar to that given to foreign coaches," wrote soccer columnist Ouedji Norbert in the daily Le Messager.

English booter for Kuwaiti club

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: A British soccer player will join a Kuwaiti football team next September for the first time, after 15 years of absence of foreign players in the country, reports Xinhua.

Al-Kuwaiti Sporting Club has signed a one-year contract with Shaun Brooks, 31, a centre-half of the British Crystal Palace team for over 400 matches, Kuna news agency reported according to a source in the club.

The source said that the club would make contacts to sign another foreign player.

The source declined to discover the size of money Brooks is to get for playing in Kuwait.

In mid-July, the public authority for youth and sports, the top sports authority in Kuwait, decided to give green lights to its sports clubs for employing non-Kuwaiti soccer players.

Each of the country's 14 clubs is allowed to hire up to two players from abroad for their soccer teams.

Pakistan 297 for 6 on Day One

COLOMBO, Aug 9: Sri Lanka's slow bowlers checked a Pakistani batting onslaught here Tuesday, taking six wickets on the opening day of the first Test, reports AFP.

After a sound start by their front line batsmen, Pakistan finished the day on 297 for six on a wicket tailor-made for Sri Lanka's three slow bowlers.

Right-arm off-cutter Kumar Dharmasena returned the best figures of 3 for 80 after making the breakthrough for Sri Lanka in the morning session, claiming the wicket of opener Aamir Sohail for 41.

Sohail shared a 45-run first wicket partnership with Anwar Saeed, who struck a fluent 94 before being dismissed by the other off-cutter Jayananda Warnaweera.

From 180 for 1, Pakistan lost five wickets for 80 runs before Inzamam-ul-Haq and Wasim Akram prevented further embarrassment for skipper Salim Malik, who won the toss, with an unbeaten seventh-wicket stand of 37 runs.

Inzamam's 46 not out included six fours but it was the big-hitting Akram who dominated the stand, clouting Warnaweera for a six and smashing four other boundaries for a quick 22 not out off 30 balls.

Warnaweera finished with figures of two for 55 while Muttiah Muralidharan, Sri Lanka's leading off-spinner, claimed the sixth wicket to fall.

Pakistan got off to a flying start when openers Anwar and Sohail produced 65 runs off 14 overs. Sohail was the more aggressive of the two, before being clean bowled by Dharmasena. He hit eight boun-

daries in his 73-minute stay at the crease.

Warnaweera then claimed Anwar's wicket with the



SAEED ANWAR ... 94

opener just six runs short of his second Test century.

The left-hander, who was involved in a 115-run stand with Asif Mujtaba, hit nine boundaries in his 229-minute knock.

Anwar's dismissal triggered the slide, with Dharmasena delivering a body-blow eight balls later by sending back Skipper Salim Malik back to the pavilion for one. By then, Sri Lanka had signalled their fight-back in the field.

Malik's wicket was the most sought-after, following the Pakistani captain's blazing run of five consecutive half-centuries prior to the Test. Mujtaba, who was dropped on one, made his exit in the 13th over after tea when he dug into

a ball on the off from Dharmasena but, which got an outside edge and was gleefully picked up by wicketkeeper Pubudu Dassanayake. Mujtaba made 44 runs in 223 minutes.

Warnaweera bagged his second wicket when he had the highly talented Basil Ali before for 27 to leave Pakistan in a tight situation at 247 for 5.

Muralidharan had to wait until the final hour to prove his mettle.

Pakistani wicketkeeper Rashid Latif was tempted to cut one from Muralidharan but was caught by his Sri Lankan counterpart Dassanayake for a duck.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Pakistan on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings Anwar c Jayasuriya b Warnaweera 94 Sohail b Dharmasena 41 Mujtaba c Dassanayake b Dharmasena 44 Malik c Tilkekeratne b Dharmasena 1 Basil Ali lbw b Warnaweera 27 Inzamam not out 46 Latif c Dassanayake b Muralidharan 0 Akram not out 22 Extras (lb-7, lb-3, nb-12) 22 Total: (for six wickets) 297

Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-180, 3-181, 4-221, 5-247, 6-260

To bat: Akram Raza, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis

Bowling (to date): O M R W Wickremasinghe 6 0 19 0 Gurusinha 4 1 24 0 Dharmasena 29 6 80 3 Muralidharan 29 5 104 1 Warnaweera 21 2 55 2 De Silva 1 0 5 0

SRI LANKA: A Ranatunga, R Mahanama, S Jayasuriya, A Gurusinha, A De Silva, H Tilkekeratne, P Dassanayake, P Wickremasinghe, M Muralidharan, K Dharmasena, J Warnaweera.

Rothenberg under siege

NEW YORK, Aug 9: (AP) He ran the best-attended World Cup in history. He hired a coach that won the United States a regional championship, finished runner-up in another and got them past the first round of the World Cup for the first time since 1930.

Now Alan Rothenberg has to convince the US Soccer Federation he deserves a second four-year term as president.

Less than a month after the World Cup Final, Rothenberg is facing a severe challenge to his leadership of American soccer, accused of conflict of interest and simply trying "to run everything."

Rothenberg predicts he will win easily. Others in the federation are predicting the Thursday-to-Sunday USSF Annual General Meeting in San Diego will be high drama.

It's hard to understand, especially considering the last four years — and not just the World Cup, but everything else we've accomplished, that anyone would be dissatisfied. But that's life," Rothenberg said.

"People have their own particular self-interests involved. When it's all over, we'll win in a landslide."

Despite the public confidence, Rothenberg has alienated some in the Federation by controlling all major aspects of the USSF: the World Cup, leadership of the Federation, and the chairmanship of Major League Soccer, the proposed US First Division league set to begin in April.

"He is choosing to run everything," said the man seen as his chief rival, Federation treasurer Richard Groff. "He's not the only one who's done anything in the last four years and what we're saying is 'hey, spread the leadership responsibilities.'"

"It's a choice issue. If you believe Alan Rothenberg should be running everything, then you vote for him. If you believe there should be division of leadership, that's what

we offer."

The battle already has deteriorated into a personal grudge match.

At last week's US-China women's exhibition game, Groff and Rothenberg passed by each other several times without even acknowledging the other's presence.

Groff, like Rothenberg a lawyer by trade, is expected to be joined by USSF executive vice president Hank des Bordes and Illinois State Youth Soccer Association president Louis Palivos when candidates are nominated to challenge Rothenberg in Saturday's election.

They are all running on a similar platform, but Groff is expected to mount the most serious challenge. As president of the Eastern Pennsylvania

World Cup in history in a country seen as ambivalent to soccer and unprecedented American success of in international competition — he also has made enemies.

The most bitter of those is the American Professional Soccer League, which traces its beginnings to the mid 1980s in the aftermath of the North American Soccer League.

But the league is seen by many as a Second Division, and when devising his plan for a First Division, Rothenberg did not include the APSL in it. The APSL controls one-third of the votes for the president.

Emenalo signs for Notts County

NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 9: Nigerian World Cup defender Michael Emenalo has joined English First Division club Notts County, reports AFP.

Emenalo, 28, who played in three of his country's matches in America, had been given a free transfer by Belgian side Molenbeek.

Reyna joins Leverkusen

CHICAGO, Illinois, Aug 9: America's Claudio Reyna signed a one-year contract with Bundesliga contenders Bayer Leverkusen, the US Football Federation announced (USSF) on Monday, reports AFP.

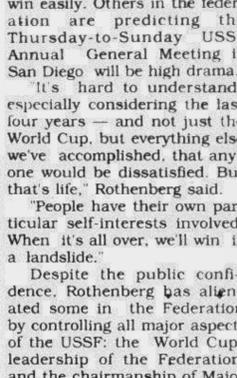
The 21-year-old midfielder was selected for the USA in this year's World Cup, but a hamstring injury just before the event kept him sidelined.

"This is very exciting for me to have a chance to play in the Bundesliga."

"This is a great opportunity to play with and against some of the top players in the world," said Reyna, who will join US teammate Thomas Dooley at Leverkusen.

However, Reyna was looking to return to football in the USA once it had formed a professional league.

The 21-club league (MLS) is set to begin next March.



ALAN ROTHENBERG



The prize-giving ceremony of the ninth schools chess tournament was held at the NSC conference room yesterday. Abdullah Al-Rakib (L) of Narayanganj High School emerged champion while Abu Sufian Shakil of Nakhlapara Hossain Ali School became runner-up. — Star photo