



Action from yesterday's Star First Division match between Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Shantinagar Club at the Dhaka Stadium. The game ended in a one-all draw. — Star photo

Beginning of an old tale

Sports Reporter

After an unscheduled three-day recess the Star Premier Division football league resumed on a depressing note as the sparse spectators who thronged at the Dhaka Stadium in the evening left the vicinity in sheer disgust as Motijheel neighbours Arambagh Krira Sangha and Fakirpool Yoyog Men's Club played out a seemingly pre-meditated goalless draw making a scarecrow out of the Dhaka metropolis football Association's strict disciplinary measures.

Earlier in the afternoon, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Shantinagar Club also ended their First Division affair in a one-all deadlock but that was a different story at least in the sense that both teams battled fair and square.

However, the first match of the day often regarded from a spectator's point of view, a tune-up for more important fixture of the day, led to somewhat a disappointing experience on the viewers' part as both teams setting the example of how neighbours should behave with each other staged an act which is held responsible by many for the downward trend in standard of the domestic football circuit.

So obvious was their intent that the players preferred not to take a track at the goal lest the play should backfire. And therefore as planned the match wore out the whole of the 90 minutes with booters crowding the midfield for no purpose at all apart from the veiled desire.

The farce enacted in the middle of the pitch naturally enraged the small crowd irrespective of their club allegiance and at one stage one of the supporters urged the working journalists to write something about the fixed match otherwise... incidentally no disciplinary committee member was found after the match.

According to the tournament bye-laws, a team involved in a fixed match is subject to heavy disciplinary measure ranging from a minimum fine of Taka 25000 to suspension.

However, it was not clear whether any kind of action would be taken against the two teams as this reporter could not find any official for immediate reaction although the disciplinary committee is supposed to file a report.

By means of this dubious draw Fakirpool who hit headlines when they held Glants Mohammedan Sporting Club to a one-all draw in the defending champions second league match, raised their collection to five points from five matches while Arambagh languished at three from five.

In the day's first encounter, Don set Eskaton on the course of securing their first point of the league with a 16th minutes strike but Liton of Shantinagar retaliated three minutes from the long whistle to make sure his side got one point.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Rahmatganj MFS vs Sadhan Bima KS 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium)
Wari Club vs Bangladesh Boys 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)
Mohammedan SC vs PWD SC 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

TCCB freezes import of foreign players

LONDON, Aug 16: The Test and County Cricket Board, under pressure to ban foreigners from English county cricket, on Tuesday imposed a partial four-month moratorium on the signings of overseas players, reports AP.

In its summer meeting at Lord's, the TCCB did not consider a formal proposal for the elimination of overseas players, but said it would likely consider the matter at its winter meeting in December.

"There will be a moratorium until the December meeting of the Board," TCCB chief executive Alan Smith said. "In this period no county will sign a new contract for an overseas cricketer that goes beyond the 1996 season."

"We will ask Lancashire to make an official proposal next month and our various committees will meet to examine all aspects of overseas players in county cricket," Smith said. "I anticipate a decision at the winter meeting."

The Lancashire club have led the drive to phase out overseas players by 1996, arguing that an ever-expanding international program doesn't allow counties to get their money's worth from players called up for foreign Test duty.

The county lost Wasim Akram halfway through this season and Somerset is doing without Mushtaq Ahmed because of Pakistan's tour to Sri Lanka.

The issue has also created argument that overseas players have a negative influence on the standard of England's game at an international level.

West Indies currently have a full team — Brian Lara, Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Phil Simmons, Jimmy Adams, Carl Hooper, Cameron Cuffy, Desmond Haynes, Winston Benjamin, Kenneth Benjamin — playing for English county clubs.

Hudson's place on the line

PONTYPRIDD, Wales, Aug 16: Opener Andrew Hudson is in danger of losing his place in South Africa's Test side after another batting failure on Monday, reports Reuters.

He followed his first innings four with a jittery 23 as the touring team drew their three-day game against Glamorgan.

Hudson has played in all 16 of South Africa's Tests since their return to the international fold.

But he will be lucky to make Thursday's third and final Test against England at the Oval after totalling only 266 runs from 18 innings on this trip — an average of 15.64.

He did his cause no good Monday by holding out to guide Leicestershire to their seventh win of the season and move them into second place in the table — nine points adrift of Warwickshire.

Millns hit a career-best 64 not out and then followed it up by claiming his best championship figures of the season as Worcestershire were bowled out for 191. Leicestershire winning by 97 runs.

Millns removed the first three batsmen in his first six over and then returned to finish things off and claim six for 84 in 16.2 overs.

Matthew Vandrau and Devop Malcolm guided their side to a victory target of 176 with a stand of 28.

England pacesman Malcolm's unbeaten 15 included a huge six over long-on off Franklyn Stephenson.

David Millns turned in a brilliant all-round performance against Worcestershire to their seventh win of the season and move them into second place in the table — nine points adrift of Warwickshire.

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Those options are to promote either Peter Kirsten or Hansie Cronje to opener and bring in Darryl Cullinan, who has scored three half-centuries in recent weeks.

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Lewis to miss Zurich meet



ZURICH, Aug 16: The Weltkayse Grand Prix track meet, billed as the competition of the season, offers a star-studded lineup for the men's 100-metre dash — despite a last minute pullout by Carl Lewis, reports AP.

America's sprinting elite — world record holder Leroy Burrell, rival Dennis Mitchell and record-greedy Jon Drummond — are straining for a showdown with Olympic and world champion Linford Christie of Britain in the event Wednesday evening.

Lewis, two-time Olympic gold medalist and three-time world champion, also planned to run after being sidelined by a stomach infection at the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg last month.

But the darling of the Zurich fans withdrew late Monday after doctors advised that a mineral deficiency caused by the infection could cause muscle damage.

Also in the world-class lineup are 1993 world champion Andre Cason, the world 200-metre champion Franking Fredericks of Namibia, and Olapade Adeniken, Davidson Ezinwa and Daniel Effiong, all of Nigeria.

The flamboyant Drummond has already boasted he will set a new world record at the prestigious meet.

"I will set the world record of 9.79 seconds. Then I will take a victory lap around the track," he predicted.

Burrell set the record of 9.85 at Lausanne, Switzerland, last July 6, slices one-hundredth of a second off the previous mark held by Lewis.

Drummond's training partner, the 1994 Goodwill Games

and Par Africa-USA meet winner Dennis Mitchell, is more quietly confident.

He has clocked five sub-10 second wins this season and is at the top of his form.

Mitchell is ready to take on the world's best — especially Christie, winner of his third European title at Helsinki earlier this month.

"You have to go into a race with the utmost confidence that everyone who comes into the race has to beat you," he said. "Linford Christie has to go up against me. But if you ask him, he'll say I have to go up against him... Take your pick."

The Zurich Weltklasse is the Grand Prix circuit's richest meet, attracting the cream of the athletics world. It is usually one of the most record-setting as well.

Also showing sizzling form is 200-metre Olympic gold medalist Gwen Torrence of the United States.

The 11th Torrence streaked to the fastest time this year at the Pan-Africa-USA

Games last week — 21.28 seconds.

It remains to be seen whether she will be able to match that form against the indefatigable Irina Privalova of Russia who burst through to a double win at the European Championships at Helsinki, taking both the 200 metres and 100 metres.

The men's 200 metres will likely be another highlight of the meet with Michael Johnson of the United States pitched against the Norwegian European champion Geir Moen.

Johnson has the season's second fastest time in the 200 metres, 19.94. He also won in the Goodwill 200 last month in 20.10.

In the long jump Heike Drechsler of Germany, who dominated the field at Helsinki, will have to battle it out against Jackie Joyner-Kersey of the United States.

The American strained a ligament in her right knee during the 110 metre hurdles at the Pan-Africa-USA meet last week and withdrew from the long jump.

"But her sights have long been set on the Zurich meet."

Other events attracting attention will be the men's 110-metre hurdles, where Briton Colin Jackson's challenge will most likely be the clock; the men's long jump, in which record-holder Mike Powell of the United States faces competition from up-and-coming compatriot Kareem Street-Thompson; and the men's 800 metres, where Kenyans Wilson Kipketer and Nixon Kiprotich will be up against Italian Andrea Benvenuti and Norwegians Atle Douglas and Vegjorn Rodal.

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They finished fifth last year — nine points behind Milan — after failing to maintain sparkling early form.

As they prepare for another assault on the title, Asprilla and Baggio may hold the key to the final crowning glory of Parma's rise, but Scala can rely on a galaxy of stars.

"I've never had a better group of players," Scala said recently, referring to deals which have given him a host of international stars to pick from.

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The midfield also look as strong as any in the Serie A.

Baggio, set to direct play between Swedish World Cup star Tomas Brolin and former Italy international Massimo Crippa, says he is a natural midfielder and complains of being misused as a defender at Torino, Inter Milan and Juventus.

"I was plagued by injury last year and never got into the groove," the 23-year-old said recently. "Parma have promised I will play at midfield and not as a defender, where Juventus kept me and where I am not happy."

The arrival of striker Marco Baranca, who scored 14 goals for relegated Udinese last year, has bolstered the attack and will ensure Asprilla and Sardinian Gianfranco Zola face competition for their starting roles.

SA swimmers' high hopes



VICTORIA, British Columbia, Aug 16: South African swimmers competing in their first Commonwealth Games for 36 years aim to help spoil the Australian medals party when competition starts on Friday, reports Reuters.

The Australians have put the word about that they are going to win everything. That's upset a few teams," South African swimming coach Brian Graham said on Sunday.

With their 19 swimmers and barely two years experience back in international competition, South African hardly expect to pose a serious threat to Australia's crack 45-strong squad.

But they have learned a lot since their disastrous first big international outing at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and confidence is returning.

Timings have improved a great deal in the last two years. "Since we've had more experience and motivation," said Graham. "Our target is five medals — perhaps two or three in the relays."

At the last Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand in 1990, Australia won 59 swimming medals, Canada 32, England 13 and New Zealand eight. Wales and Zimbabwe managed one apiece.

South Africa's hopes of spreading the medals a little more evenly this time rest on three individuals — Penny Heyns, ranked fourth in the world in the 100 metres breaststroke, Peter Williams in the 50 metres freestyle and Marianne Kriel in the 50 metres freestyle and 100 backstroke.

Heyns said she felt much more confident about her chances both in Victoria and at the World Championships in Rome next month than she had at the Olympics.



CARL LEWIS

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