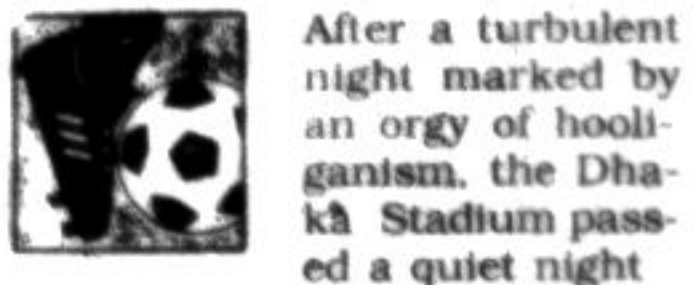


Quiet night, safe soccer



After a turbulent night marked by an orgy of hooliganism, the Dhaka Stadium passed a quiet night as two title chasers — Abahani Krira Chakra and star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad played out a goalless draw but Brothers Union another heavy-weight suffered a U-turn in fortune losing to lowly Agran Bank in the Star Premier Division football league yesterday.

The outcome of the yesterday's matches left holders Mohammedan at the top of the table with a slender one point lead ahead of Abahani, Muktiyoddha and Brothers Union who have seven points from five matches each.

A nearly full house crowd who gathered at the big bowl to enjoy a thrilling encounter between two top teams, were certainly disappointed by the pronounced tendency of both sides to resort to rough and tough football.

However, the DMFA Cup champions Abahani KC played better against a virtual national side and came close to scoring on several occasions.

Mintu, the promising winger of Abahani got the easiest chance in the 13th minute when he latched on to a ball, breaking an off-side trap, but with the Muktiyoddha custodian-cum skipper Mohsin at his mercy he shot straight to the on rushing goalkeeper.

One minute later, Mohsin left the field sustaining injury on his hand after a tussle with Abahani's Iraqi recruit Nazir Ali.

Arun Bikash Dewan, the reserve goalkeeper of Muktiyoddha replaced him under the bar and justified his inclusion with some brilliant saves.

The Federation Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad who survived a torrid 20-minute spell of sustained pressure from Abahani never appeared at their best in the 90 minute showdown.

Apart from four rearguards — Masud Rana, Aatur, Jewel and Titu — only Arman and Mizan somewhat lived upto the expectation.

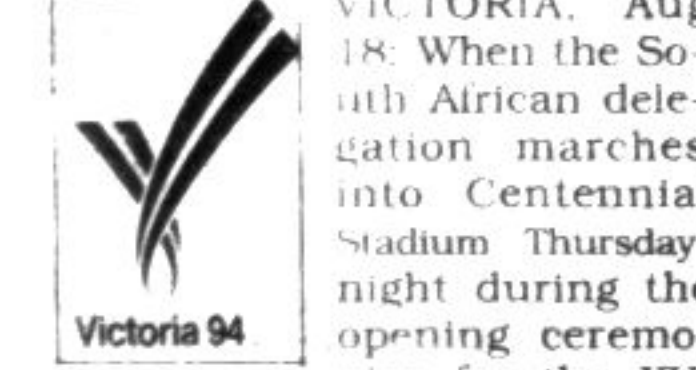
Mizan, the lanky forward took the only shot for Muktiyoddha in the match which slightly missed the mark.

The off-colour Mamun Joarder was rarely found to make any positive move down the flank while striker Nakib failed to head into an open net from a Masud Rana corner in the 38th minute.



Star footballer Rumman bin Wali Shabbir, who sustained a serious leg injury during Wednesday's Star Premier league match between his club Mohammedan Sporting and PWD, is now confined to bed following an operation at a city clinic. This year's domestic season is as good as over for this tiny creative winger — a galling revelation for the national player himself and football lovers. However, a touch of compassion, solace from a loving wife is forthcoming. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Family reunion after 36 yrs



VICTORIA, Aug 18: When the South African delegation marches into Centennial Stadium Thursday night during the opening ceremonies for the XV Commonwealth Games, it will be a memorable event for the country, reports AP.

"This is a very historic moment for South Africa," said Mthluki George, president of the South African Commonwealth Games Association. "It will be the first time the South Africans will be competing in the Commonwealth with the blessings of all South Africans."

The last time South Africa participated in the Games was 1958, and then, the athletes all were white. Three years later, South Africa was expelled from the Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies. Now, the 412-member team is integrated.

"This is important for the whole world, but especially for the Commonwealth countries," said Sam Ramsamy, chairman of South Africa's Commonwealth Games Association.

"We fought so hard to get apartheid out of the country. The symbolism is very important here, but it also was very important in Barcelona. That

was more symbolic than anything we've done in the past."

South Africa competed in the 1992 Olympic Games at Barcelona, after having been removed from the Olympic movement in 1970 because of its racial policies. The ban came 10 years after South Africa had last participated in the Games, in 1960 at Rome.

South Africa's return to the Olympics was assumed only shortly before the Games. So was the return to the Commonwealth Games. In fact, South Africa did not receive its official acceptance into the Commonwealth until June 1, following all-race elections that brought the first black-led government to power.

That made it very difficult for the country to put together representative teams for the Games, except for track and field, since its athletes have been competing in the United States and Europe this summer; swimming, with the athletes preparing for the World Championships at Rome Sept 1-11, and the popular sport of lawn bowling.

In track and field, South Africa has legitimate medal contenders in Elana Meyer, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist at 10,000 meters; Okkert Brits, the top-ranked pole vaulter in the Commonwealth who has cleared 5.85

metres this year; Johan Landsman, the 1992-93 runner-up at 1,500 metres in the African championships; and Gwen Griffiths, in the women's 1,500 and 3,000 metres.

"We don't expect much from our athletes," George said. "If they get medals, it will be a bonus for us."

"After this, we are going to start preparing for the Games in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia in 1998). When we leave South Africa then, we will know how many medals we will get in Kuala Lumpur."

"But the feeling from back home now is that we have a lot of support."

Ramsamy noted that people at home are saying that winning is not important, but participation is.

"When the competition begins, that goes out the window," he said. "We will be judged by our performances, not by appearances."

George said that the black members of the team made it by merit.

"We did not take blacks just to have a more colorful team," he said.

Ramsamy said he was surprised how quickly the rest of the world now has accepted South Africa, after years of neglect. Only a few years ago, he said, he did not envision such treatment.

Barcelon won't get in Romario's way

BARCELONA, Aug 18: Spanish champions Barcelona would not stop Brazilian striker Romario leaving the club if he wanted to coach Johan Cruyff said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Cruyff was commenting at a news conference on public controversy caused by Romario extending his holiday in Brazil after starring in his country's triumph in the World Cup in the United States last month.

"The problem is not whether he arrives back two days late or 20 days late. The problem is that he did not arrive on the appointed day," said the former Dutch international who has steered Barcelona to four successive Spanish league titles.

If Romario wanted to quit Barcelona the club would do nothing to stop him, Cruyff said.

"Our attitude to players is not new. We do not have preferences for one player or another — they are all equal."

Romario, leading scorer in Spain last season with 30 goals, said in Rio de Janeiro on Monday he was determined to have a full 30 days holiday after returning to Brazil on July 20.

He said he was prepared to pay a fine for his late return but would not accept being left on the substitute's bench as a punishment, as Cruyff has threatened.

Cruyff's deputy coach Carles Rexach said Romario would need intensive training for the new league season which starts on September 4.

"I suppose by mid-September he could be in shape," he said.

Rexach said he did not understand Romario's attitude towards Barcelona.

"According to Romario himself he owes his success in the Brazilian team to Barcelona and maybe the footballing opportunities which have come his way through being in our club."

"I don't understand how he can change his view so fast and apparently forget his own words," Rexach said.

Cricket, rugby, hockey on C'wealth cards

VICTORIA, Aug 18: Cricket, Rugby Union and hockey have been approved in principle as additions to the list of sports at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, reports Reuter.

The Malaysian Games will be the first Commonwealth event to include team sports, Commonwealth Games Federation secretary general David Dixon said on Wednesday.

The International Cricket Council, International Rugby Board and the International Hockey Federation have all agreed in principle to the inclusion of their sports in the 16th Games, federation officials heard.

They will feature both men and women's field hockey, seven-a-side rugby and limited-overs cricket.

Final details still have to be settled on issues such as the number of teams, but Dixon said he expects confirmation from the relevant sporting bodies by early 1995.

Squash has already been confirmed as a replacement for wrestling in Malaysia, and netball will also be added.

"The arrangements for 1998 are one-off and they are not intended to be a precedent for the future," added Dixon.

"For the 2002 Games and beyond, the Federation is planning for the 10 traditional sports, plus two team sports of the host nation's choice," he said.

Dixon said preparations for the Malaysian Games were well-advanced. "They want to make it a matter of national prestige and are going to build Olympic standard facilities."

Embarrassing expression

VICTORIA, Aug 18: Commonwealth Games Federation chairman Sonny de Salas said on Wednesday he deplored remarks by a top Australian official that cast a slur on the event's disabled athletes, reports Reuter.

Arthur Tunstall, who was appointed only on Tuesday as a vice-president of the federation, sparked a furore when he said he believed the disabled athletes were an embarrassment and should have their own separate competition.

His comments, and a subsequent late night brawl with reporters in the city's stately Empress Hotel, has upset the event's reputation as the 'Friendly Games'.

"No right minded person could say that he or she would not deplore that statement. It was not authorised," De Salas said at a press conference also attended by federation president Prince Edward.

Pressed further on any action the federation would take, De Salas said: "What would you like me to do, shoot him?"

English pace ploy pays off



LONDON, Aug 18: England's decision to go for an all-pace attack paid early dividends Thursday on the first day of the third Test against South Africa as the tourists ducked and weaved their way to 85 for four at lunch, reports AP.

Devon Malcolm immediately justified his inclusion by bowling several short balls and troubling openers Gary Kirsten and Peter Kirsten.

It was DeFreitas who made the first breakthrough in the third over of the day with the score on two. He enticed an edge from Gary Kirsten with a superb ball which moved away from the left-hander after pitching on off-stump. Stephen Rhodes took the straightforward catch behind the wicket.

Peter Kirsten followed 41 runs later, beaten by Malcolm's swing and pace to be bowled leg stump for 16.

Joey Benjamin, who was making his Test debut on his home ground at the Oval, took the vital wicket 15 minutes before lunch when Hansie Cronje was out for 38. Cronje and Kepler Wessels had just started to look settled with the score on 73.

DeFreitas completed the morning session with Daryll Cullinan's wicket on the stroke of lunch with a ball which moved away from the right hander's defensive prod for another simple catch to Rhodes.

England's three West Indian-born pacemen, plus Darren Gough, fulfilled Malcolm's comments on Wednesday that they were going to give the South Africans a torrid time and bowled their maximum quota of short-pitched deliveries with close to maximum effect.

All the South African batsmen were unconvincing in dealing with the short ball and Wessels' one attempt at an aggressive hook lobbed in the air and fell wide of England captain Michael Atherton at cover.

Benjamin came on 30 minutes before the end of the session and took his first Test wicket in his third over. He hit Cronje just below the knee in

front of leg-stump and New Zealand umpire Steve Dunne deliberated for several seconds before giving him out leg before wicket.

Wessels went into lunch not out on 20 at the fall of Cullinan's wicket.

Cullinan, who made seven, replaced the out-of-form opener Andrew Hudson, with

use of the pitch after South African captain Wessels won the toss and elected to bat in overcast conditions.

ENGLAND: Mike Atherton (captain), Graham Gooch, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Alec Stewart, John Crawley, Steve Rhodes, Phil DeFreitas, Darren Gough, Joey Benjamin, Devon Malcolm.

Veteran South African batsman Peter Kirsten tries to hook a fierce bouncer from English fast bowler Devon Malcolm in a very ungainly fashion during the first session of the third Test between England and South Africa at The Oval yesterday. Although this wonky attempt escaped fielders, Malcolm, recalled after a lay-off had the last laugh bowling Kirsten for 16.

Peter Kirsten moving up the order.

Benjamin was preferred in the starting 11 to spinner Phil Tufnell as England opted to exploit the extra pace and bounce at The Oval in their bid to level the series which South Africa lead 1-0.

England were given first

jump continually interrupted because the runway was too wet.

"A horror," said Olympic and world champion Heike Drechsler after finishing second to Ukrainian Inessa Kravets.

Third-placed Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who had hoped to break the world record, said: "I hope I'll never meet such conditions again."

Back on the track Olympic 1,500 champion Hassiba Boulmerka handed Sonia O'Sullivan only her second defeat of the season by overtaking the tiring Irishwoman to win the women's mile.

Boulmerka said it was her first race of the year and some compensation for her third place in last year's World Championships.

World champion Colin Jackson won his 13th consecutive race of the outdoor season in the men's high hurdles. Three times world champion Greg Foster pulled up midway through the race, crashed into a hurdle and was helped from the track.

"I wanted to run under 13 seconds to prove the quality of the new track but the weather was too bad," Jackson said.

His time of 10.05 was creditable in the conditions but victory was all that mattered to the Briton.

As the crowd chanted his name, he thrust two fingers in the air and shouted "Number One."

Later, still exuberant, Christie said, "When everybody was here, Linford Christie was first."

"This was harder than the World Championships, thank god I came through it okay. It was a bit tougher than the Olympic final but I came out on top. They say I'm old. Yes, I'm old but not cold."

All the world's leading sprinters were present for the first time this year with the exception of Carl Lewis, who pulled out on Monday saying he was suffering from a stomach ailment.

Lewis' Santa Monica Track Club teammate Burrell qualified for the final only after the toss of a coin to decide the final fastest loser.

Burrell was the lucky man ahead of world silver medalist Andre Cason who had clocked the same time in their heat. But in the end the world record holder managed only seventh place in the final.

Ominous, black storm clouds gathered over Zurich before the meeting and the rain started to fall three minutes before Mozambique's 800 metres world champion Maria Mutola started her assault on the world record.

Mutola finished outside the 11-year-old world mark but still clocked a national record and the fastest time of the year with one minute 55.19 seconds.

The field events were badly affected with the pole vault competition eventually cancelled and the women's long

jump continually interrupted because the runway was too wet.

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Graf rolls into qtrs

MONTREAL, Aug 18: Top-seed Steffi Graf fought through back problems to defeat Naoko Swamatsu of Japan 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 on Wednesday and advance to the quarter-finals at the 750,000 dollars Canadian Open, reports Reuter.

Graf received two on-court treatments from the tour trainer for her lower back problem in the third set of her third-round match.

"The last few weeks my disc keeps popping out and it even happens during matches," the German world number one said.

"It's not a serious condition because I've been X-rayed."

"It started during the middle of last year and I had it the rest of the year. I worked hard on my stomach and back muscles and it's been pretty much gone until three weeks ago when it started bothering me again."

The 25-year-old German has the day off on Thursday. "I've had this for a while so I know how to treat it," Graf said.

All the other matches were second-round contests.

Montreal-born Mary Pierce of France beat Rachel McQuillan of Australia 6-3, 6-3 to win her first tour match since the French Open and delight the local fans.

Other seeded players advancing were third-seed Kimiko Date of Japan, seventh-seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and ninth-seed Lori McNeil of the United States.

Ivanisevic exits

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 18: Seeded players are having a very tough time at the RCA Men's Hardcourts Championships this week, reports AP.

Top-seed Goran Ivanisevic joined defending champion Jim Courier on Wednesday in the growing ranks of upset victims at the Indianapolis Tennis Centre.

Doubles specialist Mark Woodforde of Australia defeated Ivanisevic, the world's second-ranked player, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5. A day earlier, unseeded Alex Corretja of Spain beat Courier, seeded fifth.

Also on Wednesday, sixth-seed Thomas Muster of Austria was beaten by Greg Rusedski of Canada, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, and Mats Wilander of Sweden used a steady baseline game to defeat fourth-seed Todd Martin of the United States.

Also, 10th-seed Jason Stoltenberg of Australia had to quit while trailing Kent Kinnear of the United States, 6-3, 1-0.

Mitchell loses his cool

ZURICH, Aug 18: U.S. Olympic 100 metres bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell was involved in a brawl with another leading sprinter in a hotel lobby today which left his opponent requiring stitches over one eye, eyewitnesses said, reports Reuter.

The eyewitnesses said Mitchell and Nigerian Olapade Adeniken had a stand-up fist-fight in the early hours of the morning following Wednesday's Zurich Grand Prix athletics meeting.

Security officers stepped in to separate the pair during the fight, which splattered blood on the carpet as other athletes in the packed lobby watched in disbelief.

"There was a lot of blood on Adeniken's face," one hotel official said. "One minute they were talking, the next fight broke out."

Another eyewitness said Adeniken had gone to his room with a doctor who had inserted stitches over an eye.

Adeniken finished third, one place ahead of pre-race favourite Mitchell in Wednesday's 100 metres final.

Viren falls on hard times

HELSINKI, Aug 18: Four times Olympic champion Lasse Viren is prepared to sell his gold medals if he gets one million markka (193,000 dollars) for each Finnish evening newspaper Ilta-lehti reported on Wednesday, says Reuter.

Viren, a Finnish national hero, won the 5000 and 10,000 metres titles at both the 1972 Munich and 1976 Montreal Games.

"The medals have no monetary value for me," the paper quoted Viren as saying.

"If somebody gives a million, (they) may choose the medal. It is four million (markka) or nothing. What does it matter whether they are with me or somewhere else?"

Gullit, AC's man of moment

MILAN, Aug 18: Dutch striker Ruud Gullit scored his first home goal since returning to AC Milan to lift his side to a 1-0 win over Germany's Bayern Munich and take the Luigi Berlusconi Trophy on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Britain's Olympic champion Linford Christie powers home to take the 100 metres final at the rain-hit Zurich Grand Prix meeting on August 17. World champion Leroy Burrell of the United States finished in seventh place. — AFP photo



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Dennis Mitchell and Olapade Adeniken in a physical confrontation during the Zurich Grand Prix athletics meeting.



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