

Farashganj, Shantinagar win

Sports Reporter
Shantinagar Club and Farashganj SC won their Star First Division football league matches by a similar 1-0 margin at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Shantinagar recorded their maiden victory in the league when they beat Dhanmondi Club by a 20th minute goal from striker Liton Khan.

Farashganj, an old town outfit edged past neighbours East End by a lone goal in the day's second match to earn their second successive win.

After the barren first half Ratan sealed the fate of the match in the 57th minute by a spectacular diving header.

Mamun Babu, a former national player, who is now playing for East End got the marching order along with Tipu Sultan of Farashganj in the 60th minute when both engaged in a scuffle following a foul.

Meanwhile, the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) have suspended all the Star Premier and First Division football league matches on Sunday on account of Eid-e-Miladunabi.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Eskaton Sabuj Sangha vs Muslim Institute 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium)
Arambagh KS vs Wari Club 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)
PWD SC vs Fakirerpool YMC 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between Dhanmondi and Shantinagar at the Dhaka Stadium. Shantinagar edged past Dhanmondi by a solitary goal. — Star photo

Pak-Lanka 2nd Test cancelled

COLOMBO, Aug 19: The second cricket Test match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, scheduled to start on Friday, was cancelled because of post-election security measures, cricket officials said, reports AP.

In view of the current situation, we had no alternative but to cancel the match," said Amura Tennakoon, secretary of the cricket board.

Sri Lanka went through a change of government this week after a socialist coalition ended the governing party's 17 years of rule in the island nation which is wracked by a Tamil secessionist war.

Instead, the two teams will play two one-day matches, one next Monday and the other next Wednesday, Tennakoon said.

He said the Test, whose scheduled start had already been switched from last Tuesday to Friday owing to the parliamentary elections, had been cancelled due to the uncertain situation following a government decision to impose an indefinite curfew beginning at 6 pm (1230 GMT) every day.

The third and the final Test match, rescheduled earlier this week to begin on August 26 instead of August 24, will go ahead, Tennakoon said.

Pakistan lead the Test series 1-0 after beating Sri Lanka by 301 runs in the first Test which finished on Saturday.

Sri Lanka and Pakistan played three one-day games before the Test series began. Pakistan won two and hosts Sri Lanka one.

IRATE INTIKHAB
Meanwhile, an AFP report said: The Pakistan cricket team complained to the Sri Lankan cricket board about unfair practice arrangements ahead of the Second Test due to begin at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) grounds here today.

The Pakistanis had planned to practise in the morning at the centre wicket of the SSC for a second successive day Thursday but when they arrived at the venue it was the Sri Lankan team that was making use of the wicket.

"We were told that we could use the grounds again today. But when we went there, the Sri Lankans were practising. I have complained to the cricket board about this unfair arrangement," said a bitter Pakistani manager Intikhab Alam.

Intikhab said that since they were unable to practise, they returned to their hotel.

Sri Lankan cricket board secretary Anura Tennakoon attributed the confusion to a "mix up" in communications.

"Apparently there has been a mix-up. Both teams had gone to the grounds thinking it was their turn in the morning. But the Sri Lankans got there first," Tennakoon said.

Due to the prevailing nationwide curfew in Sri Lanka, the cricketers of both teams were issued curfew passes to attend practice.

Intikhab said his team was "very confident" of performing well in the second Test. Pakistan handed out a 301-defeat to Sri Lanka inside four days in the first. Pakistan is likely to keep the same team that won the first Test.

Sri Lankan manager Kehelgamuwa said his side was in good shape and was not demoralised after the first match.

The first Test debacle prompted Sri Lanka to drop five leading internationals including two of their slow bowlers Jayananda Warnawera and Muttiah Muralidharan.

TEAMS
SRI LANKA: A Ranatunga (capt), RS Mahanama, D Samarawera, S Ranatunga, PA De Silva, HP Tillekaratne, PB Dassanayake, RS Kalpage, K Dharmasena, C Vaas, R Pushpakumara.
PAKISTAN (FROM): Salim Malik (capt), Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Asif Mujtaba, Inzamam-ul Haq, Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, Akram Raza, Wasim Akram, Mustaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Zahid Fazal, Ashfaq Ahmed, Rameez Raja, Kabir Khan.

Vitaly fined, suspended

Sports Reporter
Bredgvaade Vitaly, the temperamental Russian midfielder playing for Mohammedans this year, has been suspended for six matches for manhandling referee Rafiqul Islam during his side's Star Premier Division football league encounter against Public Works Department (PWD) on Wednesday.

The decision was taken in a disciplinary committee meeting on Thursday.

Vitaly, who felled the referee with a flying kick, will also have to count a fine of Taka 25,000. The punitive measure taken against the Russian will pile Mohammedans' agony after their loss of inspirational midfielder Rummon bin Wali Shabbir through a serious injury in that fateful match.

Shabbir, who sustained a severe injury on his right foot, later underwent surgery, will definitely be out of action for the rest of the season at least.

Apart from Vitaly and Shabbir, Mohammedan will also miss their another Russian booter, Inataev Gearman for next the two matches, who received his second red card on Wednesday.

Earlier, Inataev got the first red card in his side's inaugural match against Bangladesh Boys.

Besides, the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) have also taken disciplinary action against a first division outfit Dhanmondi Club for their coach Ali Yakub's reported misconduct during a Star First Division encounter against Victoria Sporting Club on August 5.

The club was also fined Taka 25,000.

New generation Chinese natants head for Rome

BEIJING, Aug 19: China will only send a reduced team of its new generations swimming stars to next month's World Championships in Rome, reports AFP.

The so-called "Golden Flowers" who made China a leading force at the start of the decade are also conspicuous by their absence from the squad announced Thursday.

There is no place for Zhuang Yong, Yang Wenyi of Lin Li — the last remaining established stars.

The squad is led by new generation athletes Le Jingyi and He Chong, the number one ranked swimmers in the 50 meters freestyle and 100 meters backstroke. Dai Guohong, another relative newcomer, will also start among the favourites for the 100 metre breaststroke.

But the Chinese Swimming Association is sending only three men and 12 women to the Rome swimming from September 1 to 11. A full strength diving team will take part but China is skipping the water polo.

China is concentrating the attention of its swimmers on the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October. A full squad will be dispatched to the regional Olympics which has been made a top priority by the sports authorities.

Lin Li is the only one of the "Golden Flowers" still in the national team. The 27-year-old world and Olympic champion will only go to Hiroshima and then retire.

Lady on the line

LONDON, Aug 19: Wendy Tomis will break a 106-year-old male monopoly on Saturday by becoming the first woman official in an English football league match, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old from Poole, Dorset, will run the line in the Third Division match between Torquay and Carlisle at Plainmoor.

Tomis qualified as a "linesman" after working her way up through the non-league ranks.

Complacency, China's concern

BEIJING, Aug 19: China is confident of topping the medal table at the Hiroshima Asian games but delegation chief Yuan Weimin is worried that the record gold haul in Beijing four years ago may have gone to their heads, reports AFP.

The vice sports Minister had some harsh words here on Friday for his country's sports administrators even though he made it clear there was no question of accepting second best. "My first requirement of the Chinese team is that we top the gold medal table," he said.

But Yuan said stiffer competition from the hosts, South Korea and the arrival of five central Asian republics will make it "almost impossible for us to win as many golds as we did in the 1990 games."

In Beijing, Chinese athletes won an unprecedented 183 gold medals. Nearest rivals South Korea had just 54 and Japan took third place with 38 golds.

But Yuan said Chinese sports administrators had been too complacent since then and failed to nurture replacements for some of the 1990 stars who have since retired.

"Measures were not taken in time and we have not done a very good job in terms of the younger generation of athletes succeeding the older generation," Yuan told reporters.

"Since the Barcelona Olympics, there have been some major readjustments and quite a number of young athletes have not yet reached a suitable standard."

He said this meant "they will have little chance of securing a gold medal."

Yuan also complained that changes to the events in the Hiroshima games schedule from October 2 to 17 would rob China of some certain golds.

"There is no doubt in our minds that we are facing a far more difficult task this time around."

Of the 570-strong Chinese team for Hiroshima, 157 took part in the last Asian games.

World record runner Wang Junxia and Olympic champions such as swimmer Lin Li, gymnast Li Xiaoshuang and diver Fu Mingxia will be the star Chinese turns. But post-Barcelona luminaries such as swimmer Dai Guohong, gymnast Huano Liping will also feature strongly.

Much is expected of Wang and the other members of coach Ma Junren's stable of women runners who demolished world records in the 1,500m, 3,000m and 10,000m at last year's world championships in Stuttgart and National games in Beijing.

"Ma's Army" is currently undergoing closed, intensive training in the northeastern province of Liaoning, in preparation for Hiroshima.

Yuan refused to predict how many golds China would eventually bring home, but left little doubt as to the general idea.

"The more golds, the better."

Yuan expects the central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to pose a stiff challenge for medals in the wrestling and gymnastics.

Dhaka Eleven's comfortable win

Sports Reporter
After being forced off the field for some time by inclement weather, touring Dhaka Eleven finally had the scope for their desired practice to make up for their premature ouster from the Moinud-Dowla Gold Cup cricket tournament when they cruised to an easy victory over a local selection.

They beat Mehboobnagar District Sports Association at Mehboobnagar, 70 kilometres from the Indian city of Hyderabad, Thursday.

Allrounder Enamul Huq Moni had the job half done in the morning when he bagged five wickets for 20 runs as Mehboobnagar were all out for 130 runs with Akbar Beg top-scoring with 36.

Aminul Islam hammered an unbeaten 76 with two sixes and four fours. Jahangir Alam was the other major contributor with 34 as Dhaka Eleven posted 135 for two wickets.

McMillan keeps SA afloat

LONDON, Aug 19: South African all-rounder Brian McMillan fell seven runs short of his first Test century Friday on the second morning of the third Test against England, but still led the tourists to a competitive total of 332 for nine, report agencies.

Jonty Rhodes was kept in hospital after retiring hurt when he was hit on the helmet by a ball from Devon Malcolm Thursday. He was ruled out of returning to play Friday, closing South Africa's innings at nine wickets down.

England got off to a disastrous start as Fanie de Villiers struck in the second over to trap captain Mike Atherton leg before wicket without scoring to have the home team reeling at one for one.

Atherton was convinced he had nicked the ball on to his pad, but umpire Ken Palmer had no hesitation in giving him out.

Graham Gooch and Graeme Hick played out the remaining 25 minutes to go into lunch at one for 21.

The pair played like form would suggest — Hick looked comfortable coming off a century in the last Test with some

livery from Devon Malcolm, but the ball did not rise and he slumped to the ground after being struck solidly on the helmet at about stump height. He suffers reflex epilepsy.

Two hours of defiance from the skipper ended when he played across the line, leaving his side on 136 for six.

Far from demoralising South Africa however, the Rhodes injury appeared to boost their fighting spirit.

Frustration mounted as McMillan and David Richardson dug in, with Darren Gough, Malcolm and DeFreitas all blunted.

But England's mood improved considerably once Benjamin returned to claim two wickets in the space of seven deliveries.

He had Richardson caught behind for a valiant 58 and then followed up by removing Craig Matthews, this time with Grabme Hick's help at second slip.

Surely South Africa, were now out for the count? But, with Fanie de Villiers surviving what appeared to be an obvious catch to slip off the baffled Malcolm, there was still more defiance to come.

The tail-ender helped McMillan add a further 35 runs before slicing DeFreitas to third slip. And, even then, last man Allan Donald hung around doggedly to the close.

South African coach Mike Proctor warned England they were likely to come in for a taste of their own medicine after watching their remorseless display of short-pitched bowling.

Referring to the Rhodes injury, he said: "It was Jonty's mistake because he misjudged the ball."

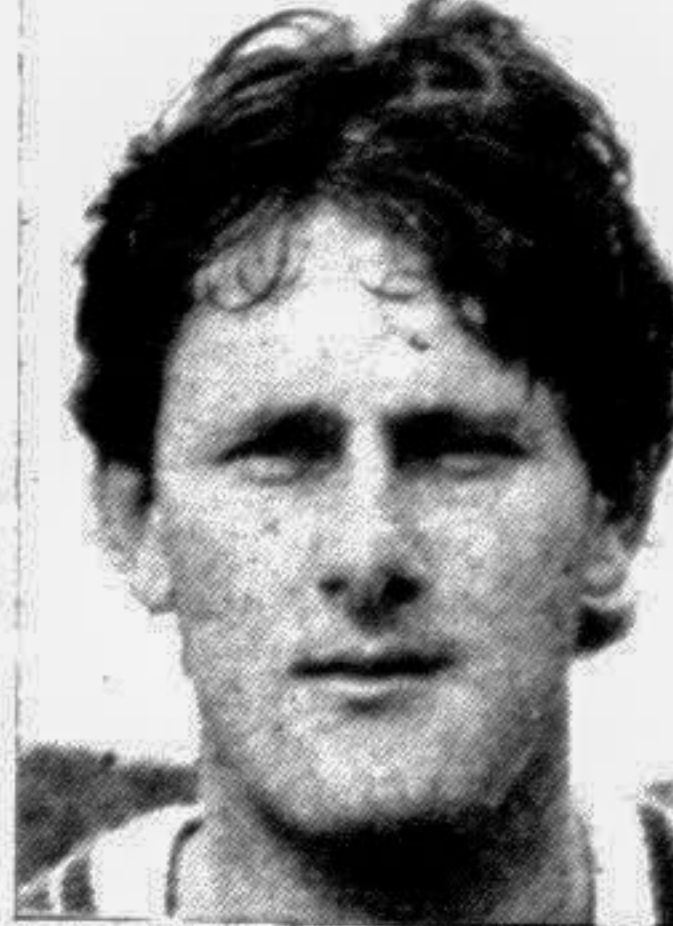
"But our bowlers don't like seeing our batsmen being hit, and they don't like being hit themselves."

"They have taken note of what happened during today and there should be a bit of action tomorrow."

Meanwhile, Joey Benjamin was beaming over his debut bowling success.

He said: "At one stage out there I thought I was dreaming but I enjoyed it immensely. It was fun."

"But Test cricket is harder than county games. I found that out today."



BRIAN McMILLAN 93

which can be triggered by a blow to the head.

"The hospital have given him X-rays and scans and said he's 100 per cent," said South African coach Mike Proctor.

On Thursday, England, having left out spinner Phil Tufnell in favour of an all pace attack, started the day in devastating fashion.

Pakistan's hunt for an elusive trophy begins

LONDON, Aug 19: Pakistan, despite their many dominant years on the world hockey scene, have yet to win the King of Malaysia's Raja Azlan Shah Trophy which starts in Penang on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The tournament has been held intermittently for more than 10 years with Pakistan having to be content with the silver medal three times and bronze once.

But after their success in the champions Trophy, the world's top-six event, earlier this year there is a feeling that the Olympic bronze medalists could be on the verge of an overdue World Cup success in December.

Chief obstacle at Penang is undoubtedly Olympic silver medalists Australia, who were the first winners of the trophy in 1983. Australia finished second behind the Netherlands and one place above Pakistan in the NCM tournament at Amsterdam in June.

Only five countries are entered this year, the other three being European bronze medalists England, newcomers South Africa and hosts Malaysia.

England's form over the last two years has been disappointing, although they managed a 1-1 draw in one of their two Tests with Olympic champions Germany earlier this week. They lost the other 3-1 hours before leaving for Penang.

Both Malaysia and South Africa have changed their coach in an effort to improve their results, the South Africans recently calling in former England international Gavin Featherstone.

The eight-day tournament is initially held on a round-robin basis with final classification matches on August 28.



England skipper Michael Atherton tosses his bat in air to vent his frustration on the way back to the dressing room after being given out lbw to Fannie de Villiers for nought during England's first innings on the second day of the third and final Test against South Africa at the Oval yesterday. Atherton felt he nicked the ball on to his pad but obviously umpire Ken Palmer was not convinced. — AFP photo

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the third and final cricket Test between England and South Africa at the Oval on Friday.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 326-8)
G Kirsten c Rhodes 2
b DeFreitas 16
P Kirsten b Malcolm 38
Cronje lbw b Benjamin 45
Wessels lbw b Benjamin 45
Cullinan c Rhodes b DeFreitas 7
Rhodes retired hurt 8
McMillan c Hick b DeFreitas 93
Richardson c Rhodes b Benjamin 58
Matthews c Hick b Benjamin 0
De Villiers c Stewart b DeFreitas 14
Donald not out 14
Extras: (b-8, lb-10, w-1, nb-18) 37
Total: (for nine wickets) 332
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-43; 3-73; 4-85; 5-136; 6-260; 7-266; 8-301; 9-332.

Bowling O M R W
DeFreitas 26.2 5 93 4
Malcolm 25 5 81 1
Gough 19 1 85 0
Benjamin 17 2 42 4
Hick 5 1 13 0

ENGLAND: First innings
Atherton lbw b De Villiers 0
Gooch not out 3
Hick 15
Extras: (nb-3) 3
Total: (for one wicket) 21
Fall of wicket: 1-1

Bowling O M R W
Donald 4 1 5 0
De Villiers 3 0 12 1
Matthews 1 0 4 0
(Incomplete)

Educating lions

YAOUNDE, Aug 19: Cameroon's national football squad will be sent for military training in a bid to instil some discipline in them. Sports Minister Joseph-Marie Bipoun Mbende announced here, reports AFP.

The team, who flopped in this year's World Cup finals after sparking in 1990, will be under the direct control of the defence ministry.

The training stints will focus on "physical fitness, fighting spirit, a sense of discipline and national honour", the minister said in a statement released on Thursday.

Ministry officials said a lack of discipline was to blame for the indomitable Lions' poor showing in the United States, which included a 6-1 thrashing by Russia.

But to sweeten the pill for players, the squad will be given free medical care and cash bonuses during the military training, the ministry added.

Morocco keen to have Brazilian soccer coach

RABAT, Aug 19: Morocco, who reached the World Cup finals, will soon be coached by a group of experts from the country who won the tournament, Brazil, reports AFP.

Ricardo Texeira, head of the Brazilian Football Confederation, said here on Wednesday night he would soon be supplying Moroccan officials with a list of coaches suitable for taking on the national squad.

Texeira made the announcement at a meeting with Morocco's King Hassan II. "The King of Morocco wants his country to have a competitive team, a team that plays good football like the Brazilians and which will be coached by Brazilians," Texeira said.

The two national football authorities will arrange exchange visits and Brazil will also provide training for Moroccan club coaches.

Sanchez-Vicario in qtrs

MONTREAL, Aug 19: Second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario moved into the quarter-finals of the 750,000 dollar Canadian Open with a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Elena Likhovtseva of Kazakhstan on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Ranked second in the world behind the tournament's number one seed Steffi Graf of Germany, Sanchez-Vicario will now play Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, a 7-5, 6-3 third-round winner over seven-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa.

Fifth seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina set up a quarter-final showdown against Graf by beating Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 6-1, 6-4.

Graf who was bothered by back problems during her third round match on Wednesday practised on Thursday and afterwards said: "I had no problems today. I feel better."

Graf has beaten Sabatini the last five times and holds a 26-11 career advantage. Sabatini's most recent win came more than two years ago.

"Playing Steffi is a really good preparation for the US Open (which begins August 29)," said Sabatini, who lost to Graf in last year's US Open in three sets in the quarter-finals. "I couldn't hope for anymore than to play the number one player. This is the kind of match I've been waiting for and trying to win."

Sabatini has struggled this year, but she is comfortable with her underdog role against Graf.

"It's more relaxing for me to play Steffi because I have nothing to lose," she said. "But mentally I'll have to be strong and fight for every point."

Sanchez-Vicario is a mental powerhouse on the court and the Spaniard has succeeded in adding a net-rushing dimension to her game.

"I try to keep adapting things in my game," said Sanchez-Vicario, the reigning French Open champion. "If I want to be better, I have to be able to do everything."

In other third-round matches, third-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan beat Anna Samashnova of Israel, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, fourth-seeded Mary Pierce of France defeated Elena Reinach of South Africa 6-2, 6-1 and Judith Wiesner of Austria beat Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands 2-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Ninth-seeded Lori McNeil of the US, was upset by qualifier Nathalie Baudoune of Italy 6-7 (1-7), 6-2, 6-4 score.

Karbacher adds to Brugueras's woes

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 19: Unseeded Bernd Karbacher of Germany advanced to the quarter-finals of the RCA Championships on Thursday with an upset of second-seed Sergi Brugueras, reports AP.

Karbacher said after his 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-3) victory he knew he couldn't volley with Brugueras, ranked third in the world.

"You have to go for your best shots, and if you miss, you miss," Karbacher said.



Brazilian 17-year-old prodigy Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima smiles broadly at a press conference on his arrival at Eindhoven Thursday. Ronaldo joins Philips SV in six-million dollar contract. — AFP photo