



This conglomerate of agitating Mohammedan supporters and curious passersby ensured some action at the otherwise inactive Dhaka Stadium arena which was robbed of its usual share of life yesterday by the sudden cancellation of all Senior Division league matches for a day by the organisers DMFA. Although the DMFA attributed the reason to a piece of elder brotherly advice from the BFF, the fact of the matter was a hartal called by the football fans in the stadium arena. It looks like politics has future in football. —Star photo

A day of rest in unrest

Sports Reporter

The jugger-naut of country's most popular sporting activity has broken down again.

The ongoing Senior Division football leagues hit a strange but steady (given the nature of the authorities) snag as yesterday's all three engagements including the crucial Premier encounter between reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and star-studded Muktiyoddha Krira Sangsad fell through.

Not for the first time, the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) organisers of the two-tier leagues — Star Premier and Star First Divisions — cancelled days' all engagements with as brief and curt a notice as of six hours only. The routine explanatory cliché of 'unavoidable circumstances' was replaced by a no less unsavoury but queer phrase — 'day's fixtures have been cancelled on the advice of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), country's highest governing body for soccer.'

The real situation was that the stadium arena was brought to a standstill by the supporters of Mohammedan Sporting Club, who called a strike in protest of DMFA's alleged ill treatment towards their club.

Title aspirants Mohammedans renewed their acrimony with the DMFA, who slapped suspensions on two of the three Russian players Guermann Inataev and Vitaly for their involvement in on-field trouble during the violence-marred match between Mohammedans and PWD which ended in a one-all draw.

More than 100 people in-

cluding some cops were injured as violence flared in the stadium and the adjacent areas when angry football fans-turned-vandals poured the phials of their wrath sparked off by some refereeing decisions.

One of the reasons that irked the black and white supporters was Rafiqul Islam's refusal to stop the match in its last minute as Mohammedan forward Ruman bin Wali Shabbir lay on the ground writhing in pain following a clash with the PWD custodian for a common ball. After a spell of flaring tempers from Mohammedan players and supporters which saw the referee getting beaten up by some of the Mohammedan players, the match was duly played to its conclusion after nearly an hour's break.

The last part of a turbulent night was enacted on the streets adjoining the stadium arena, which grovelled under the stamping of the vandals who set alight bikes and smashed neon signs and street lights.

A six-match suspension was slapped on Vitaly for man-handling the referee while his compatriot got a more normal punitive measure of two match lay-off for getting involved in a brawl with a rival player.

The punitive measures against the two Russians and a crippling injury of their live wire and skipper Ruman bin Wali Shabbir virtually left Mohammedans unfit for a realistic competition to retain their title this year.

The dual loss of the two Russians, albeit temporary, has been far superseded by what's going to be a long absence from the field of Shabbir, who

Goals will replace gall?

RIO, DE JANEIRO, Aug 22: Three weeks later, Romario returns to his Barcelona club on Monday to face the wrath of teammates, coach and fans. But it's nothing that a few goals can't fix, reports AP.

The star of Brazil's World Cup champions team predicted a 'tumultuous' reception on his arrival.

That seems a safe bet. Due to report back on Aug 1, Romario ignored the deadline and extended his vacation in Brazil, claiming he was exhausted after the World Cup.

Barcelona's coach, former Dutch star Johan Cruyff, has promised exemplary punishment for his truant star. Some speculated that Romario could be 'demoted' to the club's Second-Division team.

'They say lots of things, but I probably will receive some kind of punishment,' Romario said in an interview published Monday in the Rio newspaper



ROMARIO

'After I start to score a few goals, everything will be all right,' he said.

Romario spent his last weekend in Brazil doing what he loves best: playing 'foot-volleyball' on the beaches of Barra da Tijuca, an upscale district south of Rio.

He makes no secret that his heart lies in this city, where he was born in the Jacareinho slum 28 years ago.

'If there were a team in Brazil with conditions to buy me, I wouldn't even leave,' he said.

But for now, no Brazilian club can meet Barcelona's asking price of \$10 million. His homecoming may have to wait until Romario turns 30, when he becomes the owner of his contract.

Meanwhile, local newspapers speculated that the speedy striker may be Italy-bound.

The Rio daily O Dia reported that Romario met over the weekend with officials of Italy's Torino club. The meeting reportedly was to discuss a \$10 million, three-year deal that would send Romario to Milan by way of Torino.

IOC course for tennis coaches from Sept 7

A two-week Olympic solidarity course for coaches as well as junior players will be held at the National Tennis Complex from September 7 to 21, according to a press release issued in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Swedish tennis expert Leonardo Snellman will conduct the course, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation in cooperation with the Bangladesh Olympic Association and International Tennis Federation.

Interested coaches of different clubs and associations have been requested to contact the Bangladesh Tennis Federation by August 25.

Maradona can travel abroad

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 21: Argentine superstar Diego Maradona has received permission to travel abroad, according to local reports on Saturday, reports Xinhua.

Maradona is charged of shooting a air rifle at journalists and is free on 40,000 US dollars bail.

The judge in charge of his case gave Maradona permission to travel abroad, the Noticias Argentinas news agency reported.

Maradona wants to travel to Zurich where the world soccer governing body FIFA is expected to rule on his future in soccer.

Maradona was suspended indefinitely from soccer after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine at the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Matthaeus wants to end in glory

BONN, Aug 22: Germany's most capped player Lothar Matthaeus said on Sunday he would not quit international soccer after his country's disappointing World Cup performance but instead try to end his career on a winning note, reports Reuters.

'If we had won the World Cup I would have ended my international career. But now I want a better exit,' the 33-year-old Bayern Munich libero said.

'My big goal now is the European Championship in England in 1996. Qualifying will be tough but we have to do it. I still have the ambition and the strength.'

Matthaeus has 117 caps from an international career stretching back 14 years. The decision to continue should put him within sight of England's world record of 125 international appearances.

'Matthaeus made the decision after talking to national team coach Berti Vogts and to Franz Beckenbauer, a fellow Bavarian and Bayern Munich idol.

The two men worked closely together as coach and captain when the Germans won the World Cup in 1990 — and again when Bayern won the Bundesliga last season.

'We need Lothar's experience to help rebuild the team and bring on new players into the European Championship side,' Vogts said. 'Of course, he'll remain captain. I'm pleased about his decision.'

The Germans, beaten in the World Cup quarter-finals by Bulgaria, meet Russia in a friendly in Moscow on September 7.

Ajax clinch Dutch Super Cup

AMSTERDAM, Aug 22: League champions Ajax Amsterdam struck three times in the first 24 minutes to beat Cup winners Feyenoord Rotterdam 3-0 and win the Dutch Super Cup on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Goals by Finnish striker Jari Litmanen, Tarik Dulida and Patrick Kluyvert ensured victory for Ajax in the traditional start to the Dutch soccer season.

Last season's top marksman Litmanen opened the scoring in the 13th minute with a well-taken free-kick from 18 metres in front of goal.

Kluyvert, a product of the youth team replacing Swede Stefan Petterson who left the champions for IFK Gothenburg, prepared the second goal for midfielder Duldida eight minutes later.

Kluyvert, on the verge of offside, broke through the Feyenoord defence and crossed to Duldida, who had little trouble beating World Cup goalkeeper Ed De Goeij.

Feyenoord's defence, badly missing the experience of injured John De Wolf, was completely stunned. Three minutes later they gave 18-year-old striker Kluyvert all the freedom in the world to net the third.

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Indian grappler Ashok Kumar (L) tries break free from an attack by Canada's Robert Dawson in their 57 kg class final at the 15th Commonwealth Games in Victoria on August 20. Dawson bagged the gold. —AFP photo

Akram equals Kapil's one-day wicket-haul Pakistan keep winning

COLOMBO, Aug 22: Pakistan coasted to a comfortable five-wicket victory to take the five-match one-day series 3-1 in Colombo on Monday, reports AP.

Skipper Salim Malik overshadowed Arjuna Ranatunga's face saving innings for Sri Lanka, with an unbeaten 50, his third successive half century in as many games in the series.

Pakistan reached the victory target with 50 balls to spare after Sri Lanka had struggled to 174 for nine in their allocated 50 overs after having been sent in.

— 47 runs with all-rounder Rwan Kalpage (24) for the sixth wicket, and an important 53 runs off as many deliveries with Pubudu Dassanayake (13) for the seventh wicket.

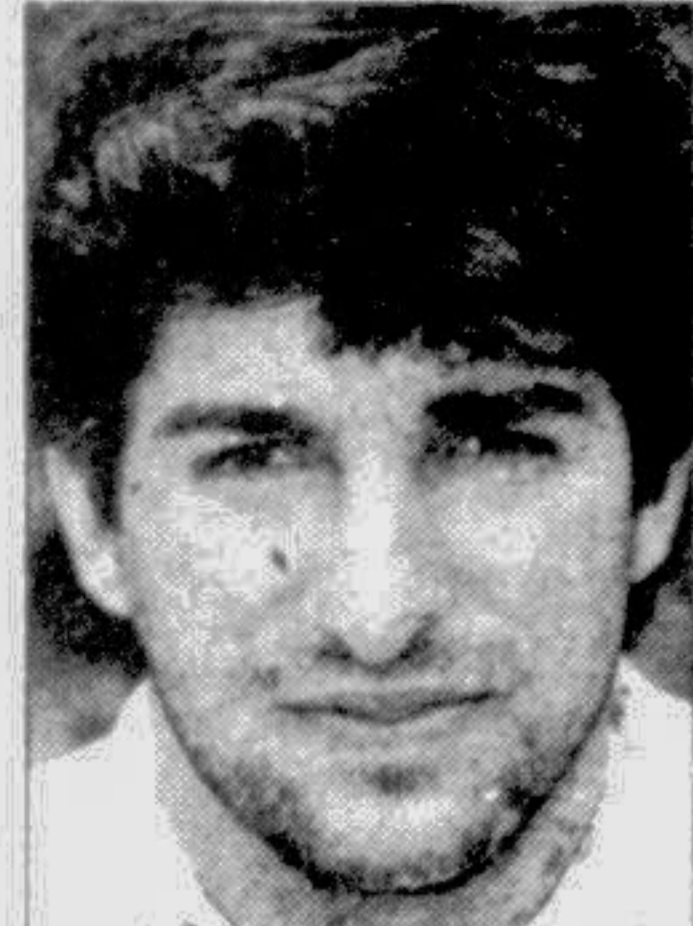
Pakistan got off to a comfortable start despite losing opener Saeed Anwar early in the sixth over to energetic fast bowler Ravindra Pushpakumara.

Aamir Sohail (35) and Inzamam-ul-Haq (35) in a 41-run second wicket stand, which was followed by another 53 runs between Haq and skipper Malik.

Haq hit a six and five boundaries in his 51-ball innings, while Malik, who hit his seventh half century in eight four innings, scored his runs off 74 balls, hitting just four boundaries.

Earlier, Ranatunga hit a six and two boundaries in his 102-ball knock and was finally run out by a direct hit from Mushtaq Ahmed from back-pitch point while going for a sharp single.

In the Sri Lanka's innings, when Wasim Akram bowled Dassanayake, he tied with India's Kapil Dev as the top wicket-taker in one-day cricket, with 251 wickets apiece. This is Akram's 173rd game, compared to Dev's 220 appearances.



WASIM AKRAM

The original three one-day series, which Pakistan won 2-1, was extended to five games following the cancellation of the second Test due to the uncertain political situation in the country after last week's general elections and the subsequent curfews.

The fifth and final one-day match will be played Wednesday, also in Colombo, before the last Test match in Kandy.

Ranatunga led from front with a captain's innings after Sri Lanka had been reduced to tatters — 55 for five in 19 overs.

He shared two partnerships

Scoreboard in the fourth one-day international between Sri Lanka and Pakistan today.

SRI LANKA	
Mahanama c Raza b Waqar	11
Jayasuriya lbw b Akram	2
S Ranatunga c and b Raza	14
De Silva c Sohail b Raza	5
A Ranatunga run out	74
Tillekeratne run out	0
Kalpage c Malik b Sohail	24
Dassanayake b Akram	13
Vase not out	7
Wickremasinghe b Waqar	11
Extras: (lb-5, w-6, nb-2)	13
Total: (for nine wickets, 50 overs)	174
Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-23; 3-29; 4-55; 5-55; 6-102; 7-155; 8-157; 9-174.	

Did not bat: Ravindra Pushpakumara

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Akram	10	1	35	2
Waqar	10	1	35	2
Raza	10	1	26	2
Mushtaq	10	1	28	0
Sohail	5	0	17	1
Malik	5	0	28	0

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Dassanayake b Pushpakumara 9

Aamir Sohail c S Ranatunga b Kalpage 35

Inzamamul Haq c and b Jayasuriya 33

Salim Malik not out 50

Basit Ali c Dassanayake b Jayasuriya 26

Asif Mujtaba b De Silva 3

Akram Raza not out 8

Extras: (lb-2, w-3, nb-6) 11

Total: (for five wickets, 41.4 overs) 175

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-61; 3-114; 4-160; 5-165.

Did not bat: Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Pushpakumara	7	0	50	1
Vase	6	1	23	0
Wickremasinghe	5.4	1	26	0
Kalpage	10	0	39	1
Jayasuriya	10	0	28	2
De Silva	3	0	7	1

Result: Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by five wickets to take a winning 3-1 lead in the five-match series.



MIKE TYSON

Tests, won South Africa's player-of-the-series award.

Atherton is expected to be reappointed captain for this winter's Ashes tour before the end of next week despite being fined twice during the current Tests series.

He was fined 1,200 pounds sterling (1,860 dollars) and severely reprimanded by match referee Peter Burge for showing dissent after being

England even series with a thumping win

Atherton redeems himself

LONDON, Aug 22: England captain Mike Atherton's troubled summer finished in champagne style at the Oval on Sunday when his side raced to a comprehensive victory over South Africa in the final Test, reports Reuters.

The eight-wicket margin left the series tied at 1-1.

Needing a further 97 runs for victory at the start of the fourth day, England maintained the momentum of Saturday by reaching the 204-run target off a further 10.3 overs.

Atherton could not quite see the job through himself, falling to Allan Donald for 63 after a superb second-wicket stand of 124 with Graeme Hick.

But Hick (81 not out) and Graham Thorpe (15 not out) completed the formalities 18 minutes before lunch — making sure that Devon Malcolm's outstanding nine-wicket haul on Saturday did not go to waste.

While strike bowler Malcolm decimated the South African second innings, his South African counterpart Donald conceded 96 runs off just 12 overs.

Malcolm was named man-of-the-match and also England's player-of-the-series despite playing in only the Oval match.

Brian McMillan, an impressive performer in all three

England even series with a thumping win

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Atherton redeems himself

LONDON, Aug 22: While Michael Atherton was taking a day off Monday to consider his position as England's cricket captain, a member of the team's selection committee said he hopes there won't be a change, reports AP.

Fred Titmus, one of the five selectors who will announce Thursday their choice of captain for the winter tour of Australia, said Atherton has the support of the England hierarchy.

'I have told (team manager) Keith Fletcher to tell Mike Atherton I am behind him,' Titmus said. 'There have been reports that we have mixed feelings, but I will be disappointed if he doesn't lead the team to Australia.'

Chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth and Fletcher have already made public their support for Atherton, who has faced calls to resign from the British press after receiving two fines during the just-completed Test series against South Africa.

'I think it's important for Mike to know we are behind him,' Titmus said. 'He has shown a lot of character this summer. The problems he's had have not been trivial things, but I never thought they were hanging offenses.'

Atherton was fined 2,000 pounds (dlsr 3,000) for keeping dirt in his pocket and misleading the match referee during the first Test, then was docked another 1,250 pounds (dlsr 1,875) for dissent during the third Test on Friday when he appeared to disagree with an umpire's decision.

England won the Test on the fourth day Sunday to end the series in a 1-1 draw. Atherton admitted afterward that press coverage of the dirt and dissent incidents would force him to think about his position during the unexpected off day Monday.

'The criticism hurts and sometimes I wonder if it is all worthwhile,' he said.

Should Atherton decide not to continue, 37-year-old former captain Mike Gatting would become the favourite to take the team to Australia.

Meanwhile, Atherton will captain England for the two one-day internationals against South Africa, on Thursday at Edgbaston and Saturday at Old Trafford.

De Villiers penalised

LONDON, Aug 22: South African fast bowler Fanie de Villiers was fined and reprimanded for showing dissent on the final day of the third Test against South Africa on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Match referee Peter Burge, who fined England captain Mike Atherton for a similar offence on Friday, docked De Villiers 25 per cent of his match fee for showing dissent after having an appeal for a catch behind against Graeme Hick turned down.

Becker on a roll

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Aug 22: Boris Becker won his second tournament in three weeks by beating Marc Rosset 6-3, 7-5 at the 1.04 million dollar Volvo International tournament on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Becker's hot summer streak started with a victory at Los Angeles three weeks ago and has the German superstar and 1989 US Open champion cautiously optimistic about his chances to win again at the Open when the year's last Grand Slam tournament starts August 29 at the National Tennis Centre.

Big bucks await Mike Tyson

HONG KONG, Aug 22: Mike Tyson will be offered a 100 million dollar purse by the organisers of Mohammed Ali's rumble in the jungle to stage his first fight in Hong Kong after leaving prison, reports AFP.

Bill Dobbins, head of Hemdale Special Events, which is presenting Herbie Hide's world heavyweight title defence in Hong Kong on October 23, said here Monday he expected Tyson to take on Lennox Lewis or Tommy Morrison in his first bout.

Dobbins, one of the planners of Ali's legendary 1974 fight in Zaire, said there would probably be a 100 million dollar purse and that the territory had a good chance of landing the event.

Morrison is the first challenger for Hide's World Boxing Organisation title. With the October 23 bill having a total purse of 100 million HK dollars (13 million US) it is already being billed as the biggest individual sports event staged in Asia.

The Hide-Morrison fight is being co-promoted by Barry Hearn's Matchroom Organisation and Top Rank Inc of the United States, whose chairman, Bob Arum is battling with Don King to represent Tyson when the fighter leaves jail.

'We have an understanding with Tyson that we will get first refusal,' said Dobbins who

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