

Sport

Eves' swimming from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

A two-day age group open swimming competition for girls and women, under the auspices of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA), begins at the BWSA swimming pool from tomorrow.

This was disclosed by the federation president, Tahmina Khan, at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

About 100 swimmers representing twelve teams are expected to take part in 37 events.

Taka 2,06,000 have been earmarked for the meet with Taka 70,000 coming from the sponsors Agrani Bank, said Nazma Shamim, the general secretary of BWSA.

Everton sign Amokachi

LONDON, Aug 28: Everton completed the signing of 21-year-old Nigerian World Cup striker Daniel Amokachi from Belgian club Bruges on Saturday, reports AFP.

Amokachi looks to have his work cut out at Goodison Park — his transfer was confirmed after their 4-0 English Premiership defeat by Manchester City.

The Merseysiders, who haven't had a black player on their books for 19 years, will pay around three million pounds for Amokachi, who was top scorer for Bruges last season and played in all four of Nigeria's World Cup games in the United States.

Everton manager Mike Walker was scathing of his players after the Saturday's Maine Road thrashing, describing the performance as "not acceptable for this club".

He said: "Once we went 2-0 down, we were a shambles. If the players cannot cope then we'll have to do something about it."

Barcelona beat Real Zaragoza

ZARAGOZA, Spain, Aug 28: League champions Barcelona failed to shine but found the target to beat real Zaragoza 2-0 away in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Real Zaragoza looked sharper in the first half, driving dangerously into Barcelona's area but failing to find the net.

A foul on Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov seconds before the interval led to the champions' first goal.

New signing World Cup star Gheorghe Hagi of Romania drove the free kick towards goal where it was blocked by keeper Andoni Cedrun only for Stoichkov to score from the rebound.

Zaragoza continued to fight valiantly in the second half, but despite a strong performance from forward Miguel Pardue, they were unable to match a revitalised Barcelona.

In the 64th minute, midfielder Guillermo Amor took a clever cross to score the Catalans' second goal.

The two teams will meet again in the second leg in Barcelona's Nou Camp Stadium on Tuesday, five days before the start of the First Division championship.

Deportivo Coruna let Bebeto go to Brazil

LAL CORUNA, Spain, Aug 28: Brazilian international Bebeto has won his release from Spanish club Deportivo Coruna with an initial agreement allowing him to return to Brazil, reports Reuter.

His exit leaves last season's First Division runners-up lacking two of their star players. Mauro Silva, another member of Brazil's victorious World Cup side, will be sidelined for up to four months because of a knee injury.

We have reached an agreement in principle to allow Bebeto to return to Brazilian football," club chairman Augusto Cesar Lendoiro told journalists late on Friday after three hours of talks with the player's representative Ricardo Fuica.

"It was what he wanted and we all had to make an effort to reach an agreement," Lendoiro said.

He did not reveal how much Bebeto had to pay but the player was known to have offered five million dollars for his release from the two years left on his contract.

Under the terms of the deal, Bebeto will not be allowed to play anywhere except in Brazil. If he signs for another European club, he will have to pay the remainder of the 15 million dollars stipulated in the release clause on his contract.

Lendoiro said he was awaiting financial guarantees from the player before finalising the deal.

Deportivo coach Arsenio Iglesias said the loss of the two Brazilians had been a sudden and heavy blow but tried to remain upbeat.

Abahani creep to top

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra forced their way on to the top of the table with a haul of eleven points from seven matches when they registered a 1-0 victory over



Brothers Union in an important Star Premier league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani won by a solitary goal and a position at the top of the table.

— Star photo

The impressive turnout was not there for nothing. Abahani were to introduce their third foreigner of the season, Russian forward Nikolai Krioutchikov after the two Iraqis — Nazar Ali and Jessim Mehdi.

The lanky Russian from Moscow Lokomotive did make his debut but failed to work a *prima facie* kind of magic with the fans but that abjectness was amply covered by Mehdi's strike which considerably held them in good stead as far as the title regaining quest of last year's runners-up is concerned. The sky blues are a point clear of arch rivals Mohammedans, having played a match more and two points ahead of new force Mukti Joddha Krira Sangsad who too have played seven matches so far.

Rahmatganj now have ten points from seven while Farashganj got glued to eight points also from seven matches.

Milon scored the match-winner with a header in the 68th minute.

Away at the Mirpur Stadium, Sadharan Bima, hitherto reigning at the top of the Star First Division table, suffered their maiden defeat when promotees Shantinagar beat them by the odd goal in three.

Incidentally, it was Shantinagar's third win in a row which took their tally to nine from seven matches while Bima remained at ten from seven matches.

Liton and Mahfuz found the net for Shantinagar while Shakhatullah pulled one back for the insurancemen.

TOP MATCHES

Wanderers vs Eskaton 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

Victoria vs East End 4-30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Mohammedans vs Agrani Bank 6-30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Schmeichel stops Spurs



LONDON, Aug 28: Danish international goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel rewrote the script to upstage German World Cup marksmen Juergen Klinsmann with a scene-stealing performance on Saturday.

Schmeichel was acclaimed by both camps after playing an influential role as Premier league champions Manchester United beat Klinsmann's Tottenham 1-0 to check their flying start to the English season.

United skipper and defender Steve Bruce, who headed the champions' 49-minute winner, hailed Schmeichel as the best goalkeeper in Europe.

The eagerly-awaited clash in front of a sell-out crowd at the London club's White Hart Lane ground offered Klinsmann the perfect stage for another display of the compelling skills that fired Tottenham to victory in their

opening two games.

Klinsmann, a charismatic figure with a ready smile, quickly won the hearts of Tottenham fans when he hit three goals in the league wins over Sheffield United and Everton.

The German, spearheading Tottenham's five-man attack, looked to have found his target after 43 minutes against United, only for his celebrations to be cut short as the linesman ruled the effort was offside.

Yet in a feast of attacking football from both sides, it was ultimately Schmeichel who stole the spotlight, capping a superb display with a penalty save from Teddy Sheringham, the striker's second spot-kick miss in four days.

Bruce, who fouled Romanian forward Ilie Dumitrescu to concede the penalty, said in light-hearted mood: "Peter owes me that one — usually he dives over them. I've made him the hero today and he is quite happy."

On a more serious note, Bruce added: "He is a fantastic goalkeeper. He has been doing that for the last couple of years and he's proved he is top man in Europe."

Tottenham's Argentine manager Osie Ardiles added his own praise for Schmeichel.

"We threw everything at them but it was one of those days. There is no doubt that the best Manchester United player was their goalkeeper — and that proves the point."

Ardiles refused to castigate either Sheringham or goalkeeper Ian Walker, who slipped during a corner by Ryan Giggs, allowing Bruce his winning header.

"We will have a talk with Teddy in the week about whether he continues as our penalty taker," said Ardiles.

United manager Alex Ferguson said: "Schmeichel made three marvellous one-on-one saves as well as the penalty."

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Tottenham's German World Cup star Juergen Klinsmann (L) races after the ball as teammate Teddy Sheringham (R) watches during English Premier league football match against holders Manchester United. United won 1-0.

Sports

England upstage Pakistan

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Aug 28: England overcame a late goal by Kamran Ashraf off a penalty corner to outlast and upset Pakistan 5-3 on penalty strokes Sunday, giving them the fifth Sultan Azlan Shah Cup trophy, reports AP.

Ashraf scored with 10 minutes remaining to tie the match 2-2, sending the championship game of the five-nation field hockey tournament — played in Penang, 300 kilometres (180 miles) northwest of Kuala Lumpur — to penalties.

The match, devoid of attacking ideas and even a decent share of positive approach, was relieved of its sterility in the 64th minute. Wing back Partha floated a cross from the left and Mintu nodded the ball for a lurking Mehdi who slammed home with a beefy drive (1-0).

Unbeaten so far along with Mohammedans, Abahani became the table leaders as the upshot of yesterday match with eleven points from seven matches while Brothers remain stuck to eight from seven matches and their chances of winning the title seem to have taken a familiar nosedive.

TEAMS

Abahani KC: Dhanu, Imadul, Munna, Sohel Reza, Mansur, Partha, Jassim Mehdi, Swapan, Mintu, Nazar Ali (Gaus) and Nikolai Krioutchikov (Aslam).

Brothers Union: Ponir, Pijush, Moon, Mizan, Ruhul Amin, Bakhtiar, Uttam, Bhutto (Mushtaq), Rupu, Biplob and Ranjan.

Referee: R Alam.

RAHMATGANJ ATOP

Although the top billing of the day was a real flop, there was plenty of sensation in the earlier encounters.

Rahmatganj climbed the pinnacle of Star First Division table when they handed Farashganj Sporting Club their first defeat by a solitary goal in a match played earlier at the same venue.

Rahmatganj now have ten points from seven while Farashganj got glued to eight points also from seven matches.

Milon scored the match-winner with a header in the 68th minute.

Away at the Mirpur Stadium, Sadharan Bima, hitherto reigning at the top of the Star First Division table, suffered their maiden defeat when promotees Shantinagar beat them by the odd goal in three.

Incidentally, it was Shantinagar's third win in a row which took their tally to nine from seven matches while Bima remained at ten from seven matches.

Ashfaq Hossain scored both the goals for Ahmed Bawani School during the first half to inflict a stunning defeat on high flying Armanita High School.

In the first semifinal of the day played earlier at the same venue Narayanganj High School scraped past Rajshahi Medical College High School with a thrilling 5-4 tie-win in tiebreaker after the scheduled period ended in a one all draw.

Swimming course

The Mosharraf Swimming Centre has arranged a regular swimming coaching and practice programme beginning at the Dhaka Stadium from September one, reports BSS.

The coaching and practice will be supervised by the country's renowned swimmers including Arun Nandi and Shahjahan Mian. Ace swimmer Mosharraf Hossain will be in charge of the overall management of the centre.

Girls upto the age of 12 and boys of any age are eligible to apply in the prescribed forms of the centre. Interested persons have been requested to contact the centre at the Dhaka Stadium between 8 am and 7 pm daily.

Japan down US spikers

TOKYO, Aug 28: Japan edged past Barcelona Olympic bronze medalist the United States in a five-set battle here Sunday, in the 1.5 million dollar women's volleyball World Grand Prix, reports AFP.

The Japanese spikers, who finished in fifth place in last year's tournament, rallied back from one set down to score a 15-11, 6-15, 12-15, 15-15, 15-8 victory over the Americans in a tough 122 minutes.

Both teams have now notched up five wins against one defeat after the second week of the 12-team preliminary rounds.

"I felt the American team has become stronger than when we played them before. They are improving, especially in receiving. I'm glad because I saw mental toughness to my players," said Japan's coach Todaiyo Yokota.

Meanwhile, American coach Taras Liskevich warned: "Our team will be good in 1995 and 1996. Right now, it's very difficult, because we haven't played a lot together. Trust me, in 1995 and 1996, watch it in Atlanta, you'll see the US finishes."

In the other match, the Netherlands outplayed winless Germany 3-1 (12-15, 15-7, 17-15, 15-12) for their second win against four losses.

Japan will play Barcelona Olympic silver medalists Russia, fourth placed Brazil and Italy in the last preliminary round in Fukuoka, Western Japan, from September 2.

— AFP photo

Waqar works 3-day wonder

KANDY, Sri Lanka, Aug 28: Pacer Waqar Younis recorded his fourth haul of 10 or more wickets in a Test as Pakistan overhauled Sri Lanka inside three days in the third and final Test on Sunday, reports Reuter.

A spirited seventh wicket stand of 131 between Hashan Tillekeratne and Ruwan Kalpage failed to save the Sri Lankans from defeat by an innings and 52 runs.

Waqar finished with five for 85 for a match haul of 11 for 119.

Sri Lanka, beginning the day on 17 for three, looked set for an even bigger thrashing when they slumped to 78 for six during the morning session. Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga's dismissal for 34 gave Waqar his fifth wicket of the innings.

England, which beat Pakistan 5-3 in their final preliminary round match, took the lead in the fourth minute when Bobby Crutchley scored off a penalty corner.

Ashraf scored the first of his two to tie it in the 20th minute, scoring off a rebound from a free shot by Muhammad Shahbaz from the top of the penalty circle.

Nick Thompson restored England's lead off another penalty corner in the 32nd minute, which held until Ashraf's game-tying score in the 60th minute.

English goalkeeper Simon Mason was named man-of-the-match while Malaysian captain Nor Saiful Zaini won the tournament's most outstanding player award, finishing as the leading scorer with six goals.

Earlier Sunday, Olympic silver medalists Australia avenged a preliminary-round defeat with a 4-0 victory over Malaysia to finish the tournament. Malaysia beat Australia 3-1 on Tuesday.

Kalpage took 19 runs from Waqar's first over after lunch and captain Salim Malik was eventually forced to resort to the leg-spin of Mushtaq Ahmed to finish off the innings.

Sri Lanka, dismissed for a paltry 71 in their first innings, were all out for 234.

It was Test debutant Kabir Khan who broke the enterprising stand between Tillekeratne and Kalpage when Kalpage gave substitute fielder Rameez Raja running catch behind the bowler.

Kalpage, dropped on 26 by Mushtaq at deep square leg off