

MSC's maiden defeat

Sports Reporter

Two superlative strikes from the Jahangir duo designed to reignite the champions' momentum. Sporting Club's first defeat in the ongoing Star Premier Division football league as the black and whites bowed 1-2 to a lowly Agrani Bank at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Agrani Bank, who have been enjoying the rather recently acquired habit of turning nights into prolonged nightmares for the biggies of the domestic circuit, had Mohammedans stupefied by their surprising resurgence after conceding a goal in the 23rd minute and not only did they even the score in the first half but also stole the winner 14 minutes away from the final whistle.

The outcome of yesterday's match left Abahani the only unbeaten outfit in the fray as well as atop the table with 11 points from seven matches, one point clear from second placed Mohammedans.

Agrani Bank's victory under the floodlights last night crowned a remarkable run, which saw them edging out Brothers Union by a solitary goal on August 18 and going down fighting to title-chasers Abahani 2-3 on Friday after squandering a double lead.

On the other hand, Mohammedans, who showed remarkable resilience in their 2-0 victory over star-studded

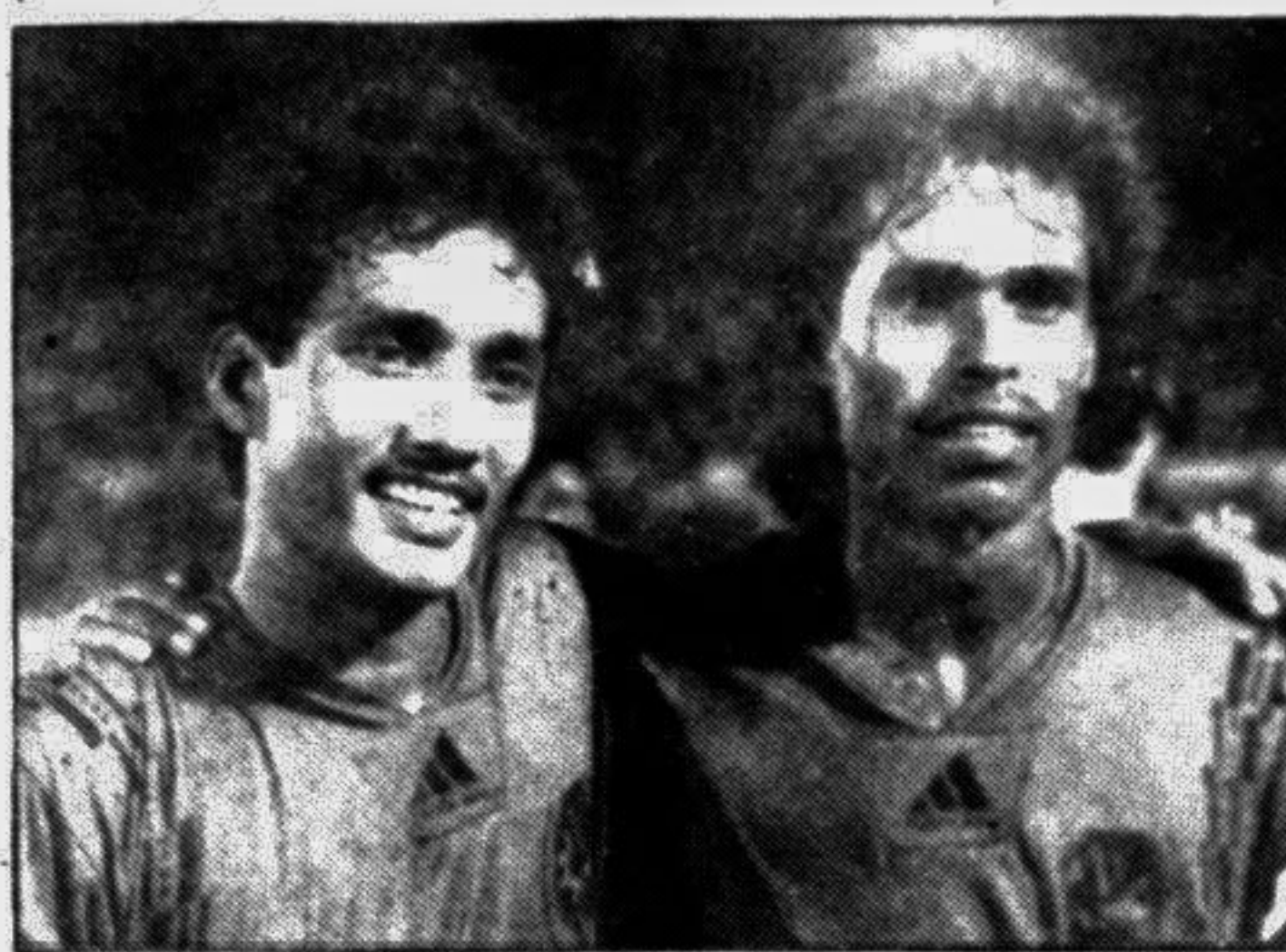
Muktijoddha Sangsad in spite of the absence of three key players — skipper Rummon bin Wahi Shabbir, Russians Inataev and Vitaly, were once again revisited by ill luck as Tuesday's star forward Shaiful Qader Munna, whose pair engineered Mukti's downfall, had to see the match through from sideline following a leg injury.

Asaduzzaman, drafted in the place of Munna, shot Moham-

spirited Bankers but still managed two scoring chances in the span of five minutes after the lemon break.

In the 50th minute Manik's grounder returned to play hitting the Agrani Bank defender Liton while the other attempt from Kazakov was brilliantly saved by custodian Shimul.

Jahangir (Jr) then struck the deadly blow in the 76th minute to seal the fate of the



MEN OF THE MOMENT: One of the many Jahangirs away and around, these two of Agrani Bank were transported last night under the limelight from obscurity after helping their unfancied club to an upset 2-1 win over reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

medans into the lead 23 minutes into the game when he latched on to a brilliant through ball from Russian Andrey Kazakov.

Asad, the hero of the Bangladesh under-16 team in Saudi Arabia where he scored two goals, impressed with his speed and accuracy on his debut for the giants.

The diminutive winger floated a neat pass in the 36th minute but Mohammedans' make-shift skipper Mahbubur Rahman Roxy failed to tap the ball into an open net from close.

Three minutes later Agrani Bank restored parity from their first positive attack.

Agrani Bank earned a free-kick into the Mohammedan zone when the ill-tempered defender Rehan nastily charged Jamal which cost him a yellow card and his team a costly goal.

Winger Jahangir, the senior of the last night's two news-making mistakes, slotted the ball home after being provided from the dead ball with a shaky Lahul frozen under the bar.

After the goal Mohammedans found the going tough against a tenman defence of

match. The sensational goal came from a counter-attack when Jahangir, latching on to a through pass from Badal beat the on-rushing Lahul with a perfect grounder that rolled into the far corner of the net, much to the horror of the Mohammedan fans.

With this win the relegation-threatened Agrani Bank earned two crucial points, raising their collection to five from seven matches.

In the other match held earlier at the same venue, Victoria blanked East End Club 4-0 in Star First Division league.

Angur notched two goals while Jamal and Ameer Khan got one each to complete the tally for the winners.

At the Mirpur Stadium, Wanderers and Eskaton Sabuj charged Jamal which cost him a yellow card and his team a costly goal.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhanmondi Club vs Muslim Institute 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

PWD SC vs Arambagh KS 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Muktijoddha Sangsad KC vs Wari Club 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Cricketers accorded reception

Sports Reporter

The victorious Bangladeshi youth cricketers, who won a seven-nation invitational cricket tournament in Malaysia early this month, were accorded a reception by Sonar Gaon Hotel at its Surma Room last evening.

Richard Vrijmoet, general manager of the hotel, welcomed the youngsters on behalf of the hosts. All the members of the Bangladeshi contingent were present on the occasion.

Aminul Huq Moni, general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, along with Reza-e-Karim, the treasurer, made up for the absence of the board president, Foreign Minister, A S M Mostafizur Rahman, who failed to attend the function owing to engagements elsewhere.

Bangladesh beat a young Sri Lankan selection in the final of the tournament, which involved teams from Denmark, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, East and Central Africa and hosts Malaysia.

Eves' swimming meet on

The Agrani Bank age-group open girls' and women's swimming competition begins today at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex swimming pool, reports UNB.

The three-day meet, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA), will be inaugurated by State Minister for Finance M Mojabir Rahman. Managing Director Mustafa Aminur Rashid of sponsors Agrani Bank will be the special guest.

Some 95 swimmers, representing 12 districts and sports organisations, are expected to take part in the 37-event competition, including 11 for the girls.

Club cricket transfers in October

Sports Reporter

Inter-club transfers of cricketers for the 1994-95 cricket season will begin some time in October, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board press release yesterday.

All the clubs of the Navana Premier and Milnars First Division leagues have been requested to take necessary preparations.

Voeller back with a bang

BONN, Aug 29: German international striker Rudi Voeller scored a last-minute goal in his first match for Bayer Leverkusen on Sunday to crown a 4-0 win against Eintracht Frankfurt, who had two players sent off, reports Reuters.

Voeller, 34, who signed from Marseille in midweek, scored 18 minutes after coming on as a substitute as Bayer Leverkusen registered their first victory of the season.

Frankfurt, without a win from their first three Bundesliga matches, were already handicapped without the injured Ghanaian striker Anthony Yeboah, who pulled a hamstring in midweek.

After falling 2-0 behind by half time, Frankfurt's chances completely vanished when Georgian international Kachaber Zhadadze and Ralf Weber were both sent off in the second half for repeated fouls.

Bayer captain and midfielder Bernd Schuster put them ahead after 16 minutes, firing from 40 metres to catch German national goalkeeper Andreas Koepke off-guard.

Ulf Kirsten followed up before half time and Brazilian World Cup midfielder Paulo Sergio made it 3-0 after 66 minutes.

Atherton praises Rhodes

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 29: England captain Mike Atherton acclaimed Steve Rhodes as player of the season after the wicket-keeper batsman helped to complete their international programme with a flourish on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Rhodes hit 56 to take the man-of-the-match award as South Africa were beaten by four wickets in the rain-interrupted second and last one-day match at Old Trafford.

The result gave England a 2-0 success after their six-wicket win in the first game at Edgbaston last Thursday.

England's limited overs triumph sealed an encouraging finish to the season in which they fought back to square the three-Test series with South Africa 1-1, having beaten New Zealand 1-0 in three earlier Tests.

Atherton said: "The real find for the England team this year has been Rhodes. Wicket-keepers are notoriously undervalued, and it's nice occasionally to give them some recognition."

"Steve is very good with the bowlers and he also gees up the fielders. He saved us the (second) Test match against New Zealand at Lord's, has made useful runs right through the summer and has now seen us through in this last game. He has been excellent."

Reflecting on England's recent fortunes, Atherton said: "We fought back after losing to South Africa in the first Test by becoming a very positive and vibrant unit with a lot of self-belief."

"If we can regenerate that in Australia then I think we can do well."

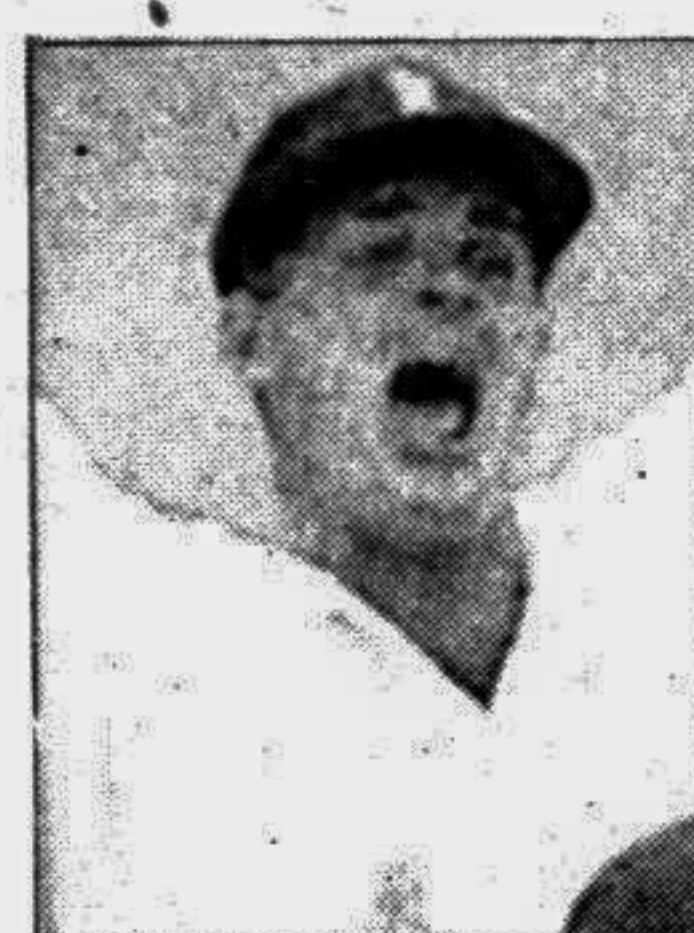
England set off in October for the five-Test Ashes tour, buoyed by their improved form which, in Atherton's eyes, stems from the sort of combative players such as Rhodes who have come through this season.

"What has pleased me most is that the side have shown a lot of character in recent weeks — that's what I'm looking for. As captain, you want team spirit, a desire to win for England and a desire to play for England."

That last half-hour on the Friday of the Oval Test, when Phil DeFreitas and Darren

Gough took on South Africa's attack and swung the match around, spread belief.

"It was the moment for me that has now led to these three wins (in the final Test and two



STEVE RHODES (one-dayers).

"Gough and (all-rounder) Craig White have come in and done well. DeFreitas has re-emerged and had a superb summer, and Graham Thorpe, too, has come back to make a point after being left out at the start of the season."

"He has shown great character to bounce back, and it

was shame he was not given the opportunity to carry things on straight away from the advancement he made on last winter's West Indies tour."

While focusing on the tour of Australia, Atherton also allowed himself a look ahead to the next World Cup in the sub-continent in early 1996.

He said: "I think we are as good a one-day side as any. We've got a lot of all-rounders and a great fielding side. And, with someone like (off-spinner) Shaun Udal coming in at number 11, the batting is all the way down."

"The World Cup is being held in Pakistan and India where pitches and grounds are very dry. There should be reverse swing and in Gough, Dominic Cork and Chris Lewis we have three bowlers who can do that."

"They are also accurate, can throw in yorkers at will and can all bowl at the death."

South African coach Mike Procter echoed Atherton's view of England prospects and said: "I think they are the best balanced side around for one-day cricket."

"England bat all the way down, they've got a lot of all-rounders, their bowlers put the ball in the right place and they field well."



Agrani Bank custodian flings himself to his left to thwart a menacingly poised Mahbubur Rahman Roxy of Mohammedans during yesterday's sparkling dramatic encounter of the two teams that saw holders Mohammedans their taste maiden defeat in this year's Premier league at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo



Malaysian women dressed in national costume wave during the closing ceremonies of the XV Commonwealth Games in Victoria on August 28. Kuala Lumpur will host the next Games in 1998. — AFP photo

XV C'wealth Games end

VICTORIA, Aug 29: The XV Commonwealth Games came to a colourful, multi-cultural and sometimes rowdy conclusion Sunday evening before a capacity crowd under threatening skies at Centennial Stadium, reports AP.

Prince Edward, president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, declared the Games officially concluded at the end of the two-hour ceremony, which featured performances by singers and dancers from 14 of the 64 nations that participated in the 10 days of competition.

"No, no," hundreds in the crowd of more than 33,000 shouted as Sonny de O Sales, president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, called on the prince to declare the Games over.

"Let's do it again," someone hollered.

Some of the boisterous competitors tossed wads of paper, and one seat cushion, at the prince as he left the stadium in the same open 1939 Buick that brought his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, into the opening ceremony Aug 18.

Thousands of athletes and

Games volunteers poured onto the field as the ceremony concluded, dancing and waving to the crowd.

In declaring the Games concluded, the prince called on the members of the Commonwealth to again assemble in four years in the XVI Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for a friendly competition "for the good of humanity and the peace of the world."

Rain fell just before the ceremony began but held off throughout the performances after most of the Games were competed in sunshine.

A large share of the 3,350 athletes who took part in the Games watched the ceremony. Occasionally groups of athletes would exchange friendly battles with wads of paper and, in the middle of a production number, a New Zealand competitor rode into the centre of the field on a small bicycle, much to the surprise and consternation of the show's producers.

Representatives of each of the 64 nations marched around the track. Among them, the subdued representatives of Hong Kong, making their final Games appearance. Hong Kong will be ceded to China by Britain in 1997, one

year the next Games.

More exuberant were the representatives of South Africa, which returned to the Games for the first time since 1958, when the nation was banned because of its racist policies.

Now that the country is integrated, it was warmly welcomed back, receiving a standing ovation from the crowd at the opening ceremony.

Wheelchair-bound performers and young people, all decorated as birds, took part in "Healing Journey," a tribute to the disabled athletes who participated in the Games as official members of their teams for the first time.

The Commonwealth flag was lowered and presented to the mayor of Victoria, who was instructed to take it to Malaysia in 1998.

Among those honored were the more than 14,000 volunteers who helped put on a competition roundly considered a success. Earlier in the day, officials said the Games were sure to break even financially.

Member of Vancouver Island's native Coast Salish Nation chanted a traditional farewell as the prince departed.

Embarrassment for Lewis

COPENHAGEN, Aug 29: Carl Lewis said he would return home and begin preparing for next season after finishing an embarrassing fourth over 100 metres on Sunday on his return to the athletics circuit after a stomach infection, reports Reuters.

The former Olympic and world champion clocked a mediocre 10.41 seconds at an international gala in Copenhagen despite being uncharacteristically fast out of the blocks.

His Santa Monica Track Club teammate, Sam Jefferson, won in 10.30 ahead of Norwegian Geir Moen in 10.38 and fellow American Mark Witherspoon in 10.40.

"I wanted to run here to see how I felt. My start was good but I just didn't have the sharpness. It was a long time ago I ran as badly as 10.41," said Lewis, hit by a stomach infection at the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg in early August.

Lewis, 33, who has not been among the world's 10 fastest men this year, said he was pulling out of the upcoming Berlin Grand Prix and would not run again in Europe this year.

"I've had bad years before. I'll bounce back. I've always bounced back before," said Lewis, adding he was determined to be at his best at next year's World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden.

"I'll run next year and then I'll make a decision about (the 1996 Olympics in) Atlanta," said Lewis.

Lewis held the 100 metres world record of 9.86 until American Leroy Burrell improved it to 9.85 earlier this season.

Morceli just misses the mark

RIETI, Italy, Aug 29: Algerian Noureddine Morceli, bidding to shatter a world record in this Italian town for the third straight year, failed in his assault on the 5,000 metre mark on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Morceli had his sights fixed on the time of 12 minutes 56.96 seconds set by Ethiopian Haile Gebresilasie earlier this year but ended up almost 11 seconds outside that time, clocking 13:07.88 on a hot, late summer afternoon.

American sprinter Jon Drummond equalled his personal best of 9.99 seconds to hand British world Olympic and European champion Linford Christie a rare defeat.

Kenyan Benson Koch, 19, demonstrated his potential by clocking the best 800 metres time of the year — one minute 43.17 seconds — as he beat compatriot and Olympic champion William Tanui into second place.

But Morceli, 24, was the man everyone had come to see at the annual international meeting in this town in the hills some 80 km (50 miles) north of Rome.

Morceli, a world record holder in the 1,500 metres, mile and 3,000 metres, could not add to his collection despite a storming start.

He was more than four seconds ahead of Gebresilasie's time at the 2,000 metres mark but the record began to slip away from that point.

Morceli clocked 7:50.02 at 3,000 metres — still just up on the Ethiopian's pace when he set the record in the Dutch town of Hengelo — but below his target of 7:45.

The Algerian smashed Aoulta's seven-year-old world 1,500 metres record in 1992 and took Englishman Steve Cram's mile record, set in 1985, at Rieti last September. Aoulta held the record from 1987 until Gebresilasie broke it in June.

In 1998, it'd be different

VICTORIA, Aug 29: The 15th Commonwealth Games ended on a damp note here on Sunday, but Malaysia promised to clear the air for a bigger and better event next time, reports AFP.

As officials in Victoria congratulated themselves, their counterparts in Malaysia, which stages the 1998 event, were unimpressed.

They promised to do things differently — more professionally and, probably to heck with the cost.

Games officials boasted the 1994 Games had made a profit and Victoria as a community had benefited.

Also, disabled athletes had rubbed shoulders with able-bodied counterparts for the first time at a major international, multi-discipline sports event.

John Walton, Chairman of the Board of the Victoria Commonwealth Games Society, refused to allow Sunday's bad weather — the first prolonged dampener in an otherwise sunny, 11-day event — to ruin his parade.

The society's finance director, Terry Wright, said there

had been real financial achievements. Receipts had helped provide 14 million dollars (10 million US) for an athletics trust fund, 10 million dollars (7 million US) for a centre for sport development and a further four million dollars (2.9 million US) to help local authorities in the Victoria region finance their own sports development programmes.

There were, he proclaimed, 200 corporate sponsors. But that did not please everyone. Local British Columbian natural water producers claimed they had been squeezed out by the high-bidding Evian of France, which isn't even a member of the Commonwealth.

Other major sponsors from non-Commonwealth countries (although they offered their sponsorship through their Canadian subsidiaries) included Canon and Seiko of Japan and Coca Cola, IBM, Kodak and Reebok of the United States.

And these sponsors jealously guarded their rights.

One journalist invited to a Reebok party for the South African team, present at the Games after a 36-year absence,

was asked to take off his T-shirt because it bore endorsement for Reebok's rival, Nike. He compromised by agreeing to wear a Reebok shirt over his Nike shirt.

So hadn't the Commonwealth Games simply become the commercial Games? "No," insisted Games organisers spokeswoman Amy Hart. "I'd prefer to call them the fiscally responsible Games."

But whatever the labels say, the Games will be different in Kuala Lumpur.

Although Heller's 13,000 volunteers (ranging from school children to retirees) saved the Games organisers at least 15 million dollars (11 million US), Malaysia plans to enlist its army to guide and direct the visiting athletes, officials, media and fans in Kuala Lumpur in 1998.

And Malaysian officials suggested they would not include disabled athletes in their Games, extending a debate started by Australian chief de mission Arthur Tunstall. Early in the Games Tunstall caused a turgor by describing the disabled athletes as embarrassment.

He later claimed to have been misquoted.

Centenary IOC congress on

PARIS, Aug 29: South African President Nelson Mandela has dropped out of this week's centenary Olympic congress because of political commitments

at home, an International Olympic Committee (IOC) official said on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Mandela's decision means organisers of the 15-million dollar Paris Congress, the Olympic movement's first such meeting for 13 years, have lost their three biggest names.

A spokesman for French President Francois Mitterrand said last week that Mitterrand would not be opening the Congress, in which world sports chiefs are due to debate the future of the Games, despite IOC statements that he would do so.

Instead, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur will address

today's formal opening ceremony.

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo, who was due to sing at the grandiose ceremony, also withdrew — because his mother was sick, according to Olympic sources.

IOC director-general Francois Carrard said Mandela, whom he described as an "old friend" of the Olympic movement, had long warned the IOC that his parliamentary schedule might prevent him coming to Paris.

"We left the matter open, but the latest news is that he will not be with us," Carrard told a news conference.

Instead the IOC's four keynote speakers on the four full days of congress from Tuesday to Friday will be French Environment Minister Michel Barnier, former US hurdler Ed Moses, French Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie and veteran marine ex-

plorer and ecologist Jacques Cousteau.

The congress begins with a day of celebrations across Paris, including an Oxford versus Cambridge University boat race on the Seine and a torch and flag relay, before the actual opening ceremony in the Bercy Stadium in eastern Paris.

It was in Paris in 1894 that Baron Pierre de Coubertin saw his dream come true to reviving the Olympiads of ancient Greece.

Joining Balladur at the podium will be IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch and Paris mayor Jacques Chirac — one of Balladur's possible rivals for next year's presidential elections.

Carrard said the budget for the five-day congress and subsequent meetings of the IOC itself was 81 million French francs (15.1 million dollars) — and that was likely to be exceeded.