

## Sport



OLD IS GOLD: Army's veteran sprinter Golam Ambia races to the gold in men's 100m dash with a timing of 10.89 seconds ahead of BJMC's star sprinter Bimal Tarafdar. Bimal the fastest man of South Asia clocked 10.91 to settle for the silver on the first day of the two-day Power Summer Athletics which began at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

## Ambia, Feroza retain crowns

Sports Reporter

Veteran serviceman Golam Ambia held the youthful challenge of South East Asia's fastest man at bay to retain his throne in the domestic circuit on the opening day of the 12th Power Summer Athletics which got underway at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The sprint stalwart of Bangladesh Army clocked 10.89 seconds to pip Bimal Chandra Tarafdar, the sensation of the Sixth SAF Games to the post to claim the gold medal in men's 100m dash.

Bimal of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) who became the toast of country's sports lovers with a brilliant dash to set a new SAF record last December, came second in the post finish with a timing of 10.91 seconds.

Emdadul Huq Ranju of Customs copped the bronze medal with 10.96 secs.

Tradition was in battle against novelty in women's scenario too.

Feroza Khatoon of Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation (BJMC) retained her mantle as the fastest woman of the country winning the 100 gold for her 12.62 seconds effort.

Rehana Parveen of Customs bagged the silver with a timing of 12.80 seconds.

Niltufar Yasmin of (BTMC) finished third for her timing of 12.98 seconds.

Feroza completed a day of resounding success when she took the gold in women's 100m hurdles. She took 16.38 seconds.

Rita Barooah of Customs bagged the silver clocking 19.55 seconds.

Rimi of BTMC pocketed the bronze timing 19.99 seconds.

Fifteen events were settled on the opening day of the two-day meet and BJMC led the table with a haul of 13 medals including six golds.

They were closely followed by Bangladesh Army who bagged ten medals four of them being golds.

Navy took two golds to stay in the third position with a haul of three medals.

## Stewart upsets Chinese plans

ROME, Sept 2: Zimbabwe's Even Stewart upset the favoured Chinese diver to win his country's first ever gold medal at the World Swimming Championships Friday. reports AP.

American diver Brian Earley took the bronze.

In a contest played under gray skies and in showery weather, China's Lan Wei needed only a modest final dive to collect an expected victory in the first final of the championships. The men's 1-meter springboard. But, he scored only 6s and 6.5s for a backward 2 1/2 somersault.

Stewart, by contrast, produced the best dive of the tournament only a minute earlier in the sixth- and final round of dives. His inward 2 1/2 somersault, the toughest dive of the competition, earned him 76.50 points, including an 8.00.

## Popov's anguish

ROME, Sept 2: No one in the world swims 100 metres nearly as fast as Russia's Alexander Popov, and he's disappointed.

Popov, in Rome for the World Swimming Championships, fears the lack of competition hurts his chances for lowering his world record of 48.21 seconds, reports AP.

"There are many great swimmers, but they're still about a second behind me," the 23-year-old freestyle said Friday.

And Popov, who races the 100 freestyle here Wednesday, said he needs tight competition to be able to improve his times.

## Four-nation World Series begins tomorrow

# Pakistan ready to roll



COLOMBO, Sept 2: World Champions Pakistan are confident of adding another trophy to their crowded cupboard when the four-nation World Series tournament starts here Sunday.

The Pakistanis have not lost a limited-overs competition since lifting the World Cup in 1992, are in no mood to start now.

"We want to win everything," team manager Intikhab Alam said today as his team prepared to face India, Australia and hosts Sri Lanka in the two-week event.

"We are rated the best team in one-day cricket. We do not want to let that reputation slip," said Intikhab, a former Pakistani Test captain.

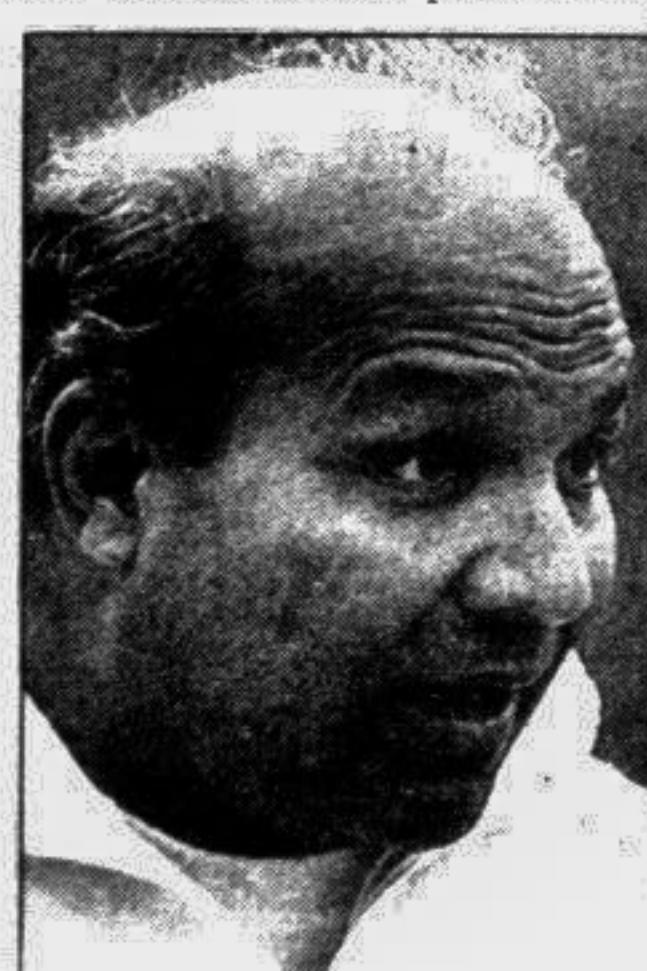
Led by the fiery pace duo of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, and backed by a solid batting line-up, Pakistan have enjoyed an unprecedented run in the last two seasons.

They have scalped New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in one-to-one series, besides winning limited overs tournament in Sharjah.

Pakistan start the World Series with the advantage of spending the last two months in Sri Lanka, where they thrashed the home side 4-1 in the one-day series and went on the win both Test matches in under four days.

Intikhab agreed Pakistan were overwhelming favourites to win the tournament, but warned his team against being complacent.

"One-day cricket is very unpredictable. Everything depends on how a team plays on a particular day," he said. "Besides, the other teams will put their best foot forward against us."



INTIKHAB ALAM

league where each team plays the other once. The top two teams in the league will contest the final on September 17.

India kick off Sri Lanka's biggest cricket event with a day-night match against the home team at the Premadasa Stadium, the venue of four matches including the final.

Australia, who are scheduled to tour Pakistan after the tournament, will assess the potential of their new-look team under Mark Taylor, the successor to the retired Allan Border.

The Australians have included three spinners.

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin, still ranked by his team's humiliating defeat against Pakistan in the Australasia Cup final at Sharjah in April, is thirsty for revenge.

"We can win the tournament if we play to our potential, but winning against Pakistan is our top priority," the stylish middle-order batsman said.

India and Pakistan will clash on September 15 in the last match of the preliminary

PAKISTAN: Salim Malik (capt), Saeed Anwar, Aamer Sohail, Inzamamul Haq, Basit Ali, Asif Mujtaba, Wasim Akram, Rashed Latif (wicket keeper), Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Rameez Raja, Ashfaq Ahmed, Akram Raza, Zahid Fazal, Kabir Khan.

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin (Capt), Navjot Sidhu, Sachin Tendulkar, Manoj Prabhakar, Ajay Jadeja, Vinod Kambli, Atul Bedi, Kapil Dev, Nayan Mongia (wicket keeper), Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan, Venkatesh Prasad, Venkatesh Raja, Prashant Vaidya.

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor (Capt), David Boon, Michael Bevan, Mark Waugh, Michael Slater, Steve Waugh, Justin Langer, Ian Healy (wicket keeper), Craig McDermott, Jo Angel, Damien Fleming, Glen McGrath, Shane Warne, Tim May, Gavin Robertson.

SRI LANKA: Arjuna Ranatunga (Capt), Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Sanath Jayasuriya, Dulip Samaraweera, Sanjeev Ranatunga, Hashan Tilakaratne, Upul Chandana, Rubudu Dassanayake (wicket keeper), Ruwan Kalpage, Kumar Dharmasena, Chandra Vass, Pramodha Wickramasinghe, Muttiah Muralitharan, Ravindra Pushpakumara.

### FIXTURES

Sept 4: India v. Sri Lanka

Sept 7: Pakistan v. Australia

Sept 9: India v. Australia

Sept 11: Pakistan v. Sri Lanka

Sept 13: Australia v. Sri Lanka

Sept 15: India v. Pakistan

Sept 17: Final

SCARBOROUGH, England, Sept 2: The second day of South Africa's three-day tour match against the President's World XI was abandoned because of rain here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The tourists were 230-3 in their first innings before the wet weather arrived to also wipe out the final session of Wednesday's opening day.

Lara added 102 to finish with 23 fours and a six from

## Impressive win for Muktijoddha

Sports Reporter

Muktijoddha Krira Chakra Sangsads completed their first phase engagements of the Star Premier Division football league in an emphatic style when they blanked Arambagh Krira Sangsads 3-0 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The fledgling title aspirants with a bevy of national booters in their ranks led the first half by a solitary goal.

Saiful Bari Titu gave Muktijoddha an early lead when he found the net with a free-kick taken from outside the box in the seventh minute.

Lanky striker strengthened Muktijoddha's grip on the match with a 59th minute strike when he controlled a cross from right winger Mamun and blasted the net as the Arambagh defenders reacted awfully slowly to the situation.

Mizan, who perhaps has been enjoying the best season of his career this year, took his personal tally in the Premier league to five, four minutes before the final whistle.

He duly beat the helpless Arambagh custodian Bijon after being provided with a neat square pass from Rumi Rizvi Karim, the prized medio of the new force in the local circuit returning to the ground after a longish lay-off due to injury.

With this win Muktijoddha held their second position in the points table after Abahani with 13 points from nine engagements.

Victoria edged past babes Muslim Institute by a solitary goal in a Star First Division match played earlier at the same venue.

Amin Khan scored the match decider in the 28th minute.

Rain the spoiler

SCARBOROUGH, England, Sept 2: The second day of South Africa's three-day tour match against the President's World XI was abandoned because of rain here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The tourists were 230-3 in their first innings before the wet weather arrived to also wipe out the final session of Wednesday's opening day.

Rain threatened to put a damper on the title march, but after a blank morning, the weather smiled on their rapid progress from the overnight 210 for one.

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London, Sept 2: Brian Lara became the first batsman to pass 2,000 championship runs this season on Thursday and in the process helped Warwickshire move closer to their first county title in 22 years, reports Reuter.

His brilliant 191, in a total of 483 for six, against Hampshire at Edgbaston, gave Warwickshire maximum bonus points and a lead of 205 at the close of the second day.

Lara also equalled fellow West Indian Alvin Kallicharran's Warwickshire record of nine centuries in a season as he and Roger Twose put on 295 together for the second wicket.

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Both batsmen were eventually dismissed by off-spinner Shaun Udal, but at a high cost of 131 runs from his 26 overs.

Twose was drawn forward for a stumping by Adrian Aymes and Lara fell to a brilliant catch by Robin Smith at mid-wicket.

Nearest challengers Leicestershire were hit by the weather for the second successive day against Gloucestershire at Bristol where rain has washed out 178 overs of the match so far.

Leicestershire finished on

167 for three, 183 runs behind Gloucestershire who closed their first innings on 350 for four when play finally started in mid-afternoon.

Paceman Courtney Walsh

rocked Leicestershire with two wickets in his first seven balls to dismiss West Indian

teammate Phil Simmons and Nigel Briers but James Whitaker and Tim Boon forged

206 for six declared.

Following on 255 runs behind, Glamorgan finished on 29 without loss second time round.

London, Sept 2: Paceman Chris Lewis made a last-ditch bid to book an Ashes tour place with a lively three-wicket haul to help third-placed Nottinghamshire enforce the following-on in their match against Glamorgan at Workshop.

Lewis claimed three for 75

from two lengthy spells to inflict most of the early damage as Glamorgan were sent tumbling to 221 all out in reply to Nottinghamshire's first innings

476 for six declared.

Following on 255 runs behind, Glamorgan finished on 29 without loss second time round.

Cork Mark Llott and Ian Salisbury go to India with the England A team in January and February as compensation for missing out on the senior trip.

Yet only in April the big

Middlesex seamer helped England win the Barbados Test against the West Indies with a career-best eight for 75.

Fricket keeper Keith Piper, who met in the 16-man A team squad, is the only player selected from the county still on course for an unprecedented Grand Slam of four domestic titles.

But the main talking point is the absence of Fraser and the decision to go instead for Benjam and McCague.

McCague Northern, Ireland-born and Western Australia raised, has earned an England recall by a burst of spectacular form during the last couple of months.

Benjam has been chosen on the strength of his consistent county strike rate and a debut four for 42 against South Africa during the last two months.

Lancashire's John Crawley has held on to a batting place despite making just 59 runs from five innings in his debut series against South Africa during the last two months.

Fraser was dropped for the

England last summer, was memorably described in an Australian newspaper as "the rat who has joined the sinking ship."

McCague's recall gives

England even more firepower to add to the pace of Devon Malcom and Darren Gough.

White, too, will be distinctly sharp on Australian pictures.

As both he and McCague were brought up in Australia they will not be needing any added incentive to succeed.

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England last summer, was

memorably described in an

Australian newspaper as

"the rat who has joined the sinking ship."

Evoking images of Arcadia

PARIS, Sept 2: Jacques Cousteau

says he longs for the days when athletes competed for the sake of participation and perfection instead of cheating with drugs and money for stardom, reports AP.

At the sight of a masterly pole vault or at the finish line of a 400-metre dash ... I shake with pride to belong to the human species, the 84-year-old marine explorer told the International Olympic Committee Friday.

"But today the Olympic adventure is immersed in multiple, petty problems that must not mask its deep significance," he said at the 12th IOC Congress.