

## Dull draws at Dhaka Stadium

Sports Reporter

Public Works Department (PWD) Sports Club and promoters Bangladesh Boys completed their first phase engagements of the Star Premier Division football league when they fought out a goalless draw at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The relegation-threatened Bangladesh Boys, playing against a ten men PWD for the last 15 minutes, were really unfortunate not to get a goal as a Mintu header in the 71st minute went out brushing the cross-piece.

Lady luck let them down again ten minutes later as Prince's goal-bound header was brilliantly saved by Halim from the goal line.

PWD, who had one win to their credit so far, were reduced to ten men when their star forward Bulbul got the marching order after allegedly kicking a Boys defender in the 61st minute.

Nevertheless, after surviving two close calls, PWD managed their fourth draw to end the first phase with six points.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Boys, who also had a win to their credit recorded their second draw to raise their poor collection to four after nine matches to remain at the bottom of the table.

The first match of the day also ended in a draw when two first Division outfit Dhanmondi and Dhaka Wanderers enacted a 2-2 farce.

Liton scored both the goals for Dhanmondi while Sohag and Shafiq levelled the margin for Wanderers.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

East End vs Shantinagar 6:00 pm (Mirpur Stadium)  
Agrani Bank vs Wari Club 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)  
Brothers Union vs Fakirpool YMC 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

## Smith won't tour India

LONDON, Sept 3: Troubled batsman Robin Smith has turned down the chance of touring India with the England A cricket team this winter, reports Reuters.

But Ray Illingworth, England's Chairman of selectors, suggested on Friday that Smith might have been "destroyed" anyway by a two-month battle against the Indian spinners.

Hampshire's Smith, his Test career shot to pieces by a lack of confidence against the turning ball, could have used this winter's A tour as a way back into the international game.

He was approached by England manager Keith Fletcher about going to India in a bid to work at his problems.

But Smith said he wanted a rest, and also turned down a lucrative winter contract offer from Transvaal in South Africa.

Illingworth, however, made it clear on Friday that he personally feels Smith may never overcome a weakness laid bare in recent years by a trio of leg-spinners — Australia's Shane Warne, Indian Anil Kumble and Pakistan's Mushtaq Ahmed.

But Smith, 30, said on Friday: "I still believe I am among the top seven batsmen in the country, but that's obviously not the way the selectors think."

"But I have 10 years of cricket left in me and for four of those I want to be back in the Test team."

He added: "Keith Fletcher asked me to play on the A tour but I suggested a break would do me a lot of good."

Illingworth said: "Robin might have gone forward on the A tour but it might have destroyed him. It's better he has a winter off. I don't think going to India would have done him any good in the long term."

## Hudson hits form finally

SCARBOROUGH, England, Sept 3: Batsman Andrew Hudson found his form at last here on Friday — in the final match of South Africa's English tour, reports AFP.

Hudson, so badly out of form that he was dropped for the final Test match against England at the Oval, made 116 against the President's World XI.

But when he was out caught behind off the bowling of West Indian pacer Malcolm Marshall, the tourists shut up shop and the rain-ravaged match petered out into a draw with South Africa on 270-6.

Earlier, the President's XI had declared their first innings on 343-6 and then, with rain having wiped out the second of the match's three days, both sides forfeited an innings in an effort to produce a positive finish.

Keith Athurton made 60 and Peter Sleep an unbeaten 79 as the President's XI declared 20 minutes before lunch.

But the target always looked just beyond South Africa, who now fly off to Holland at the end of their historic tour.



Feroza Khatun of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) on her way to retaining the 100m title as the fastest woman of the country with a time of 12.62 seconds in the Power Summer Athletics meet at the Mirpur Stadium on Friday. — Star photo

## Power Summer Athletics Championships end Amin sets long jump mark

Sports Reporter

A terrific treble for Feroza Khatun of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), a delightful double for veteran Bangladesh Army sprinter Golam Ambia and teammate Bani Amin's record-breaking leap in the long jump were the highlights of the day as the Power Summer Athletics Championships concluded yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium.

Feroza, who basked in glorious success the day before when she won both the 100 metre dash and hurdles, rounded off an aureate campaign with the gold medal in the women's 200m sprint, clocking 26.14 seconds. Nilufar Yasmin of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) finished 0.33 second adrift to get the silver while the bronze went to Rajshahi's Shirin Sultana, who touched the tape in 27.29.

Ambia, the veteran serviceman who overcame age as well as Bimal Chandra Tarafder of BJMC, the fastest man of South Asia, to retain the 100-metre crown on Friday, crossed the finish line just two hundredths of a second ahead of teammate Nk. M Azhar Ali for his second gold of the meet. Ambia timed 21.58 seconds. Atul Chandra Sarker of Bangladesh Navy finished third.

Bani Amin eclipsed the previous national mark in the men's long jump with a leap of 7.36 metres. Amin's effort was 10 centimetres too much for

finished first in the men's event over the same distance. Lubna won the 400m gold earlier in the day, touching the tape in 58.69 seconds ahead of Sumita Goswami of BTMC, who crossed the line in 59.94 seconds later. The bronze went to Akashi Sultana of Ansari.

Abdul Majid Mollah of Bangladesh Air Force out-sprinted Army's Havildar M Giasuddin by half a second for the 400m gold with Navy's Saiful Islam collecting the bronze.

Lubna Mahmood of BJMC pocketed the women's 800m with a time of 2:22.06 seconds while Zakir Hossain of Army, who clocked 1:52.39 seconds,

## Bangladesh to take part in 9 Asiad events

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take part in nine disciplines at the 12th Asian Games, scheduled to begin in the Japanese city of Hiroshima from October 2.

The decision came after an emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) at its office yesterday.

Soft tennis, weightlifting and wrestling have been added to the six disciplines — athletics, swimming, shooting, boxing, kabaddi and hockey — selected earlier.

However, the grapplers and the weightlifters will have to bear their own expenses while the Asian Soft Tennis Federation will provide financial support for the soft tennis team, said the press release.

Lance Naik M Younus Ali of Bangladesh Army won the marathon with Navy's Abul Kashem being the other athlete to make it all the way.

The day's other winners included Lance Naik Solaiman Majumdar of Army in men's 110m hurdles, Fariduddin of Navy in men's high jump, Gazi M Mubiddin of Customs in javelin, Havildar Mustafa Talukder of Army in hammer throw, teammates Mujibur Rahman in steeplechase, M Aslam Khan of Ansari in 10,000-metre and BJMC's Jyosna Afroze in women's discus throw.

Bangladesh Army topped the medals-table of the two-day meet with 12 golds, 11 silvers and five bronzes ahead of BJMC, whose collection boasted 10 gold, nine silver and five bronze medals.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka was present at the closing ceremony as chief guest with Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation president Enamul Huq attending as a special guest.

## Warwickshire county champs

LONDON, Sept 3: Warwickshire were crowned English county cricket champions for the first time in 22 years after crushing Hampshire by an innings and 95 runs at Edgbaston on Friday, reports Reuters.

After West Indian Brian Lara's brilliant 191 on Thursday had helped them build a formidable first innings of 536, Warwickshire dismissed Hampshire for 163 in three hours.

Lara later joined in a chorus of criticism of England's selectors over what Warwickshire see as a massive snub to the team of the season.

"It's a big shame that England have not called up more of my teammates," said Lara. The England selectors earlier on Friday did not pick any Warwickshire player for the Ashes tour of Australia and only one, wicketkeeper Keith Piper, for the A tour of India.

In the match that brought the title, spinners Neil Smith (five for 65) and Richard Davis (three for 50) mopped up the last eight wickets for 103 runs.

The championship trophy was fittingly received by acting skipper Tim Munton. Eight of Warwickshire's 11 victories came during his nine games as deputy for injury-plagued captain Dermot Reeve.

Munton opted to extend Warwickshire's first innings from the overnight 483 for six and, in only nine overs, they added 53. The total of 536 was their third of 500 or more this season.

Warwickshire were left with 99 overs to bowl out Hampshire. They did it in only 50.2.

Munton sent back both openers to reach 81 wickets for the summer and the spin attack of Smith and Davis did the rest on a turning surface.

Lara became the first batsman to pass 2,000 championship runs this season with his 191 as he and Roger

### Baresi picked

ROME, Sept 3: Veteran captain Franco Baresi was named on Friday in Italy's squad for next Wednesday's opening European Championship qualifier against Slovenia six weeks after saying he was quitting international soccer, reports Reuters.

## Sacchi selects 15

ROME, Sept 3: Coach Arrigo Sacchi on Friday named 15 members of his World Cup squad to Italy's roster for the Azzurri's first qualifying match for the 1996 European Championship, reports AP.

The only absentees from the squad that lost on penalties to Brazil in the final were injured defenders Paolo Maldini and Antonio Benarrivo and suspended back, Mauro Tassotti.

Replacing them were AC Milan's Christian Panucci, Lazio's Giuseppe Favalli and Inter's Alessandro Bianchi.

While not included on the World Cup team, Panucci, Favalli and Bianchi all have played before with the national team.

Lazio Striker Giuseppe Signori, who was upset at being dropped by Sacchi from the starting team in the World Cup final against Brazil, was among the 18-man roster for Slovenia and was expected to start along with Roberto Baggio and Pierluigi Casiraghi in a 4-3-3 formation.

Veteran captain-sweeper Franco Baresi, who was expected to retire from the national team after the World Cup final, also was included in the roster.

Wednesday's game in Maribor is one of two in Group Four and one of 18 European qualifiers that day in all eight groups. Group Four also includes Ukraine, Croatia, Latvia and Estonia.

Italy, who did not qualify for the 1992 championship finals in Sweden, is considered the favorite of its group.

The 1996 finals are to be staged in England.

## Olympic centenary congress ends

PARIS, Sept 3: Four days of almost non-stop talking on the future of the Olympics ended on Friday with no clear picture emerging of where the Games are heading in the 21st century, reports Reuters.

After more than 400 speeches from sports officials, athletes, sponsors and the media, the most impressive contribution to the first Olympic Congress in 13 years was from the French taxpayer.

The week-long extravaganza for the 3,075 delegates from 192 countries cost at least 81 million francs (15 million US dollars) to stage, with half of that figure provided by the French government and the city of Paris.

But there was more grumbling among delegates about the lack of genuine debate, with a succession of speakers restricted to three-minute speeches on nebulous themes rather than constructive criticism or visionary approaches to the problems besetting the movement.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch had wanted a show of unity from the world of sport to mark the centenary of the founding of the modern Olympics in the French capital by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

Samaranch had his way but the pre-congress hype about finding new approaches to carry the Olympics into the next century looked ever more empty as the talks wore on.

The final day, dedicated to the theme of sport and the media, produced some individual suggestions which would have had the effect of restricting press cover to that permitted under totalitarian regimes.

Fortunately for the media and for the Games, few delegates seemed to take them seriously.

IOC leaders have maintained that the congress is a uniquely enriching experience, gathering together so many people from all areas of sport and from all over the world, and that its effects might take years to be felt.



WHEN YOU DON'T NEED THEM THEY ARE THERE...A group of policemen, stationed at the VIP stands, spent a rather quiet day at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday with hardly a few hundred spectators around. — Star photo

## India take on Sri Lanka today

## Revenge on Azhar's mind

COLOMBO, Sept 3: India and hosts Sri Lanka anticipate an intriguing battle of nerves when they clash here Sunday in the opening match of the four-nation World Series, weather permitting, reports AFP.

The day-night international at the Premadasa Stadium, the first in the round-robin league of the two-week event that also features Australia and Pakistan, is seen as a grudge match by both camps.

The previous encounter between the two teams at the same venue in August last year ended in high drama, as India plunged to defeat despite needing just 30 runs, at three an over, with seven wickets in hand.

The Indians avenged the humiliation by routing the Sri Lankans at home earlier this year, but skipper Mohammad Azharuddin is still ranked by that unexpected setback.

"It was probably our worst one-day defeat, something I will never forget for the rest of my life," he said. "The only way to make amends is to win this time."

His Sri Lankan counterpart Arjuna Ranatunga was equally keen for a win, saying it would help his team get their act together after the morale-sapping 4-1 defeat against Pakistan in the one-day series last month.

The rival captains were unanimous in saying that the team which withstands the pressure and stifling humidity better will emerge on top.

Bad weather, however, threatens to ruin the contest. Heavy rain in short spells over the last two days not only hampered the work-outs of the two teams but also left the outfield slushy.

More rain is forecast for Sunday, prompting the two teams to delay naming their playing elevens till just before the toss.

Indian manager Ajit Wadekar was worried that the lack of match practice could cost his team dearly.



AZHARUDDIN

"Except for Azharuddin, who played for Derbyshire in English county cricket, none of the boys have had a match since the Australasia Cup final at Sharjah in April."

"Our training camp in Madras last month was disrupted by unseasonal showers, and now we have brought the rain to Colombo. The boys are itching to get going in the middle," Wadekar said.

The Indians are expected to open the batting with big-hitter Sachin Tendulkar and all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar, forcing regular opener Navjot Sidhu down the order and Ajay Jadeja out on the sidelines.

Off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan and leggie Anil Kumble are likely to join Kapil Dev, Prabhakar and Javagal Srinath in the bowling attack, giving the team a good blend of seam and spin.

The Sri Lankans will once again rely on the experienced trio of Ranatunga, Aravinda de Silva and Roshan Mahanama to prop the brittle batting that stood exposed in the recent series against Pakistan.

India enjoy a 21-10 winning record in 33 one-day internationals against Sri Lanka so far. Two matches were abandoned due to rain.

### TEAMS

INDIA (from): Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Manoj Prabhakar, Navjot Sidhu, Vinod Kambli, Atul Bedade, Kapil Dev, Nayan Mongia (wicket-keeper), Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan, Ajay Jadeja, Venkatapathy Raju, Prashant Vaidya, Venkatesh Prasad.

SRI LANKA (from): Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Roshan Mahanama, Sanath Jayasuriya, Sanjeeva Ranatunga, Aravinda de Silva, Hashan Tillekaratne, Ruwan Kalpage, Pubudu Dassanayake (wicket-keeper), Kumar Dharmasena, Chaminda Vaas, Pramodaya Wickramasinghe, Muthiah Muralidharan, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Dulip Samaraweera, Upal Chandana.

## PEN PICTURES: ENGLAND

LONDON, Sept 3 (Reuters): Pen pictures of England tour party for the forthcoming Ashes series in Australia:

**Mike Atherton** (Lancashire), Age 26, Tests 40.

In trouble over the dirt-in-the-pocket affairs at Lord's in July and his fine for dissent at the Oval last month, he nevertheless remains fully respected by his team and is seen as the best man to lead to quest for the Ashes. A world-class opener too.

**Joey Benjamin** (Surrey), Age 33, Tests 1.

The ultimate late developer, he took four for 42 against South Africa on his Test debut at the Oval last month. The fast-medium away-swimming bowler did not play county cricket until he was 27 and did not break through as a quality performer until joining Surrey at the age of 31 following a lack of opportunity at home club Warwickshire.

**John Crawley** (Lancashire), Age 22, Tests 3.

Goes to Australia with huge question marks over his right to be tagged England's best batting prospect since David Gower. He was then thrown in against South Africa and his three Tests exposed worrying flaws in technique.

**Phil DeFreitas** (Derbyshire), Age 28, Tests 39.

Given yet another chance this summer, "Daffy" grabbed it with both hands. He was England's most consistent bowler of the season and produced three important innings as well. His maiden tour was to Australia eight years ago.

**Mike Gatting** (Middlesex), Age 37, Tests 74.

His recall, after more than a year out of favour, gives England naive experience, especially as in 1986-87 he was the last captain to bring back the Ashes. His age could have counted against him, but he remains a prolific plunderer of runs in county cricket.

**Graham Gooch** (Essex), Age 41, Tests 113.

England's record Test run-maker has been through a lean spell lately, failing to score even a half-century in nine innings against South Africa and New Zealand, but still rated the country's best batsman.

**Darren Gough** (Yorkshire), Age 23, Tests 4.

Burst into international cricket this summer like a breath of fresh air. A pace bowler capable of being genuinely quick, he is also more than useful in the lower order, where he flings the bat at almost everything. Whole-hearted, competitive and aggressive.

**Graeme Hick** (Worcestershire), Age 28, Tests 29.

At last came of age as a Test batsman against South Africa this summer. The decision to move the Zimbabwean-born right-hander up to No 3, his favoured position, was inspiring. Goes to Australia determined to keep his new-found aggression and confidence.

**Devon Malcolm** (Derbyshire), Age 31, Tests 28.

Fast bowler earned a place alongside cricket's immortals by single-handedly destroying South Africa at the Oval last month.

Those second innings figures of nine for 57 also saved his Test career and Malcolm will be desperate to prove his critics wrong after a frustrating two years in an out of the England team.

**Martin McCague** (Kent), Age 25, Tests 2.

Heavyweight paceman McCague — Northern Ireland-born but Australian-bred has stormed on to the tour with a magnificent second half of the summer. Back and shoulder injuries threatened his career but now he is fully fit and aiming to show the country that raised him what a fine bowler they produced.

**Steve Rhodes** (Worcestershire), Age 30, Tests 6.

He was described last week by Mike Atherton as England's "player of the year." Brought in at the start of the summer after a long apprenticeship, which included five tours, the Yorkshire-born wicket-keeper immediately revealed qualities of toughness, all-round ability and unquenchable spirit.

**Alec Stewart** (Surrey), Age 31, Tests 43.

Versatile Stewart has batted in every position from one to seven for England and is always available to keep wicket. No-one will battle harder to beat Australia, or celebrate more if the Ashes are regained.

**Graham Thorpe** (Surrey), Age 25, Tests 10.

Left-hander who scored a debut century against the Aussies at Trent Bridge last season and came through a troubled patch in the West Indies, but was then left out of the first four Tests of the summer. Showed England's selectors just how much they had booked by hitting South Africa for three brilliant 70s.

**Phil Tufnell** (Middlesex), Age 28, Tests 18.

Australian fans will remember him as the poor fielder who also had an on-filed row with then captain Graham Gooch during his debut tour in 1990-91. Since then has experienced the highs of winning Tests with his left-arm spin, and the lows brought on by a suspect temperament and his colourful private life.

**Shaun Udal** (Hampshire), Age 25, Tests 0.

Introduced to the England one-day team this summer. Udal showed a good temperament for the big time. Still learning as an off-spinner, but his useful batting and fine fielding puts him ahead of more experienced rivals.

**Craig White** (Yorkshire), Age 24, Tests 4.

Identified by Ray Illingworth as England's new all-rounder. White made steady if unspectacular start this summer. Fought against a shin injury until admitting defeat after four Tests. Raised in Australia, he is sure to be bailed by Aussie crowd.



Hollywood star Brooke Shields appears quite amused while waiting for the start of the Andre Agassi versus Guy Forget second round match at the US Open in New York on Thursday. Shields was a guest in Agassi's court-side box. — AFP photo