

## Sport

## Soggy start for 4-nation cricket

COLOMBO, Sept 4: The four-nation World Series limited-overs tournament made a slippery start here Sunday when the opening match between India and Sri Lanka was dashed by rain, reports AFP.

The match, the first of the two-week event also featuring Pakistan and Australia, will be replayed on Monday — weather permitting.

Just 25 deliveries were



bowed in the day-night international at the Premadasa Stadium before heavy rain drove the players back to the pavilion for the day.

India, sent to bat in overcast conditions, made 16 for no loss with Sachin Tendulkar on 11 and Manoj Prabhakar on three.

The start itself was delayed by two-and-a-half hours due to slushy ground conditions within the 30-yard circle, following overnight rain.

Umpires Brian Aldridge of New Zealand and T. Francis of Sri Lanka ordered a truncated 40-overs-a-side match, but the action lasted only 17 minutes.

The watery end came after Sri Lanka's biggest-ever cricket event was launched with a colourful, hour-long opening ceremony earlier in the afternoon, watched by all the four participating teams and some 7,000 spectators.

The two teams will be awarded a point each if the match is washed out again on Monday.

Australia and Pakistan play their first match on Wednesday.

## SCOREBOARD

INDIA	O	M	R	W
M Prabhakar not out	3			
S R Tendulkar not out	11			
Extras: (lb 1, w 1)	2			
Total: (no loss)	16			
<b>Bowling</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Wickramasinghe	2	0	5	0
Vaas	2	0	6	0
Overs: 4				

## IOC caves in to FIFA power

PARIS, Sept 4: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) caved in to the power of the world's number one sport and agreed that soccer would be in the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games even though FIFA has refused to sign an Olympic doping accord, reports Reuter.

FIFA, soccer's governing body, is the only Olympic federation not to have signed the agreement, aimed at intensifying the fight against doping in sport through a single list of banned drugs and common sanctions against offenders.

The accord specifically stipulates that only federations which comply can take part in the Games.

But IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch told a news conference on Saturday soccer would definitely be in the Olympic programme for Atlanta.

"I can assure you that there will be football in the Atlanta Games," he said.

Samaranch said he had held talks with FIFA president Joao Havelange, an IOC member, and general secretary Sepp Blatter in Paris on Friday.

"FIFA wants to reach an agreement with the IOC and the other federations," he said. "We will reach an agreement. What sort of agreement, I do not know."

But Samaranch conceded that FIFA had successfully argued that soccer should be treated as a special case. "Not all federations are the same. They are all different," he said.

FIFA has refused to accept the idea of hour-of-competition testing, arguing it is unnecessary in soccer and has so far not adopted IOC norms of a two-year minimum ban for performance-enhancing drugs such as anabolic steroids.

Samaranch's talks of a compromise with FIFA plainly undermined the purpose of the IOC's much-vaunted doping accord, signed by the other federations this year after long negotiations.

Cycling, which has not yet accepted the two-year minimum ban, signed the agreement, but added reservations.

The IOC has claimed it is leading the fight against doping in sport and has always maintained that it can only win if all sports adopt a common approach.

FIFA is fully aware it is on safe ground in its conflict with the IOC because Atlanta Games organisers are adamant that the sport must be in the programme following the huge popular success of soccer at the 1984 Los Angeles Games and at this year's World Cup finals in the United States.

## Mohammedans' last chance?

## Sports Reporter



Their last victory over Abahani Kira Chakra in the league was recorded way back in 1987 in front of the vast unmaned terraces of a locked Army Stadium. Seven years later, Mohammedan Sporting Club need to put an end to that trend as earnestly as never before as they take on their arch-rivals this evening in the concluding match of the first phase of this year's Star Premier Division football league, scheduled for a 6:30 start at the Dhaka Stadium.

The reigning champions trail league leaders Abahani by three points and the future of their title defence largely rests on the outcome of today's derby. If the black and whites lose, their gap with the sky blues will shoot to five, dumping them almost at a point of no-return as far as this year's championship is concerned.

Mohammedans played superbly against Brothers Union but were undone by their goal blind strikers and to some extent harsh supervision by the man in black.

Abahani Kira Chakra, who finished runners-up last year, have suddenly been smiled upon by the lady luck to embolden their feeble campaign to regain the Premier title.

In a wide open league, marked by an unprecedented four-way race for the title since Mukti Joddha enrolled themselves in contention with their dazzling collection of almost all the national booters and the Federation Cup, Abahani have so far been the only team to have escaped the smudge of defeat. Not only

have they won 10 of their 16

matches but also drawn

one.

On the first day of its 103rd session the IOC decided that Samaranch, as its president, could nominate up to 10 new members, IOC officials said.

The move amounts to one of the most significant changes of IOC rules in its 100-year history, widening the membership of perhaps the world's most exclusive club.

But in what participants

said was a stormy debate, IOC members forced their leader to drop an earlier proposal which would have given the Spanish the right to name the new members without the approval of his IOC colleagues.

"It was a bloody big battle," one IOC member said.

Under a rewrite of the Olympic Charter, Samaranch will nominate up to 10 new members for either their "function" or their "particular qualifications".

IOC director-general Francois Carrard said it was

expected the head of international sports federations would

get almost all the new places.

The president has said

time and again... that it is fundamental to the strength of the Olympic movement that its major components are represented in the heart of the IOC," Carrard told reporters.

Under the compromise rule

change, Samaranch's nominees

have to be approved by the existing 88 members of the IOC.

All 10 also have to come from

10 different countries — avoiding the risk of new national or regional power blocs on the committee.

Carrard said members

elected under the new rule

would have to quit the IOC if

they lost their other posts as

head of major sports federations.

IOC members said the re-

volt against Samaranch's origi-

nal proposal was led by the

doyen of the IOC, 73-year-old

Grand Duke Jean-Lugrem-

bourg.

The members said the

Grand Duke, an IOC member

since 1946, won the support of

27 members for his pro-

posal for a secret ballot block-

ing the proposal.

The compromise appeared

to be reached during a midday

coffee break during which

Samaranch and his lieutenants

on the ruling executive board

huddled together to discuss

the compromise.

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