

Star soccer leagues 2nd phase from today

Sports Reporter

The return league of the Senior Division football leagues begin today with three matches scheduled on the opening after a four-day recess, following the completion of the first phase.

Federation Cup champions Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, who finished second behind league leaders Abahani at the end of the first phase with 13 points, will meet Public Works Department (PWD) SC in the inaugural Star Premier Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium schedule for a 4:30 pm go-off.

Brothers Union will take on Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club at the same venue at 6:30 pm.

Besides, the only Star First Division football league match involving table leaders Rahmatganj MFS and lowly Muslim Institute will be kicked-off at 6pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

However, a shadow of doubt remains over the commencement of the final round of the two leagues on time as the six teams concerned resented DMFA's decision of sticking to the original schedule contending that the ongoing transport strike may land them in quite a bit of trouble in assembling the players at the respective venues.

Meanwhile, a number of club officials deemed the first three days' fixtures as unfeasible in the wake of agitational programmes announced by some political parties.

Barisal clinch inter-district soccer title

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 10: Hosts Barisal won the first ever inter-district football championship when they beat Bhola two nil in the final played at the local stadium this afternoon.

Kamal the top scorer of the tournament put the winners ahead from the penalty spot.

Harun, who was later declared player-of-the-tournament, put the issue beyond doubt with another goal for the victors.

Pirojpur won the fair play award as the most disciplined team in the five-day meet involving six district teams.

Bangladesh to take part in Asian jr athletics

A four-member Bangladesh athletics team leaves here on September 15 for Jakarta to take part in the fifth Asian junior athletics championships, reports BSS.

The five-day championships begin in the Indonesian capital on September 17.

The Bangladesh team includes two girls — Nilufar Yasmin and Rehana Parvin. The lone boy in the team is Morshed.

Morshed will take part in the long jump while Nilufar will participate in the girls' long jump, 100m and 200m sprints. Rehana will take part in the 100m and 200m sprint.

National athletics coach Yousuf Chowdhury will accompany the team as coach-cum-manager.

Eltingh, Haarhuis US Open doubles champs

NEW YORK, Sept 10: The third-seeded team of Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands won the men's doubles title in the US Open tennis championships Friday for their second Grand Slam crown of the year, reports Reuter.

Eltingh and Haarhuis beat the fourth-seeded Australian team of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde 6-3, 7-6 (7-1) to open a 4-1 edge over the duo in their meetings.

The Dutch pair, winner also of the Australian Open title this year, shared 200,000 dollars for the victory. Woodbridge and Woodforde, winner of the last two Wimbledon, received 100,000 dollars as runners-up.

"We decided to concentrate on Grand Slams after winning the World doubles championship last year," said Haarhuis, who teamed with Eltingh to beat the Australians for that title.

Winning the US Open is our biggest.

"We may not be the best doubles team but we are one of the two best," he added, referring to "the Woodies" who stopped them at Wimbledon, 9-7 in the fifth set.

Eltingh and Haarhuis took the first set with a 2-1 edge in early service breaks and won the second set tiebreak by taking the last five points.



Eighth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina falls to the ground after diving for a shot during the final set tie breaker against Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain in their semifinal match at the US Open on Sept 9. Sanchez-Vicario won 6-1, 7-6. — AFP photo

Graf in line for a quartet



NEW YORK, Sept 10: Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario set up a classic showdown for the women's final at the US Open by delivering a one-two punch at the National Tennis Centre on Friday, reports Reuter.

World number one Graf denied seventh seeded Jana Novotna a shot at revenge by snuffing the Czech's second-set charge and claiming a 6-3, 7-5 victory in the opening semifinal on the wind blown stadium court.

Sanchez, who has been sit-



STEFFI GRAF

ting in the second spot of the ranking for 47 weeks, breezed at the start and then battled fiercely to stave off a spirited challenge from eighth seed Gabriela Sabatini, prevailing 6-1, 7-6 and 8-6 in the tie-break.

The championship match between Graf, the Australian Open champion, and French Open winner Sanchez will take place today sandwiched between the men's semifinals.

The opening men's match will pit fourth-seeded former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany against 56th-ranked Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic.

Following the women's final, another former Wimbledon champion, Andre Agassi will take on ninth-seeded fellow-American Todd Martin.

Defending champion Graf, seeking a fourth US crown, and Sanchez will play for a first prize of 550,000 dollars.

Graf leads their career series 24-7, but the Spaniard won their last encounter at a

US Open. Sanchez beat the German in straight sets in the quarter-finals of 1992.

"I know it's going to be very hard," said Sanchez, who also beat Graf in their last meeting in the final of the Canadian Open last month.

"I'll have to be aggressive and take advantage of opportunities, that's the key to beating her."

Novotna is still looking for the key to unlocking that mystery despite delivering a stiff test to Graf on a day that produced the two most exciting matches in the women's tournament.

Graf's victory was her 10th in a row over Novotna, a string that includes the Czech's infamous choke in the 1993 Wimbledon final. In that match, Novotna was a point away from going ahead 5-1 in the third set when she fell apart.

This time, Novotna pushed Graf for an hour and 49 minutes — the second set alone took 67 minutes, 12 minutes longer than any of Graf's previous matches leading up to the semifinal.

Still, with the second set apparently firmly within her grasp, Novotna unravelled under the pressure of Graf's pounding ground strokes, and the pressure of the moment.

Playing aggressively and forcing the action, Novotna held a 5-2 lead and worked her way to three set points against Graf's serve in the eighth game. Each time, the German fought her off.

In the next game, Graf used some big passing shots to break Novotna at 15. Graf held easily to make it 5-5 and then broke Novotna again in the 11th game — this time at love — as the Czech cemented her fate with three clumsy double faults.

"My game just fell apart a little bit for three games," said Novotna who preferred to look on the bright side.

Sabatini threatened Sanchez early in their match, holding four break points in the opening game but after that challenge went down quietly as she struggled to find her groundstroke touch in the whipping wind.

But the Argentine revived in the second set, just as she has seemed to breath new life into

her moribund game in the first 11 days of the year's last Grand Slam.

Fighting hard to snap a string of three tournaments without a title, spanning more than two years, Sabatini turned on the aggression and began to rush the net — in a fashion resembling her charge to the 1990 Open title.

She broke Sanchez in the fourth game to lead 3-1, but the gritty Spaniard broke right back by taking advantage of a weak Sabatini approach shot.

The Latin rivals both raised their game to produce electric rallies that featured a staggering range of shot making — from deft lob to tantalising drop, from stop volleys to overhand smashes into the corners.



SANCHEZ VICARIO

They exchanged breaks over the last four games of the second set, with Sabatini saving two match points before breaking on her fourth chance of the 10th game.

In the climatic tiebreak Sabatini slumped with two early double faults to fall back 4-1. But she rallied yet again, winning five of the next points to reach set point at 6-5.

Then it was Sanchez's turn to come alive, and the Spaniard responded with two backhand winners to lead 7-6 and hold another match point.

This time Sanchez cashed in, punching a low volley that soared over Sabatini's head toward the baseline. It brushed the line, and Sabatini's desperate between the legs try to stay alive slapped against the net tape and fell short to put Sanchez into the final.

Hamid blasts authorities

Sports Reporter

The performance of the athletes and swimmers in the recently concluded 15th Commonwealth Games was a shameful exhibition and a mockery of participation in an international meet.

This was observed by Abdul Hamid, the general team manager of the Bangladesh team who recently returned home witnessing yet another dismal performance by Bangladeshi sportsmen and women.

"I don't see any point in sending people who are far below the international standard," said Abdul Hamid. "It was a pity for an official to witness the athletes and swimmers still in motion when participants from other countries were celebrating their feats" added the Bangladesh Manager while recalling his bitter memories in the Victoria Games.

"There should be a minimum standard or criteria regarding the participation in any international meet" contended the dejected official who termed his stay in the United States after the meet as nothing unusual since he sought prior permission from the authorities. "I don't see any problem in not accompanying the team. I joined them alright, albeit later" said Hamid while refuting the allegation against him that he went out of the way to arrange a ticket straight to the USA instead of accompanying the team to the Canadian city of Victoria.

Winning wanderers

GAZA CITY, Sept 10: A Palestinian football team from the Jebalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip defeated a team from Qatar 4-1 on Friday in the first match played by an Arab country in territories occupied by Israel in 1967, reports Reuter.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and a member of Qatar's ruling family, Halifa Bin Hassan Al-Thani, attended the game.

As part of the Palestinian self-rule agreement, most Israeli troops pulled out of the Gaza Strip in May after 27 years of occupation.

3 more pull out of Asiad soccer tourney

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 10: Three more countries have withdrawn from the soccer competition for next month's Asian Games, bringing the total to five and forcing the Asian Football Confederation to conduct a new draw. AFC secretary general Peter Vellapan said Friday, reports AP.

Citing only avoidable problems, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia have pulled out, joining Brunei and Indonesia which withdrew earlier, Vellapan said. That leaves only 19 of the 24 teams that were drawn into four, six-team groups for the Asiad, scheduled for the Oct. 2-16 Olympic-style quadrennial event in Hiroshima, Japan.

Muller may join Everton

LONDON, Sept 10: Brazilian international striker Muller appears set to join English Premier league side Everton when he flies in for negotiations this weekend, reports Reuter.

Everton manager Mike Walker, who last week signed Nigerian forward Daniel Amokachi, said on Friday he expected to see the highly-experienced Brazilian international at the club on Saturday.

"He is the player we have been chasing. There has been some delay but we hope he'll be here tomorrow," said Walker.

The 28-year-old Muller, who managed only one brief appearance as a substitute at the World Cup, has amassed 53 caps and was joint top-scorer for Brazil in the 1990 finals.



Australian Samantha Riley, the new world record holder in the women's 100m breaststroke final at the World Swimming Championships in Rome, displays her gold medal during the award presentation ceremony on Sept 9. — AFP photo

Perkins, Riley rule the pool

It's Australia day in Rome



ROME, Sept 10: Kieren Perkins and Samantha Riley made it Australia day at the World Swimming Championships on Friday with two magnificent world records, reports Reuter.

Perkins blitzed the men's 400 metres freestyle mark by more than a second to claim his third world record in 16 days and leave his rivals in disarray far behind.

Riley completed a personal golden double with a run away victory in the women's 100 metres breaststroke, accomplishing the rare feat of beating the formidable Chinese women for the second time at the Foro Italico Pool.

The "thunder from Down Under" really rolled. "Today is a great day for Sam and Australia," Riley's coach Scott Volker said.

Norbert Rolsa, who this time last year was himself taking steps to become an Australian, matched Riley's breaststroke double under Hungary's colours.

The Chinese women, who had to settle for silver and bronze behind Riley, were not to be denied in the 100 metres butterfly with Liu Limin and Qu Yun making it a one-two.

China ended the ninth day of the 11-day championships with 11 golds — seven out of possible 10 for their women swimmers plus four in diving — while the US retained their men's 4x100 metres freestyle relay title.

But it was unquestionably Australia's day, with Perkins demonstrating all the qualities which set him apart from his rivals just as he did in the 1,500 metres final at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics in last month's Commonwealth Games.

Perkins who broke his own 800 and 1,500 metres freestyle world records in a single race in victoria on August 24, took charge from the start and forged further and further in front.

Inside world record schedule all the way, he swept home in three minutes 43.80 seconds, carving 1.20 seconds, from the mark set by Russia's

Evgeny Sadovyi when he beat the Australian into second place in the Barcelona Olympic final.

"I think the reason why I got the record tonight was because I was more aware of the possibilities after the Commonwealth Games," Perkins, who came close to the record in Victoria, said.

Sadovyi was absent following a year marred by health problems but Perkins was in irresistible mood, leaving European champion Antti Kasvio, the new world 200



KIEREN PERKINS

freestyle gold medalist, and New Zealand's Danyon Loder nearly five seconds behind.

Defending champion Joerg Hoffmann of Germany, who denied Perkins the 1,500 title by a tiny margin at the 1991 World Championships, was a distant sixth.

Riley, a 21-year-old Queensland like Perkins, expunged one more East German record from the books but it was her comprehensive trouncing of the Chinese which took the breath away.

She turned more than a second clear in 31.86 and touched in 1:07.69, with Dai Guohong, the new 400 individual medley champion, and Yuan Yuan, 200 breaststroke silver medalist behind Riley, well adrift in 1:09.26 and 1:10.19.

Riley's time sliced 0.22 of a second from the world mark Silke Hoerner set at the European Championships in Strasbourg in August 1987.

"This is probably the best feeling in my life — something

I've wanted to do since I started swimming," said Riley, who clutched a kangaroo soft toy when she stood on the victory podium.

Rozsa might have demonstrated similar attachment to Australia if he had gone through with his plan to get Australian citizenship.

But after nine months back in Perth, scene of his first World Championship triumph in 1991, he abandoned the scheme and returned to Hungary in December.

Double Olympic silver medalist Rozsa, who retained his 100 breaststroke crown on Monday, survived a tough challenge from shaven-headed American Eric Wunderlich to take the 200 breaststroke crown by six-hundredths of a second in 2:12.81.

Riley and Rozsa achieved the first World Championship breaststroke doubles since East German Hannelore Anke and Britain's David Wilkie both performed the feat in 1975 in Cali, Colombia.

Susan O'Neill led for the first length of the women's 100 metres butterfly to encourage Australian hopes of more gold.

But Liu produced a ferocious burst of speed and power on the second length to win in 58.98. Chinese teammate Qu came through too, leaving O'Neill with the bronze.

MEDALS TABLES

Medals table after the ninth day of the World Swimming Championships on Friday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

China	11	9	2
Australia	5	1	2
United States	3	5	6
Russia	3	5	3
Hungary	3	2	2
Germany	1	2	4
Finland	1	2	0
Sweden	1	2	0
Canada	1	2	0
Japan	1	1	0
Poland	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	1	0	0
Netherlands	1	0	0
Spain	1	0	0
Belgium	0	2	0
Costa Rica	0	2	0
Brazil	0	2	0
New Zealand	0	2	0
Italy	0	1	0
Mexico	0	1	0

Plight of macho mermaids



BONN, Sept 10: A leading German doping expert on Friday accused many of China's women swimmers, sweeping all before them at the World Championships in Rome, of relying on illegal performance-boosting drugs, reports Reuter.

"In China, experiments are being carried out on human beings on a grand scale,"

Professor Werner Franke, a molecular biologist who has carried out studies of doping by communist East Germany's sportsmen and women, told the private radio station Antenne Niedersachsen.

Four Chinese swimmers, three of them internationals, have been suspended for doping in the last two years, although Chinese officials consistently deny systematic doping.

Earlier this week, new 100 metres freestyle world record holder Le Jingyi said brilliant coaches and hard work were the secrets of the team's success.

"Now that China is making a name for itself in swimming everyone is talking about doping all of a sudden. I think it's all just jealousy," she said.

Franke alleged the hefty physique of many of the Chinese swimmers suggested they were taking male hormones.

"If you hear the voices of the Chinese women swimmers and compare them with those of the East German women swimmers of the 1970s, then the East Germans were mere elves (very slight) compared to the Chinese of the 90s."

Franke said doping could be fought only by introducing random out-of-competition testing worldwide.

He also said secret Chinese laboratories were manufacturing the performance-enhancing drug dianabol and exporting it to Europe.

Hans Evers, head of the German Sports Federation's anti-doping committee, also urged Chinese authorities to introducing random out-of-competition testing.

Without them, he said Chinese athletes would have to live with the constant suspicion they were using drugs, "especially as external signs support this suspicion."

He told regionals AAR radio that although there was no proof of systematic doping in the Chinese team, "A very unpleasant feeling remains that not everyone has an equal chance of winning."

He said it was difficult to believe that China's sudden rise to world swimming success could have been achieved without drugs, "especially since it is known how such performances can be boosted."

"Those who swim along behind are having their enjoyment of the sport taken away when they have the firm feeling that it is happening as a result of illegal substances," Evers said.

Tyson will try for early release

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 10: Former heavyweight champion and convicted rapist Mike Tyson hopes his completion of a six-week substance abuse counseling programme will help his bid for an early release from prison, reports AP.

When juniors take over



NEW YORK, Sept 10: (AP) In the second week of the US Open, the players' lounge stops looking like a meeting place

for the top players in tennis and starts resembling a school cafeteria.

As the main players are weeded out of the draw, the juniors start taking over.

The teen-agers flocking to the US Open are the pro players of the future from around the world, and everybody is looking for the next star.

"When people say the next Pete Sampras, they forget that they come along once in a generation," Nick Saviano, the US Tennis Association's coaching director for men's tennis, "Sampras is the McEnroe of this generation and McEnroe was the Nastase of his generation. These players have tremendous gifts. And each country prays to find prospects like this."

Within the tennis community, Juniors quickly become household names — Martina Hingis of Switzerland, Sonya Jeyaseelan of Canada, Federico Browne of Argentina, Ben Ellwood of Australia, Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands and Americans Meilen Tu, Stephanie Halsell, Scott Humphries and Paul Goldstein.

Many are unusually level-headed given the attention accorded them. Some are immature and frazzled by the pres-

sure to succeed at all costs.

Humphries, the reigning Wimbledon junior champion who enters Stanford University this month, lost in the first round of US Open junior singles.

"Winning the Wimbledon juniors was a highlight," said Humphries, 18, the No. 3 junior in the world. "It's always been a goal, winning Wimbledon, and hopefully I can go back and try to win it in the pros."

His last junior event is the doubles, in which he has reached the semifinals with Goldstein, the two-time US national boys' 18 champion.

Humphries' father is an architect; his mother is a real estate agent. Five years ago he moved from Northern California to Tampa, Fla. to attend the Palmer Academy.

"I loved going to Florida, even though I was young to leave home, because it was a great opportunity for me to play tennis every day at a high level," Humphries said. "It was a great advantage for me. I could do everything and had everything in Tampa — a great group of friends at the academy and a good time."

Kevin O'Connor, tennis director at Palmer Academy, calls Humphries the "next Todd Martin, in the sense of normalcy and appreciation of what he's been given."

Schalken, the No. 4 seed who reached the quarterfinals Thursday, is basically respon-

sible for all his tennis decisions.

"My parents are just parents, they don't care about the tennis," said Schalken, 17. "They let me do my own thing about tennis. My coach and I decide everything. My father's a businessman and my mother is in the house. They say, 'Why should we talk about tennis since we don't really know anything about it.'"

The 28-year-old Muller, who managed only one brief appearance as a substitute at the World Cup, has amassed 53 caps and was joint top-scorer for Brazil in the 1990 finals.



Indian batting star Sachin Tendulkar smothered the spin of a delivery from Aussie leg spinner Shane Warne with stumper Ian Healy *qui vive*. Man-of-the-match Tendulkar's maiden day ton, 110 off 132 balls shaped up India's 31-run win over Australia in the Singer four-nation meet in Sri Lanka on Friday. — AFP photo