

Sport

Nat'l swimming put off

The national age-group and women's swimming competition scheduled on September 21-23, has been postponed due to unavoidable reason, reports UNB.

Fresh schedule will be announced later, said a press release issued by Bangladesh Swimming Federation, yesterday.

Muktis mauled in Qatar

Sports Reporter

Federation Cup champions Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra paid through nose for defensive lapses as they lost their opening match of the Qatar Independence Cup football tournament 2-4 to India at the Khalif International Stadium in Doha yesterday according to Star TV monitored here last night.

The Indian national team took an almost unassailable three nil lead at first half.

The Bangladeshi outfit started well keeping the possession of the ball for the first 20 minutes but the booters from across the border delivered the goods as early as in the fifth minute when Sabir Pasha, scorer of two of his side's four goals found the mark.

Three minutes later Indian winger Anchuri, later adjudged man of the match doubled the mark.

Tejinder Singh who toured Doha with the Indian football team last winter during the sixth SAF Games, confirmed victory with another strike in the 23rd minute.

Sabir Pasha completed the quartet for the marauding Indians with his second goal of the match, in the 54th minute.

Muktijoddha regrouped themselves in the second half and displayed a better brand of soccer.

Striker Intiaz Ahmed Nakib vindicated their revival when he pulled back one in the 64th minute spectacularly heading a Masud Rana cross.

Defender Ataur Rahman halved the yawn when he volleyed home a through by Barun in the 73rd minute.

Rumi Rizvi Karim, the Bangladeshi international, played a stellar role in Muktijoddha's belated and insufficient rally with some splendid midfield manouevrings. However the attacking midfielder was denied of a goal when his powerful shot in the 39th minute was brilliantly saved by the Indian custodian.

Nakib and Mizan added to Mukt's worries by spoiling two more sitters in the second half.

Muktijoddha will play their next match against Yemen on Friday. A win tomorrow will keep Muktijoddha's chances of a place among the last four alive.

MUKTIJODDHA: Mohsin, Titu (Moon), Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Ataur, Barun Arman (Rupul), Rumi, Nakib, Mamun, Joarder and Mizan

Lara's golden soak

LONDON, Sept 14: Brian Lara's golden first-class season in English county cricket has ended with 2,066 runs from 15 matches for Warwickshire, reports Reuter.

After spending a few days at home in Trinidad, the double world record holder is being rested for his side's final championships match of the season against Gloucestershire starting at Bristol on Thursday.

But Lara will be back this weekend when Warwickshire attempt to complete a treble by landing the Sunday league title, to add to their championship and Benson and Hedges Cup triumphs.

Lara averaged 89.82 with nine centuries, including his record 501 not out, but has been overtaken at the top of the English first-class averages this month by Middlesex batsman John Carr.

Not cricket!

HOBART, Australia, Sept 14: Pakistan cricket star Wasim Akram declined to pay his bill after undergoing surgery on a groin injury in Australia, the Tasmanian state Parliament heard Wednesday, reports AP.

Pace bowler Akram stumped Tasmanian health officials by not paying a bill of around 500 dollars after visiting the Lyell District Hospital at Queenston in western Tasmania in March 1990, legislators were told.

Wasim reported the operation to be a success and went on to bolster his reputation as one of the world's leading bowlers, but he never responded to requests for payment.

Stoltenberg sidelined

SYDNEY, Sept 14: Australian Jason Stoltenberg withdrew today from his country's Davis Cup team to face New Zealand this month due to an injured shoulder, reports Reuter.



Glimpse from the Star Premier Division football return-leg encounter between defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and minnows Bangladesh Boys at the Dhaka Stadium last night. Boys held MSC to one-all draw.

—Star photo

Boys add to MSC's misery

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club discovered to their horror yesterday that football could be great a

leveler as instant cricket as the reigning champions began their return leg campaign in this year's Star Premier Division football league with a draw against babes Bangladesh Boys.

The black and whites surrendered a tenth minute lead to settle for their fourth draw of the season, further slackening their grip on the title.

The latest setback to their target of retaining the title came from a team they had outclassed seven-nil earlier in this year's Star Premier opener with Russian frontliner Andrei Kazakov notching a hat-trick.

The premier marksman was on target again to push his tally to eight but not often enough to ensure full points for the struggling popular club.

In a thoroughly inisipid performance by Mohammedans, the only silver lining came in the tenth minute when Kazakov spectacularly swung in a free-kick from about twenty-five yards to make nonsense of Boys' defensive wall.

Boys transformed into men after this reversal and looked like upsetting the applecart of their fancied opponents anytime.

Boys' Amir Khan, who along with Russian Vitaly of

Mohammedans got marching order in the previous encounter of the two teams, had a header thwarted by one of the posts.

Amin atoned for his misfortune four minutes before the short whistle when he pushed the ball home after a faulty fist by Mohammedan custodian to a header by substitute Bapon came to him.

Mohammedans, who had their woes compounded by the twin absence of midfielder Naeul Huq Mani and defender Shamin — the former rendered functionless by three yellow cards while the latter was ruled out for having received marching order in the first round closer against Abahani.

So handicapped they were that Riaz, a regular forward, was repositioned as a defender.

Yet Mohammedans improved on their show slightly in the second session and three scoring chances were created, none of which was converted mainly due to some excellent goalkeeping by the Boys custodian Tota.

He denied Mohammedans' skipper Roxy and Russian mieniavate twice in the space of three minutes to pave the way for what might turn out to be a crucial point for his side.

So it was a start for the champions from where they had left off in the first phase, drawing one-all with arch rivals Abahani Krira Chakra.

Both Arambagh and Agram Bank have eight points each from 10 matches.

Victoria Sporting Club registered their fifth win in the Star First Division football league when they beat babes Shantinagar in the day's other soccer engagement away at the Mirpur Stadium.

Titas and Fayed Babu scored for Victoria, who took their tally to 14 from ten matches.

Rafiqul Islam reduced the margin for the newcomers, who remained stuck at ten points from as many matches.

Victoria's Rinku was shown the red card.

No change in Lazaroni's luck

NO DE JASIRO, Sept 14: Sebastiao Lazaroni, who led Brazil's failed attempt to win the 1990 World Cup, is having a tough time in his first job back home since the Italian debacle, reports Reuter.

In charge of Rio de Janeiro club Vasco da Gama for two months, Lazaroni has already heard the fans' chants of "idiot, idiot" ringing in his ears and has also suffered stinging media criticisms of his tactics.

The story may have a familiar ring for Lazaroni, condemned four years ago as the man who tried to take the magic out of Brazilian soccer.

Lazaroni was pilloried and ridiculed from all sides after Brazil were eliminated by Argentina in the second round of the World Cup.

It was the team's lack of style — scoring just four goals in four games and playing with a European-style sweeper system — which angered Brazilians as much as the result.

On the squad's return to Rio, Lazaroni slipped out of a back door at Rio Airport to avoid hostile fans and locked himself in his apartment for a week. When he emerged, he said he had been made to feel like a criminal delinquent.

Since then Lazaroni has, perhaps wisely, stayed abroad, working first in Italy with Fiorentina and Bari and then in Mexico with Leon.

Lazaroni, who also annoys the media with his long

Closing ceremony of shutters' course held

Sports Reporter

The concluding ceremony of the three-week badminton training course was held at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain, who was chief guest at the closing ceremony, distributed certificates among the participants.

The short course featuring only the female shutters from the Dhaka Division, was organized by the Bangladesh Women Sports Association.

winded answers to their questions.

onship, they have been more successful and have already guaranteed their passage into the second stage competition. But they have scored only nine goals in the process and performances have suggested they will not go much further.

Several players have already been quoted as criticising the team's tactics after Sunday's 0-0 home draw with Santos, condemned by many as the worst match of the championship so far.

In an earlier game, Vasco fans congregated around the tunnel and chanted "idiot, idiot" at Lazaroni as he left the pitch.

Two rounds of matches are left in the first round, from which the top four teams in each of four six-team groups qualify for the next round. The remaining clubs play-off for two more places.

In Group C, Vasco's group leaders Guarani and Santos have already made sure of their places.

Corinthians in Group A and Palmeiras in Group D are also through while in Group B Batalogo and Sao Paulo are all but mathematically qualified.

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