

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 reasons, 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 Mukti Joddha Sangsod Krija 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 Khalifa 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 Bangladesh 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 Ancheri, later adjudged man of the match doubled the margin.

Tajinder Singh who toured Dhaka 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 Imtiaz 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 yards when he volleyed home a through by Barun in the 73rd minute.

Rumi Rizvi Karim, the Bangladesh international, played a stellar role in Mukti Joddha's belated and insufficient rally with some splendid midfield manoeuvres. 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 Mukti's worries by spoiling two sure sitters in the second half.

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

MUKTIJODDHA: Mohsin, Titu (Moon), Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Ataur, Barun, Arman (Rupu), Rumi, Nakib, Mamun Joudar 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 championship 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 as 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 Andrey 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 insipid 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 own absence of midfielder Nurul Haq Manik and defender Shamim — 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 requisitioned 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 media Inatev 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 their first phase, drawing one-all with arch-rivals Abahani Krija Chakra.

Mohammedans now have 12 points from 10 matches while Boys have five from ten.

ARRANGED AFFAIR

In another Premier tie, played earlier at the same venue, Arambagh Krija Sangtha and new giant-killers Agrani Bank relived the sensation of their first phase encounter.

The apparently pre-arranged battle of the middlings ended in a one-all draw. Their previous encounter also ended on the same score.

Agrani Bank, who caught the headlines recently by beating heavyweights Mohammedans and Brothers Union in the first league, went ahead with a goal from Jahangir (Sr) in the 49th minute.

Sunny drew level for Arambagh from penalty in the 67th minute.

Both Arambagh and Agrani 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.

Titus and Faye 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.

Exhuming Olympic tragedy

MUNICH, Germany, Sept 14: Relatives of Israeli athletes killed at the 1972 Munich Olympics plan to sue Germany next week for 40 million marks (26 million dollars) in belated damages, their lawyers said, on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Palestinian gunmen broke into the Israeli team quarters during the Olympics, killing two Israelis and taking nine hostages. Police mounted a rescue attempt at Filderstedt Airport, but all nine captives died in a shootout along with five Palestinians and a policeman.

Munich attorney Christoph Rueckel, whose office is representing the families, accused police and government officials of bungling a planned rescue mission that ended with the deaths of all hostages and kidnappers.

Rueckel said the suit would be filed next week in Munich court unless the German government and the state of Bavaria agreed to an out-of-court settlement.

This is not a matter of making money. This is a question of finding a reasonable and honourable solution," Rueckel told reporters at a joint news conference with the Israeli attorney for the plaintiffs, Pinchas Zeltzer from Tel Aviv.

The Bavarian government in Munich, which under German federation bears the bulk of responsibility for the case, has already rejected the claims that Rueckel first raised in an August letter demanding an out-of-court deal.

The German government in Bonn had no comment until a suit is formally filed, a spokesman for the interior ministry said.

Bavaria maintains the athletes were killed by their captors not by stray police bullets and that any claim has elapsed.

Germany paid the surviving athletes a total of about 1 million dollars at the time.

Rueckel said some German documents on the case were only made available in 1991. He accused police of underestimating the number of kidnappers and deploying exhausted and poorly placed marksmen when they stormed an armed to free the Israelis.

Durham sign Prabhakar

LONDON, Sept 14: English county Durham on Tuesday signed Indian Test all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar as their overseas player for next season, reports Reuter.

Prabhakar, 31, will replace paceman Anderson Cummins, who is expected to be touring England with the West Indies.

Prabhakar was due to play for Warwickshire this year but withdrew at the last minute because of injury. Warwickshire signed record-breaking West Indian batsman Brian Lara instead.

Graf advised to rest

ESSEN, Germany, Sept 14: World number one Steffi Graf has been told by a specialist to rest her injured back for three weeks, her father, Peter, announced here Wednesday, reports AP.

After losing to Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the US Open final in New York at the week-end, Graf headed straight here to consult sports medicine specialist professor Hartmut Krah, who examined her on Tuesday.

Graf was in considerable discomfort during Sunday's final and required treatment during a changeover in the second set.

She eventually lost 1-6, 7-6, 6-4.



Blackburn Rovers' striker Alan Shearer strikes the ball sweetly for goal during a UEFA Cup first round match against Swedish club Trelleborg on Sept 13. Trelleborg upset the big-spending English Premier league side 1-0. —AFP photo

Rovers rue, Newcastle rejoice

PARIS, Sept 14: English Premier-ship pacesetter Newcastle United made a triumphant return to European Competition Tuesday after a 17-year absence by crushing Belgium's Royal Antwerp 5-0, reports AP.

But rivals Blackburn Rovers suffered a humiliating home



KENNY DALGLISH

defeat against Swedish part-

Newcastle, who were helped by a hat-trick of headers from Robert Lee in their first venture back into the UEFA Cup since 1977, made the perfect start — Lee snatching his first from a John Beresford cross after just 60 seconds.

The 5,000 travelling Newcastle fans went wild seven minutes later when Lee did a repeat performance from a Ruel Fox cross. Sellers made it three before the break. In the second-half, Lee leapt to notch his hat-trick, and substitute Steve Watson completed the rout on 78 minutes.

Manager Kevin Keegan described the performance as "just incredible," enthusing: "We played brilliant football."

There was a shock, however, for Newcastle's Premier-ship rivals Blackburn Rovers, who slumped to a 1-0 home defeat against Sweden's Trelleborg.

Frederik Sandell silenced the frustrated home fans with a 71st minute winner, racing clear of Hendry to slot the ball calmly beyond Flowers into the corner of the net.

Graeme Le Saux led the Rovers fightback. One stinging

shot by the attacking fullback was palmed away by Ryszard Jankowski while another effort, from 30 yards, dipped inches the wrong side of the crossbar.

The spectacular Jankowski, the only full-time player in the Swedish squad, then denied Shearer with a goal-line save.

Italy's three-time tournament winners Juventus will also have to work hard to assure their passage into the second round after going down 3-2 away to CSKA Sofia.

Petar Mikhitariski, whose 1994 World Cup was limited to the last two minutes of the second-round win over Mexico, scored a second goal eight minutes from time to beat Roberto Baggio's side.

The biggest goalscoring bonanza of the night came in Germany, where hosts Bayer Leverkusen snatched a thrilling 5-4 win over PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands.

The home side's Ulf Kirsten and the visitors' Ronaldo turned in brilliant individual performances — both scoring hat-tricks.

German money-spinners Borussia Dortmund could only manage a 1-0 victory over dogged Scottish side Motherwell. Former Juventus star Andy Moeller notched the winner in the second-half. Motherwell's Paul McGriren was sent off three minutes from time.

Scandal-ridden Olympique Marseille of France, who won the European Cup in 1993, made an encouraging start to their campaign.

Marseille, demoted to Second Division football because of a bribes scandal and making a comeback on the European stage after their suspension last season, beat Olympiakos 2-1 in Greece, but finished with only ten men.

Jean-Philippe Durand was sent off ten minutes into the second-half after being shown a second yellow card for deliberate handball.

Bernard Ferrer opened the scoring for the visitors after 32 minutes, and Jean-christophe Marquet cancelled out an equaliser from Ivic with a superb drive.

But French First Division leaders Nantes were lucky to escape with just a 3-2 away to Euro-noVICES Rotor Volgograd of Russia following a series of lapses at the back.

Nicolas Ouedec put Nantes ahead, but Vladimir Geraschenko and Sergey Nechai both headed in for the home side, before Oleg Veretnikov made it 3-1 with a deflected



KEVIN KEEGAN

long range free kick. Chad striker Japhet Ndom put the French back in it with a late goal.

Bordeaux raised French spirits with a 3-1 win over Lilleström of Norway, courtesy of goals from Christophe Dugarry, Dutchman Richard Witschge and an own goal from Lilleström's Ronny Johnsen.

Cannes meanwhile thrashed Turkish outfit Fenerbahce with four second-half goals, including two from Croatian Adrian Kozmuk.

In Iberia's clash of the giants, Real Madrid slipped past sporting Lisbon 1-0 with a goal from Martin Vazquez while another Portuguese side Boavista Porto, scrapped a 2-1 win over unheralded Finnish opponents Anjalankoski.

Last season's Spanish league runners-up, Deportivo Coruna, went down to a shock 1-0 defeat against B K Rosenborg of Norway and there was more Spanish misery when Athletic Bilbao crashed 2-0 to Cypriot minnows Anorthosis.

Elsewhere, Honved Budapest signalled their intentions for success with an emphatic 4-1 win away to Dutch opponents, Twente Enschede.

Capriati may make comeback

CLEVELAND, Sept 14: Jennifer Capriati, who left the women's tour last year and was later arrested on drug charges, plans to return to professional tennis in early October, reports AP.

The International Management Group, an agency representing Capriati, said Tuesday the 18-year-old has requested wild-card entries to the Barilla Indoors tournament in Zurich, Switzerland, and the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Filderstadt, Germany. The requests are certain to be accepted.

"It may seem like a sudden decision to some people, but I've wanted to play for some time and I've thought it out and figure — why not? — that I'm mentally ready to play," Capriati told the New York Times.

Capriati has been practicing at her family's new home in Palm Desert, Calif. She moved there a few weeks ago from Florida, as did her parents.

The Times said Capriati's father, with whom she has had a tempestuous relationship, has become her court-side adviser.

Capriati told the paper she isn't interested in hiring a coach until she sees whether this comeback inspires her to play full-time again.

The Zurich tournament will be held Oct 3-9 and the Filderstadt tournament Oct 10-16.

"It's going to be different this time," Capriati said. "I'm not going to put a lot of pressure on myself. I just want to play again, have fun and see how it goes."

"It's great news," tennis commentator Mary Carillo said. "That's sooner than I thought she'd be back."

Capriati, who has career earnings of nearly 1.5 million dollars, stopped playing tennis last year after losing in the first round of the US Open. She ended 1993 ranked No 9 in the world despite missing the final three months of the tour.

She began playing professionally shortly before her 14th birthday, became the youngest semifinalist ever at Wimbledon and won the gold medal at the 1992 Olympics by beating Stefli Graf.

She has been a semifinalist at the US Open, Wimbledon and the French Open, but has never won a Grand Slam event.

Capriati's success and subsequent problems underlined the risks that can await young players on the tour. Last week, the Women's Tennis Council announced a series of rule changes, among them restrictions on the number of tournaments a 14-year-old may enter. The WTC said it began looking into the reforms before Capriati's troubles came to light.

Capriati could not say how long it would be before Capriati returns to her old form.

"I don't know because I have no idea what kind of shape she's in," she said.

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Gilbert keeps his promise

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 14: Say what you want about his tennis, but Brad Gilbert makes good on his bet.

He proved it Tuesday when he had parts of his body shaved on syndicated US television, reports AP.

Andre Agassi had bet Gilbert that if he won the US Open his new coach would get a body shave. Agassi won. Gilbert got shaved — sort of.

"I'm just going with the flow," said Gilbert, dressed in plaid boxer shorts. "When I'm 67 years old I'll be able to say I did something really goofy."

But it wasn't easy. The shaving cream tingled and the razors just weren't powerful enough to cut through chest hair. The result was a rather uneven shave with Gilbert vowing to finish the job at home.

Agassi appeared on the premiere of the syndicated show "Last Call" on Monday night. During the show, he mentioned the bet. Producers then called Gilbert for the follow-up.

Gilbert, who lives in San Rafael, Calif., was nervous when he appeared at the studios of Independent Television News. With wife Kim prepared to do part of the shaving, Gilbert contemplated the consequences.

"If it comes in ingrown or

something, it's going to hurt," said Gilbert, a former player and author of the book "Winning Ugly." "I'll be regretting this in two months when it grows back."

"Last Call" is a late-night news show that appears on more than 110 stations nationwide. It is produced by Brandon Tartikoff for MCA TV, a division of MCA Inc.

Agassi beat Michael Stich 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 to win the US Open on Sunday. Agassi was the only unseeded player to ever beat five seeded players for the title.

It appears that since Gilbert took on Agassi, a bit of the flamboyant showman is rubbing off. Earlier this year, Gilbert got an earring on another bet with Agassi.

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Medvedev withdraws

BUCHAREST, Sept 14: Ukrainian tennis player Andrei Medvedev pulled out of the Romanian Open tennis on Tuesday without hitting a ball following a hand injury, reports Reuter.

"I'm afraid that a complete medical check will show that I might even need an operation on my right hand," Medvedev told a news conference.

At one point while his wife worked on his legs before the taping, a pile of hair gathered at Gilbert's feet.

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