



Abahani's winger Golam Gaus (on the ground) watches his back-volley on the way to the Fakirerpool net past a helpless custodian Kawsar during their Star Premier Division football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. However, the goal was ruled out. — Star photo

Hockey team for Asiad named

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) announced yesterday a 20-member squad for the upcoming Hiroshima Asian Games, scheduled to be held from October 2 to 16. Brigadier Ali Hassan has been appointed the manager of the team with M Ehtesham Sultan as coach. Two more officials accompanying the Bangladesh representatives in the Asiad Hockey are Farid Ahmed and Shamsul Bari, who will act as umpire and adjudicator in the meet respectively. Mahub Harun of Abahani Krira Chakra will lead the team with M Sadeque of Usha Krira Chakra acting as his deputy. The other members of the squad are: M Rahmat Ali, Mamunur Rashid, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Abu Zafar, Zahid Hassan, Alamgir Alam (Abahani); Mahfuz Alam, Zahirul Islam, Haider Alam, Zahid Biswas (Mohammedan); Khwaja Irtaza Qader, Rafiqul Islam (Usha), Jahangir Alam (Bangladesh Army) and Musa Mian (Mariners).

Bengal Aviation golf tees off today

Sports Reporter
The Bengal Aviation Service golf championship tees off today at the Dhaka Club course at Subhawardy Udayan. The meet, originally planned to be a triangular one, features golfers from Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra, Bangladesh Biman and hosts Dhaka Club.

Jansher begins with a win

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 15: Jansher Khan began his defence of the World Open squash championship on Wednesday with a 43-minute 15-8, 15-6, 15-9 first round win over Craig Rowland, a young Australian qualifier, reports Reuter. "This tournament is more important than the usual World Championships," the lanky 25-year-old Pakistani said. "A victory here will bring me level with Jahangir Khan's record of six World Open wins. But it is my ambition to win at least 10."

Jansher lost to England's Peter Marshall in the European club championships finals in Paris at the weekend but on Wednesday dismissed it as the result of too much travel in too little time. "I was in Hong Kong at the weekend before, flew home to Nawakill, then travelled to Islamabad, London and Paris to play in the club event."

In today's second round Jansher meets England's Philip Withlock who beat South Africa's Craig Wapnick in straight games. Home hopes were dashed when Spain's leading player, Austin Adarraga, lost 15-3, 15-7, 15-9, to Chris Walker, the England number two.

BOA Secy-Gen ill

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Olympic Association Secretary General Bashir Ahmed is now undergoing treatment at the Midford Hospital. Ahmed, who came under severe criticism following Bangladesh's dismal showing at the 15th Commonwealth Games in Victoria, was taken to the hospital midnight yesterday after a stroke.

Nicklaus, ITH join forces

NEW DELHI, Sept 15: Golf Legend Jack Nicklaus and an Indian firm have joined hands in a 10-million dollar golf course project. The Observer newspaper reported today, says AFP.

Abahani maintain lead

Sports Reporter
League leaders Abahani Krira Chakra rarely felt the absence of their Iraqi coach Shamir Shakeer when they opened their return leg campaign, beating promotees Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club 2-0 in the Star Premier Division at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The DMFA Cup champions, who fielded their new Russian signing Vladimir in the match, scored both the goals during the first part of the play for their sixth win in the league. With this win, Abahani, so far the only unbeaten outfit in the ten-team fray, consolidated their position atop the table with 16 points, one point clear from Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra.

In the day's second encounter under floodlights, Abahani went ahead in the very eighth minute when Golam Gaus, the dark and dapper winger, volleyed home from a goalmouth melee after a Mansur long throw came his way via an Aslam back header. Veteran Aslam, who played like a spring chicken at the twilight of his career, doubled the margin by a spectacularly nodding home a Gaus floater from the left flank in the 21st minute.

The title contenders, who enjoyed territorial dominance in a lively encounter featuring attacks and counterattacks, played an imaginative blend of soccer with Aslam, Gaus, and Jassim Mehdi upfront in full cry. Vladimir, who played as a defender, impressed the sky-blue supporters on his debut in the local football circuit with his superb control of the ball and accurate passing.

However, Fakirerpool, who earned reputation of being the most consistent outfit in the league, came up with yet another spirited performance, creating a number of easy chances. Askar Khan Babu unleashed a thunderous right-footer in the 14th minute that missed the mark by a few inches.

Undaunted by the two-goal deficit, the Motijheel outfit regrouped after the breather and came close to scoring twice. The first attempt by Sattar in the 58th minute was brilliantly fisted away by the Abahani custodian Dhanu for a corner. The diminutive striker shot the second attempt in the 86th minute wide from close.

In the 79th minute Abahani were deprived of 2 third goal when a Jassim Mehdi left-footer hit the woodwork. The defeat left Fakirerpool

glued to their previous collection of seven points from ten matches. In the first match of the day, the two Star First Division outfits, East End Club and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha shared points a one-all draw.

After a goalless first half, Tipu shot Eskaton into the lead in the 68th minute with a first time volley. East End, who missed penalty in the 61st minute, restored parity six minutes before the long whistle when their skipper headed home a Raju cross from the right.

The draw left raised both the teams' collection to 11 points each after ten matches. Away at the Mirpur Stadium, Farashganj SC and Dhanmondi Club ended their Star First Division football league encounter in a goalless draw.

Meanwhile, the Star Premier Division football league will be suspended till September 20 due to Muktiyoddha's participation in the Qatar Independence Cup invitational football tournament. However, the Star First Division football league will continue.

TODAY'S MATCH
Sadharan Bima KS vs Dhaka Wanderers 5:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium).

End of an elongated ruckus

TAIPEI, Sept 15: President Lee Teng-Hui indicated for the first time Thursday that he may not attend the Asian Games' opening ceremonies next month in Japan, reports AP. Lee accused the rival government in Beijing, which has threatened to boycott the Games if he goes, of mixing politics with sports.

Marinos atop J-league table

TOKYO, Sept 15: Despite the sending-off of Argentine striker David Carlos Biscotti Yokohama Marinos safely out-gunned Gamba Osaka 4-3 in a penalty shootout to take the lead in the Japan football league Wednesday, reports AFP. Although down to 10 men after losing Biscotti after 20 minutes their defence stood firm against an aggressive Osaka attack to end the regulation time 0-0.

The 1993 champions Verdy Kawasaki ran out 3-2 winners over Yokohama Flugels for the same record of eight wins against two defeats, but Marinos took the lead with a better goal differential. Brazilian Antonio Bento dos Santos equalised with an exquisite volley in the 17th minute and Nobuhiro Takeda collected a rebound to make it 2-1 for Verdy shortly after the second half got underway.

Takeda, the top Japanese goal scorer after Kazuyoshi Miura left for the Italian First Division, showed a good combination with the Brazilian, who scored a game-deciding goal in the 68th minute.

Wright fined again

LONDON, Sept 15: Arsenal's England international striker Ian Wright was fined 750 pounds (1,200 dollars) by the English Football Association for making gestures to fans at last season's game at Queen's Park Rangers, reports Reuter.

The FA ruled he was guilty of improper behaviour towards spectators at the match at QPR on April 27. Wright apparently made gestures to fans at half time. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. It is the third time in 21 months that Wright has been penalised for his conduct by the FA.

He said in a statement that if he could not go to Hiroshima "because of political interferences," Taiwanese and all athletes in the world should regret the incident. It was the first time that a presidential statement mentioned the possibility that Lee would not attend Asia's premier sporting event, which begins Oct. 2.

The Kuwait-based Olympic Council of Asia, which triggered the ruckus by inviting Lee, appeared to reverse itself Monday by saying no "political figures" would be invited.

Lee earlier had refused to accept the OCA's latest move as a withdrawal of its invitation to him. A statement from the Presidential Office said Lee hoped that the Asian Games could be staged without the shadow of "any political interference."

Lee's office refused to say explicitly whether the statement is a formal reversal of Lee's plan to attend the Hiroshima Games.

"We are well aware of the OCA's attitude and its difficulties," said a Lee aide, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We are withholding a formal announcement because the problem does not rest with us. ... But there should be a final clear announcement when it is time," the aide said. It is generally believed here that Lee has decided not to attend the Games to prevent a Chinese boycott and spare Japan and the OCA embarrassment.

Taiwan's Olympic Committee has said it has no intention of boycotting the Games because of the row. Meanwhile, an AFP report from Tokyo said: Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad will visit Taipei before coming to the Hiroshima Asian Games and offer apologies to Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui, a press report said Wednesday.

The Kyodo news agency, quoting sources in the Japanese Olympic Committee, said Sheikh Ahmad will apologise to Lee during his stay in Taipei on his way to Japan in late September.

Rain reigns in Colombo

COLOMBO, Sept 15: Persistent rains turned the cricket pitch soggy and forced authorities to postpone the one-day match between India and Pakistan Thursday, reports AP.

The game in the four-nation Singer World Series Cup in Colombo will be played Friday, the umpires said. The day-and-night match which will decide who will meet Sri Lanka in the finals Saturday.

A steady rain kept the players in their rooms all day and the umpires announced the postponement half hour after play was to begin.

The meteorology department forecast light showers with the possibility of thunderstorms over Colombo on Friday.

If play is not possible, India will automatically go into the final because of their better run rate. Pakistan are yet to win a match, while Australia have won one of the three games they played. Sri Lanka won all three matches in the round-robin tournament to collect six points.

Barisal soccer

Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 15: Barisal Nooria High School beat Bhola Govt High School 3-1 in the final of the Barisal divisional schools and Madrassah games football at the Barisal Stadium today.

DIG of Police Ziauddin Ahmed watched the match as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners. Meanwhile, the Barisal and Khulna divisional schools and Madrassah football, handball and swimming championships begin at the same venue tomorrow with Barisal Divisional Commissioner MA Rashid declaring the two-day meet open.

Leonardo injured

TOKYO, Sept 15: Brazilian World Cup star Leonardo was badly injured in a Japanese club match on Friday night and may need an operation that could keep him on the sidelines for two months, his doctor said, reports Reuter.

Leonardo, who has been playing for the past month for the Kashima Antlers, injured his right knee in a hard tackle in the closing minutes of a match against the Urawa Reds. Leonardo had scored both of Kashima's goals in their 2-0 win and the match seemed to be coming to a routine end when the incident happened.

Kashima's team doctor Jun Seki told reporters Leonardo might need an operation to the knee which could keep him off the field for two months. Since replacing fellow Brazilian Zico, Leonardo has pulled Kashima into fifth place in the Japanese league, scoring seven goals in nine matches, including helping them to win their last five games.

Velappan's concern

JAKARTA, Sept 15: Asian Football Confederation chief Peter Velappan says governments are not doing enough to protect soccer pitches from the ravages of the continent's booming economies, reports AFP.

Speaking at the Asian under-19 championship in Jakarta, the AFC general secretary appealed for special action to protect parks and pitches from "disorderly growth." He said sports facilities were falling victim to "the concrete jungles caused by the dynamic economic growth" of the past decade.

"Many cities in Asia, such as Jakarta, Bangkok, Manila, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Bombay, Calcutta and Dhaka do not have sufficient outdoor recreational facilities to serve the needs of youth," he said.

Velappan added that sports fields were disappearing because they were low on the government priority list.



Manchester United's David May (front L) is bundled off the ball by IFK Goteburg's Swedish international goali Thomas Ravelli during a European Champions' League first round match at United's Old Trafford ground on Sept 14. The English Premier league champions won 4-2. — AFP photo

European Cup Champions' League begins

Ajax's flight AC's plight

LONDON, Sept 15: Ajax Amsterdam celebrated their return to the top flight of European soccer after a nine-year absence on Wednesday when second half goals from Ronald de Boer and Jari Litmanen gave them a 2-0 win over reigning champions AC Milan in their opening Champions' League match, reports Reuter.

The Italian side, missing 10 squad members through injury suspension, held the Dutch champions until just after half-time in their Group D match but then conceded goals from Dutch international Ronald de Boer and Finnish international Jari Litmanen.

The other Group D game between Salzburg, runners-up in last season's UEFA Cup, and AEK Athens ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

It was Milan's first defeat in Europe since they lost the 1993 Champions' Cup final against Marseille. They were unbeaten in 11 matches en route to winning the final against Barcelona in May, and will be hoping for a return to form — and the return of several key players — by the time they meet Salzburg in their second Group D match on September 28.

Ajax, European champions in 1971-72-73, were one of three previous champions to open their campaign with a victory.

Manchester United, European champions in 1968, came from behind to beat IFK Goteborg of Sweden 4-2 in Group A, while 1992 winners Barcelona, beaten by Milan in last season's final, beat Galatasaray of Turkey 2-1 in the same group.

Bayern Munich, who followed Ajax's hat-trick of victo-

ries with a hat-trick of their own between 1974-76, opened their Group B campaign with a 2-0 defeat at Paris St Germain while the Group B "Local derby" between Dynamo Kiev of Ukraine and Moscow Spartak of Russia ended with a 3-2 win for the Ukrainians.

The two matches in Group C between Hajduk Split and Benfica, champions in 1961 and 1962, and Anderlecht and Steaua Bucharest, the 1986 champions, both ended in 0-0 draws.

The 16 teams in the enlarged Champions' League have been split into four groups of four teams with the top two in each group advancing to the quarter-finals next March.

While the rainy night was a joyous one for Dutch fans, it was miserable for one Dutchman in particular.

Former national idol Ruud Gullit was barracked every time he touched the ball by an unforgiving home crowd after his abrupt exit from the national squad before this summer's World Cup.

After an even first half Dutch international De Boer clipped a shot over the advancing Rossi for Ajax's first goal after 50 minutes and Finnish international Litmanen made it 2-0 14 minutes later.

Manchester United also secured a two-goal advantage in their opening Group A match but had to come from behind to beat some stubborn resistance from Swedish champions IFK Goteborg who struck the first blow through Stefan Petterson after 27 minutes.

United came back to win with two goals from Welsh winger Ryan Giggs, and one each from Ukrainian Andrei Kanchelskis and Englishman Lee Sharpe. United's manager Alex Ferguson was delighted with the win and said afterwards: "That was a magnificent result. I hoped for a win but to score four goals was better than I expected."

There was also a two-goal victory margin for Paris St Germain over Bayern Munich, playing in the Parc des Princes for the first time since winning the European Cup there in 1975.

Both PSG's goals came from corners taken by Brazilian midfielder Valdo with Liberian striker George Weah scrambling the ball home for the first in the 40th minute and Daniel Bravo adding the second with a superb volley seven minutes from time.

Moscow Spartak seemed to be heading for a two-goal victory over Dynamo Kiev in the 101st meeting between two sides who used to meet regularly in the former Soviet Union league but are now champions of their respective independent nations.

But two second half goals from Viktor Leonenko helped Kiev secure a 3-2 win over their old rivals in front of 90,000 fans. The biggest crowd of the night and one of the biggest seen in the former Soviet Union for many years.

There were no goals in either of the Group C matches between Hajduk Split and Benfica, and Anderlecht and Steaua, but oddly, two minutes from time there was a sending off in both matches.

Steaua captain Marius Lăcătuș was shown the red card for apparently hitting Anderlecht defender Marc Emmers in a match in which four other players were booked.

Hajduk's Ivica Stimac was sent off for a lunging tackle on Benfica defender Fernando Tavares.

Holyfield raring to go

LAS VEGAS, Sept 15: Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, told by doctors he has a heart condition that will keep him from boxing, said on Wednesday he will fight overseas if he is denied a licence in the United States, reports Reuter.

Holyfield, who lost his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles to Michael Moorer last April on a decision after 12 rounds, said he has asked boxing commissions to test him for the heart condition.

But Holyfield, whose boxing licence has been revoked, told a small group of reporters late on Wednesday that the commissions have not been able to devise a test for him.

Holyfield, told by doctors that he has a congenital heart condition that did not affect him in the fight, said he is convinced he does not have a heart problem.

"I'm going to fight again, definitely. I feel great. I'm training. I'm going for it. I know that I will be cleared," said a cheerful and trim Holyfield.

"If they don't give me my licence to fight over here, I'll fight somewhere overseas. I want to fight this year, by the end of the fall.

"My ultimate goal is to win the title back," said Holyfield, who was told by doctors that he can live a normal life he does not fight again.

Holyfield said he wants to regain the titles by 1996, when the Olympics will be held in his home town of Atlanta.

"I want them to say this is where the current champion lives," Holyfield said he has had offers to fight in France, the Philippines and South Africa.

Asked whom he would fight, Holyfield said: "They say I can bring my own opponent."

Doctors have said Holyfield has a pin-point hole between the two chambers in his heart and a non-compliant ventricle, which does not pump enough oxygen-carrying blood throughout his body.

But Holyfield said: "It was my shoulder, they said it was connected to my heart. I said it was my shoulder that was hurting me."

After the Moorer fight, Holyfield said he was in the hospital, "Lying there all swollen up and people were there with tears in their eyes. I said 'hey, man ain't nothing wrong with my heart!'"

Holyfield said that before the Moorer fight he had been receiving injections in his shoulder. He had been feeling shoulder pain in his previous three or four fights, especially after he missed with left hooks.

Holyfield said doctors need to understand that as an athlete his heart is always going to look different than the hearts of other people.

He rejects the findings released earlier this week of a

New York heart specialist who said the fighter's ailment has not sufficiently healed to allow him to resume boxing.

Holyfield announced his retirement shortly after the April fight, but in recent months he has been talking about a comeback.

Initial reports said he felt he could fight again because he had been cured by a faith-healer at a religious meeting.

But Holyfield said on Wednesday that he did not say he had been healed by a faith-healer.

Capriati gets wildcard

ZURICH, Sept 15: America's troubled teenage Olympic champion Jennifer Capriati has been granted a wildcard for the women's European indoor tennis championship in Zurich starting on October 3, organisers said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Capriati's agent said on Tuesday that a wildcard had also been requested for the following week's tournament in Filderstadt, Germany.

McColgan plans a comeback

LONDON, Sept 15: Injury-plagued former world 10,000 metres champion Liz McColgan is to make a comeback next month, reports AFP. The 30-year-old Scottish star, victim of a long-term knee injury as well as hamstring trouble and an inflamed foot, has ignored advice from two surgeons to retire and will compete in the Great Midland Run over 10 kilometres in Coventry, England, on October 16.

McColgan's only competition in the past 18 months has been in a minor road race in Scotland.



Boxing promoter Don King (C) joins Meldrick Taylor (L) of the United States and Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico as they pose for photographers in Las Vegas during a press conference on Sept 14. Chavez and Taylor will fight for the WBC super lightweight crown on Sept 17. — AFP photo