

Sport



Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club custodian Kawser dives forward to collect the ball, robbing Mohammedans' Russian striker Inataev of a chance to have crack at the goal during yesterday's Star Premier Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium in the evening. Mohammedans recorded a 3-2 victory to end a four-match run without a win. — Star photo

MSC back on winning trail

After a four-match string of dismal performances, Mohammedan Sporting Club finally found their way back to the winning trail yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium. But it was not easy. Promotees Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club, who held the reigning champions 1-1 in the first leg, almost made history repeat itself before going down 2-3 in the day's only match of the Star Premier Division football league, which resumed yesterday after a seven-day recess owing to Federation Cup champions Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra's participation in the Qatar Independence Cup Invitational football tournament. In the day's second match, Mohammedans, who were locked 1-1 in the first half, struck twice in quick succession after the breather to register their fifth win in the league. Shafigul Qader Munna, the lanky Mohammedan striker, put his side into the lead in the 43rd minute when he shot the ball home from close, capitalising on a Manik minus from the right. But Asif silenced the roaring Mohammedan supporters halfway through their celebration when he restored parity with a spectacular volley from the edge of the box in the dying moments of the first session. Mohammedans, who lacked control over midfield in the lack-lustre first half, regrouped after the breather and took the lead again in the 56th minute when substitute Asad shot home a rebound from close. One minute later Andrey Kazakov, so far the highest scorer in the league, put the winners further ahead with a neat placing shot for his ninth goal of the season. Asif then scored his second goal in the match few seconds away from the final whistle to reduce the margin.

La Coruna, the team to beat

MADRID, Spain. Sept 23: For those looking up at Deportivo La Coruna in the standings — like Real Madrid and four-time defending champions FC Barcelona, the picture is only likely to get worse, reports AP. If winning their first three games wasn't bad enough, Deportivo have been doing it without two marquee players — Brazilians Bebeto and Mauro da Silva. Da Silva will be out for several months yet following knee surgery, but Bebeto could return and make his season debut as early as Saturday at home against RCD Espanol. In the meantime, coach Arsenio Iglesias has been trying out potent Bulgarian forward Emil Kostadinov, signed several weeks ago, in a bid to figure out where this new scorer fits. Deportivo vs Espanol is one of five matches Saturday. Also on tap are Real Sociedad vs Compostela, Valladolid vs Zaragoza, Real Madrid vs Athletic de Bilbao, and Logrones vs Albacete. The other fourth-round games Sunday include Tenerife vs Sevilla, Real Sociedad vs Valencia, Oviedo vs Atletico de Madrid, Celta vs Racing de Santander and Betis vs Sporting de Gijon. "I think you have to respect what Deportivo have done so far. Three games and three victories. You can't ask for more," said Jose Francisco Rodriguez, who covers the team for the newspaper 'El Ideal Gallego.' And while gradually gaining respect as a top club, Deportivo, playing out of the provincial northwestern city of La Coruna, still don't get respect alongside metropolitan giants Real Madrid and Barcelona. The club, who have never won a league title, much less an European one, surprised all two seasons ago by improving 14 places to finish third from the previous year, their first in the Premier Division after decades of relegation. They led for most of last season, needing only to win their final, match to take the league title. But a draw opened the door for Barcelona, who won their finale and the crown. This third time might be the charm. Deportivo's defence is arguably the league's best, anchored by Serb Miroslav Djukic and Spanish international Salvador 'Voro' Gonzalez. Deportivo gave up only 18 goals last season — less than half of anybody else. But they also only scored 54 — the least among the top seven finishing squads. The addition of Kostadinov, from Portuguese league runners-up Porto and Spanish international Julio Salinas from Barcelona to support Bebeto may solve the problem. They give Deportivo the kind of scoring punch that Barcelona has with their trio of Brazilian Romario, Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov and Romanian Gheorghe Hagi — or Chilean Ivan Zamorano, Argentine Fernando Redondo and Dane Michael Laudrup at Real Madrid. "When everyone is playing, this team is as strong, man-for-man, as any," Rodriguez said. Bebeto may play his first league match Saturday against Espanol, a promoted squad in second place just ahead of Real Madrid and Zaragoza. Bebeto reported several weeks late to the club, then unsuccessfully tried to buy out his contract for dirr 5 million to play in Brazil. The club threatened to fine him almost dirr 400,000 for returning late, but he said this week the fine had been dropped. Bebeto's antics angered Iglesias, a disciplinarian who promised to play the Brazilian only if he was in shape. Iglesias is unlikely to announce a starting lineup until hours before Saturday's match. "The Brazilian is in the homestretch of his training and it's possible he might debut in the league against Espanol, if not all of the game then part of it," Iglesias said in an interview. "In any case, it's clear Bebeto's return to Deportivo is very near."

Pakistan's score to settle

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: Pakistan will be haunted by bitter memories of Hiroshima when they go there next week to defend the Asian Games men's hockey title, reports AFP. It was in the Japanese City in November last year that Pakistan plunged to their worst humiliation in recent years — a 4-0 drubbing by South Korea in Asia Cup semifinal. The Pakistanis had won all the previous Asia Cups, which is considered a rehearsal for the Asian Games which start October 2. While Pakistan mourned the defeat, South Korea confirmed their growing reputation as a rising hockey power by winning both the men's and women's titles. Pakistan, however, softened the blow by lifting the six-nation Champions Trophy at Lahore in March, indicating that the Hiroshima disaster was behind them. But the Pakistanis admit that South Korea, who are eyeing an unprecedented double at the Asian Games, cannot be dismissed lightly. The Asia Cup was the third major title for the Korean men last year, following their success in the regional Inter-nations Cup in Singapore and the inter-continental tournament in Poland. The Korean force is speed and precision passing, with veteran skipper Park Shin-Huem patrolling the mid-field to feed the fast-moving wingers Kim Young-Kyu and Choi Jung-Ho. Defender Shin-Seok-Kyo's breathtaking penalty corner conversions are an added bonus. But the chink in the Korean armour is a tendency to fall apart when the rivals slow the game, as was evident when they were held to a 1-1 draw by lowly Bangladesh in the Asia Cup league. Pakistan, thirsting for revenge, are bound to exploit that weakness, although, like the Koreans, their strength too lies in high-velocity play. Pakistan have benefited immensely by the tactical acumen of their new advisor Hans Jorritsma, the respected Dutch coach who master-minded Netherlands' World Cup triumph in Lahore in 1990. Jorritsma's influence was evident in the Champions Trophy where a rejuvenated Pakistan brushed aside Olympic champions Germany, runners-up Australia and the Netherlands to win the tournament for the first time since 1980. Mercurial forward Shahbaz Ahmed led a speedy and skilful attack backed by the solid defence of Khwaja Jonaid, who was judged the best player of the tournament. India, once masters of the game but now struggling to return to the centre stage, hope to provide a semblance of a challenge to Pakistan and South Korea. India's determined victory bid in the 1993 Asia Cup was thwarted by a controversial penalty stroke in the final against South Korea. But coach Zafar Iqbal is keeping his fingers crossed.



THE 12TH ASIAN GAMES HIROSHIMA 1994

Navana 19th nat'l boat race held

Sports Reporter The four-event Navana 19th national boat-racing championships were held on the river Buriganga near the city's Sadarghat terminal yesterday. In the 50-man sarengi boat category, the Janata Express of Pabna DSA won the 2,000-metre event with Munshiganj and Gazipur DSAs finishing second and third respectively. In the chhip category over the same distance the Adla Union Parishad oarsmen rowed their way to victory ahead of the Maizpara team. The Talyab Ali-led Srinagar squad paddled to victory in the 25-man 1,000-metre race, outpacing the rowers from Dhaka DSA. In the only event featuring female competitors Bangladesh Ansars finished first in the 7 member 500-metre event with the Village Defence Party and Dhaka Rowing Club following in order. Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources M Majidul Huq was the guest of honour in the day-long meet and distributed prizes among the participants. Also present on the occasion were the British High Commissioner in Bangladesh P J Fowler, the charge d'affaires of the American embassy and the Myanmar Ambassador. Twenty-five teams across the country competed in the championships, organised by the Bangladesh Rowing Federation.

AB Bank TT

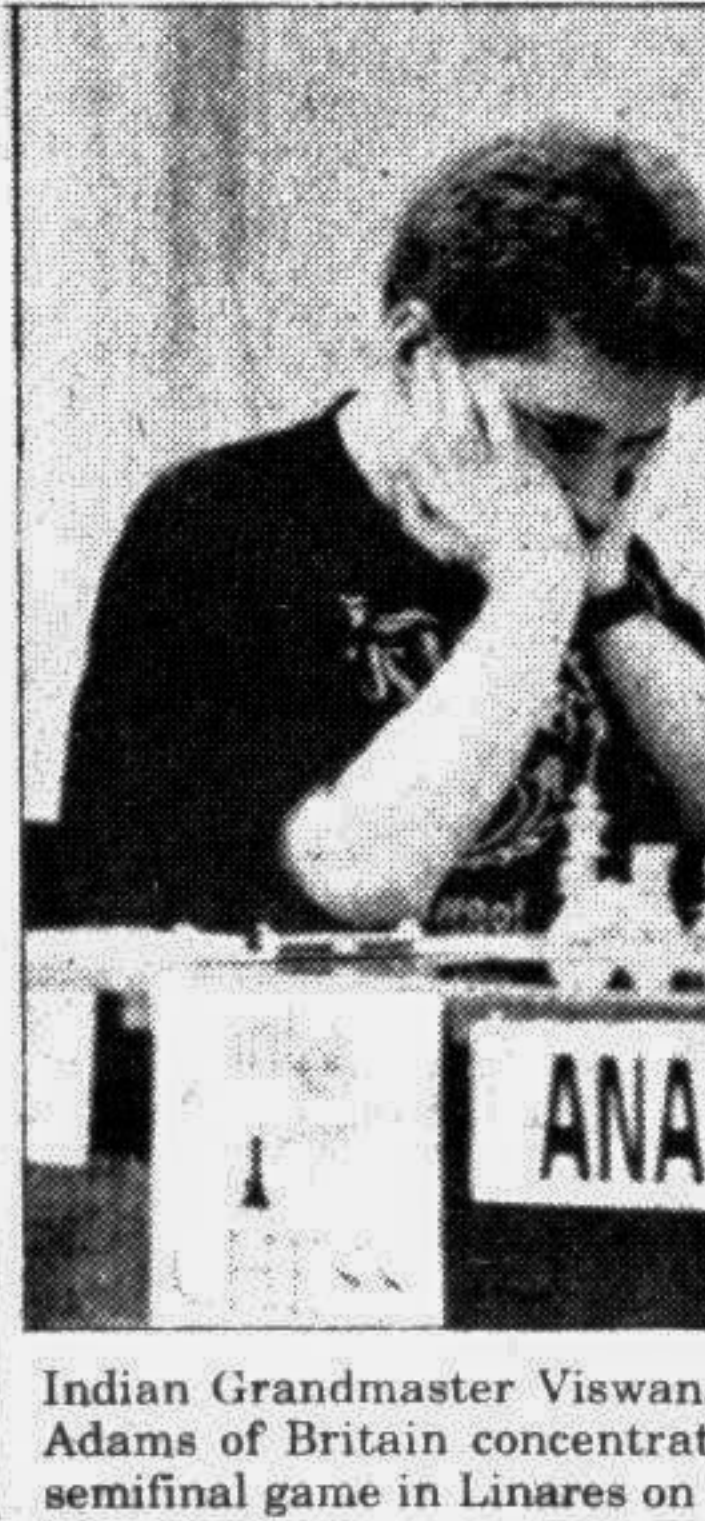
Sports Reporter Title aspirants Brothers Union shrugged off the bitter memories of a squeaky ride against Ajax Sports Club in their previous league engagement when the Gopibagh paddlers raced to a facile 3-0 victory over Lalmatia in the AB Bank Metropolis table tennis league at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday. Brothers, who rallied from 1-2 down to register a squeaky 3-2 victory over Ajax, faced little resistance on the way to their third consecutive victory. Also recording their third successive wins were Wari Juniors and Armanitola Juniors, who beat Swamibagh Boys and Ajax respectively. The day's other winners were players from Swamibagh TTs, who outplayed Combined Sporting Club 3-0.

English fans praise World Cup organisers

BIRMINGHAM, England. Sept 23: England did not have a team at the World Cup finals in the United States. But its fans, often the worst behaved, praised the organizers for producing one of the best tournaments ever, reports AP. Launching a conference aimed at organizing the 1996 European Championship, which England hosts, the (English) Football Supporters Association Friday congratulated the Americans for producing "one of the best tournaments in recent memory." "They spent millions of dollars promoting the World Cup and creating a real 'vibe' around the stadium," said the FSA's international officer, Steve Beauchampe. "This, allied to the complete absence of crowd disorder, created a joyous occasion and gave a true world flavor to these events."

Kamsky, Anand stretch lead

LINARES, Spain, Sept 23: Results of Professional Chess Association (PCA) World Championship semifinal eliminators played in Linares on Thursday, reports Reuter. Second game of 10-game tournament: Gata Kamsky (US), playing black, beat Nigel Short (Britain). Kamsky leads 2-0. Viswanathan Anand (India), playing black, beat Michael Adams (Britain). Anand leads 2-0. The 59 players, including the likes of Viv Richards, Gordon Greenidge, Jeff Thomson, Mohammed Azharuddin and Sunil Gavaskar, lost 1,000 pounds (1,600 dollars) in basic fees and nearly another 1,000 pounds (1,600 dollars) each because it had been agreed to split the total prize money of 50,000 pounds (79,000 dollars). Warwickshire's Dermot Reeve, who captained the England squad, commented: "We all had an agreement that we would receive half the money on the first evening and the rest at the end of the event. Then they changed it at the close of play yesterday to giving us the full fee when the tournament finished. But I very much doubt whether they had the money. Now they are blaming the players, who actually went out and performed without the money that had been promised to them. They say we are not being paid because of the bad publicity that arose when three players stood out for cash in advance." Pakistan manager Mohammad Tanvir said three players had wanted their cash before playing. Pakistan's Aamir Malik, India's Azharuddin and West Indies captain Courtney Walsh were eventually persuaded to play on without payment. Reeve added: "This borders on fraud. Perhaps the police should be called."



Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand (R) takes a look around as his opponent Michael Adams of Britain concentrates on his next move during their World Championship chess semifinal game in Linares on Sept 22. — AFP photo



Janata Express' of Pabna DSA on the way to winning the 50-man 2000-metre race in the day-long Navana 19th national boat racing championships, held on the river Buriganga near Sadarghat in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Boon in marauding mood

RAWALPINDI, Sept 23: David Boon put right his personal statistics against Pakistan with a forceful century in the tour opener against a President's XI team here in Rawalpindi on Friday, reports AP. Boon, averaging just 17.20 in five Tests against Pakistan, hit 101 in Australia's first innings 338. Australia lost their last five wickets for 38 runs. After losing the two openers, Mark Taylor (4) and Michael Slater (20) in the first hour, Boon and Mark Waugh enjoyed a 104-run stand for the third wicket putting the sword to Pakistan's mediocre attack. "It was important to get the confidence going with a decent knock," said Boon. "Given that we have just come out of winter and keeping in mind that this is the only three-day game we've got before the Test series, I am happy with the innings." Boon was in an ominous mood from the moment he flicked fast bowler Mohsin Kamal to the long leg boundary off the first ball. He was cutting, hooking, pulling perilously anything short of a length until he played on to Kamal. He was completely overshadowed by Mark Waugh's run a ball 57 runs during the third wicket stand in 74 minutes. Waugh, who smashed 11 boundaries, was deceived by a Manzoor Akhtar googly and

old fast bowler, on a comeback trail was the pick among the home bowlers with four wickets while Rehman finished with three. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps Friday on the first day of the three-day game between Australia and Pakistan's President's XI: AUSTRALIA: First innings Slater c Moin b Kamal 20 Taylor c Moin b Kamal 4 Boon b Kamal 101 M Waugh b Akhtar 57 Bevan run out 38 S Waugh not out 53 Healy c Moin b Ataur Rehman 20 Warne lbw b Akhtar 4 McDermott lbw b Ataur Rehman 12 May lbw b Ataur Rehman 0 McGrath b Mohsin Kamal 0 Extras: (b-8, lb-6, nb-15) 29 Total: (all out) 338 Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-19; 3-153; 4-219; 5-266; 6-298; 7-321; 8-336; 9-336; 10-338. Bowling O M R W Mohsin Kamal 14 1 0 74 4 Ataur Rehman 16 0 74 3 Ashfaq Ahmad 13 1 78 0 Harris Khan 15 1 57 0 Manzoor Akhtar 10 2 41 2 PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings Shakeel Ahmad not out 1 Shoab Mohammed not out 0 Extras: (b-1, nb-1) 2 Total: (no loss) 3 (to bat: Rameez Raja, Manzoor Akhtar, Zahid Fazal, Ijaz Ahmad, Moin Khan, Harris Khan, Ashfaq Ahmad, Mohsin Kamal and Ataur Rehman. Bowling O M R W Craig McDermott 1 0 2 0



DAVID BOON ... 101

form with a half century, was left unbeaten on 53 as fast bowlers Ataur Rehman and Kamal ran through the middle order, Kamal, the veteran 34-year

The Oval sixes scrapped

LONDON, Sept 23: Some of the leading names in world cricket were left angry and unpaid on Thursday after organisers of the international cricket sixes tournament at the Oval scrapped the event halfway through, reports Reuter. The floodlit tournament was cancelled after just one of the two scheduled days with players accusing the promoters, who included former England Test batsman Roland Butcher, of behaviour "bordering on fraud." Only a few hundred spectators turned up for the first day and organisers soon realised that they were in trouble. They could not fulfil the pledge to pay the squads' half of the fee on Wednesday night and claimed media coverage of the cash dispute had "jeopardised ticket sales for today to the extent that we ... can no longer fulfil our commitment."

England's John Embury said: "It's a joke. It's an irritation for me because I live only a quarter of an hour away. But some players have travelled round the world. The finances should have been settled before the tournament started. Butcher, accompanied by a minder, arrived at the Oval to meet players and Surrey officials but was asked to leave by the club. Pat Symcox, South African Test player, spoke to him before he left but was disillusioned. "Even if he had made an apology and promised some token money, say 100 pounds (158 dollars), it would have been something," said Symcox. "But when he turns up with a bodyguard to confront his old cricket mates something's wrong. After all, he's one of us ... a Test cricketer." Surrey paid 1,600 pounds (2,525 dollars) to ensure that stranded Australians Thomson and David Hookes could fly home. Neither had a ticket and Hookes described Surrey's rescue as "a magnificent gesture ... it changes my opinions about cricket officials."

Good news for Serbia, Montenegro

ATHENS, Sept 23: President of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch said here Friday teams from the ex-Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could soon rejoin international sporting events, reports AFP. Samaranch said he believed the lifting of a UN embargo, including sporting and cultural links imposed over the war in Bosnia, was imminent. Speaking at the centenary celebrations here of the International Volleyball Federation, he said, "I have good reasons to believe the lifting of the embargo is imminent, then the IOC will recommend to all sporting federations the reintegration of Serbia and Montenegro in international competitions." Teams from Serbia and Montenegro were banned from events such as the world basketball and volleyball championships, but athletes were admitted to the Barcelona Olympics on an individual basis.

Prince Ranariddh won't be at Asiad opening

TOKYO, Sept 23: Cambodian Co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh has cancelled his trip to Japan to attend the October 2 opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Hiroshima, organisers said Friday, reports AFP. Prince Ranariddh, president of the Cambodian Olympic Committee, conveyed his decision about a week earlier, an international liaison official at the Hiroshima organising committee said. "We don't know why he cannot come," the official said when asked if he would be occupied with his job at home. Phnom Penh has been awash with rumours of an imminent cabinet reshuffle in the past week. Cambodia, banned from the Olympic movement in 1976 due to its long running civil war, is returning to Asia's biggest sporting event after a break of 20 years.

Houghton new Worcester coach

LONDON, Sept 23: Former Zimbabwe captain David Houghton has been appointed to coach Worcestershire in the English county cricket championship, reports Reuter. Houghton has signed a three-year contract after impressing in the roles of second team captain and assistant coach. Salutations for aureate Aussies SYDNEY, Sept 23: Thousands of people lined this state capital's streets to salute Australia's record-breaking Commonwealth Games team with a ticker tape parade today, reports Reuter. Sprinter Cathy Freeman, a double gold medalist in Victoria last month, and high jumper Tim Forsyth, who also won gold in Canada, led the lunch time parade through Sydney's main street. Australia topped the medal table at the Games, winning 87 gold, 52 silver and 43 bronze, a record haul. Swimmer Kieren Perkins was Australia's most notable performer, winning four gold medals and setting world records for the 800 metres and 1500 metres freestyle in the process. The parade coincided with the first anniversary of Sydney's successful bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games.

UEFA to press for three more World Cup slots

STOCKHOLM, Sept 23: UEFA have decided to demand three more places for European countries at the 1998 World Cup finals, which are being increased from 24 to 32 teams, reports Reuter. European soccer's governing body decided on Thursday to present a request to FIFA, who are responsible for the World Cup, to increase their number of places from 12 to 15, including hosts France. UEFA press officer Salvatore Cuccu said the executive committee meeting in Stockholm would present their proposal to FIFA's executive committee meeting in New York in November, many of UEFA's members also serve on FIFA's executive committee. FIFA president Joao Havelange is known to favour giving many of the new places in the expanded World Cup to Africa, Asia and Central America, but UEFA are determined to maintain their dominance of numbers. UEFA had considered several options, including allocating the new places according to the success of each continental confederation at the last World Cup. With seven of the eight quarter-finalists in the United States coming from Europe, UEFA's suggestion would have given their members the lion's share of the new places. Thursday's decision to press for three additional places is seen as a sensible compromise that will probably be acceptable to FIFA and the other confederations clamouring for more room at the high table of football.

It's too expensive for Palestinians

JERUSALEM, Sept 23: The Palestinians have been forced to withdraw from what would have been their first appearance in the Asian Games for lack of money, an official told AFP on Friday. However, a small delegation of administrators expect to make the trip to Hiroshima, Japan, for the event from October 2-16, said the official from the Youth and Sports Ministry in the Palestinian self-rule authority. The football team hoped to take part and the draw for the games was altered at the last minute to accommodate them.