



Action from last night's Star Premier division football league match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Wari Club at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani whitewashed Wari 4-0. — Star photo

BAKF picks 14 for Asiad

The Bangladesh Amateur Kabaddi Federation (BAKF) yesterday announced a 14-member team to participate in the 12th Asian Games to be held in the Japanese city of Hiroshima from October 2-16, reports UNB.

AKM Habibur Rahman, a member of the Kabaddi federation, will lead the squad.

The team of ten players and four officials are:

Players — Tariquul Islam, Faroque Talukder, Hafizur Rahman, Mir Julhas, Abdur Rouf, Abdul Hakim, Shah Alam, Jahurul Hoq, Ashraf Alim and Ali Asgar.

Manager — AKM Habibur Rahman, Coach — Subimol Chandra Das, Technical Delegates — Munir Hossain and Shah Alam.

Biman paddlers march on

Nasimul Hassan Kochi of Bangladesh Biman gave a walk-over to Cynthia Sports Club's Reza but that was the only match the defending champions lost on their way to yet another comfortable victory in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

The 3-1 win was Biman's fourth on a trot.

The day's other winners were Armanitola Jubo Sangha, Wari Club and Inter Sports over Dhaka Mariners, Purbachal Parishad, and Bangladesh Bank respectively.

Oman emerge victors

DOHA, Sept 24: Oman beat host Qatar 2-1 late Friday to win the inaugural Qatar Independence Cup soccer tournament and pocket the 50,000 dollars first prize, reports AP.

The runner-up got 30,000 dollars and Yemen, which beat India 2-0 in an earlier match Friday, came third to take home 20,000 dollars.

The Omanis played a superior game to beat their hosts. They went ahead as early as the 13th minute with a goal from Abdullah Hamdan. Abdulaziz Hassan equalised for Qatar approximately 15 minutes later.

Oman, however, scored the winner 15 minutes before the end, when said Shaban capitalised on a defensive lapse by Salem Aladsani.

Evaristo Macedo, the Brazilian coach of the Qatar team, appeared unshaken by the defeat. He will now have to concentrate on getting his team in shape for the Gulf Cup in the United Arab Emirates in November.

The tournament in Qatar started Sept. 14. Six teams were drawn into two groups of three each.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Sept 24: Both the matches of CJKP Elite First Division football league ended in draws at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Friends Club and Rising Star ended one-all.

Masum scored for friends while Iqbal equalised for Rising Star.

Mohammedan Blues and Agrabad Nowjoan Club played to a goalless draw in the other match.

Baggio's return delayed

TURIN, Italy, Sept 24: Juventus striker Roberto Baggio, who was set to return from injury on Sunday, will probably miss the home game against Sampdoria after all, reports AFP.

Abahani amerce Wari Club

Wari Club are regarded as Abahani Krira Chakra's bogey team and the traditional giant-slayers have lived up to their reputation of turning the Dhanmondi Club's nights into prolonged nightmares time and again.

But last night it was a completely different story with the DMFA Cup champions calling the shots from the very word go till the end on their way to a thrashing 4-0 victory in their second leg match of the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Abahani, who split points with Wari in a one-all draw in the first round, began the match with a pronounced intention of setting the records straight, launching relentless sorties deep into the Wari defence and by the end of the first 45 minutes they took a comfortable two-nil lead through Jassim Mehdi and Nicolai, the Iraqi midfielder.

The first goal of the Mehdi was the outcome of a neatly orchestrated move. After a couple of one-two between the two Russians Vladimir and Nicolai, the Iraqi midfielder was set up with only Selim, the Wari goalie, to beat and he made no mistake.

Six minutes before the breather, Gaus nodded home a Mansur corner from the right flank to double the Abahani lead.

The league leaders came out fired up for more after the recess and following exhibition of unabated prodigality by the marksmen, substitutes Aslam and Zakir scored two more goals to complete a Wari whitewash.

Zakir, who replace Mehdi in the second half, marked his appearance with a 83rd minute goal with a neat placing shot after being fed by Vladimir.

Veteran Sheikh Mohammed Aslam, at the twilight of his career, recalled some of his brilliance when he sealed the fate of the match with a spectacular side volley from outside the box, leaving the substitute Wari goaltender Tony frozen under the bar two minutes before the long whistle.

Abahani, the only unbeaten outfit in the ten-team fray, maintained their solitary lead with this win, collecting 18 points from 11 matches while Wari remained at their previous haul of ten points on completion of their 11 engagements.

In the first match of the day, Agrani Bank and Public Works Department (PWD) SC shared points in a goalless draw.

This draw raised Bank's collection to nine points from 11 matches while PWD have seven from 11.

Away at the Mirpur Stadium, the Star First Division football league leaders Rahmatganj shared honours with Dhanmondi Club in what appeared to be another case of pre-arranged affair.

Aziu, Akhter and Milon scored one goal each for Rahmatganj while Zafar, Atique and Towhid made it for Dhanmondi in the three-all farce.

The draw left Rahmatganj atop alone with 19 points from 13 matches while Dhanmondi upped their collection to 11 on completion of their 13 engagements.

Nantes going great guns

PARIS, Sept 24: Patrice Loko reinforced his claim for an international call-up when he led league leaders Nantes to their seventh win of the season on Friday, scoring his team's second goal in a 3-1 win at Nice, reports Reuter.

But while there was joy for Loko, there was gloom for a player with an already proven international record.

Swedish World Cup star Kennet Andersson was sent off for assaulting the referee after 69 minutes when his bottom-of-the-table Caen team drew 1-1 at Lille.

Loko, the league's joint-top scorer with eight goals, scored Nantes' second in the 40th minute of their victory on the Riviera.

The win moved the young team from Brittany, unbeaten after 10 games, onto 24 points, four points clear of nearest rivals Lyon. Cannes are third on 19 points, followed by Martigues on 18.

Nantes opened the scoring when defender Christophe Pignol scored from a freekick after 20 minutes, and following Loko's second, Japhet N'Doram of Chad made it three in the 65th minute.

Nantes striker Nicolas Ouedec said afterwards: "We could not dream of a better start to the season than 10 matches without a loss. It certainly puts a lot of pressure on our opponents."

Lyon, who bet champions Paris St Germain last week, were held to a 1-1 draw by Neighbouring St Etienne in a tense clash watched by 40,000 fans.

Franck Gava opened the scoring on a counter-attack in the 50th minute.

Lyon looked set for a win until German Roland Wohlfarth took advantage of a mistake by Liberian defender James Debah to steal an equaliser three minutes from time.

Like Lyon, Cannes and Martigues are also doing surprisingly well after the opening games and they both won again on Friday.

Cannes won 2-0 away at Lens thanks to a double by Franck Priou and Martigues trounced Bastia 5-2. Martigues Dider Tholot scored a hattrick and joined Loko as the league's top scorer with eight goals.

The match between Paris St Germain, last season's champions, and Auxerre, last season's cup winners, ended in a 1-1 draw at the Parc Des Princes.

Auxerre went close in the 35th minute when Sebri Lamouchi hit the post, but they took the lead in the 69th when Lamouchi scored from a Bernard Diomedee cross.

PSG's international striker David Ginola hit the bar in the 75th minute, but PSG equalised two minutes later when Liberian George Weah headed home a corner. The draw left PSG nine points behind Nantes.

Werder Bremen stay clear

BONN, Sept 24: Undefeated Werder Bremen beat lowly Duisburg 2-0 on Friday to go two points clear of Bayern Munich at the top of the German Bundesliga, reports Reuter.

Duisburg, without a win yet this season, applied more pressure and had two good chances in the first half an hour as Werder stuck to their defensive away tactics.

But Werder's international midfielder Mario Basler scored in the 38th minute to put the 1993 champions ahead, and New Zealand striker Wynton Rufer sealed the game with a penalty six minutes from time.

The win gave Werder 11 points from six matches, two ahead of Bayern who beat local rivals 1860 Munich 3-1 in midweek.

Promoted Bayer Uerdingen pulled off a shock by notching their first win of the season, 3-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Frankfurt have now recorded only one win in six matches despite starting the season as one of the title favourites.

Markus Feldhoff gave his side a dream start with two coolly-taken goals inside 18 minutes after moves which split the Frankfurt defence. Gueter Bittengel got the third in the 65th minute.

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Cash, watchword for cricketers' transfers

Cricketers inter-club transfers for the 1994-95 season begins today. The five-day long bourse for players of the Navana Premier and Milnars First Division leagues to be held between 4-30 to 7 pm everyday will culminate on September 30.

Each of the ten Premier teams is entitled to four of the twenty pool players marked out by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB). The twenty players picked from those who recently represented Bangladesh are Faruque Ahmed, Akram Khan, Minhazul Abedin, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Enamul Huq, Athar Ali Khan, Jahangir Alam, Saiful Islam, Jahangir Talukder, Sharfud-dowla Ibne Shaheed, Selim Shahed, Mizanur Rahman, Shariful Huq, Al Shahrir, Anisur Rahman, Sajjad Ahmad, Sheikh Salahuddin, Nurul Abedin.

The provision of four foreign players per Navana team stays unaltered this year too.

However, only two foreigners will be allowed to play on a match day.

The quota rule for foreigners is little tighter down in the Milnars tier where each team can register a maximum three players of which only can play in a match.

Although the enthusiasm around transfers this year is quite lukewarm in the backdrop of Bangladesh's failure to clinch a place among the top three in the ICC Trophy in Kenya earlier this year, the recent success of the youth team in Malaysia has albeit marginally.

However, the speculative spice of this year's transaction has been provided by Kalabagan, who like Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in Star Premier football, are bracing for an upheaval in the domestic cricket world dominated by Mohammedans, Abahani, Bangladesh Biman and Brothers Union, all with varying degree of success of the championship.

A low key team, Kalabagan, it is learnt, are after the likes of Minhaz, Aminul, Golam Faruq and Faruque Ahmed, the skipper of the Bangladesh national team. If Abahani holders along with Biman, the co-shares of the title last year, cannot come up with very tangible and immediate promise of the sinews of war they might be in the line of losing one or two big names.

Same is the case with runners-up Mohammedans who are at the peril of being deserted by a couple of their mainstays unless cash is at hand on time.

Whatever happens and whoever renew or revoke allegiance in the coming five days it seems money will have the final say since players these days are no longer in a position to rely on officials' words particularly after the formation of the pool, a system that has considerably curtailed cricketers' maneuverability as regards bargaining their prices.

So cash is the watchword for whoever or wherever.

McDermott gets into groove

RAWALPINDI, Sept 24: Paceman Craig McDermott flexed his muscles Saturday before the start of the first cricket Test against Pakistan next week with an impressive three-wicket haul to bowl out the President's XI for 145 in their first innings, reports AP.

This was in reply to Australia's 338.

Despite enjoying a 193-run lead, Australia opted for batting practice and extended it further to 327 runs at stumps on the second day of the three-day match.

The Australians in their second innings were 134 for two with left-hander Michael Bevan leading the way with a fine unbeaten 61, sharing an undefeated 101 runs for the third-wicket with Ian Healy (40 not out).

Bevan struck a six and 10 boundaries off 86 balls in 117 minutes.

McDermott put behind the unhappy 1988 tour here when he did not play in any of the three Tests. On Saturday he spearheaded the Australian attack to make a mockery of the local Test hopefuls.

He accounted for opener Shoib Mohammad and captain Rameez Raja, both discarded Test players, in the space of five deliveries in an outstanding first spell and returned to claim the wicket of Moin Khan.

Ijaz Ahmad, one of the nine discarded Test players in the President's XI, was the top scorer with a forceful 38, hitting seven boundaries, being particularly severe on the two fast bowlers.

Ahmad welcomed leg spinner Shane Warne by spanking him to the boundary a couple of times. Ahmad finally fell when he top edged a catch to mid wicket.

Warne added two tailenders to Ahmad's wicket to finish with three for 42 after taking some stick from Moin Khan.

Left-hander Haris Khan hit four boundaries in his 30, providing dour resistance at the bottom of the border.

Lewis becomes moneywise

LONDON, Sept 24: Whatever happens to Lennox Lewis in the ring in the early hours of Sunday, the English will be waving goodbye to the world heavyweight champion they've waited for since the last victory, reports AP.

Naturally his challenger, Oliver McCall thinks so. So does McCall's promoter, Don King.

But even Lennox Lewis think so, too.

The London-born boxer who won an Olympic gold medal fighting as a Canadian, has taken a long look at his chances of earning money fighting in Britain and feels he has to move to the United States.

"I have to go where Lennox Lewis is in demand," said the champion, who defends the WBC title for the fourth time, the second time in Britain.

"Although fans want me to fight here, it really comes down to economics. There is more money to be made in America."

That's because the opponents who will make him real money, former undisputed champion Riddick Bowe, WBA and IBF titlist Michael Moorer and the soon-to-be-released Mike Tyson, are unlikely to want to fly to Europe to meet him.

Lewis, the first British heavyweight to hold the world title since Bob Fitzsimmons in 1897, faces McCall at a time that suits the HBO cable television station in the United States. That's 8:30 pm Saturday in the eastern United States when it is 1:30 am Sunday in England.

Wembley Arena, the 12,000 capacity venue, is likely to be only half full.

Unbeaten in 25 fights, Lewis, taller and heavier, appears to have the ammunition to halt McCall in the later rounds. McCall has five defeats on a 29-fight record.

Then he goes looking for Bowe, Moorer and also Tyson.

UCBSA endorses Woolmer

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 24: Former England batsman Bob Woolmer was appointed South Africa cricket coach on Saturday, reports Reuter.

He succeeded Mike Procter whose contract was not renewed by the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) last weekend.

Woolmer, who coached Warwickshire to an unprecedented three English titles this year,

AUSTRALIA: First innings
338 (David Boon 101, Mohsin Kamal 4-74, Ataur Rehman 3-74)

PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings (overnight 3-1)
Shakeel Ahmed c Healy b McGrath 10
Shoib Mohammad c Boon b McDermott 10
Rameez Raja c Waugh b McDermott 6
Zahid Faisal lbw b McGrath 6
Ijaz Ahmed c Boon b Warne 38
Manzoor Akhtar c McDermott b McGrath 0
Moin Khan b McDermott 11
Haris Khan c Healy b McGrath 30
Mohsin Kamal c Healy b Warne 10
Ataur Rehman st Healy b Warne 11
Ashfaq Ahmad not out 3
Extras: (b-5, lb-7, nb-4) 16
Total: (41.2 overs) 145
Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-17; 3-31; 4-44; 5-51; 6-88; 7-88; 8-103; 9-134.

Bowling:
McDermott 15 2 56 3
McGrath 11.2 4 32 4
Waugh 4 2 2 0
Warne 10 3 42 3
May 1 0 1 0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings
Taylor lbw b Mohsin Kamal 1
Slafer c (sub) AH Rauf b Mohsin Kamal 21
Bevan not out 62
Healy not out 40
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-4) 10
Total: (for two wickets, 30 overs) 134
Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-33.

Bowling:
Mohsin Kamal 8 3 22 2
Ataur Rehman 3 0 16 0
Ashfaq Ahmad 4 1 18 0
Haris Khan 5 1 21 0
Manzoor Akhtar 6 0 32 0
Shoib Mohammad 4 0 19 0



McDermott... 3 for 56 to Ahmad's wicket to finish with three for 42 after taking some stick from Moin Khan.

Goodbye Gerulaitis

OYSTER BAY, N.Y., Sept 24: Tennis greats gathered Thursday morning for the funeral of Vitas Gerulaitis, a ceremony that turned into an emotional odyssey of mirth, sorrow and memory, reports AP.

"Forty years was not long enough for Vitas to live, but it was enough to leave a lasting impression on all of us," Jimmy Connors told the congregation at St Dominic's Roman Catholic Church in this Long Island community.

"Life is for the living, and Vitas gave us examples on how to do it. Vitas was my friend," Connors said from the lectern. "I loved him and I'll miss him." Then he began to sob.

Gerulaitis once ranked as high as No 3 in the world, was found dead Sunday of carbon monoxide poisoning apparently caused by a malfunctioning heating system.

The most prominent of his 350 mourners Thursday were the three men who always stood between him and No 1: Connors, Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe.

The latter, one of the pallbearers, was unshaven. He looked dazed and despondent, and cried during the 90-minute funeral mass.

But it wasn't entirely solemn; television commentator Mary Carillo brought down the house with stories from Gerulaitis' life and career; others made fun of Gerulaitis admittedly less-than-great second serve.

Recalling Gerulaitis' 21st birthday at a hotel on the road, Carillo said, "He wasn't one to stick a candle in a cupcake and call it a birthday."

Instead, he invited everyone in the hotel, and many came in pajamas. The party spilled into the parking lot. Windows were broken, a bathtub was cracked and carpeting was torn up.

"If he had anything to say in today's proceedings," Carillo said, "He would have told all of us to wear our pajamas."

"His legacy is laughter," Carillo said. "We all have to tell each other stories about him. We have to keep him alive."

Coaching camp for juvenile footballers

An under-14 football coaching camp featuring 40 booters from the recently-concluded Jadukar Samad Smitri juvenile football tournament got underway at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

The four-year long coaching session, a joint venture of the Jadukar Samad Smitri football tournament committee and the Metropolitan Juvenile Football Association, was inaugurated by the State Minister for Finance M Mojbibur Rahman.

Roquibul Hasan off to Seoul

Former national cricketer Roquibul Hasan will lead a two-member Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) delegation in the eighth Asian Sports Press Union (APSU) congress which begins today in the South Korean capital of Seoul.

Hasan, the BSWA president who left Dhaka yesterday along with the association general secretary Mahmud Hasan, will also vie for a post in the APSU executive committee.



Paris Saint Germain midfielder Daniel Bravo (R) has his shot blocked by Auxerre's Corentin Martins during their French First Division encounter in Paris on Sept 23. The match ended 1-1. — AFP photo