

Saiful Alam Rinki, the only Bangladeshi shooter to have achieved the Olympic Qualifying Mark (OQM) and a gold winner in the sixth SAF Games in the men's 50-metre air-rifles, fixes his target during a practice session at the Gulshan Shooting Range yesterday. Atiqur Rahman (R), the country's lone Commonwealth Games gold medalist, and Nasiruddin looks on. The trio will represent Bangladesh in the upcoming 12th Asian Games, which begin in the Japanese city of Hiroshima on October 2.

BU, Armanitola, Wari march on in AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter
Brothers Union, Armanitola Juniors and Wari Juniors maintained clear slates with facile 3-0 victories in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Brothers' fifth consecutive win came against Purbachal Parishad while the youngsters from Armanitola and Wari followed the Gopibagh outfit's suit trouncing Cunthia Sports Club and Bangladesh Bank respectively.

Swamibagh TTs, the day's other winners, lost one match before wrapping up their encounter against Dhaka Mariners 3-1.

Federation Cup karate on

The Federation Cup Karate competition, organised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, began at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The three-day competition was inaugurated by Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Major General Mohammed Anwar Hossain, who is also the Chairman of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation.

About 210 competitors from 21 teams, split into four groups, are taking part in the championship.

Sabo Ukraine's soccer coach

KIEV, Sept 27: Dynamo Kiev trainer Jozsef Sabo has been appointed coach of the Ukrainian national team, football federation officials said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Sabo replaces Oleh Bazylevych, who resigned last week after his side's shock 2-0 home defeat to unfancied Lithuania in a European Championship qualifier on September 7.

But he will also remain in charge of Dynamo, who are playing in the European Cup Champions' League.

Noisy welcome for M United in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, Sept 27: The Manchester United soccer team received a noisy welcome on Monday from local supporters when they arrived at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport for their match with the Turkish champions Galatasaray on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Around 200 jeering, flag-waving, Galatasaray fans were waiting for the team when they touched down at 18.45 local time, greeting them by chanting in English: "We are the best" and "No way out, welcome to the Ali Sami Yen hell."

Manchester United play Galatasaray in the European Cup Champions' League at the Ali Sami Yen stadium on Wednesday.

Turkish police tightened up security for Manchester United's visit to Istanbul this week to prevent a repetition of the troubled aftermath of last season's European Cup game involving the English club.

"I'm sure both teams just want to make sure that it is a good game of football, which it will be as long as nothing silly happens," Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said at the airport.

The barracking was generally good-natured with many of the Galatasaray supporters showing more animosity towards the travelling journalists, after British press reports of violent clashes between the two sets of supporters after Galatasaray knocked out Manchester United last year.

"We are not animals," said Murat, a 19-year-old student. They are just trying to blacken our names because we beat them."

Spinning a protean saga

If anything about Bangladesh's participation in the twelfth Asian Games, beginning in the Japanese city of Hiroshima from October 2, is certain, it is the date of the departure of a protean contingent and yet another bleak prospect.

With just a day left for getting aboard the plane bound for the city bearing the deepest scar of modern warfare, the daily proliferating contingent stood at 83 yesterday, leaving one wondering when this morish misty yarn of picking and packing will end.

Like the protozoic creature Amoeba Proteus, the list of participants has been changing ever since the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), authorities for selecting sportsmen and women for any meet abroad, got down to the business about selecting the contingent for Asia's paramount sporting meet.

For the eight disciplines Bangladesh are to take part following the burking of soft tennis, seventy-four were culled till Monday.

By yesterday that 74-strong list shot up to 83 with the addition of four new competitors among others.

Feroza Khatun, the fastest woman of the country, and Nilufar Yasmin, also a sprinter, were included in the hitherto all male athletics squad.

Two shooters — Nasiruddin and Faridul Yusuf, gold winners in a team event in the last SAF Games — have been toted up to the 15-member shooting team.

The expenses of the latest shooting inclusions will reportedly be borne out by the Bangladesh Shooting Federation as has been the case with the wrestlers and weightlifters.

The outcome of a third government order (GO) in connection with the imminent Asiad was the inclusion of Rowshan Ara Hena, a member of Parliament of the ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP).

Bimal Chandra Tarafdar, the fastest man of South Asia, is likely to carry the national flag at the opening ceremony of the two-week meet.

Bangladesh will take part in athletics, swimming, boxing.

Sheffield Wed survive a scare
LONDON, Sept 27: Sheffield Wednesday survived the sixth-minute dismissal of striker Gordon Watson to draw 1-1 with Leeds United in the English Premier League on Monday, reports Reuter.

Watson was sent off for a flying two-footed tackle on Leeds teenager Mark Tinkler.

Things went from bad to worse for Wednesday when Scotland's Gary McAllister put Leeds in front seven minutes later.

But within two minutes man-of-the-match Mark Bright scored his first goal of the season to equalise and give Wednesday only their sixth point in seven matches.

Leeds remained in eighth place in the table on 11 points, eight behind leaders Newcastle United. Wednesday are sixth from bottom.

Win really a winner!
HONG KONG, Sept 27: Win L F Chung lived up to her nickname by becoming the first woman jockey ever to win a race in Hong Kong, reports AP.

Riding the 31-5 Irish mount Free Zone, the 19-year-old Chung beat a field of 11 riders in the 1,000-metre (1,100-yard) race at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club's Shatin track on Saturday.

Hong Kong champion Basil Marcus of South Africa was a head behind on the favourite horse, Fukien Boy.

shooting, kabaddi, hockey, wrestling and weightlifting. None of these eight disciplines with the exception of kabaddi is being tipped to fetch a medal of some sort for Bangladesh.

The futility of all the sound and fury regarding preparation is nothing new for Bangladesh's record in the

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THE FRUSTRATED FIVE
Meanwhile, the five selected members of soft tennis dropped from the plate at the eleventh hour have sought explanation from the authorities for what they called utterly shabby treatment.

The group of five females, picked for the hitherto unheard of discipline following 'eight months of training' under a Japanese coach, were visibly distressed by the last minute cancellation. These desperados, who were seen at different newspaper offices last night in an attempt to voice their protest against the arbitrary decision of the authorities and the subsequent harassment, were clearly under the impression that soft tennis carried in a section of press put the spanner in their works.



Asiad has so far been depressingly abysmal, with the best being a silver medal in kabaddi in the last meet in Beijing. Bangladesh opened account in Asiad eight years ago with boxer Mosharrif Hossain bagging a bronze in Seoul.

Windies' Baroda tie may be shifted for plague

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Sept 27: Matches on the upcoming West Indies cricket tour of India will be moved from areas affected by the current outbreak of pneumonic plague "if necessary," the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) announced here Tuesday, reports AP.

WICBC Chief Executive Officer Stephen Camacho said the assurance had come in a telephone conversation with secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Jagmohan Dalmia.

Dalmia "reported that the Indian government had advised that the spread of the disease had been contained but he would report to me again on Wednesday when things should be clearer," Camacho said. "Dalmia did say that his board had contingency plans to switch the venues of matches if necessary."

The West Indies is scheduled to play six one-day international against India in a bilateral series, take on India and New Zealand in a three-day tournament of one-day internationals, and play three Tests against India on the tour from Oct 5 to Dec. 14.

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Pak-Aussie first Test begins today

Sports Reporter
The first cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan begins in Karachi today.

Pakistan have recalled veteran paceman Mohsin Kamal to replace Ashfaq Ahmed, who failed to impress in the recent Sri Lankan tour. The rest of the players are the same who toured the emerald island with skipper Salim Malik.

The 14-man Pakistan squad named on Sunday comprises: Aamir Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Inzamamul Haq, Salim Malik (captain), Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, Akram Raza, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmad, Asif Mujtaba, Mohsin Kamal and Zahid Fazal.

FAM gets tough

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 27: Malaysian soccer officials have threatened players with life bans for match-fixing amid an expanding bribery scandal, reports AFP.

Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) officials said Tuesday that teams whose players are found guilty of accepting bribes will also be suspended from future Malaysia Cup competitions.

The decisions were taken Sunday at a closed-door meeting of the FA council to discuss allegations of rampant match-fixing, the officials said.

Czech star Michael Vana, who plays for Singapore, was charged in court recently for allegedly taking bribes totalling 375,000 Singapore dollars (251,000 dollars) from a bookmaker.

Since Vana's arrest last month, at least four players for the Malaysian state team have admitted taking money in return for fixing games in the Premier Malaysia Cup Tournament, local newspapers said.

FAM Deputy President Prince Abdullah Ahmad Shah said Sunday that all teams would have to post 500,000 ringgit (200,000 US dollars) with the association for the next Malaysia Cup season.

The money will ensure players are paid promptly and in full, to reduce the lure of bribes, he said.

One player with his face partly obscured, said on national television recently that he took money from bookies because administrators were to pay him.

As part of an on-going probe into football corruption, Malaysia's anti-corruption agency recently ordered 20 premier league players in Central Pahang state to declare their assets.

The FAM has offered a reward of 200,000 ringgit (80,000 dollars) for information on corrupt players, coaches, referees and officials.

Fourteen Malaysian state teams, as well as Singapore and oil-rich Brunei, took part in the recently-concluded semi-professional Malaysia Cup League.

Zac March passes away

LONDON, Sept 27: Britain's oldest former professional footballer has died a month short of his 102nd birthday, reports AFP.

Zillwood March, known as Zac March, played for Brighton and Portsmouth but turned down a move to Manchester United because he wanted to stay in Sussex.

His wage when he started as left winger with Brighton in 1914 was 10 shillings a week.

Charlton rests Cascarino

DUBLIN, Sept 27: Ireland will rest striker Tony Cascarino, scorer of 17 goals in 14 matches for his French club Marseille, for the European Championship qualifier against tiny Liechtenstein in Dublin on October 12, reports Reuter.

Manager Jack Charlton did not include Cascarino in a 20-man Squad he named on Monday for the group Six match, the first international under floodlights at Lansdowne Road.

"Because I wanted to give either Motherwell's Tommy Coyne or Wolves man David Kelly a run-out, I thought it was silly to ask Tony to come all the way from the south of France for this match," said Charlton.

"But if we have any injuries between now and the game, I will have no hesitation in bringing Tony back into the squad."

Ireland will be hot favourites to overwhelm a Liechtenstein team who lost 4-1 to Northern Ireland in Belfast in April and 4-0 at home to neighbours Austria last month.

Ziani is the man
PARIS, Sept 27: Stephane Ziani, a midfielder with the French club Bastia, has confirmed he was the player who tested positive in a doping test last season, when he was playing for Nantes, reports AP.

French soccer officials disclosed earlier this week that a First-Division player had received a suspended sentence in April after testing positive for an unauthorized drug.

But the officials said they were not allowed to release the player's name because of privacy restrictions.

Ziani, 22, said he decided to identify himself Thursday in order to clear other players of any suspicions.

He tested positive for using the prohibited drug salbutamol in an anti-asthma medicine at a Nantes-Auxerre match in April.

Lamba returns to Abahani

Sports Reporter
Animul Islam Bulbul and former Indian Test batsman Raman Lamba were the exceptions in the otherwise dull market for the middleings on the third day of the inter-club cricketers' transfers for the 1994-95 season at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office yesterday.

The spicy speculation over Bulbul's dark came to an end with the future national all-rounder submitting token for Mohammedan Sporting Club, the side he captained last season. It was in the air that last year's joint champions Bangladesh Biman were ready to spend whatever needed to rope him in since the cricketers' transfers began on September 25. However, Bulbul the stylish right-hander, put an end to the worries of Mohammedan officials by renewing allegiance for last year's runners-up.

The Abahani Krira Chakra officials, who seem quite content after the first two days of shopping, visited the BCCB office a few minutes before seven for wrapping up yet another deal with Lamba, the highly professional light-handed batsman, coming back to the familiar Dhanmondi tent after a two-year stint with Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC). Although many sceptics would wonder why Abahani, who shared the Nava Premier league title with Bangladesh Biman last year, went after Lamba, whose glory days are distant memory and who plays cricket nowadays with Irish amateurs, the former Indian Test opener's inclusion would definitely bolster Abahani's batting line-up, particularly after the departure of national skipper Faruque Ahmed.

Faruque along with Ahsar Ali Khan and some old pros like Golam Faruque Chowdhury and Rafiqul Alam joined hitherto unheralded Kalabagan Krira Chakra in a dramatic but not unexpected move.



RAMAN LAMBA

This season's cricketers bourse continues to be a prolonged nightmare for Brothers Union with the Gopibagh team, grovelling under serious financial crisis losing Kazi Habbul Bashar Suman, a stylish but strangely erratic batsman. Suman after a couple years with Brothers, decided to try his luck for Biman.

However, the Gopibagh side

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Sin of losing war on green

We live in a world and a time in which failure is the only sin for which there is no redemption, writes Uruguayan novelist Eduardo Galeano in this exclusive World Cup wrap-up for Inter Press Service. Football is a metaphor for war, and at times it turns into war.

In this world, at the end of this century, failure is the only sin for which there is no redemption. In football, as in all else, losing is prohibited.

After the defeat of Cameroon, the house of their goalkeeper, Joseph Bell, was set on fire. Colombian player Andres Escobar was killed in a hail of bullets in Medellin. Escobar had the bad luck to score a goal against his own team — an unpardonable act of treason in the eyes of the hater men.

We are because we win, and if we lose, we cease to be. The jersey of the player on the national team has become the incontrovertible symbol of the collective identity — and not only in the poor or small countries that need football to put them on the map: 'The End of the World' was the headline in London's Daily Mirror when England was eliminated from this year's World Cup.

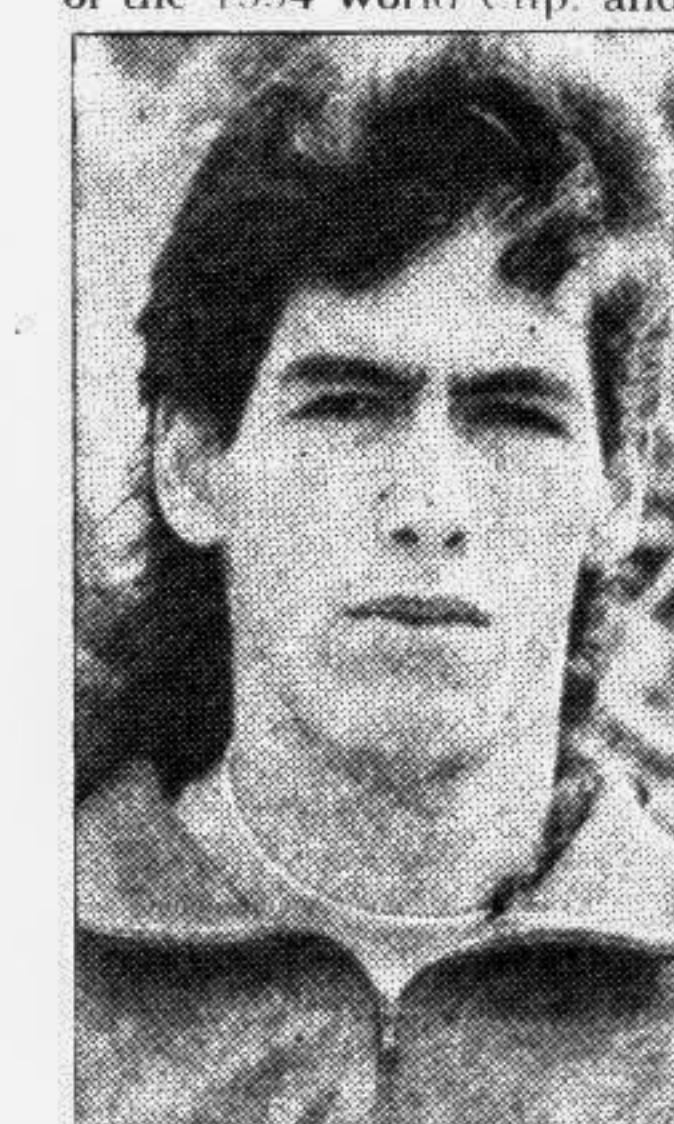
A religion without atheists, a collective passion, football elevates its divinities and then exposes them to the wrath of the believers. With the ball at his foot and the national colours on his chest, the player, the incarnation of his country, marches to win glory on distant battle fields. But when he returns defeated, the warrior is a fallen angel.

At times, sports competition, the subliminal metaphor for war, turns into real war. The fanaticism of football has taken the place of that which seemed to be reserved for religious fervour or political passion, and in the name of religion, as in the name of politics, innumerable horrors have been committed.

There are those who believe that men possessed by the football demon think with their feet and foam at the mouth. It must be admitted that this description fits the crazed football fanatic as well. Yet even the most indignant

critic of football would admit that in most cases the violence that is released by the game doesn't come from the football itself, any more than tears come from a handkerchief. Football, in any case, reveals, or channels, the violence.

The assassination of footballer Andres Escobar was the most atrocious act of violence of the 1994 World Cup, and it



ANDRES ESCOBAR

is perhaps not by chance that it happened in one of the most violent countries on the planet. Sociologists, anthropologists, and experts on politics and violence have debated for years the causes of Colombia's plague of violence and come to a number of conclusions.

Yet no one today can assert that violence is in the genes of this life-affirming people, that bears this trait as a disease, though not as an indelible mark on the forehead.

Indeed, it is evident that the impunity of the state's reign of terror stimulates crime and helps to develop it into a national custom.

According to human rights organisations, between 10 and 15 assassinations take place in Colombia each day, all of them linked to political battles or

could find some solace in the fact that Khairuzaman Babu, who opened the Abahani bowling attack with Saiful Islam last season, would take over the new ball operation for them this year.

Twenty-eight players renewed or revoked allegiance on the third day.

Donald advised to have surgery

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 27: South African fast bowler Allan Donald was Monday advised to undergo surgery to remove a cyst from the ball of his right foot, a move which would put him out of action for the rest of the year, reports Reuter.

United Cricket Board of South Africa managing director Ali Bacher said a specialist diagnosed a chronic abscess on Donald's foot.

"It looks as if surgery might be the only answer," Bacher told the national news agency SAPA.

Should this be the case, Donald will miss the three Tests against New Zealand in South Africa later this year and next month's one-day triangular series against the Kiwis and Pakistan.

Bacher said he hoped the Orange Free State speedster would make a full recovery before the two Tests against Pakistan in January.

The doctor hopes he will be ready to play again from January 1," Bacher said. "There's an outside chance he could make the team for the Pakistani Tests."

The cyst, which first made itself felt during South Africa's tour of England last month, flared up again during Donald's benefit match in the Orange Free State capital of Bloemfontein on Friday, when he bowled just four overs.



An AFP photo shows an Asian Games medal from both the front and reverse side. The medal will be awarded to winners in 37 events. It was designed by Japanese craftsman Atsuno Okamoto.