

Sport

Nat'l age-group tennis results

Sports Reporter

Raj Rohan, Turja and Ripon moved into the 12-year-old age group boys' singles semifinals of the national age-group tennis championship at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

On the third day of the five-day meet yesterday, Raj beat Kanchan 6-1, 6-2. Rohan of Chittagong thrashed Deep 6-1, 6-0. Ripon prevailed over Guddu 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, and Turja ran away with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Subhash in the other quarter-final of the day.

Meanwhile, Yasmin Ahmed Urmi, Mithun, Lucky and Sathi Sarker stepped into the last four in the girls' singles of the 16-year section.

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union, Wari Juniors and Armanitola Juniors all lost their unbeaten records in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league in the match-ups of unconquered at the Dhamondi gymnasium yesterday.

Brothers Union, aspiring to break Bangladesh Biman's monopoly, caved in easily to the Wari Club paddlers while reigning champions Biman extended their unbeaten streak to nine matches at the expense of Armanitola Juniors, who walked into the gymnasium with eight consecutive victories under their belts.

The youngsters from Wari also featured in a 3-0 affair like their seniors but on the wrong end of the table against Inter Sports.

The other match of the day saw Armanitola Jumbo Sangha carving a facile 3-0 victory over Swamibagh TTS.

H'ball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Air Force won their respective matches of the M A Khan memorial handball tournament at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match, Police outplayed Bangladesh Navy 23-17 with Shahiduzzaman notching highest 11 goals.

Alim with five goals was the other notable scorer for the winners while Halim, the top marksman for the vanquished, got five goals.

Bangladesh Air Force earned a facile 33-14 win over Christian Youth Club in the other match of the day.

Shafi with 10 goals was the leading scorer for Air Force followed by teammate Mujib who notched nine while Shahid netted five goals for the losers.

DU soccer

Sports Reporter

The Department of Social Welfare earned a convincing 3-1 win over Journalism in the inter-department football tournament of Dhaka University at the university football ground yesterday.

Lipu, Tawar and Shahdat notched one goal each for the winners while Munir netted the consolatory one for the future media professionals.

Maradona may coach Mandiyu

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 4: Diego Maradona, serving a 15-month ban for failing a doping test at the World Cup, said on Monday he had agreed to coach Argentine soccer Club Deportivo Mandiyu, reports Reuters.

Maradona told local radio he would start on Tuesday alongside current coach Carlos Fen at Mandiyu, a club from the City of Corrientes, 800 miles (1,100 kms) north of Buenos Aires.

His playing days over, Maradona, 33, has often pondered a future in soccer management. He assisted Boca Juniors coach Cesar Menotti last month in a series of training sessions.

Under Argentine Football Association rules, Maradona needs to complete a two-year coaching course before officially taking up a post in soccer management.

In August he expressed a passing interest in taking over the reigns of the Argentine national youth side.

Languishing near the foot of the First Division, Mandiyu last month signed Maradona's former international teammate goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea in a bid to stave off relegation.

"Diego will give our squad a tremendous boost and is just what we need," club president Jorge Cruz told reporters Monday.

It was not immediately clear what the terms of his contract with Mandiyu were.

Becker rallies

SYDNEY, Oct 4: Boris Becker struggled to shake off the cobwebs of a five-week break from tennis before rallying to oust qualifier Sardon Stolle in the first round of the Australian indoor championship today, reports Reuters.

Abahani too strong for PWD

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra began their last lap for regaining the league title with a vengeance when they settled the score with Public Works Department (PWD) in a massive 4-0 victory in a Star Premier engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The winners, who consolidated their position at the top of the table with 22 points from 13 matches, four points clear of the nearest rivals Mukti Joddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, led the first half by a solitary goal.

Rushing high following arch antagonists Mohammedans' third loss in the Premier League, the Abahani ran away with a 4-0 victory.

Skipper Monem Munna, enthralled by the cosy cushion

surfeit of supply.

Even then it took Abahani 20 minutes to have the taste of the first goal. Vladimir, who played as some sort of a libero, let fly a thunderous left-footer from the edge of the box which was partially and inadequately blocked by PWD goalee Sohan and the Iraqi Jassim Mehdji nodded the loose ball in from close.

Veteran Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, whose single strike earned full points for the Dhamondi team in the previous match against Arambagh, doubled the margin in the 61st minute turning in a header upon a cross ball by Nazar Ali, the other Iraqi in the Abahani ranks.

Skipper Monem Munna, enthralled by the cosy cushion

awarded by the Malaysian referee Kamruddin.

While Abahani prepare for a party time, PWD with seven points from 13 matches look destined for relegation.

INPT AGRANI

In the day's first Premier tie played earlier at the same venue, Agrani Bank missed a penalty to settle for a goalless draw with babes Bangladesh Boys.

Bankers have eleven points from 13 matches while Boys skated on thin ice although upping their tally to eight also from 13 matches.

GOALS APLENTY

Away at the Mirpur Stadium, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha prevailed winners in yet another



Action from yesterday's Star Premier Division football league encounter between the DMFA Cup champions Abahani KC and lowly Public Works Department (PWD) SC at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani blanked the office team 4-0. — Star photo

Monday, the skyblues toyed with one of the sensational jow profile teams of the first leg who had snatched a point each from both Abahani and Mohammedans.

The workmen were, however, totally blotted out last evening with Abahani having put the grey grind behind them cracking the whip right through the ninety minutes of a thrill-lorn affair, so starkly contrasting to that of the previous night.

With PWD proving such an inexplicably transformed lot since those heady days of early inspiration, Abahani's fourth goal was never in doubt and it duly came in the 71st minute.

Azmat handled the ball in the dreading to thwart a menacingly poised Zulfiquar Mintu and Vladimir earned himself a richly-deserved reward by converting the penalty

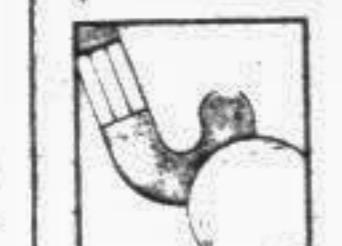
ion of two goals, pushed upfront stellentbosching Vladimir for a while, forwarded a through six minutes later and Nazar, one of the three foreigners out in action for Abahani, guided the ball in to notch up the third goal for the only unbeaten team in the Premier league.

With yesterday's two points Eskaton's haul goes up to 12 from 14 outings while the promotees Muslim stand in the line of fire with four points only — also from 14 matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

RMFS vs Bima 4-30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)
BU vs Mukti Joddha 6-30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

India edge past Bangladesh



HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: Indian captain Jude Felix was sent off giving his team some anxious moments before beating lowly Bangladesh with a single goal in the Asian Games men's hockey here Tuesday, reports AFP.

With five goals was the other notable scorer for the winners while Halim, the top marksman for the vanquished, got five goals.

Bangladesh Air Force earned a facile 33-14 win over Christian Youth Club in the other match of the day.

Shafi with 10 goals was the leading scorer for Air Force followed by teammate Mujib who notched nine while Shahid netted five goals for the losers.

Earlier, title contenders South Korea overcame brilliant goalkeeping by China's Chen Dekang to record a 4-0 win in the opening match.

Chen kept a clean sheet in the first half, but the fast-moving Koreans bounced back afterwards to slam in four goals and take full points from the Group B match.

Skipper Park Shin-Heum hit two, including a penalty stroke. Kim Young-Kyu and Choi Jung-Ho contributed one each.

Chen blocked five penalty corners in the first half to confuse the Koreans, regarded the strongest challenges to defending champions Pakistan.

But the Koreans, who won the Asia Cup here last year, were not to be denied victory in a match they dominated from the start.

JAPAN TOO GOOD

Hosts Japan brushed aside unfancied Oman 3-1 in a Group

Div II hockey

Rakim Sangha and Mukta Bihanga TS registered their second consecutive victories in the metropolis Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha beat PWD Sporting Club by a solitary goal.

The match winner for Mukta Bihanga came in the 26th minute through a field goal by Abul Kalam Azad.

In the other match, Rakim Sangha defeated East End Green Club by 2-0 goals at the same venue.

Ctg SOCCER

CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra beat Shatadal Club by a solitary goal in the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The first half was goalless. In the 67th minute Abahani's Ekram scored the all-important goal with a spectacular header.

Customs and Excise Club also defeated Regency Club 1-0 in another match.

Afsar netted the lone goal.

The home team led 2-0 at half-time through goals by Terukiyo Asai and Akira Takahashi.

Kenji Hasebe increased the tally in the 64th minute, before Saleem Thanu pulled one back for Oman four minutes from the final whistle.

In the only positive detection of plague in Sri Lanka, a Russian seaman from a Russian feeder vessel that arrived here last week from India has been placed under quarantine after doctors confirmed he was suffering from bubonic plague.

The bubonic plague is a less virulent type of the plague that has caused some 50 deaths in India.

Lankans in command

HARARE, Oct 4: A six-wicket haul by off-spinner Mutiah Muralidharan and a fluent 73 not out from the recalled Asanka Gurushinha gave Sri Lanka flying start to their cricket tour of Zimbabwe on Monday, reports Reuter.

After dismissing Mashonaland Country Districts for 177, Sri Lanka were 135 for one at the close on the first day of their three-day opening match.

Mashonaland won the toss but were undermined by paceman Ravindra Pushpakumara, who maintained an accurate line and found a degree of outswinging to take three for 37, and Muralidharan, who found some turn to capture six for 55.

The local side collapsed to 134 for nine but a last-wicket partnership of 43 in just under 11 overs between Gary Steyn and John Gibson provided a useful late flourish.

Sri Lanka made an authoritative start with openers Gurushinha and Dulip Samaraweera sharing a stand of 133 in 41 overs.

Samaraweera struck 10 fours in his 53 before he surprisingly succumbed to the occasional spin of Mark Stannard and was given out leg before as he stretched well forward.

Gurusinha, dropped for the recent four-nation limited overs tournament in Sri Lanka, drove sweetly and straight for 11 fours and one six.

SL U-19 team cuts short India tour

COLOMBO, Oct 4: A junior cricket team from Sri Lanka is to cut short its three-week tour of India and fly home on Wednesday following the outbreak of pneumonic plague, cricket board officials said, reports AFP.

"We did not want to take any chances," former Test captain Bandula Warnapura said today. "We also thought that Air Lanka flights out of Madras might be cancelled so we decided last week to bring them back."

Warnapura, who is also the Sri Lankan cricket board's director of coaching, was instrumental in organising the tour by Sri Lanka's under-19 cricketers from September 20 to October 11.

Sri Lanka's national carrier, Air Lanka, suspended its flights to Bombay and New Delhi due to the spread of plague in India.

However, the itinerary of the Sri Lanka youth side, which was to have returned on October 11, did not include any plague-affected areas. The team had already played four matches during the current tour.

Sri Lanka has enforced strict measures to prevent the spread of plague, including medical checks on visitors arriving from neighbouring India and ordering about 10 ships from India to remain outside the port of Colombo.

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Graf back in action

LONDON, Oct 4: Steffi Graf, who has not played since injuring her back at the US Open last month, returns to action when she bids for her seventh Brighton tournament title later this month, the organisers said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The German world number one heads a strong field for the 250,000-pound (\$394,000) event which begins on October 18 with her main challenger likely to be defending champion Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic.

Meanwhile, an earlier AFP report said: Indian cricket officials have contacted New Zealand Cricket (NZC) to advise that everything is "completely and absolutely under control" in preparation for New Zealand's three-game tour.

Overseas players Desmond Haynes and Angus Fraser are also playing in the one-day domestic competition," he said.

KIWI SQUAD

Ken Rutherford (captain), Martin Crowe (vice captain), Richard de Groot, Simon Doull, Stephen Fleming, Lee Germon, Chris Harris, Matthew Hart, Blair Hartland, Darrin Murray, Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Chris Pringle, Murphy Su, Shane Thomson, Bryan Young.

Because of New Zealand's stance against the big four nations of world cricket — the West Indies, Australia, England and South Africa — creating a closed shop with only slippings for the other five nations, there is an Indian empathy with New Zealand.

Dowling's own dealings with Indian administrators have also been a factor in improving contact between the two countries.

When the West Indies said it would not be able to participate in New Zealand's four-nation centenary series this summer and New Zealand needed another country to fill in, India agreed to do so.

In return, New Zealand agreed to play in India on their way to South Africa.

EURO GIANTS LAG BEHIND

LONDON, Oct 4: It could be because of the demands of the European Champions' League, or just the vagaries of form and luck, but none of the teams who won last season's major leagues are leading their domestic championships after this weekend's action, reports Reuter.

European champions AC Milan are fourth in Italy's Serie A, three points behind leaders Parma. Barcelona, beaten in last season's European Cup final by Milan, are ninth in Spain. Bayern Munich are fourth in Germany. Paris St Germain Sixth in France and Manchester United fourth in England.

AC Milan, chasing a fourth successive domestic title, returned to form with a 1-0 win

Both Pakistan, Aussies to bank on pace

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Oct 4: Pakistan, flushed by their thrilling one-wicket victory in Karachi match which could have gone either way.

"We are not playing with the memories of the loss on the

memories of the loss on the

memories of the loss