



Current Brazilian sensation Tulio jumps on the back of a delighted Roberto Carlos after the world champions' quarter final victory over arch-rivals Argentina in the Copa America at Rivera, Uruguay on July 17. Brazil prevailed 4-2 in the penalty shoot-out after the regulation period ended 2-2. — AFP/UNB photo

ICC reduces expatriates

Only four resident foreign cricketers will be allowed to play for a country in the sixth ICC trophy to be held in Malaysia in February 1997, reports UNB.

The quota of resident foreign players will be reduced to two in the seventh edition in 2001, whose venue is yet to be finalised.

The resident foreigners will be entitled to play for a country subject to their stay in that country.

The decisions were approved by the ICC in a meeting at Lord's in London on July 12 as per recommendations of its associate member associations which passed resolutions 18-2 votes in favour with one abstention.

United Arab Emirates (UAE), which won the last ICC trophy in Kenya in 1993 fielding 10 resident foreigners, along with Hong Kong voted against the decision. Singapore abstained from voting.

This was disclosed by BCCB vice-president Raisuddin Ahmed at a press briefing yesterday evening on his return from London. He represented Bangladesh in the ICC associate members' meeting along with the other BCCB vice-president Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Raisuddin revealed that the New Zealand team is expected to visit Bangladesh in the later part of November after their tour of India. He said a West Indies under-19 team is also scheduled here in mid-December.

An MCC team will tour Bangladesh in February next year to play five one-dayers and a four-day match, the BCCB vice-president added.

Lotus-Kamal Div II cricket

Powered by a brilliant half-century from Sakib, Young Ones' Club scored a resounding 62-run victory over Farshganj SC in one of the three Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league matches yesterday.

Batting first, Young Ones made a huge 178 for nine off the stipulated 35 overs thanks to a swashbuckling 50 off only 15 balls, that contained two sixes, from Sakib at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Shafayet (31) and Joy (27) were the other notable contributors to the healthy Young Ones' total. Nasir of Farshganj took three for 22.

In reply, Farshganj SC were restricted to a paltry 116 for nine after the 35 overs.

Young Ones' Moni ran through the Farshganj lineup with superb figures of four for ten in his seven-over spell.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Peereerbagh Club beat BHB/CC by five wickets.

Sent in to bat, BHB/CC were bundled out for a meagre 93 in 25.5 overs. Tanim of Peereerbagh did most of the damage capturing four BHB wickets for 13 runs.

Peereerbagh took 26 overs to reach their target of 94 for the loss of five wickets, with Apurba remaining not out on 26.

Away at Mirpur, Ihsan Youth Club recorded a thumping 55-run win, against Green Road Estate Club at the City Club ground.

Opting to bat, Ihsan Youth scored a modest 129 for nine in the allotted 35 overs.

Set to score 130 to win, Green Road Estate crashed all out for 74 in just 22.5 overs.

'Hand of God' strikes against Argentines

A reversal of fortune

RIVERA, Uruguay, July 18: Brazil knocked Argentina out of the Copa America on Monday, snatching a draw with a goal every bit as controversial as Diego Maradona's "Hand of God" effort in the 1986 World Cup and then winning on penalties, reports Reuter.

Argentina were ten minutes away from a semifinal place when Brazil full-back Jorginho hit a hard, low cross from the right.

The ball evaded the defence and found striker Tulio who appeared to control it with his hand before turning and shooting past goalkeeper Rolando Cristante.

Peruvian referee Alberto Tejada, who had been having an excellent game, clearly made a serious error when he allowed an equaliser eight minutes from time to stand.

The goal gave world champions Brazil a 2-2 draw and took the game to the penalty shoot-out lottery which they won 4-2. They will play the United States on Thursday.

"I controlled the ball on my chest," Tulio said afterwards. Extra time is not played in the Copa America.

It was ironic that Argentina should be victims of the goal,

given Maradona's effort for them nine years ago against England, one of the most controversial goals in World Cup history.

In the shoot-out, Brazil goalkeeper Taffarel, the hero as Brazil beat Italy on penalties to win the World Cup exactly one year ago to the day, saved shots by Nestor Fabri and Diego Simeone.

Argentina had twice led in the quarter-final game but played the entire second half with ten men after midfielder Leonardo Astrada was sent off in the 44th minute after a flare-up with Jorginho.

On a freezing winter night and with an icy wind swirling around the stadium, Abel Balbo gave Argentina the lead after just two minutes, racing onto a through pass by Ariel Ortega and scoring with a low shot which went in at the near post.

Brazil needed six minutes to hit back with a simple goal, striker Edmundo, otherwise known as "the animal," slotting the ball into the net to convert a low cross by Roberto Carlos.

Brazil, backed by thousands of fans who flocked across the border two kilometres from the stadium, had slightly the better of the next exchanges but it was Argentina who struck again.

The goal was almost identical to the first but this time Gabriel Batistuta was the scorer with a low shot from a difficult angle, taking advantage of a huge gap left by Taffarel at his near post.

It was Batistuta's 33rd international goal, leaving him one short of Maradona's Argentine record.

Predictably, Argentina shut up shop completely in the second half, pulling all their players back into the last 30 metres of the field.

Coach Daniel Passarella set out his stall when he replaced attacking midfielder Ariel Ortega with Hugo Perez, who performs a more defensive role, at half-time.

In the 62nd minute, he took off Batistuta for defender Roberto Ayala.

Passarella was sent off 15 minutes from the end for dissent and midfielder Cesar Sampaio also got the red card in the 88th minute.

Brazil were unable to penetrate the massed ranks of hard-tackling Argentine defenders and were ten minutes away from their first defeat in 24 games — a run that stretches back to November 1993 — until Tulio struck.

Argentina had beaten Brazil on penalties in the quarter-final of the last Copa America two years ago.

Mexico muck up shoot-out

US continue big-hunt

PAYSANDU, Uruguay, July 18: The United States scored another soccer success on Monday, beating Mexico 4-1 on penalties to reach the semifinals of the Copa America, reports Reuter.

Monday's quarterfinals went to penalties after the two sides had played out a 0-0 draw during the 90 minutes, the first goalless game of the competition. Extra time is not played in the Copa America.

The United States, given little chance of progressing beyond the first round before the competition began, will face Brazil in Thursday's semifinal.

Monday's success came on top of Friday's 3-0 win over Argentina, a stunning result even allowing for the fact that Argentina, already qualified, had rested several top players.

With Mexico out for revenge after a humiliating 4-0 defeat by the Americans in last month's US Cup, it was often a rough game with eight bookings.

Mexico's Alberto Garcia Aspe was sent off near the end for a vicious foul on US defender Alexei Lalas.

Both sides began cautiously and the result was a sterile first half.

Chances were few and far between but both sides squandered good 'one-on-one' chances when they had only the goalkeeper to beat.

The United States packed their midfield but Mexico, although having slightly more possession, lacked the creativity to seriously trouble their defence.

Mexico's Luis Garcia, top scorer in the tournament with four goals, was marked out of the game by the US defence and scarcely touched the ball.

The first 45 minutes saw

only two clean-cut goalscoring chances, one at each end.

American striker Eric Wynalda ran through the Mexican defence but saw his shot saved by goalkeeper Jorge Campos. At the other end, Luis Salvador had a clear run at goal after a dreadful mistake by the US defence but he shot weakly at goalkeeper Brad Friedel.

The game livened up in the second half as the teams became more adventurous.

Campos made two elastic saves, one to push a header by Cobi Jones around the post and another to cut out a dangerous cross from Joe-Max Moore.

For Mexico, Alberto Garcia Aspe was close with a dipping 30-metre shot.

In the shoot-out, Mexico, eliminated from two of the last three World Cups on penalties, missed two of their first three attempts while the Americans scored every time.

Striker Frank Klopas then rolled in the fourth to send the United States through.

Two superb saves in a penalty shoot-out and several

Rusedski's anxious home coming

LONDON, July 18: Greg Rusedski, who spearheaded Britain's first successful Davis Cup match in four years at the weekend when the home side blasted Monaco 5-0 at Eastbourne, may have enjoyed bathing in the spotlight of enthusiasm these past weeks, reports AFP.

But the 6ft 3in 21-year-old left-hander, who has one of the biggest serves in the game, may find the atmosphere cooler when he plays in the "Super Nine" Montreal Open next week.

Rusedski, who was born in the Canadian capital, will be playing there for the first time since officially adopting his mother's British nationality.

Graf awaiting Seles' return

BERLIN, July 18: Steffi Graf said Tuesday she looks forward to Monica Seles' return to competitive tennis at the US Open next month.

Seles entered the US Open last week. It will be her first Grand Slam tournament since she was stabbed in the back in 1993.

Graf said she and other players had known for several weeks that Seles aimed to enter the US Open, Aug 28-Sept 10.

"We all are trying to welcome her, and we hope she will have fun," Graf said. "I'm looking forward to it."

It isn't known yet if Seles will be seeded, have a ranking that would put her in the main draw, or be granted a wild card.

Nigerians frighten Norway!

OSLO, July 18: Organisers of the Norway Cup youth football tournament here have refused to allow any Nigerian teams to participate this year fearing the players will seek asylum, organisers said on Monday, reports AFP.

"There has been a lot of trouble with Nigerian teams," Norway Cup official Soelvi Nordeng said. "We said 'no' this year to all Nigerian football teams for the first time, partly because of the risk that we will have the same experience as Sweden."

In 1993, 17 and 18-year-old members of a Nigerian side disappeared from the Gothenburg tournament in Gothenburg and then sought asylum in Sweden. Swedish immigration authorities have denied entry visas to Nigerian youth teams for the past two years.

Nigerian teams have been registered in the Norway Cup for the last 10 years.

"Several times we have said yes to their applications but never seen any players. For many coaches and players, it is the visa that is most important," Nordeng said. "They get the visa if we say yes, and thereby have a chance to escape from poverty."

Pioneer Div football

Sports Reporter

Swadesh Samaj Kalyan Sangha and Surjashena Sporting Club won their respective Pioneer Division football league matches at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Swadesh Samaj recorded an easy 3-0 victory over Kalindi KC with Rabiul, Kamrul and Tareque scoring one goal each for the winners while Surjashena earned a hard-fought lone goal win over Golam Mostofa Lane Kishore Sangha.

Meanwhile, in the day's other two matches held at the Rajuk ground adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium, Kendriya Kishore Kafela went down fighting by a lone goal at the hands of Azimpur Kishore Sangha and Badshah Smriti Sangsad and Rising SC were locked in a 2-2 draw.

Mansoor SC picked up a facile 7-0 win in another billing of the day, over Sutrapur SC at the Dhupkhola metropolis ground. Khokan and Siddique netted two goals each.



THE DREAM RUNS ON. US custodian Brad Friedel (No 1) is the toast of his team mates after carrying his side in to the last four of the Copa America by eliminating Mexico in the quarters at Paysandu, Uruguay on July 17. Friedel blocked two Mexican attempts in the penalty shootout that finished 4-1 in the Americans' favour. — AFP/UNB photo

Fashion Steffi's passion



BERLIN, July 18 (AP): For Steffi Graf, this was a day to talk about jeans — her own casual fashion collection was introduced — and no questions about the insistent taxman, please.

"This is not the proper place," the world's top woman tennis player told a rule-breaker Tuesday. "I'm willing to answer questions about jeans."

And so she did, down to the size that fits a six-time Wimbledon champion: waist 30, inseam 34.

With a dynamic Hong Kong businessman and German clothing designers and distributors at her side, the 26-year-old Graf appeared in a short white skirt, satiny white jacket and powdered-blue blouse that will be the top of the "Steffi Graf Collection" headed for worldwide merchandising next year.

Since May 23, however, German tax authorities have been investigating Graf and her father-manager, Peter Graf. The Graf villa in Bruehl in southern Germany was raided, cartons of documents were seized, and Graf admitted in a television interview Saturday, that it was damaging.

"It's doing my image absolutely no good," she said on ZDF national television.

David Harilela, of the Hong

Kong family firm Harilela's Ltd, which has world rights to the Graf clothing collection, told The Associated Press after Tuesday's fashion show that there was some "bad press" but he was sure Graf would be cleared.

"It will have no negative commercial value. I think everybody knows Steffi, and Steffi is loved in Europe as well as in the rest of the world. I don't think this will bring any detrimental value," he said.

The tax investigation will take months before prosecutors



STEFFI GRAF

decide whether to raise charges against Graf and her father. Graf has said she had complete trust that her father handled her taxes prop-

erly, and the family's lawyers said they will resolve any questions when they have access to the investigators' files.

Graf said the fashion world would not tempt her to end her tennis career, but conceded that she has spent much time recently with the designer, Bernd Lobusch, and working on the up-market line of clothes.

Fashion has always been a strong interest, she said, especially casual jeans and T-shirts.

"Mr Harilela gave me a chance to fulfill one of my dreams," she told reporters.

"Tennis is clearly my first priority," she said, appearing calm and open unless questions veered toward finance and taxes.

The jeans are to be priced between 150 marks and 250 marks (110 and 180 dollars), but the collection is not only classic five-pocket denim trousers. There are denim skirts and dresses long and short, midriff-showing jackets and vests, and colours from urban jungle beige and olive to perky green, red and orange.

The fashion announcement solved the little mystery of the red S logo that Graf wore on her sleeve as she won her sixth Wimbledon title earlier this month. It's the logo of her sportswear collection.

Bailey Canada's new hope



TORONTO, July 18: The world's fastest man this year, Donovan Bailey, is running hard to win the World Championship and finally bring Canadian sprinting back from the disgrace of the Ben Johnson years.

"I think now it is very obvious that we have a younger programme than in the Ben Johnson years. Our athletes are very much more intelligent," Bailey, the season's sprint sensation, told Reuters in an interview on Monday.

Canadians were devastated in 1988 when national idol Ben Johnson tested positive for steroids at the Seoul Olympics and was stripped of his gold medal and world record of 9.79 seconds in the 100 metres.

Intense negative publicity, a long investigation of drugs in track and field and a lack of sponsorship set back the sport in Canada for years.

"Just like any other Canadian in 1988, I was let down," Bailey said from his home in Oakville, Ontario.

But Bailey brought Canadian sprinting a long stride back Saturday at the Canadian Championships in Montreal when he ran the world's fastest time in the 100 metres this year: 9.91 seconds, just six-hundredths off the world record set last year by Leroy Burrell of the United States.

It was the second time this year Bailey has run under

10 seconds in the premier sprint and makes him the favourite one paper heading into the World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, August 4-13.

But the 27-year-old is taking nothing for granted over the next three weeks. Staying healthy is the most important thing, he said.

Bailey will leave today for Europe where he will run in 100-metre events in Oslo on July 21 and Monte Carlo on July 25. Then he heads to Sweden for final preparations before the World Championships.

Bailey ran the blistering race on Saturday despite a slightly pulled tendon in his right hamstring. It is the latest in a long string of injuries that have kept him from developing to his enormous potential in recent years.

The biggest reasons for his success this year are staying relatively healthy and taking his physiotherapy more seriously, he said.

"A little more dedication and not being injured. My training regime is tougher (this year)," he said.

Bailey also feels tougher mentally this year.

"Last year I was intimidated by a lot of people. This year that has been different," he said.

Bailey refused to say who he expects to be the toughest competitor in Sweden. There are: several fast Nigerians, Jamaicans and Americans, he

says. And there is Britain's Olympic champion Linford Christie and Namibian Frankie Fredericks.

"If I stay healthy and run well technically, I should be on the podium," he said.

Bailey only took up the sport in 1990 and has been a full-time track athlete only since last year because of injuries.

"I still have a lot to learn," he said, adding that he has not yet run the perfect race.

Bailey hopes to lead the Canadian sprint relay team to a medal in Sweden as well. Teammate Bruny Surin sped to the second fastest 100-metres of the year behind Bailey Saturday at 9.97 seconds.

Two other fast Canadians, Glenroy Gilbert and Robert Esmie, are nursing injuries and pulled out of the national championships but may be ready for the World Championships.

"If we get everyone healthy, then I think we can break the world record," Bailey said of the Canadian relay team.

But Bailey shrugs off the inevitable questions about drugs, saying he has been tested repeatedly this season and will do what it takes to put to rest the ghost of Ben Johnson.

"Sometimes I think it's just a headache," he says of the testing. "But if this is what I have to do to be a role model, I will."

Velappan riding high



KUALA LUMPUR, July 18: Asia's top soccer official today predicted an end to match-fixing in the region after a key committee of the Asian Games ruling body endorsed a radical plan to reshape the sport in Southeast Asia, reports Reuter.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general-secretary Peter Velappan was speaking after the first meeting of the 44-member AFC's anti-corruption panel, made up of representatives from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

"Our discussions were extremely positive and at last I am happy to report that we are beginning to turn the tables on the bookies," Velappan said.

At the head of the panel's discussions were a series of

Nilsson's new job

STOCKHOLM, July 18: Swedish coach Bosse Nilsson is to take charge of Qatari club Al-Tawon from August, reports AFP.

The 50-year-old, who quit Danish club Silkeborg in January after a row with the directors, said Tuesday he had agreed an open-ended one-year contract.

Nilsson, Sweden's assistant national coach from 1980-85, had coached Helsingborg for seven years.

He said the fact that another Dane, Jorgen E Larsen, guided Ranne to the Qatari Championship last season before being named national coach, probably opened the door for him.

resolutions seeking to pinpoint the reason players were vulnerable to accepting bribes from bookmakers.

For the first time the AFC document, endorsed by the four countries and Hong Kong, blamed club and national officials for "greed for success and for money."

It also blamed inadequate employment and financial terms for players and "inconsistent enforcement of financial obligations."

The seven-point document said that players faced a lack of security, had poor discipline and moral values and were subject to harassment from bookies.

Working from these assumptions the AFC panel passed and 11-step programme to fight match-fixing which was heavily skewed towards improving players' welfare.

Among the proposed steps were legal employment contracts, strict enforcement of financial obligations to players, a code of ethics and moral education for players and officials, recognition given to outstanding football achievements and a life ban and imprisonment for anybody involved in match-fixing.

The document represented an about-face in the way Asian football has sought to deal with bookies who seek to control match results by bribing players.

Previous initiatives had focussed on punishing players as a deterrent, rather than improving the players' welfare. Velappan said the new "carrot and stick" approach would pay dividends.

"We feel these are bold and courageous steps but we have to fight this fight to win because the problem is quite

rampant," said Velappan, who has in the past linked Asian betting syndicates to multinational companies in their scope and influence.

Velappan said all five national associations on the panel agreed to implement the 11-step proposal as well as Vietnam and Brunel, with a review after six months.

Elvis Alvarez murdered

BOGOTA, July 18: Former world boxing champion Elvis Alvarez was shot dead on Sunday, the second professional sportsman killed in the Colombian city of Medellin in the past week, reports Reuter.

A police spokesman said on Monday a man shot Alvarez 12 times as the boxer watched a religious procession on a street in a residential neighbourhood of the industrial city, 240 kms northwest of Bogota.

The spokesman said Alvarez, 30, had been training for his next title attempt. He won the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) flyweight title in 1989 and held the World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight crown for 2-1/2 months in 1991.

Police suspect the shooting was to avenge a botched attempt by a street gang to steal Alvarez's motorcycle in March 1994.

Alvarez managed at that time to prevent the gang from taking his bike, beating one of its members.

On Monday last week, gunmen riding a motorcycle shot dead 20-year-old Arley Antonio Rodriguez, who played for the city's Deportivo Independiente soccer team.