

Sport

BTV may air nine matches

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Television (BTV) has agreed in a meeting to cover live at least nine second leg engagements of the Lifebuoy Premier football league from the Dhaka Stadium.

This was disclosed by the general secretary of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) Mozammel Huq Mukta after a successful meeting with the deputy director of the BTV Mustafa Kamal Sayed at the state-owned electronic media's Rampura office yesterday.

Accordingly, BTV is expected to air the matches live involving defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra, runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Youngmen's Club, Fakirerpool and Brothers Union.

A reliable source said that BTV had requested DMFA not to fix important matches on Fridays, as it would not be possible for them to cover due to weekend's busy schedule. Besides, the BTV has also urged DMFA to bring the kick-offs before 6:00 pm.

The BTV pre-conditions leaves no option for DMFA but to reschedule the fixture of the second leg, expected to begin from Aug 11.

Meanwhile, the committee of the two-tier Senior Division football leagues, will make the final decision regarding the fixture of the second leg at the meeting today.

Schools chess

Sports Reporter
Three players are jointly leading the table with full six points on completion of most of the sixth round matches yesterday in the tenth Bata schools chess tournament being held at the NSC chess-room.

The leading trio are: defending champion Rakib of Narayanganj High School, Shakil of Nakhapara Hossain Ali High School and Bobby of Manipur High School.

The remaining matches of the round will be finalised by today.

PREMIER PREDICTIONS



The Daily Star has arranged a series of predictions by renowned footballers of yester-years on the outcome of the Premier football league.

Shahiduddin Ahmed Selim
Central defender (Brothers Union, Bangladesh) Played for Brothers Union 1968-73 (Third Division), 1974 (Second Division), 1975-83 (First Division), Bangladesh 1975-80. Captained junior national team 1977, captained national team 1980. Coach of Brothers Union 1991-94, coach of national team 1992. Presently involved in printing business.

Table with 2 columns: Position and Name. 1995 Football League Prediction by Shahiduddin Selim. Champions: Abahani KC. Runners-up: Mohammedan SC. 3rd position: Muktijoddha Sangsad. 4th position: Youngmen's Club.

Abahani are most likely to hold on to their lead. They are not going to lose points to any of the less illustrious teams. Besides with the inclusion of Lorenzo, their striking power has improved. However, with three points for a win, I do not rule out the possibility of upsets. A defeat for Abahani will bring Mohammedans back into the race.

Mohammedans have found their rhythm from the match against Muktijoddha and look very set now. The inclusion of Kazakhov will sort out their front-line problems. However, Mohammedans defence is their weak point.

Muktijoddha is an well-balanced team and should have done better. Perhaps they are facing some organisational difficulty and lacking proper guidance. They also do not have a large number of supporters.

Youngmen's Club of Fakirerpool have proved their consistency. In the first leg, the big teams may have taken them lightly. However, things will be different in the second leg when everyone will consider them a force.

Brothers Union have failed because we got ten to fifteen per cent of what we expected from our overseas signings. Brothers possibly have no chance to go beyond the fourth position.

Jahangir of Abahani is a very promising player. So is Maksudul Amin Rana of Youngmen's.

Our referees make mistakes but I do not believe they do so intentionally. Concerned authorities should take measures to rectify the errors in post-match briefings. If foreign referees can be paid \$50 (Taka 2000 plus) per match, why are local referees paid only Taka 200? How can we expect good refereeing?

Victor for MSC, Owned for Rahmatganj

Sports Reporter
Panchinko Victor, the second Russian booter of the Mohammedan Sporting Club arrived in the capital yesterday afternoon.

With the arrival of the Russian striker Mohammedans, who are currently holding the third place behind defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra and Youngmen's Club at the end of the first leg of the Lifebuoy Premier league, are likely to improve their striking prowess.

Mohammedans are expected to sign the booter with the BFF within a few days in time for the second leg, scheduled to begin on August 11.

However, with the inclusion of Victor, who reportedly plays for a Super Division outfit in Russia, the black and whites will complete their quota of four overseas booters this year.

Earlier, Mohammedans signed up two Nigerian players - Bode Baba and Ladi Baba - before signing Kazakov, who was the highest scorer for Mohammedans last year.

Another Russian, Oumed Alldadov, also arrived yesterday to don the Rahmatganj colours in the second leg. The team is already being served by two Russians.

12th Asian snooker Bangladeshis beaten

Two Bangladeshi players - Adrian Gonsalves and Reshadul Aneen - yesterday lost their first round matches in the 12th Nescafe Asian Snooker Championship which began in Bangkok on Sunday, reports UMB.

Adrian Gonsalves suffered a 0-4 defeat against third seeded Sakchai Sim-ngam of Thailand, former champion and a pre-tournament favourite.

Reshadul Aneen lost 1-4 to Indonesian Oei Kim Han in the day's first round match, according to a faxed message received here last night from the Thai capital.

Unseeded Filipino Joven Alba catapulted himself to the limelight with an upset 4-3 victory over reigning world champion Mohammad Yousuf in a nerve-teasing Group A match.

The Pakistani veteran, top seed of the tournament, first made a botch of a 3-0 lead and then lost his first match of the championship in a black-ball contest in the deciding seventh frame.

It was by far the biggest upset of the tournament. Nobody had expected Alba to beat Yousuf as the Filipino was earlier hammered 4-0 by debutant Adnan Abdul Behbehani of Kuwait.

However, Yousuf salvaged some pride by defeating Rudy Sulaiman of Indonesia 4-2 in his second match of the day.

In yet another upset of the day, Jin Weifeng of China went down 4-3 to Singapore's Yeo Tech Chin in the third session.

Sixth-seeded Indian, Alok Kumar, who was upset 4-3 by Pang Weiguo of China on the opening day on Sunday, put behind the shock defeat to rout Ahmad Al-Tarkait of Kuwait 4-0.

Chan Wei Ming, the second seed from Hong Kong, was far from impressive despite winning twice.

He was troubled throughout by young Sunantha Botetu of Sri Lanka during a 4-2 victory and later he was stretched to the limits by Abd Rahim Hj Mohiddin of Brunei before winning 4-3.

Hunger strike for Sevilla

ROCIANA DEL CONDADO, Spain, Aug 7: Spanish soccer fans have gone on hunger strike in protest at the decision to relegate their team Sevilla from the First to the Third Division because of administrative errors, reports Reuters.

The 17-year-old all-rounder made a defiant 90 in four hours and then removed openers Marcus Trescothick and Anthony McGrath as England reached their target of 85 to win by seven wickets.

In an all-action finish, the South Africans consistently pitched short and the home batsmen took up the challenge with 62 runs in boundaries to romp home with 25.1 overs to spare.

An earlier finish had seemed likely when South Africa resumed 66 behind, and lost two wickets in four balls from Surrey's Alex Tudor while adding only seven to the overnight 133 for four.

When Bruce Stigant was bowled by Yorkshireman Alex Morris, the tourists were still 14 short of avoiding an innings defeat.

Windies warm up for 5th

BRISTOL, England, Aug 7: West Indies beat Gloucestershire by 74 runs on the third day of their cricket match today, reports Reuters.

Scores: West Indies 242 (Sheeraz 6-67) and 193 (S Williams 56, S Chanderpaul 53; Sheeraz 5-44). Gloucestershire 239 (A Wright 73, A Symonds 51; K Benjamin 4-53) and 122 (K Benjamin 5-52; C Hopper 3-34).

Earlier on Sunday, the West Indies were on the receiving end of more body blows from a little known county bowler who was once an England amateur boxing international.

Paceman Kamran Sheeraz dismissed Brian Lara for nought and took five for 41 in all as the tourists limped to 186 for nine in their second innings on the second day of their three-day match.

The 21-year-old Sheeraz, playing in only his fourth first-class match, took his tally to 11 wickets after a career-best six for 67 in the first innings.

Richie Richardson's side, desperate for form after defeat in the fourth Test at Old Trafford a week ago, were only 189 runs ahead after their second poor batting display of the weekend.

Another problem for the Caribbeans, four days before the crucial fifth Test in Nottingham, is that Carl Hooper looks likely to join Jimmy Adams on the sidelines.

Hooper's right index finger, broken 10 days ago, is still not properly healed. After retiring hurt on Saturday during his brief innings of seven, he did not appear until the fall of the sixth wicket on Sunday and faced just 10 balls making four, before being caught off

Christie in race against clock

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, Aug 7: Deposed 100 metre titlist Linford Christie underwent intensive treatment for his hamstring injury Monday and he remained doubtful for the 200 and sprint relays later at the World Championships, reports AP.

It is a somewhat serious injury. It will put in some doubt his running the 200 metres," said British team spokesman Tony Ward.

The 200 heats start on Thursday, the team sprint relays Saturday, making Christie's recovery a race against time.

His leg would be scanned later Monday before a final assessment of his injury will be made, said Ward.

Michael Hill, the sports promotion manager of Christie's sponsor Puma, said Christie will leave Sweden Tuesday for an assessment of another doctor before making a decision. It is believed Christie will fly to Germany.

"Perhaps he will come back," and run the relays over the weekend, Hill said.

It will be decision by a doctor and Linford to see whether he will come back." He is putting a brave smile on things," said Ward, who denied rumours Christie had already pulled out of the championships, which finish Sunday.

Which one haunts Boulmerka - noise or GIA?
GOTHENBURG, Aug 7: Algerian Olympic 1,500 metres champion Hassiba Boulmerka denied on Sunday reports that she had been placed under heavy security in a hotel after threats from Muslim militants, reports Reuters.

Algerian team sources had earlier reported that Boulmerka, who has been a target of criticism from Muslim fundamentalists at home for baring her legs on the track, had received threats of violence from the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

The sources said Boulmerka had originally intended to stay in the Athletes' Village during the World Athletics Championships which started on Saturday but had asked to move to a hotel because of the GIA threats.

But Boulmerka, who ran in the opening round of the 1,500 here on Sunday, later told Reuters she had wanted to leave the Athletes' Village because of the noise.

But she said she had not been able to find a hotel room and added she had not been threatened.

Gothenburg police spokesman Ernst Toernbrink said he had no knowledge of any threats against Boulmerka.

Boulmerka, 27, won the 1,500 metres at the 1991 World Championships, becoming only the second woman athlete from a Muslim country to win a major title after Morocco's Nawal el Moutawakel took the 400 metres hurdles at the 1984 Olympics.

"I know I have appeared as a big threat to Muslim fundamentalists," Boulmerka said in an interview ahead of the 1992 Summer Games. "But I believe in democracy and I will fight for my rights until my last breath."

De Silva's ton revs Kent up

LONDON, Aug 7: Aravinda de Silva and Trevor Ward both hit centuries as Kent moved up to second place in the English Sunday League with a 55-run victory over Surrey, reports Reuters.

Sri Lankan Test star De Silva (124), a century-maker in Kent's Benson and Hedges Cup final defeat by Lancashire, teamed up with opener Ward (123) in a country record second-wicket stand of 241 to thrill the Canterbury crowd.

De Silva raced to his century with two sixes and 14 fours off just 83 deliveries, while Ward's 102-ball 100 included three sixes and 11 fours.

Kent's splendid final 40-over total of 301 for seven was always too much for Surrey and, despite skipper Adam Hoadley's defiant 94, Dean Headley's competition-best return of six for 42 saw the visitors bowled out for 246.

Wasim Akram was in fine forms as Lancashire moved up to joint third in the table with Warwickshire following a 22-run victory over fellow title hopefuls Sussex at Old Trafford.

Wasim too four for 16 from seven overs, including the wicket of Surrey skipper and England hopeful Alan Wells (17), as the visitors

were bowled out for 144 in reply to Lancashire's 40-over total of 166 for eight.

England skipper Mike Atherton (46) top-scored for the home side, who were grateful for an eighth-wicket stand of 45 between wicket-keeper Warren Hegg and

Gary Yates after they had slipped from 90 for one to 121 for eight.

Warwickshire, in second place at the start of the day, were without a game and that enabled pacemakers Essex to increase their lead at the top to four points with a 36-run success over Hampshire at Colchester.

Mark Waugh (55) and Nasser Hussain (66) continued their excellent form as the home side compiled 235 for five off 39 overs.

Hampshire skipper Mark Nicholas hit a gritty 43, but Mark Ilett (three for 42) celebrated his England recall with three late wickets to settle the issue.

Graeme Hick, desperate to impress the England selectors after retaining his place in the fifth Test squad, did just that with an unbeaten 113 off just 83 balls as Worcestershire beat Yorkshire by 33 runs at Scarborough.

Hick, who hit two sixes and 12 boundaries, was given valuable support by skipper Tom Moody (33) and David Leatherdale (38), with whom he shared a fourth-wicket stand of 114 as the visitors closed on 251 for four.

In-form Australian Michael Bevan hit 101 off 92 deliveries, including one six and 11 fours, but it was not enough to save Yorkshire who succumbed on 218 for nine.

Parmalat Cup Parma's

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Aug 7: Bulgarian international Hristo Stoichkov scored two goals and set up a third as Parma defeated Boca Juniors 3-1 in the Parmalat Cup final on Sunday before a crowd of 32,859 at Giants Stadium, reports Reuters.

In the third place match, the US national team defeated Benfica 2-1.

It was Stoichkov's second appearance for Parma, the 1995 UEFA Cup champions, since transferring from Barcelona. In his debut, a friendly against Anderlecht on July 28, the forward suffered a bruised leg and was missing from the team Friday night when Parma beat the US 2-1 in the opening match of the tournament.

Stoichkov beat goalkeeper Fernando Montoya on a 12-

yard strike from the right side at 34 minutes and followed with a penalty kick in the 44th. Stoichkov converted the penalty after midfielder Dino Baggio was fouled in the area by defender Rodolfo Arruabarrena.

In the 51st, Stoichkov lofted a cross to Swedish in-

ternational Tomas Brodin who headed in at the right post for the final goal of the game.

"It was very important for Parma to win this cup," said Stoichkov, the tournament's MVP. "I have played strongly here (at Giants Stadium) - in four games, I have scored five goals here."

During the 1994 World Cup, Stoichkov scored against Germany, Italy and Mexico.

Parma coach Nevio Scala considered the tournament a crucial tuneup for his team before the start of the Italian League this month.

"We won a very important cup today," said Scala. "In Italy, five or six teams are ready to play for the Italian Cup title. We were excited to play against teams who were

prepared and physically fit." Cameroon international Alphonse Technam, made the score 2-1 for Boca when he struck a shot from seven yards past goalkeeper Luca Bucci in the 48th minute.

The second half was marred by physical play with Boca's Blas Giunta and Walter Pico and Parma's Alessandro Melli being sent off.

The US, missing 11 regular players due to club commitments, still earned the victory on a goal by Ray Lassiter in the 68th minute. Lassiter headed home a cross by defender Jeff Agoos from four yards past goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme.

"I'm an opportunist and I took advantage of the opportunity," Lassiter said. "That's basically where I score my goals - inside the six (yard box)."

The US took a 1-0 lead on a 13th minute penalty kick by Frank Klopas after midfielder Luis Gustavo handled the ball in the area. Klopas' shot beat Preud'homme low to the left side.

Benfica controlled most of the second half and got an equaliser from midfielder Ilian Iliev at 63 minutes.

"I was proud of the way the team attacked after Benfica scored," said US coach Steve Sampson. "They pressed forward and played to win not for penalty kicks."

World Youth Cup soccer

RIOBAMBA, Ecuador, Aug 7: Spain gained an important 1-0 triumph Sunday over Qatar and advanced to the lead of Group C with Nigeria in: soccer's under 17 World Cup, reports AP.

The winning goal was scored by Jordi Ferron in the 83rd minute with a header on a free kick by Francisco Cachorro.

The win allowed Spain to catch up to reigning youth champion Nigeria in Group C with four points each.

Reigning champions Nigeria beat Australia 2-0 in Group C.

Nigeria's goals were scored by Edward Anyamkoyom 60 minutes into the game and by James Obiora in the final minute of play.

Mohammedans' fresh Russian recruit Victor (centre) is seen flanked by beaming Mohammedans officials on arrival in the city yesterday.

— Star photo



HRISTO STOICHKOV



Mohammedans' fresh Russian recruit Victor (centre) is seen flanked by beaming Mohammedans officials on arrival in the city yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 21 mins and a word bank at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters N M Y Z N V M Y H M J D R M H J W Z H G O Z L A Z S N S L U T N A - T S G R W J O W L R Z G Z D Z V S L U J M M O .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LUSCIOUS BLUEBERRY PIE OUGHT TO BE CUT ONLY INTO BITE-SIGNS PIECES. Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals L. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.