

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Princess Anne

"Of only politicians had to sweat it out in order to get to the Olympics they might not be quite so ready to say to sportsmen, 'Sorry, you're not going.'"

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT in 1956 Melbourne Olympics, not all the events were held on Australian soil.

Actually this precedence can in a way sort the numerous problems accruing with the Olympics becoming bigger by leap year.

Assuming this, wonder what event Bangladesh will host. Of course, remember that the host country qualifies automatically.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

- 1. The Sports WHIZZ KID Competition is a property of The Daily Star. 2. The Competition is open only to school-going children.

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-I

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 PM, August 25, 1995)

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options for the Sports Whizz Kid competition.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Roll No: _____ School Address: _____ Phone: (if any) _____

Anti-doping drive of FINA

VIENNA, Aug 23: World swimming leaders said on Tuesday they were considering asking for national lists of potential Olympic swimmers for comprehensive dope testing before the 1996 Atlanta Games, reports Reuters.

Youth gala begins today

Sports Reporter

A colourful opening ceremony awaits the seven countries participating in the sixth Commonwealth youth handball championship which is to commence in the capital today.

Finance Minister and chairman of the organising committee M Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the week-long gala at the Mirpur National Indoor Stadium at 4 pm.

While all the seven nations — holders England, Nigeria, India, Pakistan Kenya, Hong Kong and the hosts — are to compete for the 2,000 US dollars winners cheque to be handed to the boys' champion, defending champions Nigeria, England, India and Bangladesh will fight it out for the 1,500 US dollars worth girls trophy.

Matches will be held everyday in two sessions. The

fixture for both the boys and girls competition will be announced today after the technical committee meets with officials of all the participating teams.



A 17-member Hong Kong boys' team and a 30-member England team comprising both girls and boys arrived in the city yesterday. All the

other teams, apart from the Nigerian ladies, are expected to be in Dhaka by today. The participation of the Nigerian girls is still uncertain. If they fail to turn up for the meet, only three teams will compete in the girls' section. The arrival of the Kenyan team is also hanging in the air.

Bangladesh boys will take on their English counterparts in the inaugural match of the tournament which is to follow immediately after the formal opening.

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast live the opening and closing ceremonies and show highlights of daily matches after their nightly English news bulletin. BTV may also live telecast the semifinal and final matches.

Radio Bangladesh will air commentary of most of the matches.

Trainees signing blank receipts

Bangladeshi boxers bemoan

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh's prospects in boxing during the upcoming Seventh SAF Games, which will take place later this year in the Indian city of Madras is really bleak.

Among the pugilists who captured medals in the sixth edition of the Games held in Dhaka, only Alauddin has been included to undergo training before the final selection of the team.

Bangladesh got one gold, three silvers and five bronzes in the Dhaka Games.

To add to the boxing miseries, the lone gold medal winner at the Dhaka Games, Mozammel Haq was permitted asylum in Canada last year where he went to participate in the 14th Commonwealth Games at Victoria.

Latifur Rahman, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Boxing Federation (BBF) said, the other players have been excluded from the team as some of them were not available while the others were overaged.

Ruhul Amin, one of the

silver medal winners of the last Games was declared unfit by a medical board because of a fractured nose. Moniruzzaman, who also captured silver in the last Games may be included in the team as he has recently returned from abroad.

However, the boxers who are now camping in the dormitories of the National Sports Council are beset with frustration. Some of the players alleged on condition of anonymity that they have no foreign coach and none of them had been sent abroad for training which was necessary to improve their skill.

The former president of the BBF Major General Amin had earlier committed to send them abroad, said the players. But the incumbent committee has not taken any step as yet to give the boxers some foreign exposure.

Moreover, the seven-nation junior boxing tournament scheduled to be held in Dhaka next month has been postponed. According to

Latifur Rahman the tournament had to be deferred to March due to the floods.

The players of the camp also alleged that the meals provided to them are not nourishing enough.

They have received only one pair of keeds and nothing more till date, although their camp began last December.

The main allegation that came from the players is that they have been receiving their monthly allowance by signing in a blank sheet where the amount of money has not been mentioned.

The players, who are now in the dormitories of the National Sports Council are also facing shortage of water.

Moreover, the boxing ring built at BKSP remains unused as boxing federation officials have declined to use that. About this allegation the general secretary of the BBF Latifur Rahman said that the ring was built without any consultation with the local coaches and it is not good enough for our purpose.

Mixed fortunes for Almsick

VIENNA, Aug 23: Franziska Van Almsick suffered a blow to her chances to gain seven gold medals at the European Swimming Championships when she finished ninth in the qualifying for the 200 metres freestyle Wednesday, report agencies.

Only the top eight advanced to the final Wednesday evening.

Van Almsick holds the world record in that discipline at 1 minute, 56.78 seconds in last year's World Championships at Rome.

She won six gold medals at the European Championships in 1993 and had taken two the previous evening here, winning the 100 freestyle and anchored the 800-metre German relay.

Wednesday morning, she finished third in her heat in 2:01.95. The eighth qualifier was Malin Nilsson of Sweden in 2:02.94.

Ironically Van Almsick also finished ninth in qualifying at the World Championships but her teammate Dagnar Hase, who came in eighth, withdrew allowing Van Almsick to gain entry into the main final.

This time another German, Kirsten Kielgass,

was in the top qualifying position with 2:01.93.

Van Almsick was in the last heat and finished third behind Kirsten Vlieghuis of the Netherlands, 2:02.66 and Louise Joehneke of Weden, 2:02.79. It appeared that Van Almsick was content to be among the top three at the finish, not sprinting down the final 50 metres.

Both Vlieshuis and Joehneke had personal bests more than four seconds slower than Van Almsick's world record.

Adam Tedamsky, the German women's swim coach, ruled out a possible chance for Van Almsick getting into the final at the expense of Kielgass.

Kielgass had the fastest split in the 800 relay the night before, 2:00.60 compared to Van Almsick's 2:02.03.

Earlier on Tuesday, Van Almsick scooped the first two gold medals in her quest for an unprecedented seven titles.

The 17-year-old German began with a clearcut win in the opening women's 100 metres freestyle and brought proceedings to a predictable conclusion in the late afternoon sunshine by anchoring Germany to victory in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay.



Germany's swimming ace Franziska Van Almsick raises her hand after winning the 100 metres freestyle final at the European Swimming Championships in Vienna on August 22.

Hungary's Krisztina Egerszegi, who outdid Van Almsick with four individual golds at the 1993 championships, prevailed in the 400 individual medley for the third time in succession.

Bangladesh to take part in int'l U-19 gymnastics

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take part in the first international junior (under-19) gymnastics tournament, scheduled to be held in the Iranian capital Tehran from Oct 1 to 8.

Bangladesh will send a six-member men's team.

Ten gymnasts have already started to practice under local coaches at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP).

The players in the training camp are: Dulal Gomez, Delwar Hossain Pintu, Amir Ali, Mamun-Al-Ferozi, Sharif, Lemon, Jewel Rana, Atiqur Rahman, Akter Hossain, and Zahidul Islam Rumi.

The final selection will be held in the first week of September.

The coaches, who are conducting the training are: Kazi Akram Ali and Dewan Mohammed Nazrul Hossain.

Foreign refs to DMFA's aid

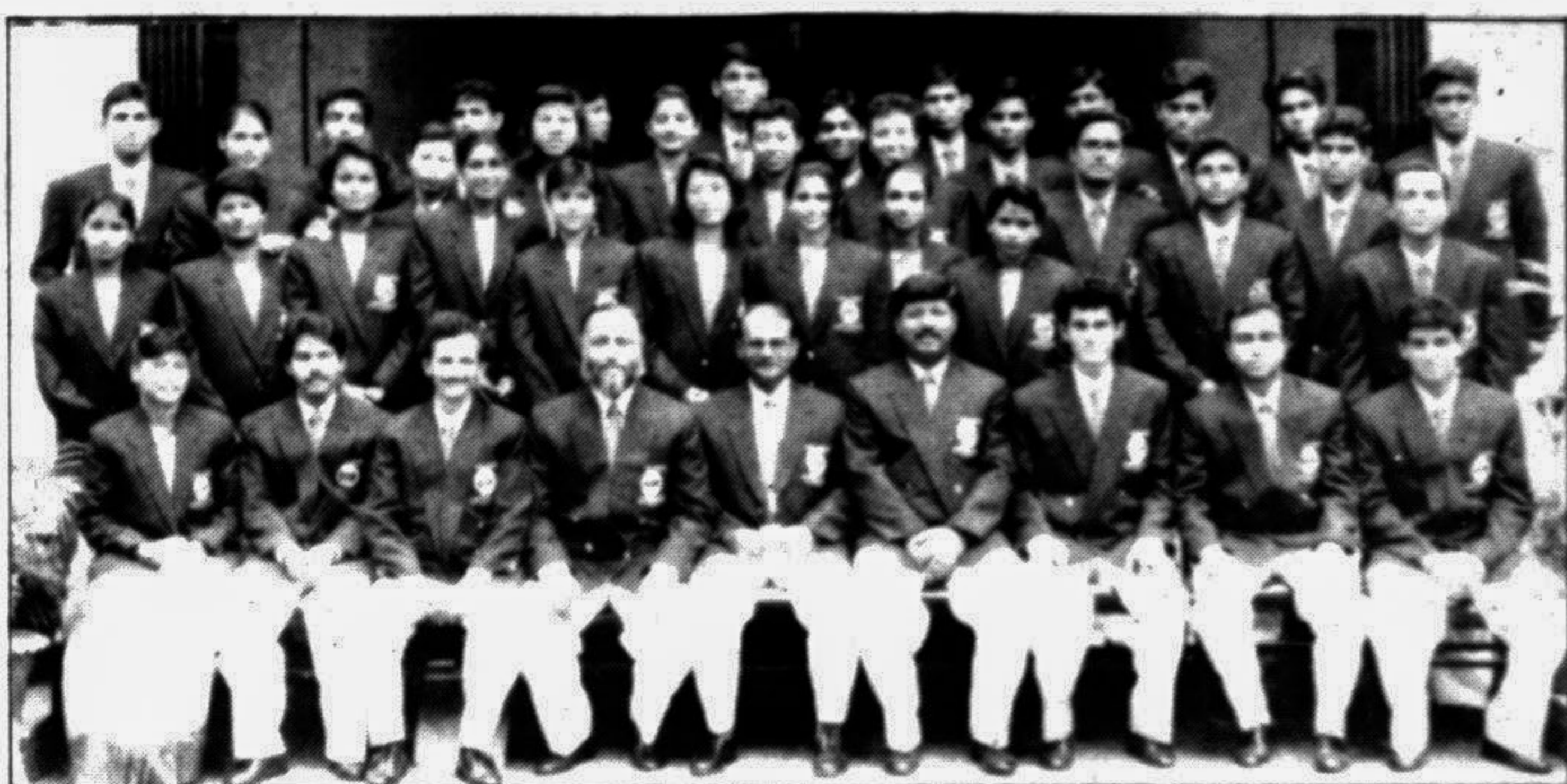
Sports Reporter

Foreign referees are going to start whistling for the first time this season when the second leg of the Lifebuoy Senior Division football leagues resumes today after an unscheduled four-day recess due to the tour by the Indian pre-Olympic team.

The four Malaysian referees, who flew in the capital Tuesday night, is expected to bring welcome relief to almost all the clubs in the two-tier leagues.

They are expected to officiate the second match at the Dhaka Stadium between last year's Premier league runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Youngmen's Club of Fakirerpool. The match kicks-off at 6:30 pm with Radio Bangladesh airing the running commentary from the big bowl.

In the other match of the resuming day, Wari Club will take on Farashganj Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium at 4:30 pm. Away at the Mirpur Stadium PWD SC will meet Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in the lone Lifebuoy First Division encounter at 5 pm.



Players and officials of the Bangladesh team which will participate in the sixth Commonwealth youth handball championship that begins at the Mirpur indoor stadium today.

DMFA's doldrum deepens

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) suffered yet another off-field blow when Ferdous Islam, the secretary of the Senior Division football league, resigned yesterday afternoon.

Ferdous, who is also a member of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), submitted his resignation to the DMFA president M Azizul Huq allegedly because of an attack on his Dhanmudi residence late Tuesday night by some armed hooligans.

DMFA, who are running the leagues without a chairman after Shahidul Islam declined to take up the post, suffered yet another setback with Ferdous' resignation.

Earlier, Anwarul Huq Helal, the treasurer of Mohammedan Sporting Club, tendered his resignation as acting chairman of the leagues following a protest by Abahani Krira Chakra, the arch-rivals of Mohammedans. DMFA will sit in an emergency meeting at 4 pm today to discuss the latest crisis.

Oval Test begins today

Sports Reporter

LONDON, Aug 23: For only the 23rd time in the history of cricket in England, a series of matches will be played on the Oval Test ground today.



MIKE ATHERTON

locked at 2-2, with England and the West Indies desperate to save their reputations, reports AP.

After alternating easy victories in the first four Tests, followed by a draw in the fifth, the sixth Test starting at The Oval Thursday has been saved for a decisive and potentially historic finish.

A loss for the West Indies, following their defeat by Australia earlier this year, would undeniably spell the end of their reign as world cricket's supreme force.

On the other hand, England have their greatest chance to win their first series against the Caribbean giants since 1969, and end a dismal six years in which their only series win has been against New Zealand.

The West Indians have acknowledged this is the biggest Test of any of their careers and to lose would be to go home in disgrace.

"In a way I think the pressure is on them," England captain Mike Atherton said. "After being beaten by Australia they don't want to lose two series in a row. In a sense, if we lose we will only be doing what every other England side has done against West Indies for 20 years."

The big guns have been saved for the final battle. At the end of an exhausting four-month tour, the West Indian fast bowlers are refreshed after being rested following the Trent Bridge draw. Curtly Ambrose is fully recovered from the back injury which forced him out of that Test and Carl Hooper is back from a finger injury.

England's only answer to West Indian pace, Devon Malcolm, has been named in the 13-man squad, but with the pitch not promising much pace or bounce, the equally erratic left arm spinner Phil Tufnell could be the man England turn to, with Malcolm missing the Test.

Even if the pitch suits Malcolm's pace, the West Indies have four better bowlers to exploit it.

"I think the match will be settled by someone on either side taking the bull by the horns and putting in a match-winning performance with bat or ball," Atherton said.

The West Indies have the greatest match-winner on either team, and with two consecutive centuries, Brian Lara is in the form to dominate and perhaps dictate the outcome of the Test.

For West Indian captain Richie Richardson, his place at the helm is as threatened as West Indian cricket's reputation, and a loss would almost certainly cost him his job.

"I'm not even thinking about the captaincy," he said. "There's no point going into a match thinking you might lose. We are here to do well and win. The talent is there, we've got top players — we always will have — and it is just a case of harnessing our ability."

While Hooper's undoubted ability is likely to be recalled in place of Stuart Williams and Ambrose will be back for leg-spinner Rajindra Dhanraj, England's many options won't be finalised until Thursday morning.

Again it is faced with the dilemma of going with five or six specialist batsmen. Nick Knight's broken finger has given Jason Gallian a second chance after he suffered the same fate in his England debut in the third Test, and Alan Wells still waits for his Test debut.

If Wells wins his first cap, he will be the 26th player England have used this series and the sixth to make his debut.

TEAMS

ENGLAND: Mike Atherton (captain), Jason Gallian, John Crawley, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Alan Wells, Jack Russell, Mike Watkinson, Dominic Cork, Phil Tufnell, Angus Fraser, Devon Malcolm, Mark Ilett.

WEST INDIES: Sherwin Campbell, Carl Hooper, Stuart Williams, Brian Lara, Richie Richardson (captain).

Keith Arthurton, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Courtney Browne, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Kenny Benjamin, Courtney Walsh.



RICHE RICHARDSON

Gaznabi passes away

Sports Reporter

Mohammad Gaznabi, the towering full-back of the then Pakistan national football team and Life member of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club passed away on Tuesday night at the UCLA Hospital, Los Angeles. He was 60.

Gaznabi also played for Dhaka Mohammedans during the 50s and helped the black and whites to become a foot-



ball giants in the region.

The soccer celebrity had been suffering from liver cancer for a long time. He left behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

The flag of Mohammedan Sporting Club was hoisted half mast on Wednesday to show respect for one of its greatest sons.

In a message, the Bangladesh Olympic Association expressed deepest condolence at the demise of the famous footballer.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-55.

CRYPTOQUIP
OQDKGY WQLOQC BQBBQTS A
VQ RKT YKDUNDKSGA
RS NKGZUC ASWKASA
VQ TZA AUS AQLG
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I KNOW THAT THE BREAD BAKERS' GATHERING BEGAN WITH A TOAST.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals D
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.