

Column One SPORTS TALK



Ilie Nastase (Romanian tennis star) 'I was always rather nasty. I was willing to be friends with Devil, just to cross the bridge.' (1972)

Bangladesh baffle Britain Girls follow boys' cue

Sports Reporter

Acc Bangladesh markswoman Rashada Khatun enjoyed a glorious return from injury when she masterminded a 26-8 routing of Great Britain to redeem the spirit of the local girls in the sixth Commonwealth youth handball championship at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.

rested for most of the game as advised by the team doctor.



The hosts with an eye-catching agility led the one-sided affair 12-4 at the breather.

After conceding a humiliating 32-15 defeat at the hands of the Indians on Friday, the revitalised local girls were out to prove their worth in front of the home crowd, who were greatly disappointed at the loss to the close neighbour.

For the grossly out-paced British team, Lynn Peacock scored four while Angela Hegarty chipped in with two conversions. This was the second successive loss for the team from the British Isles after they lost 18-7 to the Indians on Saturday.

The chief coach of Bangladesh All Asgar expressed his satisfaction at the victory and re-enforced his hopes of reaching the final.

While asked about his opinion on defeating their conquerors of the first match, Asgar said, "We will

their account. The return leg of the ladies event begins today with India taking on the British team.

INDIA DRUB HONG KONG

Meanwhile, the Indian boys team trounced minnows Hong Kong in day's another one-sided match played in the afternoon. The title aspirants led 11-4 at half time before wrapping up the game 20-11 at the final whistle.

Jas Karan Singh scored eight while Sandip Kotia converted three as the younger Hong Kong boys could only look in awe. CH Chung took advantage of a sometimes deliberately slack Indian defence by scoring five goals.

The win takes India into the semifinals as the Group B champions. They will meet the talented, but sometimes unruly Nigerian side in the semis while hosts Bangladesh — the Group A champions — will take on Pakistan in the other semifinal.

The vanquished Hong Kong team will face holders Great Britain today in 5th



Confusion in front of the Young Men's small D that eventually resulted in an own goal in favour of Abahani during yesterday's tense Lifebuoy Premier League clash at the Dhaka Stadium. Runaway leaders Abahani were shocked — Star photo

Peter Graf in endless abyss

BONN, Aug 27: Tax inspectors have proof Steffi Graf's business manager father avoided paying tax on his daughter's massive fortune, a German magazine reveals on Monday, reports AFP.

Der Spiegel states a vital piece of evidence has been uncovered to implicate 57-year-old Peter Graf, who has been imprisoned since August 2.

According to the magazine, investigators have a document dating back to May 1992 proving Peter Graf himself ran Shell companies allowing him to avoid tax payments.

Horst Schmitt, who helps organise Peter Graf's business affairs, produced the evidence during his interview with Mannheim prosecutors.

The magazine alleged Schmitt had never read any of her contracts or asked how much she earned. "Her father thought she should not be distracted by that," the magazine continued.

Since 1983, Steffi Graf's father has only paid 10 million marks (7 million dollars) tax for earnings of up to 177.4 million marks (126 million dollars).

Last Wednesday, Peter Graf, in a letter to prosecutors, permitted his financial advisor Joachim Eckardt to give "the tax authorities and prosecutors all the documents and any information necessary for their use."

Pele calls for action

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 27: Pele, speaking on the need to control violence in Brazilian football stadiums, said "It's high time for action," reports AFP.

Pele, the Brazilian Sports Minister, said in an article in Estado de Sao Paulo's Saturday edition that football violence had reached unprecedented levels.

He said, "The time has gone for persuasion — punishment is necessary."

Pele, who played in Brazil's 1970 World Cup winning side, was horrified by scenes of violence following Palmeiras' 1-0 win over Sao Paulo last Sunday.

At the final whistle, supporters of both teams and police were involved in pitched battles leaving about 100 injured.

Y'men's AKC's nightmare

Sports Reporter

A last minute strike from Maksudul Amin Rana gave Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool a glorious win over defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra in the lone Lifebuoy Premier football league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

With only one minute remaining of the see-saw encounter, the fleet-footed striker latching on to an Asif through, made a dream run down the left flank, staved off a challenge from an ever reliable Abahani defender Monem Munna before unleashing a gem of right-footer past a helpless custodian Dhanu as Fakirerpool came from behind to earn a sensational 2-1 win over the league leaders.

It was Abahani's first defeat in the league after an 11-match unbeaten run while Fakirerpool, it was their first ever victory against the crowd-pulling Dhanmondi outfit in the country.

Earlier, way back in 1990 their first major success against one of the two giants in the domestic circuit came when they beat Mohammedan Sporting Club 2-0.

But yesterday's victory was a unique distinction for the Fakirerpool youngsters, who has already won the hearts of the million soccer buffs across the country with their attractive brand of football. Besides, it was a victory for youthful generation against the seasoned campaigners.

After beating Munna Bhai I was confident to find out the target," said an ecstatic Rana after the match. "We were hopeful of breaking Abahani's unbeaten record and I'm glad that I was in the thick of things," added the Manikganj youngster, who joined the club three years ago.

A beaming Rana, who is a product of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP), further added that it was the most memorable goal he had scored ever in his life.

For the strong near 35,000 crowd, the fortune of the highly enterprising match moved from one end to another. It was also marked by a suicidal goal by the Fakirerpool defender Gobinda, a decisive change in Jalal, who pulled off the equaliser and the flashing of the dreaded red card by the Malaysian referee against Abahani's midfielder Biplob.

The win after two successive defeats in the second leg will certainly boost the morale of my boys," said a happy Monjurul Islam Malu, who is instrumental for brandishing the crude youngsters into a winning force. "I do not feel any interest for the position in the league but my

double the margin before the breather came in the 44th minute. But an otherwise dependable Russian midfielder Sergie spoiled the easy sitters sending the ball miles over the cross-piece from close.

But after the breather the scenario changed abruptly with the ever energetic Fakirerpool tyros, chasing in on a fatigued Abahani midfielder, gradually taking the match at their disposal.

In a bid to bolster the attack Fakirerpool, who employed an extra player to arrest a deceptive Sergie, regained their regular eleven after including striker Jalal for Shariful.

The play did the trick as they found their usual self and attacking brand of soccer, and Jalal, the most decisive change, proved his worth when he struck the equaliser in the 69th minute shooting from a goalmouth melee after a Montu long throw came in by his way via an Asif back header.

On the other hand Abahani's misery was compounded when they were reduced to ten-man in the 73rd minute when their midfielder Biplob was sent off by the Malaysian referee after receiving his second yellow card in the match.

A hot-head Biplob, who was booked for unnecessary delaying the match in the first half, repeated vulgar attitude when he kicked the Fakirerpool custodian after the latter had took the ball into his reliable hands.

Following the sad but deserving departure of Biplob, Abahani, in a desperate attempt, went all out for a win but that eventually backfired when Rana drove the final nail in the sky blues' coffin from a counter attack.

With this defeat Abahani remained stuck to their previous collection of 29 points on completion of their 12 league engagements. But the league leaders still enjoys a five point lead from their nearest rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club, who played one match less.

For Fakirerpool, it was their sixth win in the league to earn 21 points from 12 matches.

Kawasaki win TOKYO, Aug 27: Verdy Kawasaki scored their 15th successive victory in Japan's J-League on Saturday, but needed an own goal to beat Jubilo Iwata 1-0, reports Reuter.

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT although cheating was never an official event, it has figured prominently in almost the Olympic Games. A worthy predecessor of Canadian Ben Johnson was S. Volkas of Greece who was placed third in the marathon of the 1896 Games at hometown Athens. However, Hungary's Kellner, placed fourth, was certain that only two men were ahead of him during the race. Kellner's complaint and subsequent enquiries revealed that Volkas had actually ridden much of the route on a carriage and he was also spotted leaving his vehicle. Volkas was stripped of his medal and Kellner was only too happy to be awarded the bronze. The great sporting nations of the world have had the share of champions but then they have also had some of the greatest hood-winkers that have brought much disrepute to sports and games.

We, Bangladeshis are absolutely clean. No medal, no cheating and no question of being stripped of anything.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (Rules are published every Saturday.)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-2. Tick the Correct Answer

Table with 5 questions about sports and their correct answers.

Name, Class, Roll No, School Address, Phone (if any)

A brotherly race!

SAPPORO, Japan, Aug 27: Ethiopia's Tadesse Gebre barely outran his younger brother Biruk Bekere and won the men's race while Japan's Yuko Arimori, the 1992 Barcelona Olympic silver medalist, took the women's in the Hokkaido Marathon on Sunday, reports AP.

Gebre ran shoulder to shoulder with Bekere in the last two kilometres (1.3 miles) before winning the race in 2 hours, 15 minutes, 7 seconds, just 3 seconds ahead of Bekere.

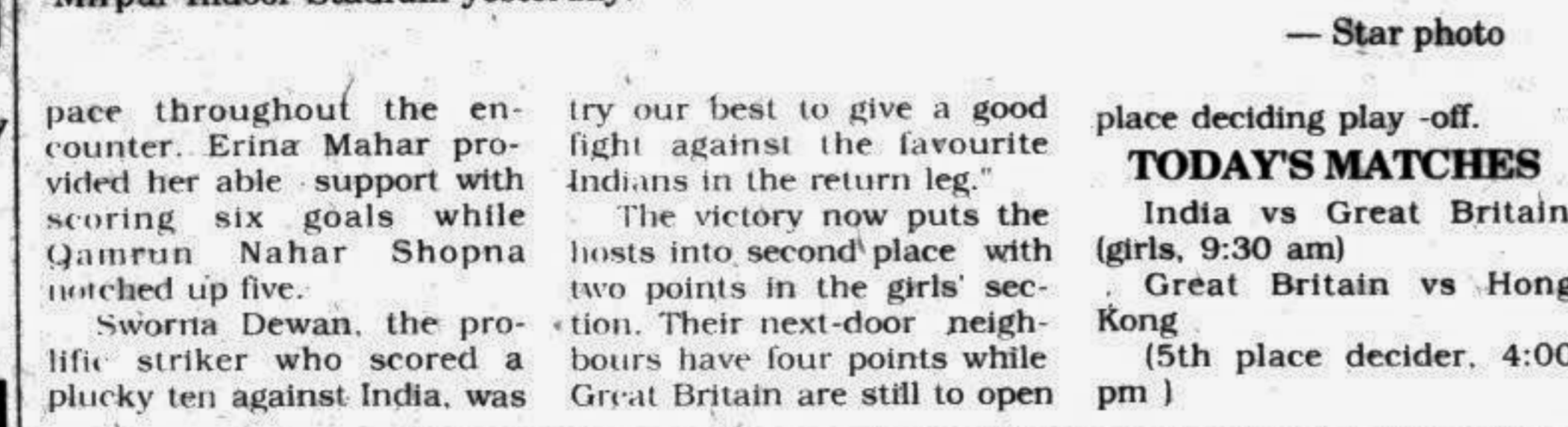
Japan's Masaki Higa finished third in 2:15.18 after covering the 42.195-kilometre (26-mile, 385-yard) course through streets of the city of Sapporo in northern Japan.

Gebre, Bekere, Higa, and Vladimir Kotov of Belarus were among the top group midway through the race but Kotov faded at the 36-kilometre (22-mile) point.

In the women's race, which covered the same distance as the men's Arimori ran alone in her first race after a three-year layoff caused by leg injuries.

Her winning time was 2:29.17, a new course record. The old mark was 2:30.22, set by Olga Appell of the United States in 1992.

The Bangladesh girls' team rejoices after notching up their first victory in the sixth Commonwealth youth handball championships when they trounced Great Britain at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.



— Star photo

pace throughout the encounter. Erina Mahar provided her able support with scoring six goals while Qamrun Nahar Shopna notched up five.

Swornia Dewan, the prolific striker who scored a plucky ten against India, was

try our best to give a good fight against the favourite Indians in the return leg.

The victory now puts the hosts into second place with two points in the girls' section. Their next-door neighbours have four points while Great Britain are still to open

place deciding play-off. TODAY'S MATCHES India vs Great Britain (girls, 9:30 am) Great Britain vs Hong Kong (5th place decider, 4:00 pm)

US Open opens today Top rank top guns' target

NEW YORK, Aug 27: The battle for the number one tennis ranking can be decided at the US Open, the computer be damned, say the sport's big

guns, Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras, reports Reuter.

"No question, the winner of this tournament, if it is me or Pete, can be considered the number one player in the world," said current number one Agassi at a promotional

appearance for the ATP Tour in Central Park.

"It's an added spice, that's for sure," Agassi said of the prospect of dueling his US Davis Cup teammate for the top ranking at the Open, which starts Monday at the National Tennis Centre.

"For it to be riding on this is kind of exciting, it just adds a whole other dimension to the tournament."

Agassi, the defending US Open champion, replaced Sampras as number one on April 10 after beating him in the Australian Open and Lipton International final. Sampras had occupied the top spot for 82 consecutive weeks.

Last month, Sampras won his third consecutive Wimbledon crown, giving them each one major title for the year and putting Sampras solidly back in contention for the top spot.

Sampras and Agassi both feel that regardless of what the ATP computer says, results at the four Grand Slams is the real indicator of where a player should be ranked.

Agassi came into the 1994 Open a longshot, ranked 20th and rebounding from the worst year of his career. "Last year I didn't really go into the Open believing I can win it," said Agassi, who surprised himself and everyone else by picking off a record five seeds en route to becoming the first unseeded player to win the title in the Open era, which began in 1968.

"This year, with the year that I've had, I believe I can win it," added Agassi, who is charging into the Open fortnight riding a 20-match, four-title winning streak.

Sampras too feels a lot better about his chances of winning his third US Open crown than he did a year ago, when a nagging injury kept him from playing any hard-court tune-up events.

— Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters NRS XAEJSK XEJZEA

CRYPTOQUIP NRS XAEJSK XEJZEA LSJMNSS CET EPAEZL MPRZT MCK TREL AMS. Saturday's Cryptoquip: AT POSH BEACH CLUB POOL, INSTRUCTOR AND HIS STUDENTS ALWAYS GOT ALONG SWIMMINGLY. Today's Cryptoquip clue: C equals W