

Column One SPORTS TALK



Freddie Trueman (England fast bowler, 1964) 'I'm here to propose a toast to the sports writers. It's up to you, whether you stand up or not.'

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT the name of sponsors on the shirts of players have been a matter of interest. The Football Association of Great Britain ruled out that Christians United of Matlock, Derbyshire could not have the name of Jesus on their shirts.

Sports WHIZZ KID

Table with 5 questions about sports trivia: 1. Who won the Wimbledon women's singles title a record nine times? 2. How many times have Brazil won the football World Cup? 3. Where is Eden Gardens situated? 4. Who is the only Bangladeshi chess Grand Master? 5. Jansher Khan is famous for playing which sport?

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

CJKP Div 1 soccer league from Sept 29

CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: Chattogram Jila Krira Parishad (CJKP) First Division football league will begin at the Chittagong Stadium here on September 29, report BSS.

Giggs back in Welsh squad

LONDON, Sept 27: Manchester United striker Ryan Giggs's return from injury was a boost to Welsh manager Bobby Gould when he named his squad today for next month's European Championships qualifier against Germany, reports Reuter.

R'ganj's delight in plight

It was sort of a delight in the Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society's plight when the relegation-bound old-town outfit beat the traditional third force in the country's soccer Brothers Union 2-1 in the lone Premier football league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

On a heavy outfield the victory was some solace for Rahmatganj, who after trailing at the breather by a solitary goal, rode on their striker Abul Hasan to inflict a stunning defeat on Brothers Union.

Although the win will not change the fate of Rahmatganj, who had already destined to bow out from the elite group after a brief stay, but for Brothers Union it was yet another blow in a disastrous campaign.

With this defeat Brothers have earned the dubious distinction of holding the eighth position with one match to spare. In what was the day's second match, the Gopibagh outfit began with a bang when their Nigerian recruit Ghibujar shot them into the lead just after the kick-off.

The robust Nigerian, capitalising on a defense lapse, galloped down the middle past a couple of Rahmatganj defenders before finding the opponents' net with a scorching drive from inside the box.



Brothers Union striker Don (8) tries to avoid a Rahmatganj tackle during last night's Lifebuoy Premier football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. Rahmatganj won the tie 2-1.

European Cup Winners' Cup Injuries inhibit biggies

LONDON, Sept 27: European Cup Winners' Cup holders Real Zaragoza and fellow Spanish side Deportivo Coruna both have significant injury absences for their first round second leg home matches on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Zaragoza striker Fernando Mientes, who scored in the 2-0 first leg victory against Inter Bratislava two weeks ago, is having treatment in the Netherlands for an injury to his left leg.

His side will miss him. They have not shone in the league so far with only one win from four games, drawing 0-0 at Valencia last Sunday.

Deportivo Coruna will be without Brazilian midfielder international Mauro Silva but will otherwise be at full strength when they take on Apoel of Nicosia after a scoreless draw in the first leg.



Bangladesh Boys Club, who have become runners-up in the Lifebuoy First Division football league this year, poses for a photograph prior to their yesterday's penultimate league clash against Victoria SC at the Dhaka Stadium.

Victoria defeat Banladesh Boys

Victoria Sporting Club recorded their fifth victory in the Lifebuoy First Division football league yesterday afternoon when they beat Bangladesh Boys Club 2-1 in their penultimate match at the Dhaka Stadium.

Striker Selim scored both the goals for the winners in the 12th and 83rd minute while midfielder Shuvra pulled back one for Boys in the 65th minute through a spotkick.

With yesterday's two goals, Selim became the leading First Division goal scorer notching nine goals so far. After yesterday's win, the Victorians raised their collection to 25 points from 17 matches and moved to third position in the standings.

Meanwhile, Badda Jagarani and Shantinagar Club completed their First Division football league campaign for the year with a 1-1 draw in the day's other match at the Mirpur Stadium. Mehdi Masud put Badda Jagarani ahead in the 42nd minute while Shantinagar booter Alauddin equalised the tie in the 54th minute.

With the draw, Badda closed their account with 25 points from 18 matches and joined Victoria SC in the third position. While Shantinagar, who will be relegated to Second Division next season, remained at the bottom with 14 points from 18 matches.

Mysterious silence of BAAF

Athletics enthusiasts yesterday demanded of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation to make public the whole truth about the performance of the three Bangladeshi athletes who supposedly took part in the 11th Asian Athletics meet at Jakarta from September 20.

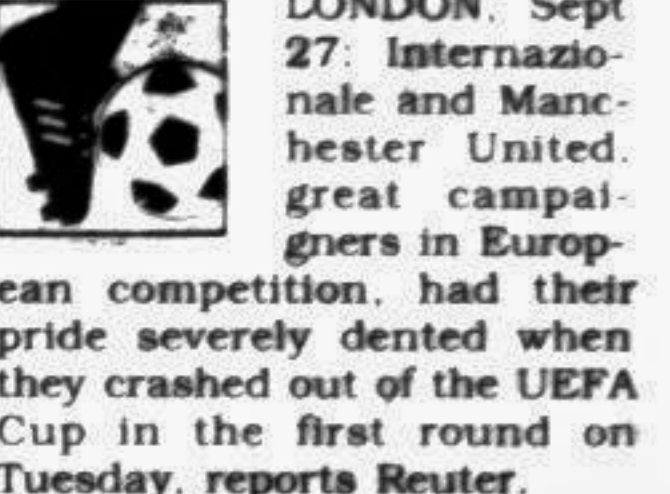
The last we heard about the Bangladeshi contingent was on the BTV news on the concluding day of the meet last Sunday, said a sports lover. But, there was no news about how the two men and a woman performed at the Asian meet.

The BAAF as a national organisation, should let the people know about it. "We know they did not win any medal," quipped a regular at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, "because we have seen the final medals table."

The BAAF or the National Sports Council should give a press release regarding the performance of the Bangladeshi athletes, he added.

The angry sports fans argued that no national federation has the right to spend public money this way and maintain silence about their activities. "The BAAF should immediately issue a statement on the matter, albeit it's late enough", opined an old-timer in the gallery.

Inter, Man United upset



LONDON, Sept 27: Internazionale and Manchester United, great campaigners in European competition, had their pride severely dented when they crashed out of the UEFA Cup in the first round on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

winners in 1991 and 1994, sacked Ottavio Bianchi, under whom the re-built multi-millionaires made a disastrous start to the Serie A season. Gianluca Pagliuca, who kept goal for Italy in last year's World Cup final, gifted Lugano the victory when he let a simple shot by striker Eduardo Carrasco slip past.

"What can I say? We've got to keep working. This is a terrible defeat but we can't dwell on it for very long," said Pagliuca, visibly shaken by one of the biggest mistakes of his career.



A UNIQUE FEAT: Manchester United's Danish international custodian Peter Schmeichel exults after scoring a goal against Rotor Volgograd during the second-leg of the UEFA Cup first round match at Manchester, UK on September 26.

Another goalkeeper, Denmark's Peter Schmeichel, played a significant though ultimately abortive role in Manchester United's 2-2 draw against Rotor Volgograd at Old Trafford.

The draw put the Russians through on the away goals rule after the 0-0 draw, in the first leg.

But Schmeichel, coming up to the Rotor goal, headed an equaliser from a corner one minute from time that saved United's impressive 39-year record of never losing in 54 European matches at their home ground.

Russian internationals Vladimir Nidergaus and Oleg Veretennikov scored eight minutes apart in the first half to rock United, who fielded the youthful side that has done so well in the Premier League.

But it was United's second cup disaster in six days, on the heels of Wednesday's 3-0 trouncing by Second Division York City in an English League Cup match last Wednesday.

Substitute Paul Scholes' 59th-minute goal was United's first in three matches since they beat Bolton 3-0 in the league 10 days ago. They drew 0-0 at Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

United manager Alex Ferguson said: "It's hard to take. We suffered for those 20 minutes of bad play in the first half."

Bayern Munich, like both Inter and United former European champions but unlike them in full control on Tuesday night, took the bull by the horns to win their tie against Lokomotive Moscow 5-1 on aggregate after losing the home leg 1-0.

Juergen Klinsmann, with Inter when they won the UEFA cup in 1991, scored the first two goals as Bayern crushed the Russians 5-0 in Moscow in a match held up twice — for five minutes in each half — when the floodlights failed.

Italian media irks Ince

LONDON, Sept 27: Paul Ince has admitted that an Italian media smear campaign could lead to him quitting Inter Milan and heading back to Britain, according to a newspaper report, reports AFP.

The former Manchester United midfielder, quoted in the Daily Mirror, said he had a get-out clause in his contract and explained: "My contract at Inter is for three years, but I've still got the option to return after 12 months."

"If they keep treating me like this then I might as well get off. If they are going to keep slating me and slagging me off over here then we'll have to wait and see what happens."

Arsenal manager Bruce Rioch will lead the bidding for the England star if his stuttering start to life in Italy ends with Inter putting him up for sale.

Ince has been the target of fierce criticism from both press and fans as Inter have struggled in their first four league matches this season.

"The fans know they have got to be patient. They have got to wait for a winning team, and so have my critics. "As they say here, Rome wasn't built in a day. But if they keep having a go then, yes, it could be the media who drive me out."

Bengal beat Mohammedans

CALCUTTA, Sept 27: Title aspirants East Bengal warded off a second half resurgence to suppress a spirited Mohammedan Sporting 2-1 in a rain-marred Charms Super Division league match at the Salt Lake Stadium here yesterday, reports PTI.

Young Nima Bhutia and Gunbir Singh struck a goal each in either session to seal the fate of their rivals in an exciting encounter played under torrential rain.

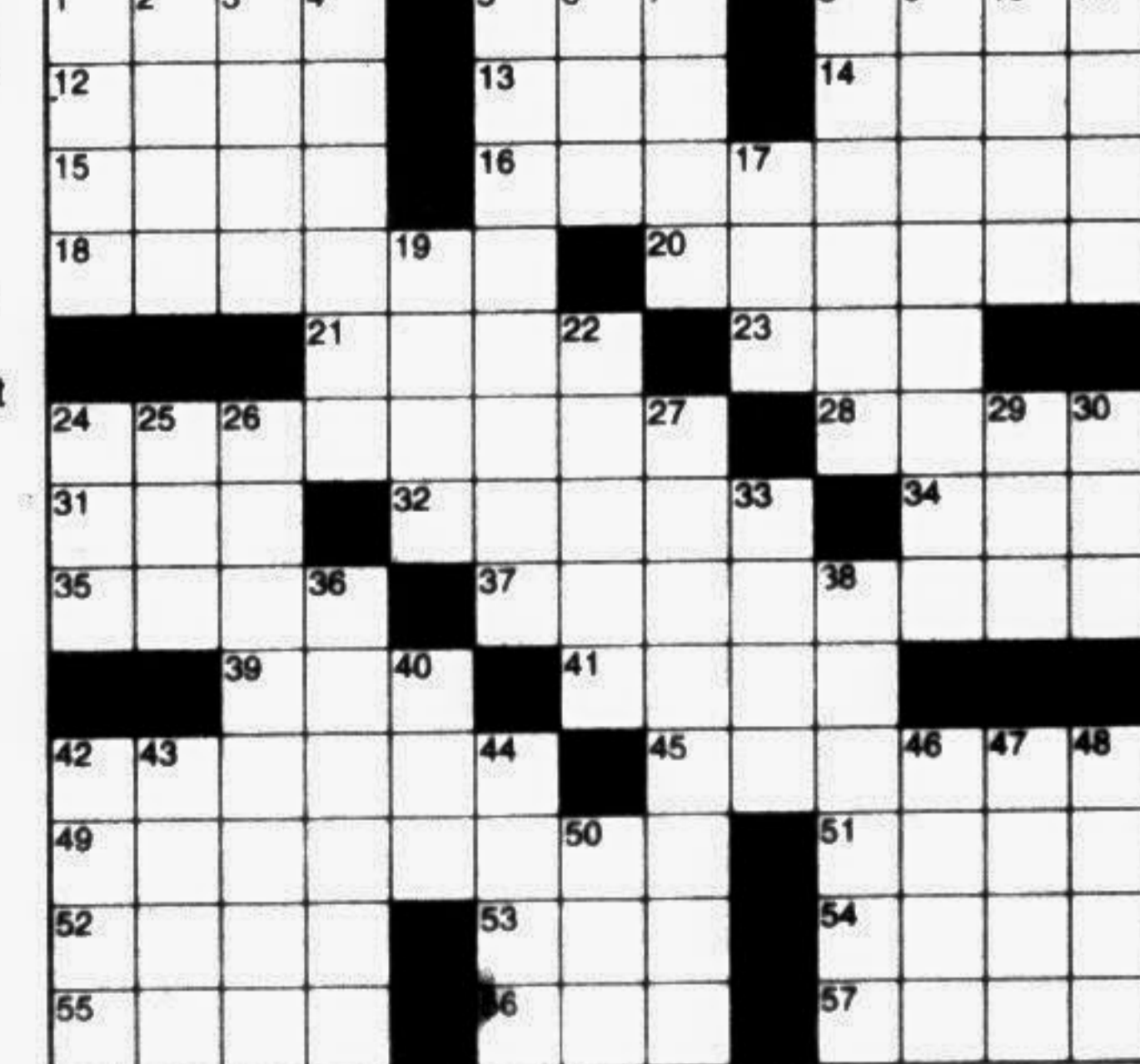
IOC for easing drug ban

LAUSANNE, Sept 27: Drug cheats should only face a maximum two-year ban from competition, the International Olympic Committee said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The move, which is set to spark controversy in the world of athletics, where officials recently voted to keep the four-year ban for steroids, is to be championed by IOC vice-president Prince Alexandre de Merode.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 People do it when they see red 5 Swab 8 Complains repeatedly 12 The Bridges at -Ri- 13 McKinley's First Lady 14 Mayberry boy 15 Nest-egg accts. 16 Where Gates defeated Burgoyne 18 Saudi Arabia's capital 20 Bran enhancer 21 Below-average grades 23 Deteriorate 24 Dance akin to the minuet 28 DEA officer 31 "Rocks" 32 Kilmer classic



CRYPTOQUIP RX XPDQKD'M BMMRMUPCU OKUM RCUT UDTGYVK, BK BPM UT YPVK BRQ TGU. Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHY DID THE CREATOR OF QUITE A FEW GROAN-PRODUCING CRYPTOQUIPS MERIT PUNISHMENT? Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals B 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.