



Former national midfielder Sattyajit Das Rupu (R), who joined Muktijoddha this year, tries to stave off a challenge from an unidentified Farashganj defender during their Danish Premier league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium last evening. Muktijoddha won 2-0. — Star photo

Bangladesh to take part in ABC jr b'ball

Bangladesh has been placed in strong group in the 14th ABC junior basketball championship to be held in Malaysia on September 1-10, reports UNB.

The Group B teams comprises China, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Japan.

The other participating countries are:

- Group A: South Korea, India, Indonesia and Malaysia.
- Group C: Jordan, Singapore, Philippines and Qatar.
- Group D: Thailand, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei and Iran.

Colin McRae honoured

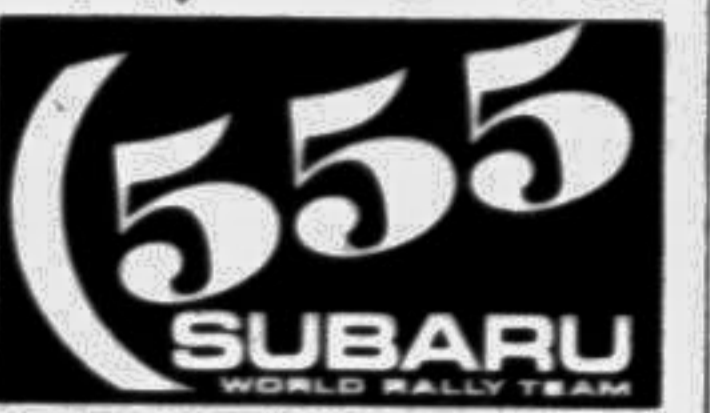
Colin McRae MBE, the reigning World Rally champion, was recently presented with the prestigious Segrave Trophy. In a short ceremony at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London, the award was presented by Ian McAllister, CBE, the chairman of Ford UK and the Segrave Award Committee, says a press release.

First awarded in 1930, following the untimely death of Sir Henry O'Neal De Hane Segrave during an attempt at the World Water Speed Record, the trophy is presented annually to those considered to have demonstrated skill, initiative and courage while pushing technology to the limits over land, the sea or in the air.

A former ace fighter pilot, Henry Segrave was the first man to exceed 200 mph, taking the Land Speed Record in 1927 in the process, a feat he bettered two years later at the wheel of the famous Golden Arrow. Throughout this time his principal rival was the late Sir Malcolm Campbell of Bluebird fame, who twice received the award, a tally beaten only by his famous son Donald, who was so honoured in 1955, 1964, and in 1966.

Other recipients regarded to have perpetuated Segrave's indomitable spirit include Stirling Moss, Bruce McLaren and Jackie Stewart, along with the current LSR holder Richard Noble, and famous airman such as Concorde test pilot Brian Trubshaw.

The summer months have proved to be a busy period for the youngest ever World Rally champion. Several weeks ago, whilst testing his Subaru Impreza 555 rally car in Finland in preparation for the 100



Lakes Rally, McRae received news from Downing Street, confirming that his name was included on the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Now a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), in recognition of his contribution to motorsport, Colin is to visit Buckingham Palace to receive his Honour in mid-October.

And a honour of a very different kind was granted last week at Silverstone when Jordan Grand Prix entrusted McRae to make his debut at the wheel of their 700 bhp Peugeot powered Formula 1 car. In an extraordinary event coinciding with his 28th birthday, the World Rally champion and Grand Prix star Martin Brundle swapped seats for a day.

Having never sat in a Formula 1 car before his run in the Jordan-Peugeot, McRae surprised everyone — except for his own technicians — with his uncanny natural talent and maturity.

Within an hour Colin had raced around the Northamptonshire track recording times within a whisker of those set by its regular pilot, thoroughly impressing the massed ranks of photographers and journalists present.

Nakib sinks Farashganj

Sports Reporter

Muktijoddha Saugusad Kriya Chakra recorded their first win in their second match at the Danish Premier Division football league when they defeated Farashganj Sporting Club 2-0 at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

National striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib scored both the goals in either half for the all-red outfit who drew their league opener 0-0 with the Brothers Union last week.

Muktis, third in the league last year, began yesterday's campaign with a positive approach and came close to take the lead as early as in the second minute when they earned the first corner. Bul Golam Gaus, standing unattended within two yards of the post, failed to timely negotiate a flick from Rupu.

On the other hand, Farashganj, after sustaining the initial Muktis thrust, regrouped themselves shortly and went on to counter attack. The old Dhaka outfit could have easily advanced in the eighth minute when striker Ritu, took a long

range shot from the mid-field. But an experienced Muktijoddha custodian Pannu staved off the challenge diving to his right.

The long expected goal for Muktijoddha came in the 34th minute into the first half through a counter-attack when Tio passed the ball to Zakir in the right flank. Zakir quickly flicked the ball to Nakib who rushed towards the Farashganj box from the flank and sent the ball home with a measured angular right-footer.

After the breather, Farashganj, who earlier in the first match beat Young Men's club Fakirpool 1-0, tried to get into their stride with a good number of offensives. But the forwards — Shaiful Quader Munna, Towhid and Ritu — failed to capitalise those moves mostly due to their inexperience.

Nakib, the highest goalscorer of the Premier League last year, sealed Farashganj's fate scoring his second goal with a brilliant individual effort 11 minutes into the second half. Nakib, after receiving the ball from the midfield,

stormed into the Farashganj box from the right side and dodged past two defenders before he magnificently stabbed the ball home with yet another angular shot.

Nakib, arguably considered as the best marksman in the country, strained his every nerve rest of the time for the hat-trick. But his effort went away due to some close vigils by the Farashganj defenders.

With yesterday's win, Muktis raised their tally to four points from two outings while Farashganj had to remain satisfied with their previous three points.

Yellow cards: Zakir (Muktijoddha) and Chanchal (Farashganj).

TEAMS:

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Pannu (Arun), Paritosh, King-shuk, Masood Rana, Rony, Zakir, Rupu, Tio, Gaus, Nakib and Reaz (Ripon/Babul).

FARASHGANJ SC: Aminul, Montu, Abu Sofian, Nazrul, Rapon (Dulal), Monir, Moin (Koushik), Chanchal, Ritu, Munna (Rabi) and Towhid.

Europe puts a wrong foot



LONDON, Aug 19: The new soccer season has thrown up early surprises and pushed unfancied clubs to the top of the German and French league tables but with only a handful of matches played, long-term prospects are hard to gauge, reports Reuter.

In Germany, Borussia Dortmund lost their first match of the season 4-2 and VfB Stuttgart emerged as the early pace-setters but Dortmund's big rivals Bayern Munich remain wary of the defending champions.

"Borussia are known as slow starters," Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer wrote in his column for the Daily Bild newspaper. "They've got far too much potential to suffer a difficult season."

Stoichkov still in the squad

SOFIA, Aug 19: Volatile striker Hristo Stoichkov was named today in Bulgaria's squad for a World Cup qualifier against Israel next month, despite saying he would not play for the national side again, reports Reuter.

Stoichkov vowed last month to quit the team unless the country's soccer chiefs resigned. He accused the soccer union's bosses of cheating the players and criticised them for axing former coach Dimitar Penev and dropping his nephew Lyuboslav Penev from the national team.

New coach Hristo Bonev said he had been unable to talk to Stoichkov as the Barcelona player had changed his mobile telephone number.

The fact that he is on the list of the squad shows that he may join it, Bonev said.

The other squad members had confirmed they would arrive in Sofia for a training camp six days before the European group five match in Tel Aviv on September 1, Bonev said.

Penev took Bulgaria to the semifinals of the World Cup for the first time in his history in 1994 but under his management at the European Championship in June the team failed to get past the first round.

SQUAD: Borislav Mihailov, Zdravko Zdravkov, Trifon Lyubchev, Zlatko Yankov, Petar Hubechev, Gosho Ginchev, Tsanko Tsvetanov, Radostin Kishishe, Vladimir Ivanov, Krasimir Balakov, Yordan Lechkov, Hristo Stoichkov, Ivailo Yordanov, Emil Kostadinov, Marian Hristov, Iliyan Iliev, Georgi Donkov, Georgi Markov, Daniel Borimirov, Kostadin Vidolov, Georgi Ivanov, Sasho Alexandrov.

Without injured new signing Paulo Sousa, influential libero Matthias Sammer and midfielder Steffen Freund, Dortmund struggled against Bayer Leverkusen and they may have to rely on second-string players again on Wednesday when they face Fortuna Dusseldorf.

In contrast, Bayern have few injury worries as they prepare to face Bochum in midweek and could field the same side which heat St Pauli 2-1 on Friday.

Although he is not undervalued Dortmund, Beckenbauer is confident Bayern have the class to clinch their 14th Bundesliga title.

"The fact that the Bundesliga runners-up will also get a place in the Champions' League next season won't affect us — because we'll be champions anyway," he wrote.

But whoever wins the title, the former World Cup-winning coach and captain knows the current season marks a watershed.

"The first day of the new season was also the start of a new era — soccer without frontiers as a result of the Bosman ruling," Beckenbauer said.

His words were underlined by a glance at the Bundesliga scorers at the weekend — 16 goals came from foreign players while only 12 came from Germans.

In France, Lens went top by beating newly-promoted Nancy 3-1 for their second win of the new season but, like Beckenbauer, the club's new trainer

Slavo Muslin remains cautious. "We're in the lead but we have only beaten two promoted sides (Caen and Nancy)," he said.

"I do believe we can do well this season but we'll have to wait until September to find out how strong we really are. We'll have two UEFA Cup matches that month and we'll also have to face Monaco and Paris in the league."

Lens signed Czech forward Vladimir Smicer following his Euro '96 performances but they remain a club with limited means.

"We've been working patiently for years to build a club capable of staying up there with the best permanently and to be in the lead is not a surprise for us," club president Gervais Martel said.

Champions Auxerre, who beat Lille 2-0, and Paris St Germain, who beat Caen by the same score, are also on maximum points but Lens have a better goal difference.

While the French are two games in to their season, the Italians and Spaniards, have yet to start.

Serie "A" kicks off on September 8 with defending champions Milan at home to Verona and European champions Juventus away at Kategoria.

In Spain, last season's league and cup double winners Atletico Madrid begin the defence of their title with a home tie against Celta of Vigo on September 1.

MSC-BU tie today

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union will face each other in a crucial Danish Premier football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium today. The match kicks off at 6 pm. Bangladesh Betar will relay the match live from the big bowl.

The unusually early clash of the two heavyweights in the local sports at the nascent stage of the league is a sequel to Brother's dismal performance last year where the Gopbagh outfit, the so-called third force behind Abahani and Mohammedans, finished eighth in the ten-team elite group.

Although Brothers have never won the coveted league title since their emergence in the top flight in 1975, they are dubbed as a major force when it comes to a clash with Abahani and Mohammedans, the two proven powerhouses in the annals of country's soccer.

The Gopbagh outfit may have finished eighth last year, but the slap on the Mohammedans' face was that the black and whites were whiteshaved 3-1 by Brothers in a second-leg match at the same venue last year. Mohammedans will want to forget that nightmare.

Bima beat Police

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha celebrated their first win in the ongoing Danish First Division football league when they registered a 2-1 victory over Police Athletics Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The winners led the first half 1-0.

Midfielder Anwar put the insurance ahead with a brilliant grounder from the top of the box 17 minutes into the first half while Police's Azad leveled the score with a high angular shot from the right flank in the 12th minute of the second session.

Striker Sattar netted the all important goal for Bima five minutes from the last whistle.

Bima's Anwar received a red card yesterday for two bookable offences.

Fazle Sobhan Cup in Sept

The two-day national pair duplicate bridge championship for the coveted Khandaker Fazle Sobhan Memorial Cup, organised by Bangladesh Bridge Federation (BBF), will be held on September 4 and 6 at hotel Sheraton here, reports BSS.

The registration of the players will begin at 9:00 am on September 4 while the qualifying session will start at 10 am after a brief opening ceremony.

The semifinal session with eligible pairs from the qualifying round will be held at 3:30 pm the same day. The final will be played under Howell-barometer plan at 3:30 pm on September-6, a BBF press release said yesterday.

PSV abase Ajax

AMSTERDAM, Aug 19: PSV Eindhoven stamped themselves as serious Dutch title contenders with a 3-0 victory over league champions Ajax Amsterdam in the pre-season Super Cup on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Belgium's Marc Degryse netted two goals and Rene Eykelkamp the other in PSV's first victory at Ajax since September 1992.

The Super Cup is played between last season's Dutch league champions and the Dutch Cup winners.

PSV started brightly with Wim Jonk hitting the post in the 14th minutes and a minute later Luc Nils sent the ball just over the bar.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division football league:
Venue: Dhaka Stadium
Mohammedan SC vs Brothers Union (6pm)

First Division football league:
Venue: Dhaka Stadium
Wari Club vs PWD SC (4pm)



An action from yesterday's Danish First Division football league match between Sadharan Bima and Police at the Dhaka Stadium. Bima won 2-1. — Star photo

Sachin feels confident



MADRAS, Aug 19: Indian cricket captain, Sachin Tendulkar today expressed confidence about players' security during the team's visit to Sri Lanka, but admitted "There is pressure in the minds of players."

The 23-year-old who embarks on his first assignment for the four-nation Singer tournament was asked whether there were security fears in the minds of players due to the ethnic strife in the island nation, in an interview to PTI here.

"It does not worry us a bit. But we hear so many things and it is difficult to put them (such reports) out of your mind. There is pressure in the minds of players," he said, adding that "We have been hearing about some bomb blasts in recent times and they do play in your mind."

But he expressed confidence about the security cover for the Indian team saying "One good thing is sports is away from politics and I have not heard of any sports person being attacked there."

The Indian team leaves here for Colombo on August 23 to participate in the tournament with Australia, Zimbabwe and host Sri Lanka.

Following are the excerpts: **Question:** How do you look at the Singer Cup in Sri Lanka and Sahara Cup in Canada?

Tendulkar: These tours are not going to be easy at all. One-day cricket is different, full of surprises. Definitely we all will try and do our best.

Question: You are straight-away going to play in Sri Lanka. Do you think a match before the championship would help players. Vinod Kambli and Aashish Kapoor in particular.

Pakistan put Essex thru' the hoops

CHELMSFORD, England, Aug 19: Pakistan beat Essex by 271 runs on the final day of their three-day match today, reports Reuter.

SCORES: Pakistan 303/9 declared and 277/2 declared (Salim Malik 104 not out, Saeed Anwar 102; Essex 191 and 118 (D. Robinson 55, Saqlain Mushtaq 5/34, Waqar Younis 4/26).

Earlier on Sunday well-earned 100s from both Saeed Anwar and Salim Malik asserted Pakistan's authority over an under-strength Essex side.

The tourists had made 277 for two in their second innings by the close, having already held a lead of 112 after both sides' first innings.

Anwar's century, his fourth of the tour, was the more exciting. His 102 came off only 96 deliveries and contained 14 fours and two sixes.

The English opener departed to a slip catch when driving at Ronnie Irani, but Malik, who was Essex's overseas player in 1991 and 1993, was still unbeaten at the close with 104.

That represented his first century of the tour and he has so far struck 15 fours in his 113-ball stay.

Earlier Essex were bowled out for 191, their last five wickets falling for a mere 18.

Fast bowler Waqar Younis and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq did the damage as they finished with five for 42 and four for 47 respectively.

The only prolonged resistance came from Darren Robinson (57) and Barry Hyam (49) as they shared in a fourth wicket stand of 93.

Rush left in the cold

LONDON, Aug 19: Ian Rush's international career could be over after Welsh manager Bobby Gould omitted him today from the squad for a World Cup qualifier against San Marino later this month, reports Reuter.

The 34-year-old Rush, Wales' top international scorer with 28 goals from 73 appearances, asked not to be considered for the match in San Marino in June, which Wales won 5-0, while he sorted out his club future after being granted a free transfer by Liverpool.

That opening group seven victory persuaded Gould to stick with the same side for the return match in Cardiff on August 31 and when he contacted Rush, the new Leeds captain, said he was not interested in travelling as a reserve.

Rush made public his displeasure with the manager after being substituted during a 3-0 friendly defeat in Italy in January.

ATP's top money winners

MONACO, Aug 19 (Reuter): Leading prize money winners issued by the ATP Tour on Monday:

- 1. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 1,629,763 dollars
- 2. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1,363,686
- 3. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 1,219,395
- 4. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 1,164,211
- 5. Michael Chang (U.S.) 1,035,766
- 6. Pete Sampras (U.S.) 1,017,922
- 7. Andre Agassi (U.S.) 895,660
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who have not played at the international level since World Cup?

Tendulkar: I feel it won't make any difference. I am very confident of their abilities and all of us have been playing at international level for some time now. The one month gap, I feel, was very much needed as the England tour was tough. We had many county matches and had hardly a few days off.

Question: Who do you predict to play in the finals of the Singer Cup?

Tendulkar: As I said earlier, it is not going to be easy. Predictions apart, it is not easy

to perform consistently well at this level of the game. In any case, I think it would be India and any of the others.

Question: What are your plans to counter Sri Lanka, whose morale is so high, being the world champions?

Tendulkar: After the World Cup, I have beaten them in Singapore. I am very confident of our performance.

Question: The Sri Lankans have great reputation in one dayers. How do you rate them and Australia, with Mark Taylor having opted out?

Tendulkar: I think all four are good sides and one cannot take things for granted at all. Sri Lanka is a dangerous side and on their day are capable of beating any team in the world. We have to try and keep them under control. But we will not be over confident at all. We are going with a confident frame of mind. As far as Taylor is concerned, it makes a difference. He has so much experience and has led the side for four years. His presence would have been of great help to them. Now Ian Healy has taken over, but I think Australia is still a very good side.

Question: Are there any fears in the minds of players to play in Sri Lanka, where the ethnic problem is raging?

Tendulkar: It does worry a

bit. We hear so many things. It is difficult to put them out of your mind and so there is some pressure. It is because we hear of bomb blasts in last 10 days.

But, I am confident about the security cover. The other thing I have heard is they never kill any sports person and I feel good about it. You know, sports is away from politics and it is a good thing for us.

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Notts drub Derbyshire

LONDON, Aug 19: Nottingham, next to bottom in the English county championship, emphasised their contrasting form in the Sunday League by trouncing Derbyshire to go joint top, reports Reuter.

Former captain Tim Robinson (90) and current skipper Paul Johnson (71 not out) smashed 87 in 14 overs as Notts swept to their target of 230 with eight wickets and 19 balls to spare at Derby.

The second wicket pair lifted Notts to 174 for two before being parted then New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns hammered an unbeaten 27 to help finish the job in style.

Derbyshire had looked set for considerably more than their eventual 229 for six when opener Kim Barnett, who made 99 from 106 balls, lifted them to 171 for two in 30 overs. But they managed only a further 58 while losing four more wickets in the last 10 overs.

Notts are now level on 36 points with leaders Surrey, who were not involved in the current round of matches in the 40 overs competition.

Yorkshire, 133-run winners over Gloucestershire at Bristol, also have 36 points but have played a game more.

Australian Shane Lee blasted an unbeaten 62 from 46 balls to guide Somerset to a three-wicket win with one ball left against defending champions Kent, whose defeat virtually ended their hopes of retaining the title.

Lee, who struck two sixes and four fours, was Somerset's inspiration as they scored 25 in the last two overs in pursuit of a target of 207.

Kent are now six points off the pace and have three games left — one less than the top two sides.

Yorkshire captain David Byas hit 56 and Peter Hartley made a league best 52 to provide the backbone of Yorkshire's 262 for seven against Gloucestershire.

Medium-pacer Craig White (3-23) then made early inroads into the home side's batting before left-arm spinner Richard Stemp (4-25) mopped up the tail with a burst of three wickets in eight balls as they were dismissed for 129.

Notice of