

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Stefan Edberg

(Swedish tennis superstar)

'I've been on the tour for many, many years. It's time for me to go now before it's too late.'

About his planned retirement from tennis at the end of this season.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN
TK, 2000/-
PRIZE BOND
EVERY FORTNIGHTSports WHIZZ KID
competition-52

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 pm
September 13, 1996)

1	Pakistan batsman Salim Malik's century in The Oval Test was his	11th	10th	14th
2	How many athletes from Bangladesh went to Atlanta this year	Two	Three	Four
3	The top seed of this year's US Open is	Sampras	Agassi	Muster
4	Pakistani pacer Waqar Younis has signed for English county	Glamorgan	Surrey	Kent
5	Cricket umpire Steve Bucknor is from	India	Zimbabwe	West Indies

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No. _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (If any): _____

Who's the fastest?

BERLIN Aug 30: Olympic champions Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson may argue over which of them is the fastest runner ever but Ben Johnson is the man, according to former gold medalist Allah Wells, reports Reuter.

Johnson clocked the fastest non wind-assisted time ever for 100 metres of 9.79 seconds at the 1988 Seoul Olympics before he was stripped of his gold medal following a positive test for steroids.

The previous year the Canadian clocked 9.83 to win the world title in Rome but it was thrown out of the record books in 1989 after Johnson admitted he had cheated with drugs in his test.

Nonetheless, 1980 Olympic 100 metres champion Wells said on Thursday: 'You can't ignore it. He is the fastest man over 100 metres. I'm talking about what he did on the track, not off it.'

'He did run it (9.79). The record was not recognised, obviously... but unfortunately he is the fastest man ever... the way he came out of the blocks was awesome. It was like a fire out of a cannon.'

The Briton was talking after 100 metres world record holder Bailey and 200 record holder Johnson got involved in a debate at a news conference before today's Berlin Grand Prix meeting.

WHIZZ KID-51
winner

Miran Hossain

Willes Little Flower School

Dhaka

(Please collect your prize from the Sports Desk on September 4 (Wednesday) at 8 pm).

WHIZZ KID-51
Correct answers

1. The new Zimbabwean cricket captain is

Ans. Campbell

2. Number of centuries scored in the Headingly Test between Pakistan and England were.

Ans. Four

3. Australian Michael Bevan plays county cricket for

Ans. Yorkshire

4. The football skipper Muktidhoda Sangsang is

Ans. Masood Rana

5. What was the position Brothers Union Club in last year's Premier Division football league?

Ans. Eighth

Alfaz header stops the clock

Sports Reporter



A goal in the dying minutes of the game by striker Alfaz helped Mohammedan Sporting Club to come alive in the Danish Premier Division football league on Friday evening at the flood lit and soaked Dhaka Stadium. The Braves of lowly Farashganj Sporting Club defended their citadel more like Red Indian warriors but failed to deny last year's runners up their third successive league win.

After a barren first half which witnessed some entertaining football from both sides, and almost 42 minutes of fruitless play in the second session, Alfaz, the hero of MSC's 8-0 thrashing of Laos Electricity team in their Asian Cup Winners Cup clash at the same venue last week, netted the vital match-winner with a brilliant piece of headwork.

Hungry for a goal, Mohammedans came out from the shadow of their pre-lemon performance and kept Farashganj under acute pressure from the very beginning of the second half with their midfield trio — Sabir, Arman and Manik — back on song. However, a certain degree of bad luck and a magnificent performance by a determined Farashganj keeper Aminul fizzled half a dozen MSC maneuvers and kept them waiting till the very end.

The much awaited match winner came. Mohammedans way suddenly in the 42nd minute when they earned a freekick just outside the Farashganj box. Shabbir

lobbed the ball to substitute Kaiser Hamid whose header returned to play after meeting Aminul on the way. The ball went to Ruhul Amin in the midfield who without any delay chipped one to an advancing Alfaz only to see the latter heading the ball home past an undone Aminul.

This was the third win for Mohammedans in as many matches but they will have to be content with one short of their collection of nine points as they were penalised a point for their refusal to play against Brothers Union on August 20.

On the other hand, the other team, Mohammedans, who were attired in orange yesterday leaving their traditional black and white in the laundry, could hardly impress the modest holiday crowd in the first half due to an apparent lack of game planning or execution on the slippery turf.

Hungry for a goal, Mohammedans came out from the shadow of their pre-lemon performance and kept Farashganj under acute pressure from the very beginning of the second half with their midfield trio — Sabir, Arman and Manik — back on song. However, a certain degree of bad luck and a magnificent performance by a determined Farashganj keeper Aminul fizzled half a dozen MSC maneuvers and kept them waiting till the very end.

The much awaited match winner came. Mohammedans way suddenly in the 42nd minute when they earned a freekick just outside the Farashganj box. Shabbir

lobbed the ball to substitute Kaiser Hamid whose header returned to play after meeting Aminul on the way. The ball went to Ruhul Amin in the midfield who without any delay chipped one to an advancing Alfaz only to see the latter heading the ball home past an undone Aminul.

This was the third win for Mohammedans in as many matches but they will have to be content with one short of their collection of nine points as they were penalised a point for their refusal to play against Brothers Union on August 20.

On the other hand, this was the second defeat for Farashganj also in three matches.

They won in their first outing against Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool 1-0.

Yellow cards: Parvez, Iqbal and Alfaz (Mohammedan SC), Nazrul, Monir and Tawhid (Farashganj SC).

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir

Mansur Ali (Parvez), Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Iqbal, Manik, Arman, Sabir, Ranjan (Biplab) (Kaiser Hamid), Rajan and Alfaz.

FARASHGANJ SC: Aminul Haq, Pradip Abu Sufian, Nazrul, Monir, Mainul (Riaz) (Ripon), Saiful Ritu (Akhtar), Tawhid, Dulal and Kajal.

Referee: Monirul Islam

Rain nullifies Wari's lead

Sports Reporter

Rain spoiled yesterday's lone Danish First Division football league encounter between Wari Club and Police Athletics Club after only 29 minutes of play at the Dhaka Stadium.

Until the postponement, Wari Club were leading the proceedings 1-0 with a brilliant goal by striker Mintu.

According to a press release of Metropolis Football League Committee last night, the match will now be held this afternoon at 3:30 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

The other two scheduled matches of the day, Victoria SC vs BRTC SC and Rahmatganj MFS vs PWD SC, will be held at the same venue today at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

MSC bars three from BCCB

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club have termed the newly constituted BCCB committee as biased having included about a dozen persons who are directly or indirectly associated with a particular club. In a letter to the BCCB president, released to the press yesterday, the club regretted that the new committee has failed to do justice to its status as a national body.

Moreover, the position of a paid executive secretary in the committee is controversial and placing him above voluntary sports organisers is in no way acceptable, said the letter.

Furthermore, the announcement of the Selection Committee, appointment of the Executive Secretary and the suspension of four senior national players on the eve of the ACC Trophy just before the formation of the full BCCB committee was not palatable to the cricket lovers, the latter added.

Under the circumstances, till such time the new committee is reconstituted by having equal representation from all concerned quarters, Mohammedan Sporting Club has advised three of its members, namely Aminul Haq, Moni, Tanveer Haider and Khalid Hassan, not to associate themselves with any activity of the new committee, the latter signed by the MSC general secretary added.

Less than a year after the European Court of Justice's landmark decision wiped out transfer rules and foreign player quotas, Italian league teams have stocked their rosters with "stranieri" ahead of the Sept. 7 season start.

Serie A teams added 41 foreign players in the off-season; that's an average of more than two per team and brings the total tally to nearly one-fourth of all players.

And negotiations for further additions will continue until the market closes in January.

Of the league's 18 squads, only Piacenza sport an all-Italian lineup, as they did last season.



Farashganj keeper Aminul parries a close shot from Mohammedan midfielder Sabir (L) during yesterday's Danish Premier Division football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. Mohammedans won 1-0.

— Star photo

Bosman case boon or bane?

ROME, Aug 30 (AP)

The Bosman ruling is making big waves in Italy. No longer restricted to three foreign players per match, Serie A clubs have opened their doors and their wallets.

But some fear that free-spending efforts to lure top talent from elsewhere may hurt soccer here in the long run.

The Italian Super Cup match was emblematic of the impact foreigners have had on league rosters. All three goals in Fiorentina's 2-1 win over AC Milan last Sunday were scored by non-Italians, 10 of whom saw action during the match.

Less than a year after the European Court of Justice's landmark decision wiped out transfer rules and foreign player quotas, Italian league teams have stocked their rosters with "stranieri" ahead of the Sept. 7 season start.

Serie A teams added 41 foreign players in the off-season; that's an average of more than two per team and brings the total tally to nearly one-fourth of all players.

And negotiations for further additions will continue until the market closes in January.

Of the league's 18 squads, only Piacenza sport an all-Italian lineup, as they did last season.

The influx of imports is the result of several factors. Stockpiling with an eye to rigorous cup schedules and defections to national teams for World Cup qualifying. Deep-pocketed owners such as media magnate and former Premier Silvio Berlusconi (Milan), Fiat auto tycoon Gianni Agnelli (Juventus), and film producer Vittorio Cecchi Gori (Fiorentina), will spare little expense for success and find more and more funds from TV

revenues. And use the Bosman factor when it suits them.

But it's a two-way street and not everyone is pleased.

For the first time, some top Italian players have left to play elsewhere. Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli, the veteran strikers who led Juventus to the Champions' Cup title last season, are now playing in the English Premier League.

Midfielder Roberto Di Matteo, like Ravanelli a starter on Italy's national side, also is in England, with Vialli's Chelsea Ruggiero Rizzitelli left Torino for the German Bundesliga's Bayern Munich and Paolo Di Canio is with Scotland's Celtic.

National coach Arrigo Sacchi was outspoken in his criticism of UEFA's decision to scrap the so-called 3-plus-2 rule and warned of "risks that Italian football will go through."

Sacchi, who coached Italy to the 1994 World Cup final and AC Milan to the Serie A title in 1987-88, said development of younger players will be hurt.

More foreigners — and this year's crop is the largest ever, 13 more than in 1995 — means less space for Italians.

Offers pour in daily for top Italians. While other exporters here, soccer clubs have profited from the fall of the lire against most European currencies and the dollar.

Frank hangs gloves up

LONDON, Aug 30 (Agencies)

Former world heavyweight champion Frank Bruno has quit the ring on medical advice, Britain's Sun newspaper reported on Friday.

An eye specialist told the 35-year-old Bruno that he could be blinded in one eye if he boxed again, the newspaper said.

The Briton, who lost his World Boxing Council (WBC) title to Mike Tyson in March, said: "I was in shock as soon as he told me and it still hasn't really sunk in."

"I never wanted to end like this but at the end of the day I'm glad I had a good innings."

Bruno, for years one of Britain's most popular sportsmen, had hoped to have another shot at the world title and had been in training until a routine eye test on Monday highlighted a problem with his right eye.

Professor David McLeod, who examined Bruno, told The Sun: "There is a risk he could be blinded in the eye if he steps into the ring again. He is in danger of getting a retinal detachment and there is no point in exposing himself to that."

Bruno lost three world title fights before finally landing the crown by beating American Oliver McCall in a unanimous points decision at Wembley in September 1995.

He was only the third Briton ever to hold a world heavyweight title.

The eye problem is not Bruno's first. In the early 1980s, he had to have an operation to correct blurred sight and weakness in the peripheral vision of his right eye before British officials would give him reports.

Bruno's last fight, at the Albert Hall, was a cut eye in the opening round and referee forced to stop fight in third as Bruno crumbled under a flurry of punches.

On August 30 announces retirement on medical advice.

Record: 45 fights, 40 wins, five defeats, 38 stoppages.

Weight: 17st 9lbs.

Height: 6ft 3ins.

Family: Married to Laura, three children, Nicola, Rachel and Franklyn.

Favourite other sports: athletics and martial arts.

Childhood ambition: To be world heavyweight champion, rich and successful.

Hobbies: Music and family.

Favourite Meal: Chicken before a fight, steak when training.

Biggest influence: Father and wife Laura.

FRANK BRUNO

BRUNO AT A GLANCE

1961: Born London, November 16, youngest of six children.

1973: Learns to box while at Oak Hall School in Sussex, an establishment for "problem" children.