

U-16 national football Sept 27

Sports Reporter
The first round of the national under-16 football championship will begin from September 27 next.

Fifty-two teams, split into seven zones, will participate in the first round from which seven zonal champions will qualify for the final round scheduled to be held in Pabna from October 10. Defending champions Jessore and hosts Pabna will automatically play in the finals.

Trouble shooting

Sports Reporter
Former general secretary and presently executive member of the Bangladesh Shooting Federation Jalal Uddin Ahmed has resigned from his post.

In a letter to the BSF president yesterday, Jalal said he was resigning on personal grounds.

With his resignation, as many as four members of the newly-formed adhoc committee of BSF have resigned so far. According to inside sources, the four have submitted their resignation protesting the appointment of Mir Dawlat Hossain as the new general secretary of the federation.

Adams back on the field

LONDON, Sept 18: England captain Tony Adams played his first competitive match on Tuesday since revealing his struggle against alcoholism, lasting a full 90 minutes for Arsenal reserves against Minor league Welling United, reports Reuters.

The 29-year-old defender, who has not represented Arsenal in the league since January following the first of two knee operations, last played in front of 80,000 supporters against Germany in the semifinals of Euro '96.

Barely 800 watched his comeback, which began inauspiciously when he stepped off the team coach before the game in front of a liquor store named 'Squiffy's, attached to the main entrance of the ground.

Adams has admitted he was drunk in a penalty shoot-out which led to his drinking spiralling out of control.

He has also had other major problems in his private life and is currently involved in divorce proceedings following revelations of his wife Jane's cocaine addiction.

Chinese soccer

BEIJING, Sept 18: China's defending soccer league champions Shanghai Shenhua reclaimed second place in the standings by beating Guangzhou Apollo 3-0 in a postponed 16th round league match, reports Reuters.

The match was postponed from Sunday to Tuesday because the Shanghai team had played an Asian club match on Saturday.

The result left Shanghai Shenhua in second place, seven points adrift of the still-unbeaten Dalian Wanda. Guangzhou Apollo are lying third.

After a goalless first half, the Shanghai team opened the scoring in the 49th minute. Xinhua news agency reported. Fan Zhiyi scored two minutes later and a goal from Zhang Yong gave Shanghai the 3-0 victory.

Simpson affair again in the court

SANTA MONICA, Calif. Sept 18: OJ Simpson's civil trial officially got under way on Tuesday with a judge imposing strict limits on the defence team's plan, to depict the former football star as the victim of a conspiracy led by a racist policeman, reports Reuters.

In a barrage of rapid-fire rulings, Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki dealt Simpson's attorneys a series of setbacks in their efforts to replay in civil court the same controversial theories that led to his acquittal in the murders of his ex-wife and her friend.

Nearly a year later, the case was back in court, but with two glaring absences - Simpson himself and the TV cameras that made his criminal trial an international media event.

Simpson, who has struggled in vain to repair his battered image, faces a wrongful-death lawsuit brought by the victims' families that accuses him of being responsible - and financially liable - for the June 12, 1994, murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

As expected, the Hall of Fame running back was a no-show on opening day. Due to a conflict in court calendars, he had to be 40 miles (65 km) away in an Orange county courtroom, where he is fighting his former in-laws for custody of the two young children he had with his slain ex-wife.

Even with Simpson missing, dozens of camera crews descended on the seaside enclave of Santa Monica, but it was a far cry from the carnival atmosphere that surrounded Simpson's first trial. One sign of calmer times: A scaled-down media encampment, dubbed 'camo OJ by the sea.'



Paul Strang of Zimbabwe smites the spinner of Muttiah Muralitharan (not in the picture) while Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Kaluwitharana and Roshan Mahanama look on during the first day Wednesday, of the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo. — AFP/UNB photo

SL spin scuttles Zimbabwe

COLOMBO, Sept 18: Sri Lanka were 86 for three in reply to Zimbabwe's 141 at close of play on the first day of the second and final cricket Test here today, reports AFP.

Leg-spinner Paul Strang accounted for the two most important wickets of Sanath Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva after left-arm pacesman Bryan Strang made the initial breakthrough to dismiss opener Roshan Mahanama.

Strang had Jayasuriya caught at cover point by Andrew Whittall for 41 and accepted a one-handed return catch to get rid of De Silva for 16.

Mahanama was caught behind by Andrew Flower for 3 after edging Bryan Strang in an attempted cover drive.

Sri Lanka's innings was twice disrupted by rain with 65 minutes of play lost in the process.

A third shower of rain brought the day's play to an end. Earlier Zimbabwe, winning the toss and deciding to bat first, were bundled out for 141 with the last eight wickets falling for 22 runs in 10 minutes before the tea break.

Skipper Alistair Campbell and opener Grant Flower rescued Zimbabwe from an insecure 54 for 2, but with the total

at 119 the pair parted company to signal a collapse.

Campbell stepped out for a big hit but missed the line of the ball from left-arm spinner Jayantha Silva and was stumped for 36.

Flower departed in the following over bowled by off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan caught at first slip by Roshan Mahanama for 52 with six boundaries.

Muralitharan and Silva, match winners of the first Test, shared eight wickets.

In-between Zimbabwe's collapse, former skipper Andrew Flower was run-out for three to add to a string of failures on tour.

Flower played the ball to cover point and after setting off for a single failed to beat a direct hit from Ravindra Pushpakumara.

Scoreboard on the first day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings				
R Mahanama	c A Flower	3		
S Jayasuriya	c A Whittall	52		
P Strang	b Muralitharan	41		
A Gurusinha	not out	22		
A de Silva	c and b P Strang	16		
A Ranganaunga	not out	0		
Extras: (lb-1, nb-3)		4		
Total: (for 3 wickets)		86		
Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-58; 3-86				

ZIMBABWE: First innings				
G Flower	c Mahanama	52		
M Muralitharan	b Muralitharan	18		
A Shah	c Kaluwitharana	1		
B Pushpakumara	b Muralitharan	1		
A Campbell	c Kaluwitharana	36		
J Silva	not out	3		
A Flower	run out	3		

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Kapil escapes kidnapping

NEW DELHI, Sept 18: Police said Tuesday they had foiled a plot by separatist militants to kidnap Kapil Dev, India's best known cricket, reports AFP.

"Thank God that their plan did not succeed. We uncovered their plan before any damage was done," Punjab police chief Sube Singh said.

Singh said the militants, who want independence for the Indian region of Kashmir, had hoped to swap the former Indian captain for jailed colleagues.

Kapil Dev, the world's highest Test wicket-taker, lives in Chandigarh, capital of Punjab state, which borders Kashmir.

"It was a big surprise. I thought everyone in India was my friend," Kapil Dev told reporters Tuesday in Toronto, where he was attending matches between India and Pakistan.

"This hasn't affected me," he said. "I never needed security in the past and don't need it now either. If someone loves me so much, all he has to do is give me

a call and I'll go and visit him." He said he learned four days ago in Toronto that security teams had arrived at his residence in New Delhi, and only

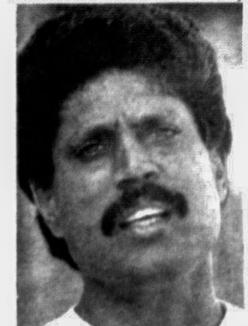
unlicensed pistol, money and a map of Kapil Dev's neighbourhood. During interrogation, the suspect said he had come to Punjab along with five others to kidnap the cricket star.

More than 14,500 people have died in Kashmir's seven-year independence war. Militants say Muslims in the only Muslim-majority state in India are discriminated against, a charge the central government denies.

Kapil Dev has taken 434 Test wickets since his Test debut in 1978 against Pakistan. He led the national team known as "Kapil's Devils" that won the cricket World Cup in 1983.

Since Kapil Dev retired two years ago, India has been unable to put up a strong opening bowling attack and a middle-order batting display.

Kapil Dev became the first Indian all-rounder to score more than 2,000 runs and capture more than 100 wickets in one-day internationals. Only three other Indians - Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar and Krishnamachari Srikkanth - have scored more runs than Kapil Dev.



KAPIL DEV heard details of the alleged plot on Monday. Police said they discovered the kidnapping plot after arresting a suspected Kashmiri militant who was carrying an

Seles staggers to qtrs

TOKYO, Sept 18: Monica Seles was made to work harder than she wanted when she opened her Tokyo tournament campaign with a difficult 6-4, 6-4 win over Japan's Mana Endo today, reports AFP.

The joint world number one had to steady her serve to reach the quarterfinal where the two-time Tokyo champion will face another Japanese, Naoko Sawamatsu.

"I felt I served pretty well in some games and then I didn't. I don't know why. I felt my concentration was one of the things that was lapsing, especially after four love," said Seles.

But at least the shoulder that has been troubling Seles all season was not to blame this time.

"I felt okay out there. It was a good first match. I could hit a lot of balls. I'm not used to the Stadium Court. I think I still need the time changes. But my shoulder is okay."

Endo, ranked 56th in the world, hit some lightening approach shots to attack any short balls and fought back from 0-4 in the first set and 0-2 in the second set of the 74-minute match.

"She is really quick, she hits the ball very flat and very low, she can hit hard and also hit soft. She has a great volley and a good all around game," said Seles.

Sawamatsu, the seventh seed, defeated her compatriot Yuka Yoshida 6-2, 6-1.

Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, the fifth seed, had a scare before overcoming Japan's Naoko Kijimuta 7-6 (8/6), 6-2.

She lost the ninth game of the first set after missing four set points when leading 5-3. Co-

etzer hurt a finger in a collision with a line judge and had to wait two more games for court-side treatment.

But Coetzer, who missed another two set points and had to come back from 4-5 down in the tie-break, was never in danger in the second set, as the 24-year-old Japanese ran out of steam.

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MONICA SELES

Local favourite Kimiko Date, a four-time Japan Open champion, made a slow start in her first match since her first-round defeat at the US Open.

The third seed had to fight back to beat Nana Miyagi 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in an all-Japanese match to see who will take on Coetzer.

The Malaysian failed to reach the semifinals.

After the finals, Razif again hinted that he might resign after the Atlanta Olympics in July.

Razif also went on leave to ponder his future and did not return to work during the Malaysian Open last month.

Despite the stakes, the fight was Rivera's secondary concern last week, when Hortense battered Puerto Rico with winds and heavy rain.

Money makes a mess

RABAT, Sept 18: Morocco's top three professional players opted on Tuesday to boycott this weekend's semifinal against Switzerland because the Moroccan Royal Tennis Federation is refusing to pay for them to appear, reports AFP.

Karim Alami, Younes El-Aynaoui and Hicham Azaoui are all ranked in the ATP top 100, demanded 25,000, 20,000 and 15,000 dollars to wear the national colours - whatever the result against Switzerland.

The semifinal, from September 20-22 will instead be contested by young and relatively unknown Morocco players.

Sahara Cup India choose to bat

TORONTO, Sept 18: Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar won the toss and elected to bat first in the third one-day international of the five-match Sahara Cup series against Pakistan Wednesday, reports AP.

Play began half an hour late due to the overnight dew resulting in a damp outfield.

Both India and Pakistan made one change from the teams that played in the second one-day international Tuesday.

India brought in off-spinner Aashish Kapoor in place of left-handed batsman Saurav Ganguly while Pakistan inducted Salim Elahi for Inzamamul Haq in the playing eleven.

The series is tied at 1-1 after Pakistan's victory in the second match.

INDIA (from): Nayan Mongia, Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Rahul Dravid, Mohammed Azharuddin, Vinod Kambli, Ajay Jadhava, Aashish Kapoor, Sunil Joshi, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad. Twelfth man: Saurav Ganguly.

PAKISTAN (from): Saeed Anwar, Salim Elahi, Ijaz Ahmed, Aamir Sohail, Salim Malik, Wasim Akram (captain), Moin Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq and Waqar Younis. Twelfth man: Shahid Nazir.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and David Orchard (South Africa).

Lillee won't serve Lancs

LONDON, Sept 18: Dennis Lillee has rejected Lancashire's offer to become their new head coach after failing to overcome contractual problems with the Australian Cricket Board, reports Reuters.

The fast bowler, now 47, was approached by Lancashire to instil some disciplined aggression after one of the most disappointing championship seasons in their recent history.

Captain Mike Hirst has steered his side to the Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy double but their success at one-day level has not been mirrored in the championship where they have won only two games all season.

Lancashire chairman Bob Bennett said on Tuesday: "We have now agreed that it is not possible to proceed any further but I would like to thank him for his efforts in trying to overcome the obstacles."

"It is a pity that his arrangement with the Australian Cricket Board does not allow him the chance to consider the position but he is a man of integrity who will not try to serve two masters."

Former Australian captain Allan Border and South African Jimmy Cook have also been linked with the Old Trafford vacancy.

Malaysian nat'l badminton coach quits

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18: Malaysia's Razif Sidek has quit as national badminton chief coach, two years after he took up the job, reports AFP.

Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) executive secretary Ahmad Idris said today that Razif had submitted his letter of resignation on Tuesday, it took effect immediately.

"It was a surprise to us but that is his wish," Ahmad told AFP when asked to confirm a report on his resignation.

"BAM president Fazlil (Che Wan) and the executive council will decide, maybe next week, whether to find a replacement," he said.

Razif, 34, told the local media on Tuesday he had been involved in badminton as a player and coach for 20 years and "I think it's high time I took a break."

Ahmad said in Razif's absence, Chinese coaches Chen Changjie and Chen Kang will continue to coach the national team.

Although Razif had wanted to resign before the Thomas Cup finals in Hong Kong in May, his resignation came as a surprise, especially since he had returned two weeks ago from a long leave.

He took up the coaching job in September 1994 and has played in seven Thomas Cup tournaments.

The New Straits Times reported today Razif had tendered his resignation just before the Thomas Cup finals but was persuaded to stay on.

After the finals, Razif again hinted that he might resign after the Atlanta Olympics in July.

Razif also went on leave to ponder his future and did not return to work during the Malaysian Open last month.

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Plucky win for Pakistan



SALIM MALIK ... m-o-m

per Mohammed Azharuddin helped India put up a fighting total after being put in to bat first.

Dravid's strokeful 90 runs off 114 deliveries and Azharuddin's 99-ball blitz off 88 ensured the Indian recovery from the early loss of Tendulkar, who was the man-of-the-match in India's eight-wicket win in the first of the five-match one-day international series Monday.

Azharuddin smote the bowlers to all corners of the field for his nine boundaries as he became the seventh batsman in the world to score 6,000 runs in one-day internationals.

West Indians Desmond Haynes, Vivian Richards and Richie Richardson, Pakistan's Javed Miandad and Australian batsmen Allan Border and Dean Jones are the others to have scored over 6,000 runs in one-day internationals.

Azharuddin and Dravid added 161 runs from 185 balls to lay the foundation of the big Indian total.

India lost Tendulkar for only 20 as he popped up a catch

to rival skipper Wasim Akram at mid-on off pace bowler Azhar Mahmood. Tendulkar had struck three boundaries during his 23-ball knock before he played early at a slower delivery and gave the delighted Akram an easy catch.

However, Saqlain gave Malik the support he needed, picking up singles to give the senior player the strike at vital times and making it possible for Pakistan to thrill the boisterous crowd with a last-gasp victory.

Anwar scored 80 runs off 78 balls as he smashed three sixes and six boundaries and threatened to run away with the honours until he gave Joshi an easy catch at the mid-on boundary off Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar.

India regained the initiative after Anwar's departure as Pakistan's middle-order batsmen failed to tackle the pace-spin combination.

Earlier, a fighting third-wicket partnership between Rahul Dravid and former skip-

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205-3; 214-4; 245-5; 245-6				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Akram	10	1	52	0
Younis	6	0	37	0
Mahmood	9	2	38	2
Mushtaq	9	0	47	2
Saqlain	10	0	39	2
Sohail	5	0	33	0
Malik	1	0	9	0

PAKISTAN
Anwar c Joshi b Tendulkar 80
Sohail c Mongia b Prasad 0
Ijaz c Mongia b Prasad 13
Inzamam c Dravid b Kumble 29
Malik not out 70
Moin c Azharuddin b Joshi 14
Akram c Ganguly b Srinath 20
Mahmood run out 1
Mushtaq c and b Srinath 4
Saqlain not out 11
Extras: b-4, lb-11, w-9 24
Total (for 8 wickets, 41.5 overs) 268

Fall of wickets: 10-1; 44-2; 115-3; 144-4; 169-5; 213-6; 215-7; 221-8

Bowling:				
O				