

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Richard Krajicek

(Dutch tennis star)
"What I have done is beyond my wildest dreams. When I walked on centre court I was very emotional because I had all these images of when I used to watch Wimbledon finals on TV as a boy. For me it was like a movie. How could I believe one day, I would be part of it."

After becoming the Wimbledon men's singles champion.

WHIZZ KID

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Sports WHIZZ KID competition-53

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Competition closes : 8 pm
September 27, 1996

1 The winner of the man-of-the-series award in the Singer World Series is De Silva Jayasuria Ranatunga
2 The number of participating nations in the Pepsi ACC Trophy are 15 12 10
3 The winner of the US Open 1996 women's title is Graf Seles Lang
4 The Bangladeshi who scored a century in the first round of the Pepsi ACC Trophy is Akram Bulbul Bidyut
5 The new England Test vice-captain is Hussain Stewart Russell

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No. _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (If any): _____

Fed Cup b'ball

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club recorded their second victory in the 8th Federation Cup basketball championship when they trounced Chandpur Club 93-48 at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Mariner, who earlier in their opening match on Friday night beat Surid Sangha 92-56, led the first half 42-22.

Cagers Adam Ali scored highest 52 points for Mariner followed by Mukim who collected 26 points. On the other hand, Linu scored 19 points for Chandpur.

Tough battle awaits Bologna

ROME, Sept 21: Newly-promoted Bologna's surge to second place in Italy's Serie A will be tested thoroughly on Sunday when they face reigning champions AC Milan at home, reports Reuter.

Whatever the outcome a 38,000 full house and a 1.1 million box-office are guaranteed.

Milan are still smarting after successive league and European Cup defeats — a problem more mental than anything else, according to their Uruguayan coach Oscar Washington Tabarez.

"It's a psychological question that involves everyone," he said. "When we take the lead, that's the moment to make the most of your psychological advantage."

"Instead, against both Porto and Sampdoria, we didn't do enough to wrap up the game immediately."

Milan captain Franco Baresi and schemer Roberto Baggio are both injured but Montenegrin forward Dejan Savicevic returns after suspension and injury.

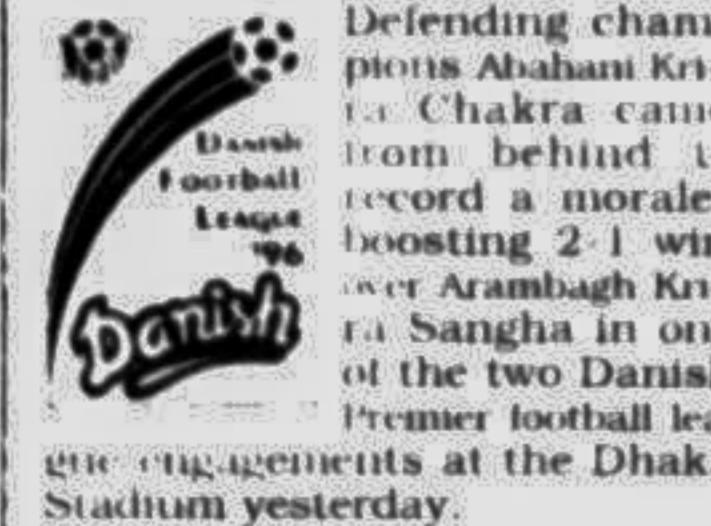
Bologna, winners of their two games to date, expect to field their strong strike force of Russian Igor Kolyvanov and Swede Kennet Andersson. Davide Fontolan and Giancarlo Marocchini add experience to midfield.

Internazionale, third and also with a six-point maximum, face a selection dilemma for their home game against lowly Lazio on Saturday.

With the return from injury of Dutch midfielder Aron Winter, Inter's English coach Roy Hodgson can call on a complete field seven non-Italians.

Arambagh make AKC sweat

Sports Reporter



Defending champions Abahani Kri-ka Chakra came from behind to record a morale-boosting 2-1 win over Arambagh Kri-ka Sangha in one of the two Danish Premier football league engagements at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Rakib Hassan, the workman-like midfielder of the sky blues, struck the match winner in the 88th minute with a brilliant header to help his side return to winning ways after their disappointing draws against Farashganji and Agrani Bank.

In a see-saw encounter marked by forays and counter forays, the holders, who were trailing by a solitary goal at the breather, rode on a suicidal act from Arambagh defender Choton to neutralise the first half lead from striker Apu.

Choton headed home a right flank cross from Abahani's right back Sohel Reza 11 minutes into the second half to earn the dubious distinction of becoming the second player with a la Escobar act in this year's league. Choton eventually turned out as the scapegoat of his side's negative approach in the second half after a neck-and-neck battle in the first 45 minutes that enabled Arambagh to deservedly take the lead in the 38th minute with Apu heading home a crispy left-flank cross from medio Jahanmir.

With Abahani, who are yet to find a suitable player to operate in the middle, it was Arambagh enjoyed a better territorial dominance in the first half with Shoib, Tushar and Jahanmir playing the lynchpin in

the 50th minute. Jahanmir cracked against the near post

every move.

On the other hand, Abahani once again relied on midfielder Rakib to have a go against the spirited Motijheel outfit. Also captain Momen Munna, after a dismal showing as a make-shift midfielder, returned to his former position as a central defender.

Rakib initiated the first positive move on a heavy outfield with a left-flank corner in the 20th minute. But Partha's scorching grounder from the edge of the box was parried off by Arambagh defender Prodip from the line.

Seven minutes later Arambagh opened the Abahani defense with Prodip airing a long throw deep into the opponents' defence which came by Apu's way via a Shoib back header.

But, the nimble striker spoiled the simple sitter with a hurriedly-taken bicycle shot that sailed over the cross-piece much to the relief of an stranded Abahani custodian Biplob, the reserve keeper of the Dhanmondi squad who had a very busy but successful day under the bar with some spectacular saves.

However, Apu more than amended his previous blunder midway through the first-half when he touched the opponents' net with a cool header to complete a combined move (1-0).

Stunned by the early setback, Abahani came up with more determination in the second session and capitalising on a defensive approach by the boys of Wazed Gazi, the most competent yet unheralded coach in the domestic circuit, stormed the opponents' citadel with a wave of sorties.

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Chalantika beat Badda Jagarani

Sports Reporter

Mirpur Chalantika Sporting Club registered their third win in the Danish First Division football league when they beat Badda Jagarani Sangsas 2-1 at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Al-Amin and Mehdi Hasan scored for the Mirpurians in the 11th and 42nd minute respectively while Masud Karim reduced the margin for Badda in the 89th minute.

With yesterday's victory, Mirpur Chalantika increased their tally to 10 points from six matches while Badda have six points from as many outings.

In the day's other engagement, Rahmatgan Muslim Friends Society and Dhanmondi Club shared points with a 2-2 draw.

Rahmatgan's Azim and Khoka scored once each for their side while Towhid netted twice for the Dhanmondi outfit.

It was the sixth league encounter for both teams from which Rahmatgan have 12 points while Dhanmondi raised their account to 16 points.

BTTF calls 19 to form nat'l squad

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation has called 19 players, including nine women, to form a national team which, if allowed by the NSC, will participate in the 13th Asian table tennis championships, scheduled to begin in Singapore from December 4.

According to a press release yesterday, the following players were instructed to report to BTTF by September 30 evening for the camp which will start at the wooden floor gymnasium from October 1. The players called for the camp are: Rochi, Mahbub, Saadi, Kochi, Hamlet, Mustafa, Rubel, Manash, Pappu, Adison, Goutam Tuhin, Linu, Rinu, Shamima, Tumpa, Rumi, Ratna, Jemi, Eti and Saleha.

WC qualifiers

Qatar trounce Sri Lanka

DOHA, Sept 21: Qatar beat Sri Lanka 3-0 in the first match of the Asian Group 10 World Cup soccer qualifiers Friday, reports AP.

The lackluster game, held in the Khalifa Stadium in the Qatari capital of Doha, saw Qatar go ahead in the 36th minute through a close-range tap in by striker Mahmoud South.

The Qataris stepped up the pressure in the second half and scored when forward Mohammed Salem Al Enazi fired home a first-time volley in the 51st minute.

Sri Lanka, who hardly threatened the Qatari goal, conceded a penalty 10 minutes before the end.

Midfielder Mubarak Mustafa netted the ball in at the second attempt after the Lankan goalkeeper saved the initial shot.

In addition to Qatar and Sri Lanka, the group includes the Philippines and India, who will play on Saturday.

Ctg soccer

Blue Star champs

CHITTAGONG, Sept 21: Blue Star Club won the Seraj Memorial Kishore football championship beating Pathantruly Boys Club by a solitary goal at the Dampara Police Line ground here today, reports BSS.

Muktar Hossain of Blue Star scored the all-important goal in the second half.

Liakat Ali of Pathantruly was adjudged the best player-of-the-final while Shahjahan Sattar of Nababzirik Club won the prize of highest scorer, with a haul of 10 goals.

Sixteen teams participated in the competition held under the auspices of Chittagong Manganari Sports Association.

3 accused of match-fixing in Tiger Cup

SINGAPORE, Sept 21: Three people, including two Malaysians, were charged in court here Friday for alleged involvement in game-fixing at the recently-concluded Tiger Cup football tournament, local media said, reports AFP.

Malaysian businessmen Kandasamy Karuppan and Yam Hung and a Singaporean personnel manager, Chong Thin Hoong, were accused of offering 50,000 US dollars in bribes to a Philippine player identified in the reports as S Judy on September 6.

Arsenal managerless until Arsene Wenger joins them at the end of the month travel to Middlesbrough where they face the highest-scoring team in the league.

Italian Fabrizio Ravallini, top scorer with six league goals and with a further four in his first League Cup game will be joined up front by Nicky Barmby who is back from injury.

Arsenal, fearful of a hangover, welcome back England centre-back Tony Adams who declared last week he was fighting alcoholism but the defender is likely to start on the substitutes' bench.

Former Arsenal manager George Graham, still waiting for his first victory with new club Leeds United, may have to continue to be patient as he had five first-teamers out with injury against Newcastle United.

IOC fact-finding team in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, Sept 21: Fifteen members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) arrived in Stockholm on Friday to evaluate the city's possibilities for the 2004 Summer Olympics, city officials said.

The committee, consisting of experts in various fields, will spend four days in the Swedish capital to study 21 different aspects of the city, ranging from political stability in the country to sports arenas, installations, media arrangements, lodging and transport.



GIVE ME YOUR FIVE: Anne Pope and Dave Pearson, the coaches from England, have a taste of local punctuality as they wait two hours with no sight of anyone of the Bangladesh Olympic Association which scheduled the opening of Olympic Solidarity coaches course (Gymnastics) for 4:30 pm yesterday at the NSC auditorium.

— Star photo

Rs ready to retaliate

goal difference, while Racing Santander and Real Sociedad also have seven points from three games.

Portuguese goalkeeper Vitor Baia, another costly close-season signing, has aggravated a leg injury, leaving him doubtful for the clash with Sociedad — to be played on newly-laid turf at the Nou Camp Stadium.

Romario looks likely to reappear for the home game with Tenerife after threatening to leave the club when he was dropped for the UEFA Cup tie against Bayern Munich.

But Romario has subsequently made his apologies, and limited his criticism of coach Luis Aragones.

"The bench isn't made for me. If I'm not in the side, I get annoyed," said a tactful Romario this week.

Despite Romario's problems, Spain still cannot get enough of Brazilian forwards.

Deportivo Coruna — who already have a goalscorer called Rivaldo — are reportedly interested in acquiring another named Renaldo. Real Madrid supremo Lorenzo, Sanz has just returned from a scouting mission to Brazil.

Ronaldo's team are looking to set their championship challenge in motion after being saved from their first defeat of the season on Monday by another Brazilian Roberto Carlos.

Analysis of the defender's blistering 25-metre equaliser against Real Betis showed that the ball left his boot at an incredible 162 kph.

Roberto Carlos made up for the deficiencies of strikers Davor Suker and Predrag Mijatovic, who have only managed one goal between them since signing in the close season.

Both will be looking to put the record straight in the home game against neighbours Rayo

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