

Meril U-16 soccer Final round begins today

The final round of the Meril under-16 national football champions...

Kurigram zone champions Lalmonirhat will play the hosts at 3.15 pm in the inaugural match...

The other seven participating districts are: Khulna (Chuadanga zone), Jhenidah (Jhenidah zone), Narayanganj (Brahmanbaria zone), Bagerhat (Bhola zone), Gazipur (Tangail zone), Bandarban (Bandarban zone) and holders Jessore DSA.

SAF football tourney deferred

The third SAF football tournament, scheduled to begin in Kathmandu from November 24, is likely to be held next year.

According to a Bangladesh Football Federation press release yesterday, the sponsor of the meet has persuaded the Nepalese Football Federation to stage the tournament sometime in March or April next year.

However, the postponement of the SAF football will help the BFF to reschedule their fixtures which includes the second phase of the Danish Premier Division football league.

The second phase of the league was scheduled to start from November 28 after the SAF meet. But now, the second phase of the league can easily get underway from the last week of October after the arrival of the under-19 team from South Korea.

But while talking to The Daily Star, a BFF official said that the second phase of the Premier league may begin from the first week of November.

Edberg, Goran advance

VIENNA, Oct 9: Sweden's Stefan Edberg won his opening round match in the 800,000 dollars CA Trophy tournament, beating Jan Kroskall of Slovakia 6-4, 6-2 Tuesday, report agencies.

Second seed Goran Ivanisevic needed three sets and seven match points to overcome wildcard entry Filip Dewulf of Belgium in the first round.

Meanwhile, Edberg's countryman, Thomas Enqvist, seeded eighth, took only 51 minutes to defeat Alberto Berasategui of Spain 6-0, 6-4.

Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine defeated Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy 6-3, 6-4, and Germany's Michael Stich beat Hernan Gummy of Argentina 6-2, 6-2.

Women's h'ball course in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 9: A one-month long women's handball training course, organised by Zilla Krira Office, began at the Govt. Girls School here this afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj Nazrul Islam inaugurated the course as chief guest. Sixty participants from different schools and colleges of the district are taking part in the course.

N'ganj soccer

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 9: Suk-tara Jubo Sangsad beat Jalparibahan Corp 2-1 in a Haripur Shipping First Division football league match at the Osman Stadium today.

Pappu pui, Jalparibahan ahead in the 34th minute. But Suk-tara's Kiran equaliser only three minutes later. And then Monu netted the decider four minutes after the interval.

In tomorrow's engagement Mohsin Club will take on Eastern Football Club at the same venue.



Former West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge (R), now in the capital to finalise his contract with the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) as future national coach, being conditioned on the new environment by the manager of the Bangladesh team Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu at the BCCB office yesterday.

Cricketers' transfer ends

Masum steals the day

Sports Reporter

Former national opener Zahid Razzak Masum captured the centre-stage of an otherwise mundane inter-club cricketers' transfer on the concluding day of the four-day bourse when he signed for Abahani at the BCCB office yesterday evening.

The tall right-hander, played for Kalabagan for the last couple of season, is expected to fill the void of Harunur-Rashid Liton, who in a surprise move deserted the Dhanmondi outfit on his way to Kalabagan.

Apart from Abahani's late resilience, the day belonged to the mediocre teams with all the leading clubs, who had already completed the shopping target, staying off the transfer business.

In all 59 players changed their allegiance on the concluding day with Gulshan Youth enjoying a happy hunting by roping in as many as 14 players while Lalmatia closely followed



Z R MASUM ... back home

them with eight. Meanwhile, in the four-day transfer a total of 399 players collected their tokens, of them 268 have changed their loyalty.

JU cricket

Sports Reporter

Department of Economics recorded a 16-run victory over Electronics and Computer science in an inter-department cricket championship clash at the Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

Winning the toss and deciding to bat first, the winners scored 119 runs in 30 overs losing eight wickets with Raju hammering highest 51.

In reply, the students of Electronics and Computer Science were bundled out for 103 runs in 28.1 overs.

AB Bank TT super league starts today

The five-team super league of the AB Bank metropolis Senior Division table tennis begins at the NSC wooden-floor gymnasium today, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Biman will take on Brothers Union while Wari Club meet Inter Sports in the two super league matches on the inaugural day.

Armanitola Jubo Sangha is the other super league team that qualified from the 10-team first phase league.

Swamibagh TTS was relegated to the First Division without earning any points.

U-19 soccer squad leaves for Seoul today

A 26-member Bangladesh under-19 football team leaves for South Korea today to take part in the final round of the 30th Asian Youth football championship, beginning in Seoul October 17.

On the inaugural day of the ten-nation final round, Bangladesh, placed in Group A along with UAE, South Korea, Thailand and Iran, will take on UAE.

The Bangladesh team comprising 20 booters will also play two friendly matches against the Thailand under-19 outfit in Thailand on October 11 and 13 on their way to South Korea.

Nat'l boat race

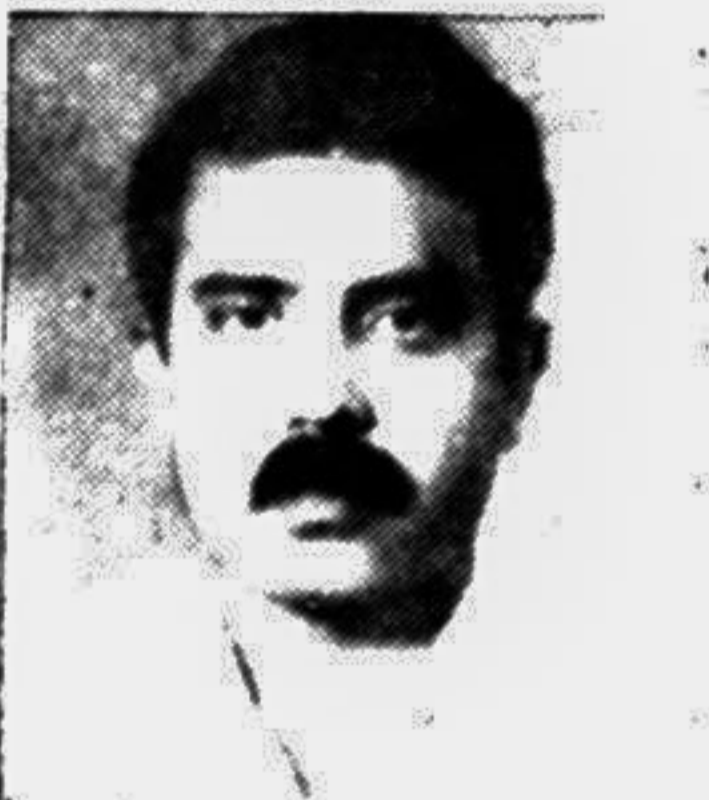
The 21st national boat race championship will be held on Friday afternoon at the river Buriganga, near the China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge at Postagola, reports UNB.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, who is also the president of tournament organising committee, will be the chief guest at the closing function. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader will be present as special guest.

Nantu no more

Former national badminton champion Akhtaruzzaman Nantu, junior operations officer, Biman Flight Catering Centre (EFCC) and Manager Biman badminton team died here Tuesday night following a massive cardiac arrest. He was 42, reports BSS.

His nazam-e-ijanaza was held at the BFCC premises yesterday morning. He was buried at his family graveyard in Hajiganj, Chandpur. He left behind his wife, three-year-old daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.



NANTU

Biman sports and cultural committee expressed profound shock at his death. The committee recalled with gratitude the contributions of Akhtaruzzaman for the development of country's games and sports particularly in the field of badminton.

PDB v'ball begins tomorrow

The week long 21st inter-office volleyball competition organised by Power Development Board (PDB) sports and cultural committee will get underway from tomorrow at Cox's Bazar Stadium, says a press release.

Inter-varsity aquatic ends

Sports Reporter

Dhaka University emerged champions in the inter-university aquatic championship concluded at the DU swimming pool yesterday.

In all the hosts earned 83 points to top the table while Rajshahi University who became runners up collected 47 points.

Professor Shahiduddin Ahmed, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, distributed prizes among the winners.

Kishore kabaddi

The Kishore Kabaddi tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation began at the outer stadium kabaddi court here yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader declared the metropolis juvenile meet open

Saurav set to emulate Azhar

Delhi Test begins today



NEW DELHI, Oct 9: India and Australia begin a one-off Test match here on Thursday batted as to how the newly-laid wicket at the Ferozeshah Kotla would behave, reports AFP.

Both teams spent considerable time today gazing at the grassless centre-strip that was dug up and relaid earlier in the summer and debating possible tactics.

"It appears like the usual easy-packed Kotla wicket," said India's new coach Madan Lal who played regularly at the ground while representing Delhi during his playing career.

"But I am not sure if the surface will remain firm for more than two days."

Australian coach Geoff Marsh said his team expected the wicket to take slow turn, but he resisted naming his 11 until just before the toss.

"We'll wait till Thursday morning, but obviously spin will play a major role," said Marsh, who, like his Indian counterpart, will be in charge of a Test team for the first time.

Australia have included three spinners, off-break bowler Mark Waugh, left-arm

wrist-spinner Brad Hogg and leggie Peter McIntyre, in their 12 for the match.

If Australia follow India's plan to include three spinners, seamer Jason Gillespie may be relegated to the reserves, leaving Glenn McGrath and Paul Reiffel to share the new ball.

The Indians kept their options open till Thursday to enable seamer Javagal Srinath to recover from a mild 'flu'.

"I think Srinath will be okay by tomorrow," Madan Lal said. "But we will wait till the morning to see if he is recovered fully."

If Srinath does not play, the Indians will either choose reserve seamer David Johnson or go into the game with a fourth spinner.

The winner of the match will receive the newly-instituted Border-Gavaskar Trophy, named after the two former captains Allan Border of Australia and Sunil Gavaskar of India.

Sachin Tendulkar, leading India for the first time in a Test match, said he was confident of keeping the trophy at home.

"We have the team to beat the Aussies, but everyone will have to chip in with something useful," the 23-year-old said. "There is no point playing

three spinners if they don't have a suitable total on the board. We have to get the runs."

Left-hander Saurav Ganguly, who scored centuries in each of his first two Tests in England, gets a chance to make it three in a row in his first Test match on home soil.

Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin, also playing here, is the only batsman in Test history to achieve the feat. He scored three centuries in his first three Tests in 1984 against England.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (capt), Ian Healy, Michael Bevan, Brad Hogg, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath, Peter McIntyre, Ricky Ponting, Paul Reiffel, Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh.

INDIA (from): Sachin Tendulkar (capt), Vikram Rathore, Nayan Mongia, Saurav Ganguly, Mohanmad Azharuddin, Rahul Dravid, Venkat Laxman, Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi, Narendra Hirwani, Ashish Kapoor, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, David Johnson.

Umpires: Peter Willey (England) and Srinivas Venkatraghavan (India).



Legendary Indian spinner Bishen Singh Bedi (L) exchanges his views with Australian young spinner Brad Hogg during a practice session at the New Delhi National Stadium yesterday. The one-off Test between India and Australia begins at the Feroz Shah Kotla Ground today.

Uruguay beat Bolivia

MONTEVIDEO, Oct 9: Uruguay scored a crucial World Cup qualifying win over Bolivia in a match that denied them a trip to the 1994 finals, thanks to an own goal by defender Juan Manuel Pena on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The Bolivian defender inadvertently headed the ball into his own net in the 62nd minute of a nerve-wracking encounter as he attempted to clear a Uruguayan cross.

The goal was a cruel blow for Bolivia's veteran goalkeeper Carlos Trucco, who had performed heroics to keep the Uruguay attack at bay until that point.

The once mighty Uruguayans, who twice won the cup during the early days of the tournament, desperately needed a win after losing their last two qualifying games, one of them at home to unflinched Paraguay.

Coach Hector Nunez virtually imploded veteran midfielder Enzo Francescoli, 35 next month, to come back out of international retirement to help the Uruguayan cause.

Bolivia, who qualified for the 1994 tournament in the United States at Uruguay's expense, were playing their first game under Spanish coach Antonio Lopes, brought back little more than one year after abandoning the job.

Uruguay, backed by a capacity 70,000 crowd, put the Bolivians under pressure from the start, but the back of under-standing between strikers Daniel Fonseca and Marcelo Otero plus the excellent form of Trucco prevented them from breaking down the Bolivian defence.

The home team appeared to be running out of steam until Pena's fatal error.

Bolivia had defender Sergio Castillo sent off in the 78th minute for a second bookable offence while Uruguay substitute Luis Romero had a goal disallowed five minutes from the end for outside

Bulgaria brave the odds

LUXEMBOURG, Oct 9: Bulgaria, reduced to 10 men after an hour when substitute Ivan Vassilev was sent off, squeezed out a 2-1 win over Luxembourg on Tuesday to breathe new life into their World Cup qualifying campaign, reports Reuter.

Bulgaria, badly in need of a win after losing their opening European Group Five qualifier to Israel last month, took the lead in the 11th minute when Krastimir Balakov converted a penalty after Emil Kostadinov was fouled.

Roby Langers equalised six minutes later with a low 10-metre shot which went in off the post.

But Kostadinov re-established Bulgaria's advantage with a clever lob from Yordan Levkov's pass after 37 minutes.

Luxembourg took command after Vassilev was dismissed for fouling Guy Hellers just outside the area — he had come on for Georgi Antonov at the start of the second half — but Bulgarian goalkeeper Borislav Mihailov produced three superb saves from Langers, Jeff Stasser and Hellers.

শাখা স্থানান্তর

সোনালী ব্যাংক, পুরান বাজার শাখা, চাঁদপুর আগামী ১৪ই অক্টোবর '৯৬ সোমবার থেকে নতুন ভবনে স্থানান্তরিত হবে।

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The under-19 football team which will participate in the Asian youth football championship in South Korea from October 17, called on State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Kader at his office yesterday. The team will leave the country today.