

Sport

Russian Booter for Abahani

Sports Reporter

A Russian booter arrived in the capital last evening to play for defending champions Abahani in the second phase of the double-leg Danish Premier Division football league, beginning at the Mirpur Stadium on November 8.

Benzelade Gueyri, a 28-year-old Moscow-based player, played as a midfielder for the Druzaisho Kar-ola, a Senior Division side in Russia.

Besides, Sergei Abahani's pivotal force last year, is also expected to arrive in the capital before the commencement of the league.

Chess league draw today

Sports Reporter

The draw of the 16-team First Division chess league, scheduled to begin tomorrow at 3 pm, will be held at the Bangladesh Chess Federation office this afternoon.

Different clubs and organisations, including defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, are expected to enrol a good number of foreigners this year.

Mohammedans, in their bid to retain the title, have included three Grand Masters in their six-man team which includes Russian GM Krasenkov, who also played for the Motijheel outfit last year, Indian GM Dibendu Barua and country's lone GM Niaz Murshed. National junior champion Abdullah Al Rakib, sub-junior champion Enamul Hossain Rajib and unheralded Khaled Shawkat Prince are the other members of team.

Last year's runners-up Biman keep their faith with last year's squad which feature all the local stars including national champion IM Ziaur Rahman, IM Reebat-bin Sattar and International Woman Master Rani Hamid.

The sixteen teams are: MSC, Biman, Leontine Chess Club, BTMC, Ansars, Sheikh Russel Chess Club, Farashgan SC, Prodeep Sangha, Fire Service, Kinoca Chess Club, Dhaka University Daba Dal, Narayanganj Daba Khelwar Kalyan Samity, Anishan Chess Club, Touchstone Chess Club and Avijatrik Chess Club.

Monirul in the city

Sports Reporter

Syed Monirul Haque, the leading scorer in the domestic cricket last year, arrived in the capital last afternoon to play for Abahani in the Damal Smriti tournament.

The middle-aged Pakistani, who stole the limelight while playing for Dhaka Wanderers last year with his batting prowess, had a light practice session with his new team yesterday.

Apri Monirul, another Pakistani all-rounder Shahid Iqbal also arrived in the city yesterday to play for Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

Special Olympics

Sports Reporter

A 22-member Bangladesh team will participate in the first Asia-Pacific Special Olympic Games to be held in Shanghai, China, from November 8 to 11, says a press release.

The team comprising 15 athletes, four coaches and three officials, Ashraf-ud-Dowla will lead the Bangladesh delegation.

Bangladesh won 5 gold, six silver and as many bronze in the Special Olympics held in New Heaven, USA in 1995.

Aussies put on a brave face

PERTH, Australia. Nov 4: Australia shouldn't be written off after their woeful run of failures in the Titan triangular one-day tournament in India, Australia Cricket Board chairman Denis Rogers warned here today, reports AFP.

We have complete confidence in our boys and believe we should wait to see how they go on Australian wickets when they return from India, always a very hard place to play, Rogers said.

Rogers is in Western Australia to watch the opening game of the West Indies tour — a one-day carnival match today against their Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill Park, Caversham near here.

He said he believed the Australian side would benefit from their tough experiences in India, where they have been humbled by South Africa and India and eliminated from the final of the competition after their narrow defeat by India Sunday night.

"We have some good players coming through and some excellent reserves and we fully stand by our players," Rogers said.

They are now well paid professionals and we are looking forward with confidence for them to perform for us."

Australia claim to be the unofficial world Test champions after defeating the West Indies 2-1 in the Caribbean early last year.

But Mark Taylor's men have only two and a half weeks in which to regroup before they take on the determined West Indies in the opening Test of a five-match series starting in Brisbane, Queensland, on November 22.

Azad boys abase GMCC

Sports Reporter

yesterday.

Chasing a paltry 174 in 42.5 overs, GMCC, who are quite under-strength this year after all of their star players left the team in the lurch this season, were bundled out for only 77 in 28.4 overs due to some telling performance by three Azad bowlers — Ahmed Hossain, Md. Nazir and Mithu.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Brothers Union vs Dhanmondi Club (DSC)

Lalmatta Club vs Ajax SC (CCG)

BRIEF SCORES

AZAD SC: 174 in 42.5 overs (Biplab 56, Shimul 28, Sajal 22, Nazir 3/27, Al-Amin 2/24, Mithu 2/27)

GMCC: 77 in 28.4 overs (Nadeem 30, Rumon 15; Shahnowaz 4/22, Nasim 2/2, Sujon 2/18)

Azad Sporting Club inflicted season's first upset when they handed Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club a humiliating 97-run defeat in the first round Group E engagement of the Damal Smriti cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

RU sports

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 4: The inter-department volleyball championship of the Rajshahi University began at the university stadium this evening with Accounting Dept beat Applied Chemistry 2-0 in the opener.

Meanwhile, in the inter-department handball competition, Dept of Law edged past Islamic History 9-8 in a tie-breaker. In the day's other match, Management Dept recorded a 10-7 victory over Sociology.

Earlier, put into bat first,

Azad, who earned berth in elite 22-team First Division circle by topping Second Division

league last year, were bundled out for a meager 174 in 42.5

overs with middle-order batsman Asadullah Khan Biplab hammering highest 56. During his 74-ball stay at the crease, Biplab smote four hits to the fence and two towering sixes.

Besides, Aslam Ali Khan

Shimul and Ariful Haque Sajal scored 28 and 22 respectively for the winners.

For GMCC, Mohammad Ali Nazir captured three wickets while Al-Amin and Mithu took two wickets each.

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