

Inter-varsity athletics on

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 30: Hosts Rajshahi University dominated the medals table on the opening day of the two-day 7th inter-university athletics championship which began here today.



Officials of Eastern All Star FC of Thailand attending a press briefing in the city yesterday. — Star photo

BTC int'l TT from Jan 6

The Victory Day Silver Jubilee BTC International table tennis tournament will begin in the city on January 6, reports UNB.

Barnes' 300th league tie

LONDON, Dec 30: A blunder by Southampton goalkeeper Dave Beasant gifted Liverpool captain John Barnes a match-winning goal on his 300th league appearance for the club on Sunday, reports Reuter.

With struggling Southampton having the better of a goalless stalemate against the Premier league leaders, Beasant charged out to the right-hand side of his penalty area to clear an overhit through ball in the 76th minute.

Barnes was honest enough to admit that Liverpool were fortunate to win. "We were atrocious in the first half, not much better in the second and my goal was a bit of a fluke," he said.

Purabi b'ball

Angels Club and Eagles Club won their respective Purabi Insurance First Division basketball league matches held at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

In the first match, Angels outplayed Shaons Club by 104-46 points while Eagles recorded a 69-49 win over the Gregorians Club.

E Bengal bubbling with spirit

Calcutta East Bengal Club have come to Bangladesh with the mission of paying homage to the Silver Jubilee of Independence of the country and the best way to do that is by winning the Bangabandhu Cup football tournament.

"We are the number one football club of India as we have won the Federation Cup this year, and we have come here with the determination to maintain our good going. As we got tight schedule for the qualifying round of the national league, we had to face problems in making time to turn up here.



Club manager Bipradas Chatterjee said during a press briefing session of the participating clubs of the invitational tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday evening.

East Bengal's chief-de-mission Subhash Majumder and vice-captain Debashish Pal Chowdhury were also present in the briefing.

Bipradas informed that his team have six booters from the Indian national squad which includes goalkeeper Hemanta Dora, Defenders Subir Ghosh and Amit Das, midfielders Basudev Mandal and Debashish and forward Raman Vijayan are the other national team footballers in the side.

Shooting star still a learner

The world's best that's one top manager's verdict of the latest in a line of Brazilian shooting stars. And while fans argue over who shines brightest, Gemini News Service reports that 20-year-old Ronaldo is confident of his ability to live up to his price-tag.

FORMER England player and manager Bobby Robson has seen a lot of goals in his four decades in soccer, but he had never seen anything quite like this one.

Robson knew that the 20-year-old, shaven-headed Brazilian who scored the goal was a remarkable player — after all, the club which Robson now manages, FC Barcelona, had paid \$20 million for Ronaldo.



Ronaldo: 'The best, at any level, any age'

U-16 cricket squad leaves for Calcutta on Jan 1

A 17-member delegation of under-16 team of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) leaves for Calcutta on January 1 to participate in the junior invitational cricket tournament, reports UNB.

Calculta City Corporation will organise the tournament. Teams from South Africa, England and Sri Lanka will also take part in the tournament with the teams from different Indian States.

The BCCB team led by captain Imran Khan called on State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader at the National Sports Council office yesterday.

BSJA award

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) decided to award the best footballer and the highest individual goalscorer of the Bangabandhu Cup silver-jubilee of independence football tournament which begins in the capital today.

According to press release yesterday, a four-member committee have been formed to adjudge the awardees during the tournament. The members are: Manjurul Haque (The Independent), Masud Ahmed Rumi (Dainik Bangla), Ajay Barua (Sangbad) and national football award winner Ashrafuddin Churnu.

B'ball courses

Two basketball coaching courses, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation, for under-16 (boys) and under-19 (girls), will begin at the Dhanmondi gymnasium from January 12, says a press release.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bangabandhu Cup football tournament: Abahani vs Malaysia 'B' (Dhaka Stadium, 6 pm) Premier Division cricket league: Mohammedan SC vs GMCC (Dhaka Stadium, 6 pm)

FRIENDS CLUB

Friends Club are the current national league champions in Nepal and the runners-up in Kathmandu league.

Manager Amir Gharti, coach Maheswar Mulmi and skipper Damber Bickram Shah were present in the briefing on behalf of the visitors.

Talking to the press, manager Amir Gharti said that his team has four booters from the Nepalese national team. Two of their own — Sunil Tulakdar,

match on the beach, he caught the eye of Jairzinho, who wore the 7 shirt in Brazil's 1970 World Cup-winning team.

Jairzinho quickly steered Ronaldo towards the upper reaches of the Brazilian leagues and by the time he was 17 he was the third highest scorer in the national championships.

Although he did not play in any of the games, Ronaldo had already caught the eye of one of Europe's top clubs, PSV Eindhoven paid Cruzeiro \$6 million for the teenager and was soon richly repaid. Ronaldo's first season in Holland produced 30 league goals, making him easily the country's top scorer.



Friends Club team members of Nepal in a press briefing in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Cronje cheers India

DURBAN, South Africa, Dec 30: South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje on Sunday leapt to the defence of India after newspaper commentators slammed their performance in the first Test against South Africa, which they lost by 328 runs, reports AFP.

"I was a little bit disappointed this morning when I saw a local paper having a go at the Indian side," said Cronje.

"I thought they played very good cricket for two months on the sub-continent," he added.

TCCB disciplines Lloyd

DURHAM, England, Dec 30: England coach David Lloyd was censured on Sunday by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) over his behaviour at the end of the first Test against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo, reports Reuter.

Lloyd was originally spoken to by ICC (International Cricket Council) match referee Hanu Singh after he was seen making obscene gestures to members of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) during the closing stages of the Test.

Lloyd received a vote of confidence, however, from former England cricketer Ian Botham who denied reports in a British Sunday newspaper that he was on the verge of quitting his post of technical advisor to the England squad.

"Some of the quotes are correct, but they are things I have said over a period of time," Botham said in a television interview.

"For instance I believe in putting one man in charge of selection and it's no secret that I would do the job for a fee of 150,000 pounds (250,000 dollars) a year.

"The matter has been noted and recorded and I would not want to see any repeat," he said.

"Of course it is a concern if one of the members of the England management is the subject of an inquiry by the match referee.

"The appropriate action has been taken and we consider the matter to be closed."

Lloyd clocked 28 minutes 24 seconds after pulling away from Kenya's Daniel Komen in the final kilometre. The pair had duelled throughout the final part of the race after leaving the rest of the field behind.

Auckland affair delayed

AUCKLAND, Dec 30: The start of the 107,500 US dollars women's International Tennis Classic here was delayed today as heavy rain and wind from impending cyclone Pergus battered the city, reports AFP.

The main draw was due to start at midday (2300 GMT) but heavy rain and poor light prevented play.

Tournament media liaison Dave Worsley said remaining qualifying matches would be moved to two indoor courts, provided players agreed.

"But that is dependent on the light and whether they feel the courts are good enough," Worsley said.

All-Star theme enters Europe

ISTANBUL, Dec 30: All-star games are an institution in American team sports. The National Basketball Association has played one annually since 1951.

Now, European basketball will have its turn, reports AP.

Pitting the "East" versus the "West" both teams made up of the best names in Europe. Monday's game will also double as a "big reunion of the European basketball family," according to organiser and FIBA president Borislav Stankovic.

The 25 stars, selected by fans during public polls around the continent, gave only a glimpse of their talents Saturday night during two practice sessions.

The 2.06-metre (6-foot-10) American Conrad McRae of teams West demonstrated one of his slam dunks, making the 25-year-old Teamsystem Bologna centre a major attraction for Monday's game.

East's 1.90-metre (6-foot-4) Russian guard Sergei Bazarovich of CSKA Moscow displayed his ball-handling and dribbling skills, showing why he is still considered one Europe's best at 31.

Bazarovich was selected to the all-tournament team at the World Championships in Toronto in 1994.

Others selected include the West's Yann Bonato, the 2.02-metre (6-foot-9) French forward from CSP Limoges, 2.02-metre (6-foot-9) German forward Henning Harmisch of Alba Berlin, and 1.88-metre (6-foot-3) American guard Delany Radd of French club ASVEL Villeurbanne.

The East's roster includes Greek forward Panagiotis Pasoulas and 1.83-metre (6-foot-1) American guard David Rivers, both of Olympiakos.

Yugoslavian Dusan Ivkovich of Olympiakos will coach the East, while Spanish national team coach Lolo Sainz will lead the West.

The NBA for years has used its All-Star Game as a showcase, instituting the "skills competition" such as slam dunk and three-point shooting contests to highlight individual players as far back as 1984 and making a weekend marquee event.

FIBA feels its game will help promote European basketball and stem the tide of the NBA's dominance of the sport in the world.

"If you ask a regular basketball fan in Europe who the famous players are, they will name NBA players," FIBA press officer Florian Wanninger said. "But we have so much talent at the heart of Europe. This will showcase those talents."

Briton sticks the course

DURHAM, England, Dec 30: Britain's Jon Brown continued his good run of form by winning the 9.3 km second round of the IAAF World Cross Challenge Series on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Brown clocked 28 minutes 24 seconds after pulling away from Kenya's Daniel Komen in the final kilometre. The pair had duelled throughout the final part of the race after leaving the rest of the field behind.

In the last month Brown has beaten Kenya's Paul Tergat, reigning world cross-country champion, in a race in Spain and also won the European cross-country title in Chaleroi, Belgium.

Ethiopia's Geta Wami, women's world cross-country champion, won the women's 5.2 km race in 17:32.

Wami sprinted clear of Romania's Diana Fidatof and Britain's Paula Radcliffe 150 metres from the line to bounce back after finishing only third in the opening race in Brussels last Sunday.

Fidatof was second in 17:33 with Radcliffe third in 17:38.

"But I don't have a problem with Bumble (David Lloyd) or the team. We've had a laugh about it (the article)."

Lloyd was also quick to play down the newspaper article which claimed that Botham wanted a greater say in team selection.

"We don't have a problem," he said. "Jan's working well with the team, especially the bowlers. We've only just got together and I'm sure we'll go from strength to strength."

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Bangladesh Power Development Board বিদ্যুৎ বাবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন Notice for Time Extension for Submission of Bid for Shahjibazar Gas Turbine Power Plant

Rangpur Cadet College sports The annual sports meet of the Rangpur Cadet College concluded at the college ground in Rangpur on Sunday, reports UNB.

রাজশাহী সিটি কর্পোরেশন রাজশাহী পাছ লাগান পরিচর্যা করকন পরামর্শ প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি