



Albeit the inter-club booters' transfer yet to take place, Abahani Krira Chakra coach Abu Yusuf simply cannot sit back. He undertook a practice session with the available players of the team at the club ground yesterday. — Star photo

SL's Asia Cup squad named

COLOMBO, July 3: Sri Lanka today announced a 14-member national Asia Cup cricket tournament opening here and retained Arjuna Ranatunga as skipper, report agencies.

Strike bowler Chaminda Vaas, has returned to the team after an injury layoff but middle-order bat Hashan Tillekeratne has been left out due to injury.

Tillekeratne suffered a fracture in his hand after being hit by a Curtly Ambrose delivery during last month's tour of the Caribbean, which Vaas missed after straining his back.

The four-nation tournament will feature India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Pakistan will meet world champions Sri Lanka in the first match tournament on July 14.

Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Aravinda de Silva, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Kumara Dharmasena, Roshan Mahanama, Upul Chandana, Ruwan Kalpage, Muttiah Muralitharan, Sanjeeva de Silva, Chaminda Vaas, Lanka de Silva, Dulip Liyanage.

Comilla clinch v'ball title

Comilla clinched their maiden national youth volleyball title after defeating Gazipur by three sets to one in the final of the 16th version of the meet held at the National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Comilla won the first two sets 15-11, 15-9 before losing the third set 12-15. They won the decider 15-6.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader witnessed the final and gave away the prizes. Sadat Hossain Chowdhury, the chairman of sponsoring company Multidrive Limited and Bangladesh Volleyball Federation president Maj Gen Azizur Rahman, Bir Uttam, were also present on the occasion.



Players and officials of the Comilla team, which lifted the Multidrive 16th national youth volleyball title, pose after defeating Gazipur in the final yesterday. — Star photo

Azad book the final slot

Azad Sporting Club booked their berth in next year's eight-team Premier hockey league when they edged past Bangladesh Railway with a 3-2 victory in their last Green Delta First Division engagement at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw affair which saw the first half locked in 1-1, skipper Zubayer put the winners ahead through a field goal in the 13th minute but Wasim helped the Railway to catch up with Azad just after 12 minutes.

DCC to host reception for cricketers today

Dhaka City Corporation will host a reception in honour of the ICC trophy champions Bangladesh cricket team today at 5 pm at the Nagar Bhaban, reports UNB.

Dhaka City Mayor and also President of the Bangladesh Football Federation Mohammad Hanif will be the chief guest at the reception.

Tyson bears witness

LAS VEGAS, July 3: Mike Tyson might be better off leaving his lawyers and handlers at home when Nevada boxing regulators meet to determine his fate for biting a chunk out of Evander Holyfield's ear, report agencies.

The chairman of the Nevada State Athletic Commission said Wednesday there's only one person who can explain what happened in the ring that night — Tyson himself.

"I really think there's only one guy who has to justify his actions in the ring and that's Mike Tyson," Dr Elias Ghanem said. "I don't want to press anything and tell him he has to show up, but we are really talking about Mike Tyson here."

Tyson was expected to sign papers Wednesday allowing the commission to go ahead with a meeting next week where he could face a lifetime ban from boxing along with a 3-million dollar fine.

Tyson has said he will not fight the sanctions, but pleaded earlier this week to be allowed to box again.

"I only ask that I not be penalised for life for this mistake," Tyson said.

The state attorney general's office asked for the revocation of Tyson's boxing license in its formal complaint, a legal move that allows the commission to impose its stiffest fine, 10 per cent of Tyson's 30 million dollars purse.

If Tyson's license were revoked, he would have to wait at least a year before reapplying, but the commission has the authority to make that even longer. A suspension could be up to five years with a maximum fine of 250,000 dollars.

Ghanem said that any speculation about possible penalties is just that. He said he hasn't discussed Tyson's fate with any of the other four commissioners, and won't until the hearing, which is tentatively set for Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a class-action lawsuit was filed here Wednesday on behalf of 1.9 million purchasers of the Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield pay-per-view coverage as well as those who watched in person.

Another suit was filed in Seattle, Washington, seeking relief not available under Nevada laws.

Armed Forces accord cricketers' reception

Bangladesh Armed Forces accorded a reception to the ICC Trophy champions national cricket team at the Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, says a press release.

Besides players and officials of the team, office-bearers of the Bangladesh Cricket Board and former team captains of the national cricket team attended the reception.

Among others, Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman, Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam, Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed and senior military officers including PSO's and Formation Commanders were present on the occasion.

Sports Reporter

After the breather, Moqsed and Yen netted two field goals in two minutes to put Azad back in the driving seat before Zaman pulled one back in the 59th minute.

With yesterday's win, Azad, raising their point tally to 23 from 15 matches, secured the last place in next year's eight-team league race, having taken a lead of five points over their nearest rivals Wari Club who were able to collect 18 points with one match in hand.

On the other hand, with the defeat Railway slipped to 11th position in the league as they ended their campaign with 16 points.

The seven other teams which will feature in a new league format next season are champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, Usha Krira Chakra, Abahani Krira Chakra, Mariner Youngs Club, Ajax Sporting Club, Sadharan Bima KS and Farashganj SC.

SPORTING CLUB RIDE ON IQBAL

Earlier in the day's first match, Indian player Iqbal Singh scored a hat-trick as Bangladesh Sporting Club handed Bachelor Sporting Club

Sports Reporter

A 0-3 defeat at the same venue. In a one-sided affair, Iqbal, one of the three Indian recruits of Bangladesh Sporting Club struck all the three goals in the 2nd, 12th and 45th minutes. It was 22nd hat-trick of the league so far.

The win, the sixth in 15 matches, raised the point tally of the old-town outfit to 18 points and enabled them to share ninth place with Wari Club.

On the other hand, it was the tenth defeat for Bachelors in 15 matches which kept them glued to their previous collection of seven points.

Div 111 soccer

Lalbagh Sporting Club recorded a solitary goal victory over Deepali Jubo Sangha in one of the two Third Division football Super league encounters played at the Army Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Monir struck the match-winner in the 68th minute.

The other match between Rayerbazar Athletics Club and Sunrise Sporting Club ended in a goalless draw.

Sports Reporter

Scoreboard Thursday, at lunch on the first day of the third Test between Australia and England at Old Trafford:

AUSTRALIA: First innings Taylor c Thorpe b Headley 2 Elliott not out 36 Blewett b Gough 8 Aha c Stewart b Ealham 12 Waugh not out 19 Extra: 1 Total: (for three wickets in 30 overs) 78 Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-22; 3-42.

To bat: Michael Bevan, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Paul Reffel, Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath.

Bowling: O M R W Gough 8 5 10 1 Headley 11 1 27 1 Caddick 5 1 13 0 Ealham 4 0 22 1 Croft 2 0 6 0

Shawkat off to London

Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, is sponsoring top Bangladeshi golfer Shawkat-uz-Zaman to participate in the 61st Commonwealth golf tournament in the UK.

Shawkat is the first Bangladeshi to be invited to participate in the prestigious event, says a press release.

Shawkat flew from Dhaka to London on Emirates on yesterday to join 100 golfers from Commonwealth countries competing in the tournament at Walton Heath from July 7 to 9. The tournament, held annually since 1921, is organised by the Lucifer Golfing Society whose patron is HRH The Duke of York.

Shawkat, who currently plays off a handicap of 4, is Bangladesh's highest-ranked amateur golfer and is no stranger to international competition, having represented his country in China, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Dubai, Nepal and India.

His triumphs include winning the KLM Silver Dagger Tournament in Dubai in 1993, the Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup, the Malaysia Cup (twice), the Pakistan Cup and the Aga Khan Gold Cup.

Aminul returns from London

Vice-captain Aminul Islam Bulbul has returned from London yesterday morning to join his teammates who are busy in taking final preparations for the forthcoming four-nation sixth Asia Cup, beginning in Colombo from July 14.

With permission of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Aminul was playing for the Bristol Cricket Club in the 14-team Central Yorkshire Professional league in London.

During his two-month stay in England the key player of the national team showed pretty solid performance for his adopted country.

He scored 411 runs which included five fifties and captured ten wickets in 11 matches, told the dark and dapper all-rounder to the Daily Star last evening. He hoped to join the county team after the Asia Cup.

The fans and management of the Bristol Cricket Club is extremely happy with my performance. They have already assured me to keep me in their team in the coming seasons', he said.

Australia in a stew

Australia were struggling with 173 for seven when bat light stopped play of the first day of the third Test against England at Old Trafford yesterday.

Mark Taylor's decision to bat first after winning toss soon backfired as the visitors lost three wickets for 78 runs before lunch.

Veteran Steve Waugh, with a gritty, 43 kept a lone battle to guide his to some respectability when the stumps were drawn.

Before the lunch England's medium pace attack, led by the history-making Dean Headley, sent shock waves through the Australian batting in an eventful morning.

Headley setup Taylor's demise brilliantly. He hit the left hander on the side of the helmet with his fifth ball and an over later squared him up with a ball that cut away, taking the outside edge en route to Graham Thorpe at first slip.

Mark Waugh, fresh from a brilliant 173 in Australia's innings win over Hampshire before the Test, was caught behind off Ealham.

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Trauma for the neutrals

Having a closeup view of the way an event is watched in Bangladesh over the past twenty years, it leaves one skeptical whether the game of cricket here needs any neutral follower of the game. You have to choose between India or Pakistan period. More amazing is the fact that this trend is gaining strength at a time when we are working ourselves onto the path of formal recognition as an international cricket team.

While the emotional attachment of an ardent fan to any favourite side or team or even nation can always be sympathized, discussions around a match between India and Pakistan leading to arguments which are better seen in a political campaign can only confuse the neutrals who obviously care more about the game than its exponents. Tony Greg, the former Captain of the English cricket team now a prominent commentator of the game, on several occasions has expressed his amazement at the level of tension and exuberance displayed by the respective fans during an Indo-Pak match in these countries. To him, the excitement is at times even greater than a traditional Ashes match between England and Australia. Coming from a player who has played some nail-biting Ashes games in the

70s this is a strong enough certificate. One wonders what Tony's reactions would be if only he had seen the Indo-Pak supporters in Bangladesh.

The nature of the support, one is convinced, is of entirely different proportions in Bangladesh. The very recently concluded independence Cup in India featuring India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand in all its excitement and glory has yet been another platform where the Indo-Pak fans in Bangladesh have demonstrated their feelings to each other which are not simply confined to the innocence of the game but to a more complicated political and at times embarrassingly communal fervour. The role of a neutral was unacceptable and construed as passive meaning that if you do not support Pakistan then you have to be an Indian fan and vice-versa.

If there is one reason for which we must be thankful(?) to our preceding generations it is the way they have fashioned our culture for ages by which every singular attitude has to be motivated by a pro-India and pro-Pakistan or anti-India and anti-Pakistani feeling. Indeed they have fashioned it so well, that even after a quarter of a century since Bangladesh became an independent country, this continues to dominate any agenda or argument in a political campaign but then used in sports it is ultimately threatening to kill the spirit beyond the

reality limit. History shows that we, the people of this country cannot practice moderation when it came to emotions and outburst of feelings. But how long can that be used as an excuse? After all India and Pakistan are not the last words of the game and will never be. Thus cricket or any other sport for that matter can never be an instrument for settling political differences. Realistically speaking, the political differences in Bangladesh concerning our neighbours are far too traditionally if not communally motivated for a sport to settle.

In all its glory the game of cricket has had its share of contribution towards humanity and peace over the years. Not long ago, South Africa was looked down as a country committed against humanity. Yet, the have now become one of the most popular teams around the world, thanks to as much as Nelson Mandela as the wonderful skills of Hansie Cronje, Alan Donald, Jonty Rhodes, Paul Adams, Gary Kirsten and others. Can we pause and take a leaf from their book?

Prejudiced by politics which is derived from traditional and communal animosity, no support is really worth anything in sports and no amount of emotional attachment can ever excuse that.

(The writer is a contributor to the Star Sport)

Reaz Shaheed

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Maurice Greene (R), who became the third fastest American of all time by clocking 9.90 seconds in the 100 metres dash at the IAAF Grand Prix in Lausanne, Switzerland on July 2, crosses the finish-line during the event. — AFP/UNB photo

Greene makes 'em green

Lausanne, Switzerland, July 3: Newly-crowned American champion Maurice Greene sent an intimidating warning to Olympic champion Donovan Bailey before next month's World Championships when he beat the Canadian in a high-class 100 metres race on Wednesday, report agencies.

Despite pouring rain at the Lausanne Grand Prix meeting, Greene came through strongly in the final 10 metres to hold off Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredericks and Bailey to win in 9.90 seconds.

The field was one of the fastest ever assembled outside

of an Olympic or World Championship final, six of the eight sprinters, had run under 10 seconds already this season.

The race included six of the finalists at last year's Atlanta Olympics and all three medalists — Bailey, Fredericks and Ato Boldon of Trinidad.

Greene was pushed all the way, Fredericks taking second only one hundredth of a second behind in 9.91 with Bailey third in 9.97. Britain's former world and Olympic champion Linford Christie could only finish seventh in 10.12. Boldon was sixth in 10.08.

After winning the US title last month — also in 9.90 seconds — Greene warned that it was time for an American to take control of the world of sprinting, after Wednesday's performance his rivals will have to take him very seriously indeed.

In the women's 100 metres, Gail Devers, who missed the US Championships because of injury, bounced back by beating American champion Marion Jones in 10.89 — the fastest time in the world this year.

Devers just dipped ahead of Jones, who finished one hundredth of a second behind. At the moment Devers cannot go to the World Championships because she missed the US trials and was not selected.

But the American could still compete in the 100 hurdles if athletics chiefs decide to give wild cards to defending champions, as is now expected.

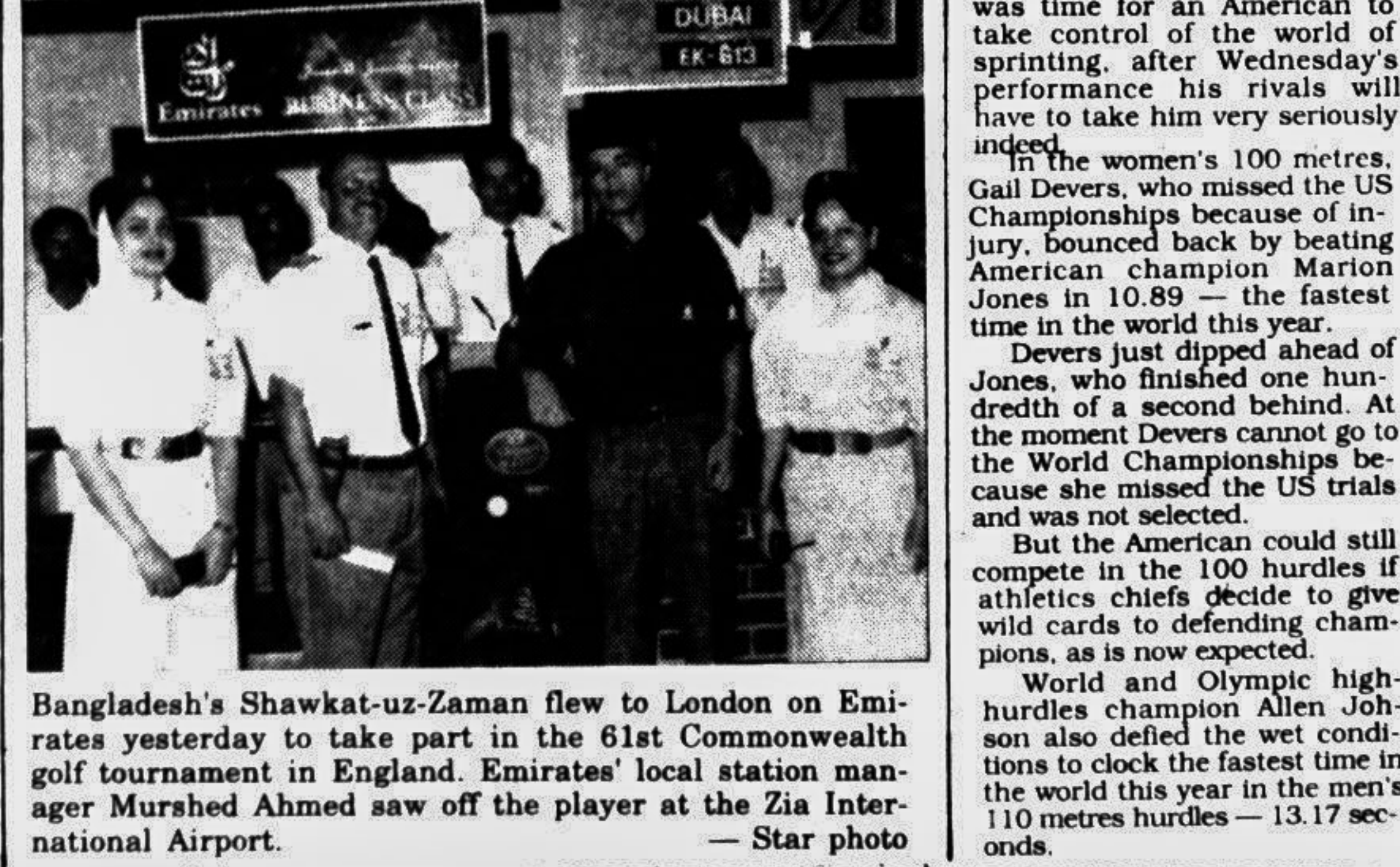
World and Olympic high-hurdles champion Allen Johnson also defied the wet conditions to clock the fastest time in the world this year in the men's 110 metres hurdles — 13.17 seconds.

equalling his own second fastest time in the world this year.

Bailey, who finished third, immediately played down the defeat but admitted he had finished badly. There was no sign of the devastating final burst which swept the towering Canadian to the 100 metres title at last year's Atlanta Olympics.

"My last 40 metres was pathetic at best, but I'm not worried. My first 60 has improved dramatically," he said. "I'm not worried about anybody that's here. Technically I know what went wrong."

The field was one of the fastest ever assembled outside



Bangladesh's Shawkat-uz-Zaman flew to London on Emirates yesterday to take part in the 61st Commonwealth golf tournament in England. Emirates' local station manager Murshed Ahmed saw off the player at the Zia International Airport. — Star photo

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Friday 4th July (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programme) BBC 6:00am BBC World News 6:30 Time Out: Building Signs 7:00 BBC World News 7:00 World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 8:45 50 Years Of Independence 8:50 BBC World News 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Top Gear 11:00 The World Today 12:00am The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 Time Out: Film '97 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc World Business Report & 24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight CHANNEL V 6:00am Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 Radio V 8:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Time Out: Building Signs 5:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC Newsdesk 6:30 World Focus Panorama 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Re-

port 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:25 50 Years Of Independence 8:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Top Gear 11:00 The World Today 12:00am The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 Time Out: Film '97 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc World Business Report & 24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight CHANNEL V 6:00am Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 Radio V 8:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Time Out: Building Signs 5:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC Newsdesk 6:30 World Focus Panorama 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Re-

back 3:30 Simply South 4:00 Soul Curry 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 6:00 Billboard US Countdown 8:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 9:00 The Indian Top 10 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 The Ticket 11:00 V Spot 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 Haysah 2:00 Says Mahu VJ Alessandra 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Sigaw Manila VJ Joey 5:00 The Drum 5:30 Over The Edge STAR PLUS 6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:00 Business Agenda 9:30 Nine To Five 10:00 The Urban Peasant 10:30 Media TV 11:00 The Wonder Years 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Space Above And Beyond 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Shrun 3:30 Men Awaz Suno 4:00 Tu Tu Main Man 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 Doogie Howser M D 6:00pm The Wonder Years 6:30 The Ur-

ban Peasant 7:00 Awaz 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Meri Pasand 8:30 Jeene Bhi Do Yaaro 9:00 Kaleidoscope 9:30 Star News 10:00 Porridge 10:30 Picket Fences 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00m Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 1:30 Chicago Hope 2:30 Burke's Law 3:30 Vega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 Barnaby Jones STAR SPORTS 6:30am International Motorsports News 7:30 Wimbledon Ladies Singles SF HL 8:30 International Tests New Zealand v Argentina From Hamilton 10:30 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships 1997 From London, UK Ladies Singles Semi Finals & Ladies Doubles Semi Finals 4:00 European Tour 1997 Peugeot Open De France Highlights 5:00 F1 Powerboats World Championships-1 5:30 Samsung Nations Cup-5 6:30 Wrestling

Federation Live Wire 7:30 US PGA Tour 1997 Fed Ex St Jude Classic Final Day 9:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Men's Singles Semifinal 1:30 Sports India 2:00 Marlboro League CNFL HL 2:30 Sport Unlimited 3:30 Samsung Nations Cup 4:30 International Motorsports News 5:30 US PGA Tour 1997 Fed Ex St Jude Classic Day 1 STAR MOVIES 7:30am Classic: The Long Duel 12 9:30 Film Club: Thank You Jack 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Action: Best Seller 15 1:30 Adventure: A Cry In The Wild 12 3:30 Family: Josh And S A M 15 5:30 Family: Asterix The Gaul G (Arabic Subtitles) 7:30 Adventure: Avalanche 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 UK Top Ten 10:00 Gold: Bad Girls 15 12:00 Friday Fury: One Man Army 18 2:00 After Dark: Dangerous Desires 18 4:00 Western: Gandidos 5:30 Thriller: Mr Wrong 15

PTV 08:00 TILAWAT AUR TARJUMA/HAMD/NAAT 8:20 BOLTAI HAATHI 08:35 Sada E-Kashmir 09:10 DASTAR 11:00 KHABRAIN 11:15 English Film 11:45 Sports Prog. 02:02 BISMILLAH 02:15 FEHM-UL-QURAN 02:40 NATAK RANG (SINDHI) 03:25 Ek Raat Ek Kahani (Drama) 04:40 Sehat Aur Sukoon (Drama) 05:25 Biology for 10th 05:55 Uffag (Serial) 06:25 AIQU COURSE 07:20 Full House (Comedy Eng Film) 7:45 ENGLISH NEWS 8:10 Fun Time Poppet Show 8:45 Paal Do Paal (Serial) 9:00 Break for Headlines News EL TV 7:00 Yeदन Ki Baraat 7:30 Stand By (Trailer Show) 7:40 Gujra Hua Zamana 8:20 Hasen Pal 8:30 FI Or Fat 9:00 Awaz Naye Andaz Wahi 9:30

News Line (Serial) 10:00 Hindi Feature Film 1:00 Liberty Public Demand 2:00 Gujrati Prog: Sapna Na Vavetar 3:00 Aaha 3:30 Mast Mast Show 4:00 Tanu 4:30 HFF 7:20 Zed 7:50 Huseen Pal (Trailer Show) 8:00 Hindi Film 10:30 Stand By (Trailer Film) 10:45 Hindi Feature Film 2:30 Sairanj 2:30 Chori Chori 3:00 Its My Choices 3:30 Amar Prem 4:00 Hindi Feature Film DD 7 10:30 Janmadin (Birth Day Greetings) 11:00 Rabindra Sangeet 11:15 Light Instrumental-Folk Songs 11:30 Play 12:30 Serial: Chuti Chuti 1:30 Trishna (Serial) 2:00 Kuasha Zakhn (Serial) 2:30 Bakul Katha (Serial) 3:00 Ananyabhavan (Serial) 3:30 Feludco (Sandip Roys Serial) 5:05 Nepali Prog: 5:30 News 5:35 Shipa Jagat / Health Prog: 6:00 Janmabhumi (Serial: Sab-

baysachi, Anuradha, Shankar) 6:30 Aei Sande Ki Anande (Serial) 7:00 Palti Katha: Banglar Mukti Sushastha 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Ghom Nai (Serial) 8:30 Tanapanor (Serial) 9:00 Janmabhumi (Serial: Sab-baysachi, Anuradha, Shankar) 9:25 Sahitya Samshkriti 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show 01:00 Closed SONY ET 8:30 Public Kya Bola (Hil Songs Show) 9:00 Double O Slip (Game Show) 9:30 Dennis The Menace (Hindi Dubb English Film) 10:00 I Dream Of Jeannie (Lary Hugman) 10:30 Bewitched 11:00 Taak Jhaak 11:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 12:00 Faste 12:30 Premier 1:00 Thoda Hai Thoda Journal (Serial) 1:30 The Young And The Restless 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film: Rang Berang (Dipti Naval, Peervin Bony) 5:30 Double O Slip (Game Show) 6:00 Dennis

The Menace (Hindi Dubb English Film) 6:30 Public Kya Bola 7:00 I Dream Of Jeannie (Hindi Dubb English Film) 7:30 Bewitched 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune (Game Show) 8:30 Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film: Victoria No.203 11:30 Premier 12:00 Chamatkarak (Serial) 12:30 Take Five 1:00 Kanchan Rasoi Show 1:30 Good Shot 2:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune (Game Show) 2:30 Closed ZEE TV 6:00 Jagran 6:30 A