

Damal Summer cricket Sept 26

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) yesterday decided to begin its cricket season 1997-98 by starting the Damal Summer cricket tournament on September 26, reports BSS.

Ferdinand eying European slot

LONDON, July 29: England striker Les Ferdinand is ready to help bring some glory back to Tottenham Hotspur after completing his six million pounds (9.9 million dollars) move from Newcastle United on Monday, reports Reuters.

Ferdinand's return to London enables him to link up again with his former manager at Queens Park Rangers, Gerry Francis, who is now Tottenham team boss.

"Gerry and I worked well together at QPR and now I am hoping we can work well together and bring Spurs some glory," Ferdinand said at a news conference at Tottenham's training headquarters.

"Gerry must take a lot of credit for getting me into the England squad and getting me on the right road."

"It feels like coming home to the family again. Not just Gerry, but Andy Ginoia and Fuel Fox, but also David Sinton from my QPR days and Sol Campbell from the England squad. There are a lot of players that I have played with before."

"I am very excited and success is definitely on the cards when everyone here is fit. Our main aim for next season will be a European place."

Tottenham's last triumph came in 1991 when they won the FA Cup.

Korda, Henman falter early

MONTREAL, July 29: Ninth-seeded Czech Petr Korda and 10th-seeded Tim Henman of Britain were first-round casualties here Monday in the 2.3 million-dollar Canadian Open ATP Tour tournament, report agencies.

Little-known Canadian wild-card Sebastien LeBlanc stunned Henman, ranked 18th in the world 7-6, 4-6, 6-3.

Korda became the latest victim of American giant-killer Justin Gimelstob.

Gimelstob beat French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten in the first round of Wimbledon, and last week stopped former world number one Andre Agassi in the first round in Los Angeles.

He beat Korda, ranked 16th in the world, 6-4, 6-4. Gimelstob got his win in before rain delayed the afternoon and evening matches.

In other action, defending champion Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, the 13th seed, defeated Czech Daniel Vacek 7-6, 6-1.

The top eight seeds have first-round byes in the event, one of the ATP tour's prestigious Super 9 tournaments.

Michael Chang of the United States looks to continue his hardcourt dominance this week as the top seed.

Chang brings a 10-match winning streak on hardcourts into this week's tournament. He has a 28-3 record on the surface this year, including titles in Memphis, Indian Wells, Hong Kong, and Washington two weeks ago.

The second seed is Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, who owns a 44-15 match record this season, including a 16-6 mark on hardcourts. He won his 18th and 19th career singles titles earlier this year at Zagreb and Milan, respectively, and reached the finals at Dubai and the Queen's Club.

World number one Pete Sampras withdrew from the event last week with a nagging arm injury.

In other matches Monday, 12th-seeded Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden beat Bobby Kokavec of Canada 6-2, 6-3 and No. 15 Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands defeated Leander Paes of India 6-3, 6-4.

Manikganj football

MANIKGANJ, July 29: The Second Division football tournament sponsored by the Manikganj District Sports Association began at the local Meraj-Tapan stadium on Friday last, reports BSS.

8:25 50 Years Of Independence 8:30 World Living: Building Sights 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 9:55 50 Years Of Independence 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living: Holiday 11:00 The World Today 12:00am The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World News 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living: Top Gear 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

STAR PLUS

6:00am Hebat VJ Alessandra 7:00 Tune in T.V. 8:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 9:30 Tune in T.V. 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Simply South 3:30 Rexona Deo Out There

CHANNEL V

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Action from Tuesday's 14th Federation Cup tournament encounter between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Youngmens Club Fakirerpool at the Mirpur Stadium. Mohammedan won 2-0.

Mohammedans take lead

Sports Reporter

Holdings Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their second successive victory in the 14th Federation Cup football tournament defeating Youngmens Club Fakirerpool by two goals to nil in a group one match played at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Defender Ruhul Amin and midfielder Mohammad Arman struck one goal each for the black and whites who enjoyed a solitary goal lead in the first half.

Mohammedans, who thrashed Arambagh Kirra Sangha 4-1 in their previous match on Sunday, began their second match on a promising note taking the lead after only the third minute through a rainbow shot that left the Youngmens custodian Lalul awe-struck.

The margin could have been doubled had Arman's volley from a goalmouth melee not hit the cross piece a minute later.

After sustaining the initial Mohammedan pressure, Youngmens, who lost their previous match to Brothers Union, tried through a series of offensives to the equalise. But their efforts were thwarted by the antics of Mohammedan custodian Ponir.

After the breather, Youngmens had another chance in the 50th minute when substitute Mamun got the ball inside the danger area with only Ponir to beat. Unfortunately he saw his intelligent placing shot rebound off the near post.

After being in the defensive mode for most of the second session, Mohammedans made a late rally and added more to their credit when Arman volleyed from 25 yards in the 83rd minute.

With the win, Mohammedans earned a solo lead in the four-team group and almost confirmed a berth in the semifinals having raised their tally to six points.

If Mohammedans win or the game is drawn, Arambagh will qualify.

On the other hand, if Brothers Union can beat Mohammedans, all the three teams will have equal six points and the semifinals will be decided on goal averages.

Today's matches: Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC vs Agrani Bank SC (4 pm), Abahani KC vs BRTC SC (6 pm).

Armbagh midfielder Roxy trying to overcome an unidentified Brothers' Union defender during yesterday's 14th Federation Cup clash at the Mirpur Stadium. Arambagh won the tie 2-1.

Athens' pride at stake

ATHENS, July 29: International sports officials keep telling Greeks the World Championships is the biggest sports event they will host since the first modern Olympic Games were held here in 1896, reports AP.

But Greeks hope that Athens' successful hosting of the championships Aug 1-10 will convince sports officials to let them win an even bigger prize: the 2004 Summer Olympics.

The benefits from the championships will be enormous. The image of Greece will be at the epicenter of international attention, an event that can't be translated into economic terms, said Sports Minister Andreas Fouras.

Sports officials here are hoping members of the International Olympic Committee will be impressed enough to vote for Athens when they meet in Lausanne, Switzerland, Sept 5 to pick the host city.

Other contenders are Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Rome; and Stockholm, Sweden.

"We hope the foreign delegations will become ambassadors of goodwill for Greece, something exceptionally important for us since the final decision on the Athens candidacy for the Olympic Games of 2004 is due very soon," Fouras said.

He has made the comment so often in recent months that organizers of the World Championships have even included it in their news bulletin.

"It will go hand in hand with Athens' bid for the 2004 Olympics" said IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai.

Organisers have spared no expense to spruce up the capital and spent 5.6 billion drachmas (20 million dollars) to stage the event. State television has spent an additional 2.8 billion drachmas (10 million dollars)

Rochi, Rinu clinch titles

Sports Reporter

Mosaddequl Haq Rochi lifted the men's title while Rinu won the women's crown of the Open table tennis championships at the NSC wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Rochi, the national old guard defeated Hamlet in the final by three sets to one. The southpaw won the first two sets (21-12, 21-19) quite convincingly. But Hamlet showed signs of a fightback by winning the third set 21-16 before being went down fighting to the experienced Rochi 15-21 in the fourth and final set.

The final of the women's singles, however, was lopsided affair with Rinu rolling up a hapless Rumi by 21-9, 21-11, 21-12.

Meanwhile, the boys' final produced a surprise champion in Tuhin, who to notched the title in his first appearance in any major tournament. The youngster from Armanitola defeated Gautam in a gruelling five-setter (18-21, 21-18, 22-20, 10-21, 21-17).

Saved Yusuf Hossain, the president of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, later distributed prizes among the winners. The three-day meet, second of its kind, began on July 27.

Kipketer, who's age varies from 26 to 29, has hardly stopped breaking records and winning since he missed out on the Olympics last year because of intransigence on the part of the Kenyan Olympic Committee.

The committee did not want to see one of their own, the reigning world outdoor 800 metres champion, winning gold under a different flag.

Kipketer, who moved to Denmark in 1991, broke his former compatriot Paul Ereng's world indoor 800 metres record at the World Indoor Championships in March and the improved on it two days later in the final.

"I felt that it would be worth seeing how my training regime was going and I think I can say that I shouldn't change a thing," Kipketer said.

In typical disarming fashion Kipketer said that he had only decided on coming to the World Indoors at the last moment.

Kipketer never gives very much away and said he would train and attempt to break Sebastian Coe's outdoor 800 metres world record of 1:41.73 — the longest standing men's world record set in 1981 — in his own way.

"I do not study videos of Coe's races and I don't want to know how he trained. He may have been quicker over 200 or 400 but it's not important to me as the way he trained could be bad for me. I will continue to train in my own style," Kipketer said.

He duly went out in Stockholm and equalled it though his reaction was more one of relief that people would stop asking him questions about it.

"I could hardly run in the last 50 yards. I just pushed myself but it felt as if I was not moving," said an exhausted but delighted Kipketer afterwards.

Kipketer decided to leave his farming parents Malakwen and Docars when Dane over Bjarn Kraft in 1991 persuaded Kipketer and Robert Kiplagat to leave for Denmark — a decision which Kipketer at first regretted.

"I thought what on earth have I done coming here, why didn't I go to the United States? However, as I got involved more in the community then I settled down and I really liked it," he said.

Denmark's favourite adopted son may feel nothing much happens but if he brings home a second gold and sole position of the outdoor world record he will find that underneath it all the Danes like nothing more than a fiesta.

Sotomayor hopes against hope

ATHENS, July 29: For Cuban superstar Javier Sotomayor, the competition is the least of his problems, reports AFP.

Injury is the biggest fear for the 29-year-old physical education teacher.

In Atlanta last year the injury-prone Sotomayor failed to live up to his Houndini image when he lost his Olympic crown after just one successful clearance.

The Cuban, hampered again by knee and ankle injuries, was forced to pack it up and trudge disconsolately off after failing at 2.32m — a height he would normally clear in his sleep.

Sotomayor is the only man in the world with Olympic, world indoor and outdoor titles to his name as well as the world record but they have all come at a high physical price.

At times, as he hobbles round the infield, the Cuban looks anything but a prime athlete.

Following in fathers' footsteps!

NAPLES, July 29: Diego Maradona Jnr has signed up for his natural father's former club at the tender age of 10, reports AFP.

Maradona Sr, whose seven-year spell with Napoli ended in 1991 when he fled for charges, has never admitted being the boy's father.

The youngster, the centre of attention earlier this year when he played in a tournament near Naples, signed on Monday for one of Napoli's junior teams next season.

An Italian court ruled in 1995 that the youngster was the result of an affair between Maradona and Cristina Sinagra.

Barca, Inter in stalemate

ZURICH, July 29: Representatives of Inter Milan and Barcelona failed Tuesday to agree on a price for the world's best and — already most expensive — player, Ronaldo, reports AP.

FIFA, therefore, will suggest a proposal for a transfer fee Wednesday, said spokesman Andreas Herren.

If the two sides fail to accept that, then a special FIFA committee will meet early September to "deal with the matter for good," he said.

Inter already has paid 27 million dollars to free the 20-year-old Brazilian from his contract with Barcelona. This is addition to signing bonus of 14 million dollars and a salary of 3 million dollars per year.

FIFA last week ruled that the 27 million dollars did not constitute a transfer fee and ordered the two sides to reach agreement on a sum by July 31. Otherwise it would intervene and set a figure, it warned.

Liverpool's denial

BONN, July 29: Liverpool said on Monday they had not made an offer for German international striker Karlheinz Riedle despite reports to the contrary from Borussia Dortmund, reports Reuters.

Kipketer keeps his own kind



WILSON KIPKETER

ATHENS, July 29: Denmark's Kenyan-born dual world record holder Wilson Kipketer is certain not to rest on his laurels or live up to his name which translates into born on the verandah when the 800 metres heats get underway at the World Championships, reports AFP.

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Rally of NZ begins Aug 2

After almost two months break from the World Rally Championship, the leading contenders now head Down Under to the southernmost event on the calendar, the Rally of New Zealand which will be held August 2-5. On this, the ninth round of the series, the 555 Subaru World Rally Team have high hopes of victory with triple event winner and 1995 World Champion, Colin McRae, and teammate and double Asia-Pacific Rally Champion, Kenneth Eriksson, behind the

est rivals, Mitsubishi. Fresh from their commanding 1-2 on the 555 China Rally, Colin and Kenneth hold first and second positions in the Asia-Pacific Drivers Championship (equal with Rui Madeira and Yoshihiro Kataoka respectively), while Colin sits poised behind Tommi Makinen in the World Drivers' Championship stakes.

Newly-wed Colin McRae has an outstanding reputation on the Rally of New Zealand the most established event on the Asia-Pacific Rally Champi-

onship. In the all-conquering Subaru Impreza 555, the Scot took consecutive victories in 1993, 1994 and 1995, and in doing so provided awesome displays of domination, especially on the notoriously long Motu stage. Despite the exclusion of this legendary section this year, McRae is confident of setting the pace at the head of a chasing pack.

"I have great memories of New Zealand, obviously," said the Scot. "The stages are good

and we always receive a warm welcome from the very enthusiastic locals," said Kenneth. "We had a battle on our hands last year with Richard (Burns), so victory this year would be very good. The competition will be tough though as both Colin and Carlos (Sainz) have an excellent record here, and Tommi (Makinen) will obviously want to build on his current lead in the World series. But, we have made some modifications to the Subaru Impreza 555, with revised steering and suspension geometry, and we are doing more testing before the race, so I feel pretty confident that Colin and I can give them a run for their money."

While leading the World series, Makinen may not be the 555 Subaru World Rally Team's greatest rivals, despite claims that New Zealand is tailor-made for the Mitsubishi. During the seven week break between Greece and New Zealand, the Escort World rally cars of Carlos Sainz and Juha Kankkunen have undergone significant development work that could well see them battling for the lead. This, coupled with Sainz's record of three wins (1990, 1991 and 1992) and Kankkunen's victory in 1986 en route to his first World title, could pose a considerable threat to all the other leading contenders.

Due to the nature of the stages in the dense forests and farmland of the North Island, the Rally of New Zealand is the ultimate test of driver skill and car performance. With some valuable experience 'down under', double Asia-Pacific Rally Champion, Kenneth Eriksson, is sure to be hot on the pace after narrowly missing out on victory last year.

"New Zealand is one of my favourite events. It has some of the best roads in the world for rallying and we always receive a warm welcome from the very enthusiastic locals," said Kenneth. "We had a battle on our hands last year with Richard (Burns), so victory this year would be very good. The competition will be tough though as both Colin and Carlos (Sainz) have an excellent record here, and Tommi (Makinen) will obviously want to build on his current lead in the World series. But, we have made some modifications to the Subaru Impreza 555, with revised steering and suspension geometry, and we are doing more testing before the race, so I feel pretty confident that Colin and I can give them a run for their money."

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The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Wednesday 30th July (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programme)

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Airport 7:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living: Holiday 11:00 The World Today 12:00am The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World News 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living: Top Gear 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

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STAR PLUS

6:30 Nainad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:00 Business Agenda 9:30 News To Five 10:00 Madeleine Cooks 10:30 E! Extreme Close Up Nicolas Cage 11:00 The Wonder Years 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Chicago Hope 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Kya Baat Hai 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 Doogie Howser MD 6:00 The Wonder Years 6:30pm Madeleine Cooks 7:00 The Great Escape 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30

STAR SPORTS

11:00 Thai Premier Cup 3/4 Play-Off 1:00 This is The PGA Tour 2:00 ATP Tour Miller Light Hall of Fame Semi Final 3:30 Malboro League 1997 Chinese National Football League 5:30 Sport Unlimited 7:30 Indonesian Open Badminton 1997 Semi-Finals 11:30 EPGA Dutch Open 12:30 International Motorsport News 1:30 Sepaktakraw 2:30 Sport Unlimited 3:30 Indonesian Open Badminton 1997 Semi-Finals

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Comedy: Widow's Peak 12 9:30 Thriller: The Abominable Dr Phibes 15 11:30 Thriller: Blink 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Family: Matt the Gooseboy? (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Romance: Blue Sky 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Comedy: Last (Hindi Subtitles) 7:00 Movie Television 7:30 Adventure: Covington Cross 15 9:30 The Movie Show 10:00 Double Bill: James Woods Curse of the Starving Class 15 11:30 India Star 5 12:00 Double Bill: James Woods Best Seller 15 2:00 Action: The New Gladiators 18 4:00 Comedy: Murie's Wedding 18 5:30 Family: Best Shot PG (Arabic Subtitles)

ZEE TV

6:00 Jagran 6:30 A to Z of Com-

EL TV

7:00 Yeadon Ki Baral 7:30 Stand By 7:40 Kishore Kumar Specials 8:20 Hasen Pal 8:30 Fat Or Fit 9:00 Awaz Naye Andaz Wohi 9:30 Scandal 10:00 HFF 1:00 Parcol Superhit Hangama 2:00 Sapna Na Vavalar 3:00 LT Chalo Cinema 3:30 Stormy Men Lorry 4:00 Tanav 4:30 HFF 7:50 Husen Pal 8:00 Aaha 8:30 Mast Mast Show 9:00 VIP No 1 9