

Warwickshire lift Sunday League title

LONDON, Sept 15: Warwickshire won the English Sunday League by beating Gloucestershire by 71 runs at Edgbaston as rivals Kent lost by seven wickets to Yorkshire at Headingley, reports Reuter.

Nick Knight, out for naught in humiliating NetWest final defeat by Essex, on September 7 bounced back with 102 as Warwickshire took the title by two points — their seventh trophy in five seasons.

Warwickshire scored 221 for six in their 40 overs and then skittled Gloucester for 150.

Allan Donald took four wickets — including the last — and was chaired from the field by delighted fans. Left-arm spinner Ashley Giles also picked up four.

Gloucestershire were 129 for six when the announcement was made that Kent had lost. From then on the noise level grew as the victory drew near.

Kent started the day top of the standings and would have taken the crown for the second time in three years with a win.

But they struggled to 185 for eight and were helpless as Yorkshire raced to victory for the loss of just three wickets with 10 overs to spare.

Australian Darren Lehmann smashed a quickfire 78 off 68 balls to ruin Kent's hopes.

Mashonaland 130 runs ahead

HARARE, Sept 15: Mashonaland batted themselves into a strong position on the second day of their three-day game against the New Zealanders on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Craig Evans, David Houghton and Grant Flower made half centuries as Mashonaland reached 351, a first innings lead of 177.

By the close, New Zealand had reduced the arrears by 47 runs for the loss of Blair Pocock, out for four.

Close score: New Zealand 174 and 47-1. Mashonaland 351 (Craig Evans 63, David Houghton 57, Grant Flower 55, Shayne O'Connor 3-57).

Schools TT on

Sports Reporter

Narail, Jessore, Dhaka and Narail Govt High School moved into the boys team group finals as the Green Delta Insurance national schools table tennis championships began at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday under the auspices of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation.

On the inaugural day of the four-day meet, Narail earned a berth in the nine-team Group A final with a 3-0 victory over Rajshahi. In today's final, they will take on Jessore who defeated Rangpur by an identical margin.

Group B, Dhaka beat Khulna 3-0 to set up a final clash with Narail Govt High School who also enjoyed a straight sets victory over Lalmonirhat.

Besides, in the girls team event, Patuakhali, Narail, Jessore and Gaibandha cruised into their group finals out playing Pirojpur, Khulna, Rangpur and Narail Govt High School respectively.

In today's group finals, Patuakhali will take on Narail while Jessore will face Gaibandha.

A total of 14 district teams and five individual educational institutions are taking part in the meet which will end on Thursday.

AFC awards for August

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) named a Japanese club team of the month, a South Korean coach of the month and an Iranian the Asian player-of-the-month, reports AP.

Japan's Jubilo Iwata was named the best team for August by the confederation, whose headquarters are in Kuala Lumpur.

Iran's Ali Daei, who recently joined Arminia Bielefeld to play in the Bundesliga, was the best player for August.

Coach of the month was Kim Ho, the man in charge of South Korea's league team Suwon Bluewings.

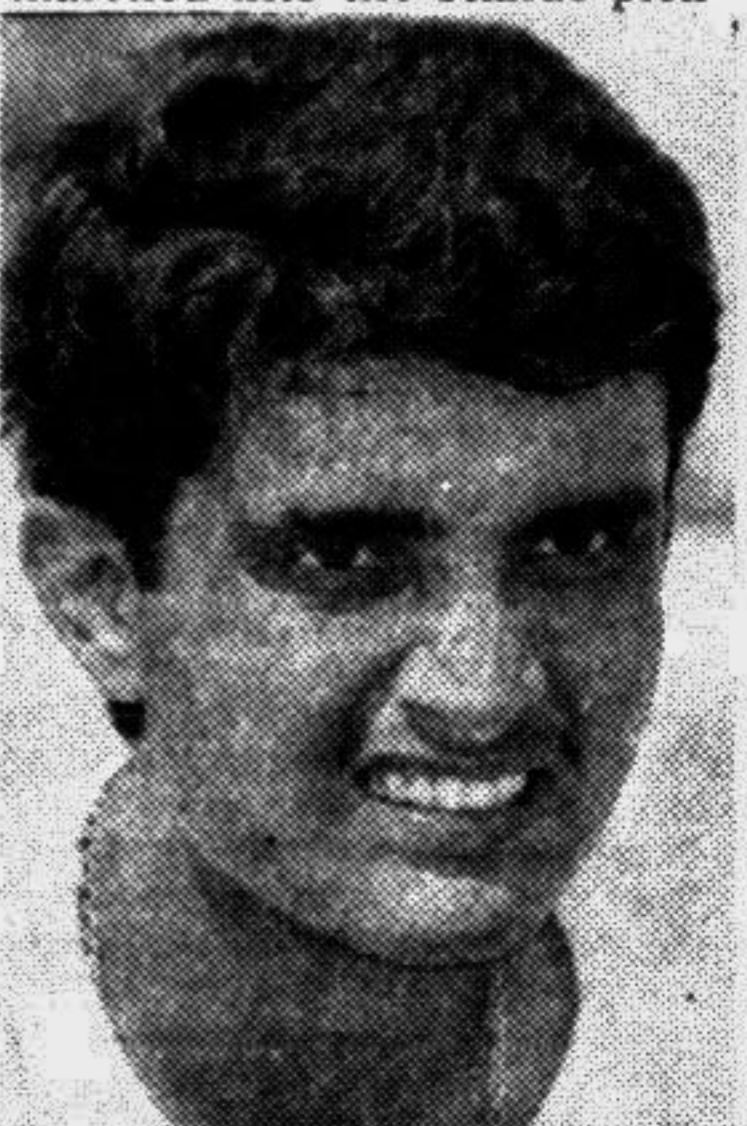
Two-match ban on Inzamam

Pakistan stoop to India



TORONTO, Sept 15: A crowd disturbance prompted by a confrontation between a leading player and spectator overshadowed India's seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in the second match of the five-game Sahara Cup series on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Experienced Pakistan Test player Inzamamul Haq marched into the stands pick-



up a bat en route to an ugly face-off with a megaphone-wielding spectator, sending a section of the 4,000-strong crowd into a frenzy and halting the match.

Before the situation could escalate, Inzamam was quickly led away by team and match officials while police and ground staff covered on the area where the incident occurred.

As the flag waving fans protested by throwing bottles and other debris onto the ground at the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club, officials stopped play and ordered the players to the changing rooms.

After the match, the International Cricket Council, in consultation with match referee Jackie Hendricks, suspended Inzamam for two one-day internationals and gave him a suspended sentence for one additional match to be enforced if there is any further incident before the end of the year.

India had been cruising to victory at 45-1 from 16 overs, pursuing Pakistan's pitiful 116 all out total when play was halted.

They resumed their task 37 minutes later, Inzamam taking

up his position in the fielding side.

The seaming wicket made the batsmen's task awkward but experienced Sachin Tendulkar (25 not out) and Mohammad Azharuddin (21 not out) guided India to a winning total of 117-3 off 34.4 overs.

Following their 20-run victory on Saturday, India held a 2-0 advantage in the five-match series.

Pakistan won the Sahara Cup last year 3-2, in a series telecast to tens of millions in the sub-continent from the cricketing outpost of Toronto.

The teams rarely meet on home grounds because of intense political tension between the nations.

Playing on "neutral" ground in Toronto, cricket officials hoped to use the occasion to promote the game in North America.

However, Sunday's extraordinary scenes did little to advance the cause.

Disturbances at cricket matches are relatively infrequent and the use of megaphones to insult players is something most international players have never experienced.

Acting as a commentator while sidelined with injury, Pakistan captain Wasim Akram told the international television audience that Inzamam was the "calmest guy" in the Pakistan side.

He said Inzamam, a veteran of 144 one-day internationals, told him the spectator had been swearing and hurling insults.

The incident took the gloss of a fine bowling performance from India's young pace attack, particularly Debashish Mohanty (three for 15 from seven overs), his opening partner Abey Kuruvilla (two for 29 from ten) and all-rounder Saurav Ganguly (two for 16 from nine).

Mohanty a new face on the international scene was particularly effective in the helpful conditions, moving the ball in the air and off the seam to confound the Pakistani batsmen.

Only veteran Salim Malik offered any real resistance, his 36 on Sunday followed a 64 in the first match of the series on Saturday.

Ganguly followed up his tidy bowling display by striking 32 runs with the bat, earning him the man-of-the-match award.

The third match in the series was scheduled for Wednesday.

Scoreboard of the second one-day international cricket match of the Sahara Cup series between Pakistan and India at

the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club on Sunday:

PAKISTAN				
Anwar c Harvinder b Mohanty	12			
Afridi b Mohanty	0			
Raja c Mohanty b Robin	8			
Ijaz c Azhar b Mohanty	4			
Inzamam c Karim b Robin	10			
Malik c and b Ganguly	36			
Moin run out	1			
Saqilain c Karim b Kuruvilla	21			
Mahmood c Azhar b Ganguly	8			
Aaqib c Azhar b Kuruvilla	0			
Kabir not out	1			
Extras: (lb-4, w-6, nb-5)	15			



INZAMAM

Total: (all out in 45 overs) 116

Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-17; 3-26; 4-41; 5-50; 6-66; 7-91; 8-115; 9-115

Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Kuruvilla	10	0	29	2
Mohanty	7	1	15	3
Harvinder	8	2	19	0
Robin	6	2	22	2
Ganguly	9	2	16	2
Kulkarni	5	0	11	0

INDIA

Ganguly c Inzamam b Saqlain 32 |

Karim b Mahmood 9 |

David run out 14 |

Tendulkar not out 25 |

Azhar not out 21 |

Extras: (nb-7, w-6, b-1, lb-2) 16 |

Total: (for 3 wts in 34.4 overs) 117

Fall of wickets: 1-34; 2-63; 3-69

Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Aaqib	10	2	46	0
Kabir	0.3	0	0	0
Mahmood	9.3	1	28	1
Ijaz	5	0	11	0
Saqilain	8	2	24	1
Afridi	1	0	3	0
Anwar	0.4	0	2	0

Result: India won by 7 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly.

Series: India lead the 5-ODI series 2-0.



An unidentified Air Force man in action during the lone Cute First Division match against Christian Youth Club yesterday. —Star photo

BFF to probe into SAFF debacle

Sports Reporter

A three-member probe committee has been formed by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to find out the reason behind the booters' disastrous performance in the just-concluded first SAFF Championship in Nepal.

The executive body of the football federation nominated its treasurer Dr. Shamimuzzaman Basunia as the head of the commission in a meeting at the Dhaka Stadium last night. Zafar Imam and Amalesh Sen are the other members of the committee which is directed to submit its findings by September 25.

The executive committee, with Abdul Muhit Chowdhury in the chair in absence of their never-expected-to-be-present president Mohammad Hanif, discussed on the only available official report of Bangladesh team manager Shah Alam Chowdhury. Although the shameful exhibition of the footballers made the sports-loving nation fly of the handle, Mayor Hanif did not even bother to show up in his office at the stadium arena, let alone his sense of accountability.

The committee however without its nearly non-existing president decided to meet the press within this week.

Otto Pfister, the German coach of the national team and BFF's probable scapegoat, is yet to submit his report on the Kathmandu trip.

Bangladesh, who were tipped as the pre-tournament favourites, bowed out of the six-nation tournament at the league phase. They first drew with tournament's darkhorse Maldives and then went down to India 3-0 to confirm the humiliating exit.

The six-round tournament, sponsored by Omar Sultan, ended on Sunday with top seven players receiving Tk 10,000 as cash prizes.

Cute handball

Sports Reporter

Favourites Bangladesh Air Force recorded their fourth successive victory in the Cute First Division handball league with an easy 4-1-15 win over Christian Youth Club in yesterday's lone match held at the handball court adjacent to Dhaka Stadium.

The winners led the first half 22-8. BAF's Sultan was the highest scorer with 14 goals while his partner Shafiuddin added nine.

Saidul and Rony scored seven and four goals respectively for the Christians.

BAF earned a solo lead in the seven-team league having raised their tally to 12 points from four matches. It was the first defeat for their opponents from same number of outings which kept them on nine points.

Dhaka Mariner Young's Club will take on Victoria Sporting Club in today's match.

Inter-varsity chess Sept 21

Sports Reporter

The four-day Beximco Inter-university chess championship begins at the BUET auditorium from September 21.

Five universities Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, BAU and BUET, will participate in the meet, says a press release.

AKC's net practice

Sports Reporter

Premier League champions Abahani Krira Chakra will begin their net practice for the upcoming season this afternoon. A midweek will be held on this occasion at the club premises at 3 pm.

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In the 37th, the home side

Diego right on target



BUENOS AIRES, Sept 15: Diego Maradona celebrated his return from suspension by scoring from a penalty as his beloved Boca Juniors beat Newell's Old Boys 2-1 in the Argentine championship on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Maradona, who earlier in the day had categorically denied rumours that the match could be his last, converted a 42nd minute penalty to live up to a tedious encounter marred by crowd trouble.



Boca Junior's Diego Maradona tries to bring the ball under his control during the encounter against Newell's Old Boys in Buenos Aires on Sept 14. —AFP/UNB photo

He was given in a rapturous reception by the Boca faithful and played until the 61st minute, when his 36 years got the better of him and he was

substituted by Diego Latorre.

Maradona had been provisionally suspended by the Argentine Football Association (AFA) after failing a dope test but on Tuesday a federal court ordered the ban to be lifted pending an investigation into the test sought by Maradona's lawyer.

The test had been taken after Boca's opening game in the championship, when they beat Argentinos Juniors and Maradona again scored from a penalty. Maradona has sworn on his daughters lives that he

served two 15-month suspensions since 1990 and a further ban would almost certainly spell the end of his playing days.

Hospital sources said several people in the stadium were injured when one of dozens of firecrackers let off during the match exploded amongst group of fans.

Fighting was also reported in the streets around Boca's "Chocolate Box" Stadium which is situated in one of the roughest areas of Buenos Aires, before and during the game.

Once Maradona had gone off, Newell's equalised through Josemir Lujambio but Boca took the points when Guillermo Barros Schelotto scored 10 minutes from time.

Boca, the most fanatically supported club in Argentina, are in a leading group of five clubs who all have seven points from three games in the Apertura Championship.

Their arch-rivals River Plate are also in the group after a convincing 3-0 win away to Ferro Carril Oeste.

River, far from the limelight which has surrounded Boca and Maradona, took a first half lead through Chilean international Marcelo Salas and sealed their win with goals by Ismael Medina Bello and Hernan Diaz.

Paraguay captain Jose Luis Chilavert showed some orthodox goalkeeping skills as he repeatedly defied Union's strikers and helped Veloso Sarsfield to a 3-1 away win.

Chilavert, who on Wednesday helped his country qualify for the World Cup, is better known for his ability to take free kicks, his volatile temper and his outspoken opinions.

DHL Ryder Cup express carrier

Sports Reporter

DHL, a worldwide courier service, has been appointed the official express carrier of the 1997 Ryder Cup, says a press release.

The three-day competition, an annual meeting among the best golfers from USA and Europe which is dubbed as the world's most prestigious international event, will commence at the Valderrama Club course in Spain on September 26.

Ronaldo opens his account



ROME, Sept 15: Brazilian striker Ronaldo dedicated his first league goal for Inter Milan to the club's fans on Sunday but he might have spared a special thought for his biggest supporter — club president Massimo Moratti, reports Reuter.

Moratti was the man responsible for paying Barcelona 28 million dollars for Ronaldo and the nature of the Brazilian's 50th minute goal in Inter's impressive 4-2 win at Bologna underlined why.

"It put me in a really good mood," admitted Moratti.

In one smooth movement, the Brazilian turned Massimo Paganin — ironically, a teammate until signing for Bologna last week — outpaced another defender and placed a low shot past goalkeeper Alex Brunner at the near post.

Victory makes Inter and Fiorentina, 3-1 winners at home to Bari, early season pace-setters with a maximum six points from their first two matches, the two clash next Sunday in Milan.

Roma and Juventus cancelled out their 100 per cent records in a 0-0 draw at the Olympic Stadium memorable for its goalkeeper.

Juve's Italy international Angelo Peruzzi pulled off a superb double save from Francesco Totti in the first-half while Roma's Austrian keeper Michael Konsul showed sharp reflexes to twice deny Filippo Inzaghi.

Despite a front-line boasting the talent of Ronaldo, Maurizio Ganz and France's Youri Djorkaeff, Inter needed a defender to make the breakthrough against Bologna — Fabio Galante heading in Djorkaeff's corner in the 12th minute.

In the 37th, the home side

were caught pushing forward by Ganz's 20-metre run and classic counter-attack finish.

On the brink of half-time, however, Roberto Baggio brought Bologna back in the match with a trademark freekick, struck from just outside the area.

Baggio, who has showed signs of revival since his mid-summer move from Milan, again came to Bologna's rescue after Ronaldo's superb effort — slotting home a 58th minute penalty.

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