

Premier soccer league from Oct 10

Sports Reporter

The Premier Division football league, will begin at the Mirpur Stadium from October 10. Abdur Rahim, president of Dhaka Mahanagar Football League Committee (DMFLC) confirmed yesterday.

Ten teams will be featuring in the meet which will be held on double league basis with two matches scheduled for a day.

Defending champions Mohammad Sporting Club will meet promoters Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the inaugural match.

According to Rahim, efforts are underway to hold both the matches in day time. If the decision is taken, the first match will kick off at 2 pm followed by the second at 4 pm.

Following ten teams will participate in the Premier League: Mohammad SC, Abahani KC, Mukti Joddha Sangsad, Youngmen's Club Fakirpool, Arambagh KS, Farashganj SC, Agrani Bank, Brothers Union, Victoria SC and Rahmatganj MFS.

Rain plays foul at Mirpur

Sports Reporter

Heavy afternoon shower washed out both of the Shamsuddin Spinning Mahanagar Cup football matches yesterday.

The day's first encounter between Rahmatganj Muslim Friends' Society and Farashganj Sporting Club was being played at the Mirpur Stadium till the half time when the rain started falling cats and dogs. The match was locked at 0-0 at the time. The second clash involving Abahani and Brothers Union was virtually called off as the downpour continued till late in the evening.

It could not be immediately confirmed when the matches will be rescheduled but according to a Dhaka Mahanagar football league committee official yesterday, the matches, which will confirm the last two semifinalists of the tournament, are not likely to be held before September 27 because of Abahani KC's Asian Cup Winners' Cup engagement against Beijing Guoan at the Mirpur Stadium tomorrow at 8 pm.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday announced the rate of tickets for the Abahani-Beijing Guoan clash.

For general gallery, spectators have to pay Tk 20 per ticket while the rate will be Tk 50 for VIP viewers. The tickets will go on sale from 6:15 pm while the gate will be open from 6:30 pm.

A 24-member Beijing Guoan football team have already arrived in the city on Monday.

Abahani's Kenyan booter arrives

Sports Reporter

John Odhiambo a Kenyan national midfielder, arrived in the city yesterday to play for Federation Cup champions Abahani Kira Chakra.

24-year-old John, who played for his country in the World Cup qualifiers and African Nations Cup, plays for Gor Mahia Club in Nairobi which secured the third place in the 18-team Kenyan national league this year. He has played 11 times for his country.

John is the fourth foreigner so far arrived for the team. Two Uzbekistan booters — Anatoly and Reesat — and a Sri Lankan national team forward Roshan Perera are already here and played in the Shamsuddin Spinning Mahanagar Cup.

Maggi noodles relaunched

World renowned noodles Maggi has been relaunched in Bangladesh on September 18.

A day-long grand motor and horse cart rally was organised in the city on Saturday by its distributor Nestle to mark the occasion. Around 200 school children participated in the rally, says a press release.

'I could do the dirty job for the captain'

He's the player you enjoy talking to most in the Indian team. He's jolly, accessible and talks sense. Though under a cloud due to match-fixing charges, the new Indian vice-captain Ajay Jadeja received news of his elevation with joy and took time out to talk to Aniruddha Bahal of Outlook magazine (India). We deem it as an interesting encounter to go through.

at No. 6?

J: Good. It's good in the sense that selectors feel I'm responsible enough. You can help in decisions and not as everybody thinks, that I am just there to party. Of course, I do that as well. I could do the dirty work for the captain. Leave him to do the main job. At the nets he can't watch everybody. I could take 2-3 players to the field. We can't have Jonty Rhodes in India but whatever we have we can improve upon.

Also a room to yourself.
J: (Laughs) Yes, that's a big honour.

Why has the Indian team been performing so badly?

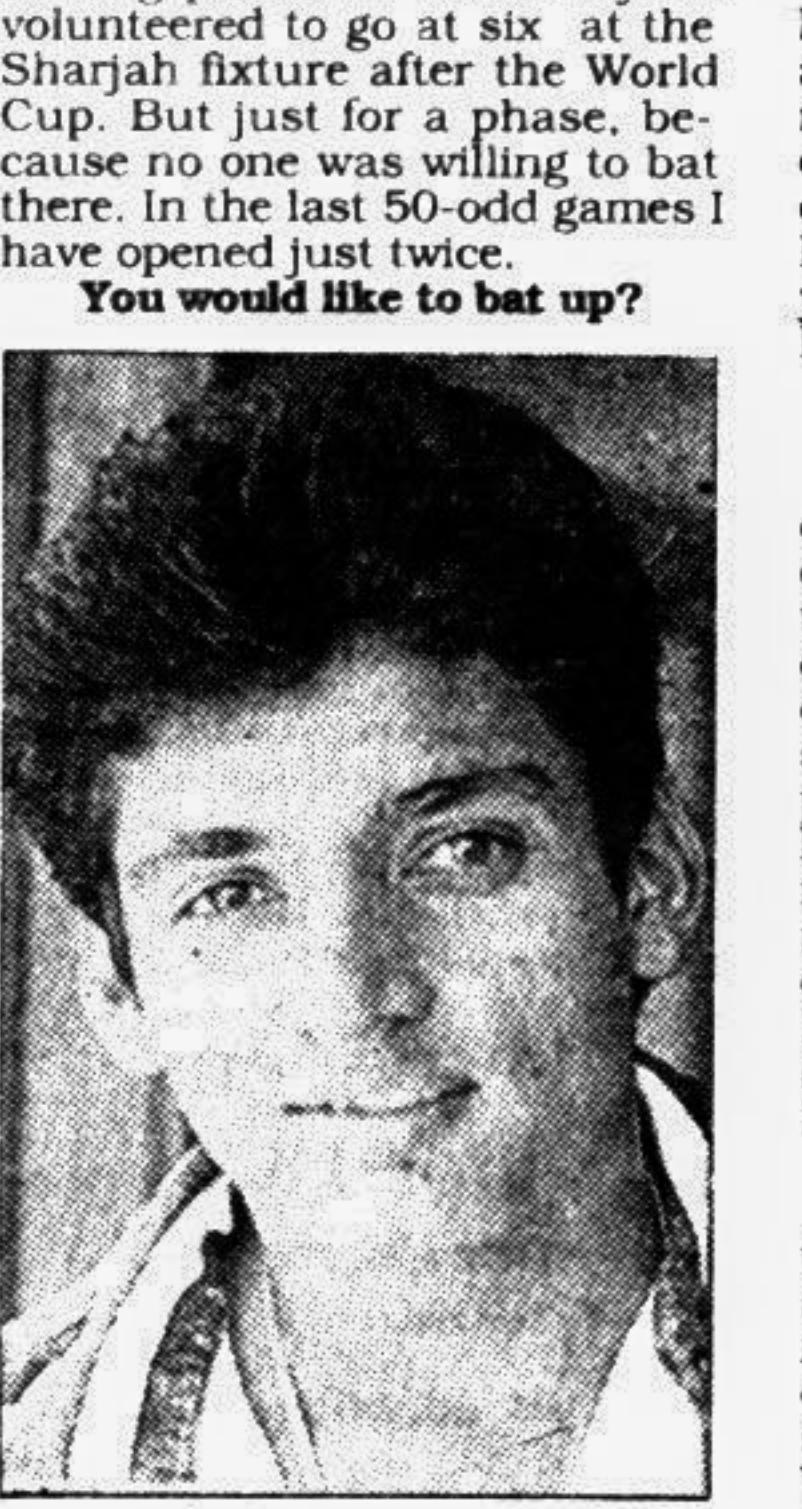
J: If we knew the reason we would have rectified them. In Sri Lanka, I think, we were just outplayed by Jayasuriya.

The Lankans have taken the game to a new level.

J: It's the same side that came here three years back and lost 3-0. The difference is that they have started believing in themselves. Everybody's with them — manager, country, media. They have played together a lot; set patterns of play. The bowler knows which over he's going to bowl before the captain calls him. They know who plays of spin or leg spin better. Last time Sidhu mauled Muralitharan here. Now they make sure Murali doesn't bowl when Sidhu's not on or bowls the least. **The first 15 overs have suddenly become crucial in one-day cricket.**

J: In the subcontinent and Sharjah, the game is decided in the first 15 overs. Between the 15th and the 50th over if you average the runs scored by all sides it would be between 150 and 180. If you have more runs in the first 15, you are set.

You have the best partnership average when opening with Sachin. Even better than Greenidge and Haynes. How did you get stuck



AJAY JADEJA

J: Anybody would. In India what counts is the quantity of runs and not the ones you score in crunch situations. Take Robin. People were raising questions about him but he shut everyone up with his 100. He got that opportunity. He's one of the best we have. I think I'll have to bat at six because no one else is willing to do the job or can do the job. At six, no one would be able to do what I'm trying to do. But there's a lot of pressure. I can't sleep till three or four. The situation I come in we are either 50 or 60 for four or need an ask of 7 or 8. The main problem is in a 250-score game where you start at five an-over then go down and around the 37th over

I come in. That is the time of maximum pressure. You wish the earlier players had gone on. Either I come in for two overs and my job is only to hit. I might miss. I might hit. Fair enough. But in the 37th over I can't hit and I can't miss. You have to get set also. It's not like you are coming at No. 3 and have all the time in the world.

About match-fixing charges that Outlook's brought about

J: It's added more pressure on the players. It's very difficult on the guys named. Especially if they don't get runs. What people don't realise is that the wicket could have been funny, the ball swinging etc. There's so much pressure that sometimes you leave it till the end and the run rate climbs; you get out. Six months back if you got out no one would have said anything. Now everybody casts aspersions. Your articles haven't helped Indian cricket at all.

You have felt the pressure?

J: Everything I go out to play I think about you. People call and abuse us in the hotel. The family says things. So in a crunch you have a tendency sometimes not to fight it out. You are worried about what people will say if you get out. Performances don't count anymore. You would probably say Waqar was paid to get hit during the Bangalore match. If India wins people have paid the other side; if India loses people have paid Indian players. Australia couldn't chase 120-odd runs in the last Ashes test. Nobody says anything. Maybe Sergei Bubka was paid money not to go for the gold in the last two Olympics.

Social pressure too?

J: Not at all. I still go out as I used to. Of course, now you get to hear a few more things than before. Now you go to a disco after losing, people say these guys were paid, now they are partying.

Courtesy: Outlook

OCA reassures Bangkok

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has reached an agreement with Thailand's Olympic Committee to ensure that Bangkok will be ready to host the 1998 Asian Games, officials said today, reports AFP.

Asked if Bangkok will hold the games, OCA president Sheikh Ahmed Fahd Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah of Kuwait said: "Yes, with the solution we have reached here in this meeting, Bangkok will host the (Asian) games 1998."

Gray Dalmiya's successor

SYDNEY, Sept 23: Malcolm Gray of Australia will succeed India's Jagmohan Dalmiya as president of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2000, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said today, reports Reuter.

ACB chairman Denis Rogers said in a statement Gray had been selected by the board to replace Dalmiya, a construction magnate by profession who began his term last June.

The ICC decides on which country will provide its president, leaving it in turn for that country to put forward its preferred candidate.

India won a keenly-contested vote in Kuala Lumpur last March before nominating Dalmiya, whose term expires in July 2000.

The ICC voted at the same meeting for Australia to provide Dalmiya's successor.

Gray, 57, will become the first Australian to serve as the head of the game's international ruling body and will also serve a three-year term.

The changes we are seeing in sport bring increased pressure on players, management and policy makers and we have to ensure that cricket is relevant and positioned strongly into the future," Gray said in a statement.

Hick opts for Kiwi sojourn

AUCKLAND, Sept 23: England batsman Graeme Hick, unwanted for his country's tour to the West Indies early next year, will instead play cricket in New Zealand, reports Reuter.

Auckland Cricket said it had enlisted the 31-year-old Worcester stroke-maker for its provincial Shell Cup one-day series starting on Boxing Day and lasting five weeks.

Hick, who plundered an unbeaten county cricket triple century at the weekend, will appear for England in the Sharjah one-day tournament in December but was not picked for the following Test series in the West Indies.

He has played 46 Tests for England at an average of 36. Hick agreed to play for Auckland on the basis that, if he is selected as a replacement for the West Indies tour in January, he will be released from his New Zealand contract.

"We have a young team and Hick will provide all-round skills and leadership qualities," Auckland Cricket chief executive Lindsay Crocker said.

It will not be the first time Hick has played cricket in New Zealand, he played two seasons for Northern Districts from 1987 to 1989, scoring 2,000 runs in four-day matches at an average of 79.

Hick is one of the most prolific batsmen in world first-class cricket, scoring a century on average once every six outings. He is set to become the youngest batsman to score 100 first-class hundreds with his current total standing at 95.

Matthaeus undergoes surgery

MUNICH, Sept 23: Bayern Munich's Lothar Matthaeus underwent surgery for an ankle injury on Monday and will be out of action for around eight weeks, reports Reuter.

Bayern press spokesman Markus Hoerwitz said the operation had gone according to plan and Germany's most capped player was "doing well under the circumstances."

Matthaeus sustained the injury during Bayern's 3-1 win away to Cologne on Saturday.

Dhaka Zilla TT begins Sept 29

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Zilla table tennis tournament will commence at the Dhaka District Sports Association auditorium in Motijheel from September 29 under the auspices of DDSA.

Participants have been re-

quested to submit their names

at the Bangladesh Table Tennis

Federation office or DDSA

venue by September 26 be-

tween 5 and 7 pm.

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— Star photo

Wednesday 24th September

(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 7:30 BBC News

10:30 World Focus: Re-

porters 11:00 BBC News

12:30 Hard Talk 1:00

BBC World News 1:30

World Focus: Reporters

2:00 BBC World News

2:30 World Living:

3:00 BBC News

3:30 BBC World News

4:30 World Living:

5:30 BBC World News

6:30 World Focus: Re-

porters 7:00 BBC World

News 7:15 World Business

Report 7:30 BBC News

8:30 World Living:

9:30 BBC News

10:30 BBC World News

11:30 BBC World News

12:30 BBC World News

1:30 BBC World News

2:30 BBC World News

3:30 BBC World News

4:30 BBC World News

5:30 BBC World News

6:30 BBC World News

7:30 BBC World News

8:30 BBC World News

9:30 BBC World News

10:30 BBC World News

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12:30 BBC World News

1:30 BBC World News

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4:30 BBC World News

5:30 BBC World News

6:30 BBC World News