

Column One

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT it was long considered necessary for a runner to prepare for a marathon by training over that distance of over 26 miles. At the 1952 Olympic Games, however, Czech Emil Zatopek set an Olympic record of 2 hours 23 minutes 3.2 seconds, even though he had never run the distance before.

Now you know what is wrong with our runners. They practise so hard over the distance so many times before a meet that, come the day, they are completely fatigued. Motto — fresh faces for marathon.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-118

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
July 30, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who is the new England cricket coach?
Fletcher Hussain Marsh
- Brazilian footballer Rivaldo plays for
Lazio Barcelona Arsenal
- Who is the captain of Argentina soccer team?
Simone Batistuta Ayala
- How many Grand Slam titles has Steffi Graf won till now?
22 23 24
- Who is ATP's top ranked player right now?
Sampras Moya Agassi

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Tim Henman
(British tennis star)
"I'm 100 per cent certain that one day I can be champion here."
Said during the Wimbledon Championships.

Bangabandhu Cup BFF lures Asia's big guns

Bangladesh received encouraging response from the Asian nations for the Second Bangabandhu Gold Cup Football Tournament, a senior official of the Bangladesh Football Federation said, according to BSS.

The tournament is scheduled to begin on August 25.

BFF General Secretary Harunur Rashid, MP, Joint Secretaries Sirajul Islam Bachcho and Badal Roy, who attended the congress of the International Football Federation (FIFA) in Los Angeles, USA last week, discussed with their counterparts from the Asian countries on the participation in the tournament during their stay in Los Angeles.

BFF Joint Secretary Sirajul Islam told BSS that they had fruitful meetings with the Asian counterparts and received encouraging response from them.

"We are expecting some good teams from Asia's leading football playing countries and the tournament would be a good one," said Islam, who also attended a seminar on "Development of Women Football."

The BFF officials also attended a meeting of the Asian Football Confederation on July 8.

A good number of Asian and European countries have been invited to take part in the tournament.

The First Bangabandhu Gold Cup Football Tournament was held in Dhaka from December 31, 1996 to January 11, 1997 with ten foreign teams and three local teams.

Malaysia Reds lifted the cup.



Brothers' Union central defender Polish (C) makes a decisive tackle to deny Mohammedan striker Anwar(L) during their Premier League encounter yesterday.
— Star photo by Anisur Rahman.

Rakib shines for MSC

Sports Reporter



An early strike from Rakib Hossain gave Mohammedan Sporting a solitary goal win over Brothers Union in a crucial Keya Premier Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The national forward headed home a Ruhul Amin flag-kick from the left in the 17th minute as the popular Motihjel outfit ran away with the slender lead to join defending champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the top of the table, both having collected 16 points from six matches.

Although Mohammedan failed to field their full strength side, they still provided a lot of firepower in the attack against a depleted Gopibagh outfit. And had their forwards been more accurate in their shooting "the black and whites" could have won the battle of the two traditional giants of domestic football by a flattering margin.

Mohammedan, with a bad track record against Brothers Union, went into the match without their prolific striker Alfaz Ahmed, who is yet to recover from fever, and an injured Mizanur Rahman Don. But Rakib, the only experienced player in the new-look Mohammedan line-up, rose to the

occasion to help his team cross a major hurdle in their pursuit to regain the coveted league title. It was his third goal in the league.

The hard-working national winger, who switched to Mohammedan from Muktiyoddha this season, opened up the Brothers defence on numerous occasions with some brilliant runs down the left-flank. But there were none to convert his spade-work into goals.

An irreplaceable Rakib almost set the stage for the second Mohammedan goal in the 65th minute when he let loose a spectacular minus to an unmarked Anwar, which the latter failed to connect with Brothers' custodian Saidur at his mercy.

Mohammedan got another chance to increase the lead three minutes later when Rakib's back-head from a Ruhul Amin long throw beat Saidur in the air, but only to be cleared by Barun Bikash Dewan from the goal-line.

Rakib got another opportunity in the 83rd minute when he slipped past the last Brothers defender with an imaginative dash. But his powerful right-footer from an acute angle was spectacularly saved by Saidur.

Although Saidur had an impressive first match of the league under the bar, the once famous Gopibagh outfit had little in store to cope with their more colourful Motihjel neighbours, Brothers, who over the couple of years have reduced in strength, hardly created any

panic in the Mohammedan tent.

The only occasion they came close to scoring in the otherwise one-sided affair was in the 82nd minute when substitute Asad lobbed a nice floater from the right, which the experienced Mohammedan custodian Ponir fisted away before Mizan could pose any serious threat.

The defeat, their third from six games and second on a trot, not only put a decisive nail in their hopes to keep afloat in the title race, but also decimated their chances of a place in the super four. With this defeat, Brothers remained glued to their previous collection of seven points from six matches.

Yellow cards: Amin Khan, Miraz (Brothers), Ruhul Amin and Rakib (Mohammedan).

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Faisal, Ruhul Amin, Monwar Munna, Jahangir, Motiur Munna, Selim, Shoib (Askar babu) (Rezaul Karim), Rakib Hossain, Shamim and Anwar.

BROTHERS UNION: Saidur, Polish, Amin Khan, Miraz (Swapan Jr), Barun, Shuvro, Zahid (Swapan Sr), Riaz, Abdullah Sereki, Jamal (Asad) and Mizan.

Referee: Tayab Hossain.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Fakirpool YMC vs Badda Jagorani (3.30 pm)
Abahani KC vs Mirpur Chantika (5.30 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Barlow in the town

Sports Reporter

Former South African Test player Edgar John Barlow arrived in the capital yesterday to settle a possible agreement with the Bangladesh Cricket Board who are looking for a coach to build the national team into a force capable of playing alongside the nine Test playing nations in the near future.

A player in the same league as South African legends, Barry Richards, Graham Pollock and Mike Procter, the Pretoria all-rounder will have an important discussion with the president of the BCB, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, today.

If everything falls according to plan, Eddie Barlow is likely to step into the shoes of Gordon Greenidge, who was shown the door unceremoniously after a three-year stint with the board.

During his brief visit to Dhaka, Barlow, a fine all-rounder, will also visit the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan to get acquainted with the facilities there before leaving the capital on Thursday.

Barlow's maiden visit is an outcome of correspondence between the BCB and the South African board.

Barlow, making his debut in 1961-62 against New Zealand, played his last Test match against Australia way back in 1969-70 before his luminous career came to an abrupt end after South Africa was isolated from international cricket in 1971 for its apartheid policy.

Barlow played 30 Tests, scoring 2516 runs including a highest score of 201. He has six Test centuries under his belt and 15 fifties. He also took 40 wickets at an average of 34.05. His best bowling figures being 5/85.

Pak players in limbo



KARACHI, July 18 (AFP): The future of captain Wasim Akram and other players facing an investigation into match fixing allegations hangs in the balance following a major shake-up in Pakistan cricket, officials said Sunday.

A two-member ad-hoc committee took over cricket affairs after the government on Friday suspended the entire Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The move followed the angry reaction of fans and allegations in press commentaries the team rigged the recent World Cup final in which Australia inflicted a crushing defeat on Pakistan.

Javed Zaman, a member of the ad-hoc committee, said the new set-up would meet soon to decide whether players under investigation by a one-man commission into earlier allegations of match fixing should be considered for selection to the national team.

A one-man judicial commission headed by Lahore High Court (LHC) Judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum has been probing match-fixing and bribery allegations since late last year.

Wasim's captaincy hinges on the report of the commission, Zaman said.

Pakistan went into the World Cup with the previous match-fixing inquiry into several players, including captain Wasim, already underway.

The first suspensions date back to 1994, when three top Australian players, including

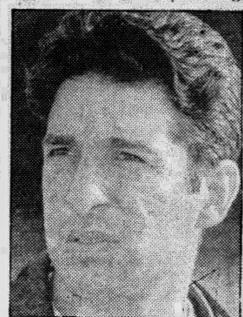
engagements in England.

The suspended PCB chairman, Khalid Mahmood, on Saturday angrily denied allegations.

He said a "conspiracy" had been hatched against the board and Pakistan's World Cup stars after their defeat to Australia at Lord's.

"I always defended the players and I am ready to defend them even now. They are wonderful players and a very talented side. None of the matches in the World Cup was fixed. It is ridiculous."

"It is nothing but a success of a lobby that has been maligning the Pakistan team since the World Cup final," Mahmood said.



WASIM AKRAM

Shane Warne, said they were offered money by Pakistan star Salim Malik to lose a Test.

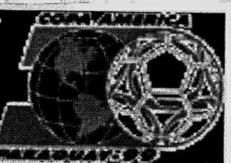
Wasim's players have denied the World Cup final was fixed. Few neutral commentators saw anything suspicious in the game. Pakistan's shock defeat to lowly Bangladesh earlier in the event, however, regarded as one of the biggest shocks in the tournament's 24-year history, raised eyebrows.

The captain has not returned after the World Cup defeat due to his personal and professional



Dwight Yorke(L) being congratulated by team-mate Jordi Cruyff after scoring the winning goal for Manchester United in their friendly match against Australia at Sydney yesterday.
— AFP photo

Mexico pip Chile to third



ASUNCION, July 18: Mexico ended a turbulent Copa America on an upbeat note with a 2-1 victory over Chile on Saturday to take third place in the South American championship, reports AP.

A brilliant individual effort by Luis Hernandez set up a goal by Miguel Zepeda with three minutes left to snap a 1-1 tie and give Mexico their second straight third-place finish in the world's oldest tournament for national teams.

Mexico weathered a doping scandal and the suspension of two starters to cement their reputation as a first-line power in Latin American soccer.

"I'm extremely satisfied with what we did," Mexican coach Miguel Lapuente said. "We don't want to look for any excuse. The problems we had, we had."

Mexico has reached the semifinals in three of their four appearances in the Copa America. The team defeated Chile, Peru and Venezuela before falling to Brazil.

Ever since the time of the Aztecs and the Mayas we have had this consistency, this strength," Lapuente said. "Mexico now wants to cease being a guest at the Copa America and to become a fixture."

For Chile, the loss caps a frustrating Cup that may have been the last appearance of their famed "SaZa" attack.

Striker Ivan "Bam Bam" Zamorano announced earlier that the game against Mexico might be his last, with the Chilean jersey, Marcelo Salas, the "Sa" half of the duo, strained a leg muscle in practice and didn't face Mexico.

Chile was a step away from the finals faltered against Uruguay. Salas missed a penalty kick and Chile fell in

the tiebreaker.

"What we lacked against Uruguay, we lacked today: Spark efficiency. And you pay for that in these tournaments," Chile's coach Nelson Acosta said. "We are left with the bitter taste of not reaching the final because of our own errors."

The game was surprisingly hard-fought for a consolation match, with both teams pressing the attack, although the up-beat Mexican squad contrasted with the dispirited Chileans.

Chile had an early edge, with Fabian Estay missing high on a free kick and Zamorano firing on a breakaway that nicked the

COPA SCORERS
ASUNCION, July 18 (Reuters): Copa America goalscorers after Saturday's third place match:
4: Ronaldo, Amoroso (Brazil).
3: Roque Santa Cruz, Miguel Benitez (Paraguay), Martin Palermo (Argentina), Luis Hernandez (Mexico), Marcelo Zelayeta (Uruguay), Ivan Zamorano (Chile), Rivaldo (Brazil).
2: Roberto Holsen (Peru), Ivan Kaviades (Ecuador), Wagner Lopes (Japan), Cuauhtemoc Blanco (Mexico), Pedro Reyes (Chile), Victor Bonifila (Colombia).
1: Atsuhiko Miura (Japan), Jorge Soto, Israel Ziniga, Roberto Palacios, Jose Ferreda, Roberto Solano (Peru), Isaac Terrazas, Daniel Osorno, Gerardo Torrado, Miguel Zepeda, Francisco Palencia (Mexico), Ronaldo Assis, Emerson Ferreira, Alex (Brazil), Diego Simeone, Cristian Gonzalez, Juan Pablo Sorin (Argentina), Jose Luis Sierra, Raul Palacios (Chile), Jorge Bolano, Johnnier Montano, Ivan Cordoba, Edwin Congo, Hamilton Ricard, Neider Morantes (Colombia), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Gabriel Urdaneta (Venezuela), Ariel Graziani (Ecuador), Alejandro Lembo (Uruguay).
Note: Mexico and Japan were specially invited to take part.

Slowly, Mexico found the gaps in the Chilean defense. Hernandez tested Chilean goalkeeper Marcelo "Rambo" Ramirez with a point-blank header, and minutes later it was Francisco Palencia who was denied by Ramirez.

In the 25th minute, Hernandez fired from the left side and Ramirez couldn't hold on. The rebound went out to Palencia, who tapped it in for a 1-0 lead.

Hernandez nearly scored on another header just before the half, but Ramirez got a hand on it and the ball bounced off the crossbar. Hernandez congratulated the keeper for the save.

In the 80th minute, Chile got the equaliser when Raul Palacios stole the ball, worked a give-and-go with Jose Luis Sierra and eluded goalkeeper Jorge Campos to score.

Seven minutes later, Zepeda got the game winner.

Mexico has reached the semifinals in three of their four appearances in the Copa America. This year, they defeated Chile, Peru and Venezuela before falling to Brazil in the semifinals.

Chile had expected to reach the finals after a brilliant 3-2 victory over heavily favoured Colombia in the quarterfinals. But the "SaZa" line faltered against Uruguay. Salas missed a penalty kick and Chile lost on penalties.

TEAMS
CHILE: Marcelo Ramirez, Raul Palacios, Miguel Ramirez (Pablo Contreras, 37th minute), Pedro Reyes, Clarence Acuna, Jorge Vargas (Esteban Valencia, 65th), Jose Luis Sierra, Mauricio Aros, Fabian Estay, Pedro Gonzalez (Claudio Nunez, 65th), Ivan Zamorano.
MEXICO: Jorge Campos, Claudio Suarez, Rafael Marquez, Gerardo Torrado, Ramon Ramirez, Miguel Zepeda, Rafael Garcia (Alberto Garcia Aspe, 64th), Cuauhtemoc Blanco (Pavel Pardo, 85th), Francisco Palencia (Isaac Terrazas, 69th), Salvador Carmona, Luis Hernandez.
Referee: Horacio Elizondo, Argentina.

Railway's Siraj dies in road accident

Alhaj M Sirajul Islam, a renowned sports organiser and secretary of the ongoing Metropolitan Second Division Hockey League committee, died in a tragic road accident in the city yesterday. He was 52.

Siraj, an executive committee member of Bangladesh Hockey Federation and Accountant of Bangladesh Railway, was hit by a speeding mini bus at Shapla Chatter (Bangladesh Bank Square) at about 9:15 am, says UNB.

He was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious chest and head injuries and later shifted to the Mohakhef Chest Hospital, where he died at about 12:30 pm.

Soft-spoken Siraj successfully performed many tasks in the local and international hockey and cricket tournaments.

He was the secretary of the Metropolitan Junior Division Hockey League for the last five years and associated with the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) as the representative of Bangladesh Railway Sports Control Board.

The deceased, the eldest son of Mohammad Obaidul Islam of Munshiganj district, was residing in Jurain in the city.

Bangladesh Hockey Federation, CCDM, BCB, Usha Krira Chakra, Hockey Khelwar Kalyan Samity and Azad Sporting Club have condoled the sudden death of Sirajul Islam and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

NSC secretary transferred

Secretary of the National Sports Council (NSC) ASM Ali Kabir has been transferred from the NSC, an official source said here today, reports BSS.

He was given stand-release today, the official added.

United ride on Yorke

SYDNEY, July 18: A Dwight Yorke goal separated Manchester United and a gallant second-string Australian team in their second and final football friendly at the Olympic stadium here Sunday.

Yorke's 26th-minute strike was the difference as the European champions failed to assert their dominance over a Soccer league, shorn of nine first-choice players kept away by injury or their European clubs.

The English league and cup champions beat Australia 2-0 in Melbourne on Thursday and now travel to Hong Kong and Shanghai to complete their pre-season tour before the start of the English season on August 8.

United's obvious superiority in skill and class was apparent but they could not break down the courageous Australians, who were far from overawed before 78,032 fans.

Australia's game defence was well marshalled by Japan-based Hayden Foxe and skipper Alex Tobin.

United used the final match of the Australian leg to give an extended run to Welsh wing wizard Ryan Giggs, while striker Andy Cole played for 73 minutes and their new Australian goalkeeper signing Mark Bosnich was brought off to generous applause 12 minutes from time.

Yorke put United ahead with their first shot on goal when Manchester City-based Danny Tiatto's pass was intercepted.

Giggs put in a delightful through ball to Yorke who beat Australian goalkeeper Jason Petkovic at the near post.

The friendly reached a flashpoint four minutes later when Socceroo defender Simon Colosimo was hit in a heavy tackle by Cole.

Colosimo crumpled to the ground and began waving a hand frantically to the team bench that he had a serious

injury.

Video replays showed that Cole had collected Colosimo high on his knee with his studs.

It was later announced that Colosimo, a member of Australia's Olympic team, had suffered ligament damage in his left knee. The full extent of the injury will be known Monday.

Tiatto took exception to Cole's tackle and referee Simon Micallef called both players out to cool down their tempers. Both players were still verbalising each other as they walked back to their positions.

Australia had several chances against the Jaap Stam-marshalled defence, the best coming in the 40th minute when West Ham's Stan Lazaridis had a shot smothered by Bosnich.

Brett Emerton, who scored in Australia's win over the FIFA World Stars here last month, sent a shot flashing across Bosnich's goal and a Hayden Foxe free kick found skipper Tobin in the box only for Henning Berg to clear to safety.

Australia had four corners to United's none in the first half, but they were caught offside by United's back four three times.

Curtis, Michael Clegg, Jesper Blomqvist, Wes Brown, Jonathan Greening, Teddy Sheringham.

Referee: Simon Micallef (Aus)

Sir Bobby in Asuncion

ASUNCION, July 18: England's 1966 World Cup winning star Sir Bobby Charlton arrived here Saturday to watch today's Copa America Final between Brazil and Uruguay, reports AFP.

Sir Bobby, promoting England's bid to stage the 2006 tournament, was received by the Paraguayan president Luis Gopezalez Macchi after his arrival.

The former Manchester United star, a survivor of the 1958 Munich air crash, was keen to extol the virtues of his native country's campaign.

Sir Bobby said: "All we have to do is rebuild Wembley. Everything else is in place. We could stage the World Cup tomorrow."

"We do not have a divine right to stage the tournament just because we invented the game, but there is a special fondness towards England as football's mother country."

Sir Bobby also fielded questions about the one subject to haunt English football in recent decades — that of hooliganism.

He said: "I think our fans were some of the first to travel around the world supporting the team and that's how we got a bad reputation that was well-deserved."

Asked to comment on changes in South American football, Sir Bobby said that nowadays there was a much more scientific approach including dietary changes.

He added: "The technical and physical side of the game is growing."