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DHAKA MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One SPORTS TALK



Barry Richards
(South African cricketer)
great

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1	Who are the current FA Cup champions?
2	Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?
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4	Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?
5	Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?

Yokohama Suzuki Nagoya

Name

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SAF games preps in full swing

KATHMANDU, Aug 22 (India Abroad News Service): Preparations for the ten-day South Asian Federation (SAF) games, to be held here from September 25, are being given final touches. Physical infrastructure and other arrangements, including security of the players and officials, are being finalised on a war-footing, officials say. Some of the infrastructure, including the swimming pool, for the games have been constructed with the cooperation of the Chinese government. The events will be held at different venues.

More than 1,600 competitors from the seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations would participate in the Games, the biggest sporting event in the region. At stakes are a total of 528 medals, including 161 golds, in 12 disciplines — football, boxing, athletics, kabaddi, karate, volleyball, swimming, shooting, taekwondo, wrestling (Kushti), weight lifting and table tennis.

The maximum number of gold medals, 35, are in athletics, while swimming comes second with 29 golds. Football, Volleyball, and Kabaddi have one each gold medal.

The host country Nepal and India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are taking part in all 12 sporting events, while players from Bhutan and Maldives are expected to participate in only five games each, according to organising committee officials. The first SAF Games, also held in Kathmandu in 1984, had 62 gold medals while second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh Games had 93, 116, 111, 142, 117, 143 golds respectively.

"Peace, Unity and Hinduism" will be the main theme at the colourful opening ceremony of the Games in this predominantly Hindu Himalayan Kingdom, said chairman of the Ceremony Committee of the SAF Games Bishnu Copal Shrestha. He said in order to symbolise peace, the organising committee would bring the SAF games flame from the eternal flame of the Lumbini Garden, the birth place of Lord Buddha.

The competitors would be subjected to random doping tests for the second time in the games' history. "We have arranged for the screening on athletes for banned substances," said Dawa Gurung, public relations official at the SAF Games secretariat. The tests were first held when the Games were held in Pakistan.

Cup gets the E-scoreboard

Sports Reporter

The electronic scoreboard at the Bangabandhu National Stadium has finally been granted to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for use during the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup, scheduled to begin in the capital from August 27.

Eleven teams from across the globe and the hosts will take part in the gala event, which will be declared open by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The decision about the giant display board, installed during the nine-nation cricket tournament last year, came after yesterday's visit to the venue by the State Minister for Youth and Sports, Obaidul Quader.

Although Quader, who is also the chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC), had earlier turned down BFF's application to use the electronic equipment for "technical reasons", had a change of heart in the wake of widespread criticism from the fourth estate. Wisdom ultimately prevailed on the sports supremo.

"I have talked to the experts and they have informed me that they are capable of using the scoreboard for football during the Bangabandhu Cup", said Quader to the state-run news agency yesterday. But he did not elaborate on taking so much time in making up his mind.

Meanwhile, the BFF is work-

ing round the clock to make the tournament a success. An hour-long colourful opening ceremony, the highlight of which will be a choreographic display by Bharatwari Homes, is planned.

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They are: Istavan Bodor, Csaba Felfoldi, Gyula Hegedus Jr, Laszlo Herczeg, Szabolcs Kiss, Norbert Kovacs, Jozsef Lipfak, Robert Morvay, Tibor Markus, Attila Orban, Tamas Palfy, Attila Sagi, Illes Sifku, Laszlo Szepessy, Andras Szolosi, Balazs Tordai, Dr. Laszlo D Horvath, Lajos Schrot, Gabor Simon, Laszlo Guban, Dr. Miklos Guiyas and Sandor Czenke.

Meanwhile, the referees

committee of the BFF has announced a list of 10 local referees for the Bangabandhu Cup.

They are: FIFIA referees -- Ehsanul Haq, Ram Krishna Gosh, Taya Hasan, Abdur Rakib, Ibrahim Nesar, Tajul Islam; FIFIA assistant referees -- Suash Rai, Golam Mostafa, Faizul Islam and Shamsuddin Ahmed.

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