



Mohammedan Sporting Club on the attack against Farashganj in their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League engagement at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Arambagh win in tie-break

Arambagh KS beat promoters Dhanmudi Club 5-4 in the tie-breaker in their National Bank Premier Division Football League encounter at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The match rolled into tie-breaker after the regulation time ended goalless.

According to the new format, Arambagh got two points and Dhanmudi one point from the match.

PM to open Fatullah Stadium today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali National Stadium, the largest cricket stadium of the country, at Fatullah in Narayanganj today, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader visited the stadium yesterday to see the final preparation.

Fury fizzles

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over the Sydney Harbour landmark of Fort Denison early Friday to symbolically extinguish white sovereignty, told this news agency the land council was nothing more than a "powerful money-grabbing bureaucracy".

"SOCOG did the right thing by black Australia but the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council came in and hijacked proceedings by proclaiming itself the peak Aboriginal body," he said.

The head of Olympic security, Police Commissioner Peter Ryan, was able to visit the site of an Aboriginal tent embassy on Friday to place a branch on the protesters' sacred fire, in a gesture symbolising land purification.

Ryan, who was greeted by 300 protesters, acknowledged the Aborigines' right to protest.

"If you remember a couple of weeks ago, there were statements made by members of Aboriginal groups about violence and bloodshed and protesting in a violent way. I pleaded for that not to happen. I pleaded for peace," Ryan said.

"As it's turned out, we now have, as you can see, a spirit of friendship and co-operation."

Ryan warned radical anti-globalisation protesters, responsible for running street battles outside the World Economic Forum in Melbourne this week, that violent protests in Sydney would be quashed.

"They will not disrupt these Olympic Games and they will not embarrass the Aboriginal people by pretending to claim they are part of their cause," he said.

"We will not tolerate violence in the streets, we will be extremely firm in dealing with it instantly."

Sparkling opening

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under the flag of IOC as one team clasping hands and visibly moved by strong emotions. This must go down in the history of the Games as one of IOC's greatest achievements. As usual the Americans had a big contingent and they are expected to do very well in the Games. But the hosts produced the most happy and boisterous team that included almost a third of Sydney's population. Great show no doubt.

The entire ceremony was wonderfully timed, sung and choreographed much to the delight of millions across the world. There had never been a dull moment even for the most disenchanted of souls.

But the real thrill and spectacle of the evening was provided by the planners and engineers of the Olympic torch that was lit by Cathy Freeman.

It was almost fire on water without any fuel. But as the torch lifted on rails the whole world was taken aback. It was an awe-inspiring experience — memorable at the same time.

Australians have redeemed much of their prestige by selecting Freeman to light the torch in the face of adverse criticism about their policy towards the Aborigines — a creation of western media. But all's well that ends well. Hearty congratulations to all responsible for such a memorable show.

Shamim sinks F'ganj

Sports Reporter

Striker Shamim Reza scored his second hat-trick in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League to guide holders Mohammedan Sporting Club to a 3-1 win over Farashganj Sporting Club in their return leg clash at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 2-0.

It was Mohammedan's eleventh successive win which raised their tally to 33 points and kept them atop with a comfortable ten-point lead over archrivals Abahani who have 23 points from ten matches.

On the other hand, Farashganj tasted their seventh loss and they remain on 12 points.

The crowd-pullers from Mo-

stheel, who beat Farashganj 6-0 in the first leg, were off to a slow start against the fifth placed side but with the championship almost assured, the black and whites were satisfied with their first half lead during the interval.

Shamim, the leading marksman of the league, put the winners ahead converting a short corner in the 15th minute. He doubled the margin with a field goal after 12 minutes.

With one hat-trick against star-studded Usha Krira Chakra in the first leg, the mercurial striker spoiled a couple of easy chances in the early second half before completing yet another treble from a goal-mouth rebounder in the 53rd minute.

Shamim has scored 19 goals

so far, five more than national forward Kamal of Usha Krira Chakra who also notched two hat-tricks.

Sunon pulled one back for Farashganj from a short corner in the 70th minute.

WARI WIN

Earlier, Wari Club defeated Bachelors Club 2-1 in a First Division engagement.

Forward Arif scored in the 46th and 57th minutes for old-timers while Roman reduced the margin for Bachelors in the 50th minute.

No matches are scheduled for today.

Ajax Sporting Club take on Bangladesh Sporting Club in tomorrow's first match while Abahani meet Azad Sporting Club later on.



Victoria Sporting Club's Abul (R) lends a helping hand to a Rahmatganj player during their National Bank Premier Division Football League clash at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

R'ganj turn on the style

Sports Reporter

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society came from behind to coast to a 4-1 win over Victoria Sporting Club in their National Bank Premier Division football league encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Trailing by a first half goal, Rahmatganj tormented the newcomers with four-goal burst to record their first win in the elite league.

Having already played Muktiadda Sangsad, Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club, the old timers reserved their best performance for Friday.

After play resumed in the second half following a heavy shower, Rahmatganj equalised after two minutes with substitute Azimuddin unleashing a powerful grounder from a goal-

mouth melee past Victoria custodian Shimul.

Skipper Saiful Rahman Moni then scored in the 66th and 83rd minutes to take the match away from the Victorians.

Moni put his side ahead from an angular shot and added a scored his second with a volley from an Azim pass.

National striker Sahajuddin sealed Victoria's fate placing home a Moni pass in the 85th minute.

Earlier, Azim gave the Victorians a start side-footing a Sohel cross from the right in the seventh minute of the match.

Nepalese national custodian Upendra Mansingh, making his debut for Rahmatganj, helplessly watched the ball roll into the net.

Rahmatganj were twice denied a chance to respond late in the first half.

Shamim's shot struck the

near post and Jalal sent the rebound over the bar in the 40th minute.

Rahmatganj earned their first three points from four matches. It was the fourth straight defeat for Victoria.

No Premier League matches will be played today.

TEAMS

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Upendra Mansingh, Zaman (Manager), Kingshuk, Apu, Minto, Shamim (Zalid), Chanchal, Javed (Azimuddin), Jalaudinn, Moni and Tipu.

VICTORIA SC: Shimul, Lipu, Jet, Jiban (Musa), Bappy (Polo), Kabir, Lovlu (Kaiser), Sohel, Rahel, Manik and Abul. Referee: Sheikh Badaruddin.

TODAY'S MATCHES
First Division
BHEL v Prantik KC (3.30 pm)
Mirpur Chalanabai v Shantigan (5.30 pm)

Parore not out 32
Vettori c and b P Strang 49
O'Connor c Campbell b P Strang 4
Extras: 9
Total: (All out) 338
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-52, 3-109, 4-139, 5-139, 6-180, 7-252, 8-252, 9-330

Bowler O M R W
Streak 26 9 67 2
Nkala 21 7 43 0
P Strang 51 11 109 8
B Strang 25 7 63 0
Mutendera 14 4 29 0
G Flower 16 4 26 0

ZIMBABWE: Second innings
G Flower c Parore b O'Connor 3
Rennie b Cairns 2
Carlisle b Wiseman 15
Campbell not out 45
A Flower lbw b Astle 22
Wishart c Richardson b Wiseman 1
Streak not out 9
Extras: 3
Total: (For 5 wks) 100
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-23, 3-23, 4-75, 5-86

Bowler O M R W
Cairns 9 3 22 1
O'Connor 9 5 8 1
Wiseman 20 6 44 2
Astle 18 10 24 1
Richardson 1 0 1 0

Kiwis in early wickets

BULAWAYO
Sept 15: New Zealand took three early wickets in Zimbabwe's second innings to breathe

new life into the first test on Friday, reports Reuters.

At tea on the fourth day, Zimbabwe were 36 for three, a lead of 48 runs. New Zealand were dismissed for 338 in reply to Zimbabwe's first innings of 350.

Zimbabwe's problems began in the seventh over of their second innings, when Gavin Rennie was bowled for two by seamer Chris Cairns.

Stuart Carlisle advanced down the pitch to off-spinner Paul Wiseman and was bowled for 15, followed two balls later by Grant Flower, on three, edging a delivery from left-arm pacerman Shayne O'Connor to wicketkeeper Adam Parore to reduce Zimbabwe to 23-3.

At the crease at tea were Alistair Campbell, who has yet to score, and Andy Flower, on

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand on Friday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings 350
Richardson c Carlisle b Streak 6
Horne lbw b P Strang 110
Sinclair lbw b P Strang 12
Wiseman lbw b P Strang 14
Fleming c Rennie b P Strang 11
Astle c A Flower b P Strang 0
McMillan c A Flower b P Strang 58
Cairns b Streak 33

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 252-7)
Richardson c Carlisle b Streak 6
Horne lbw b P Strang 110
Sinclair lbw b P Strang 12
Wiseman lbw b P Strang 14
Fleming c Rennie b P Strang 11
Astle c A Flower b P Strang 0
McMillan c A Flower b P Strang 58
Cairns b Streak 33

Munna back in Abahani saddle

Sports Reporter

Former national skipper Monem Munna who recently won a battle against a career-threatening illness has resumed his role as Abahani manager yesterday.

One of the best defender's the country has ever produced, he took up the position last season after ending his playing days.

But Munna suffered a major setback when doctors detected both kidneys were damaged.

He went to Bangalore in March and had a successful transplant at the Karnataka Nephrology and Transplant Institute under the supervision of renowned surgeon Dr. Ajit Hulgol.

Munna returned home and was recuperating until Abahani made the announcement.

The popular Dhanmudi outfit who beat Farashganj 1-0 on Thursday, will take on Badla Jagatani Sangsad on September 18.

MSC taste defeat

Sports Reporter

Premier Division Football League champions Mohammedan Sporting Club suffered a 2-0 defeat against Agartala Eleven in an exhibition match played in Agartala, Tripura, on Thursday.

Mohammedan conceded both goals in the late second session, according to Mohammedan manager Babu yesterday evening.

Talking to Daily Star after the team returned in the capital, the newly-appointed manager said that the players did not take the game seriously, adding that leading strikers Allaz and Nakib were substituted after only ten minutes.

The Chief Minister of Tripura witnessed the match as the chief guest.

Mohammedan will resume their League campaign with a match against Farashganj tomorrow.

Waldner's last waltz

SYDNEY, Sept 15 (AFP): Jan-Ove Waldner warned his rivals not to write him off as past his best Friday on the eve of the Olympic table tennis tournament.

"Many people thought I had already won my last big competition many years ago," said the 34-year-old Swedish fifth seed. "But I caused a little bit of a surprise to win the world title in 1997, and it could happen again."

"I have not won another big event since 1997, and if you look at the results over the last couple of years there are others who have a better chance than me, but this is a very open tournament."

It is not only the Chinese. There are 10-12 players who can win the men's singles, maybe even more. Vladimir Samsonov, Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang may have the best chances of victory, but this is the Olympic Games so who knows what will happen."

Waldner will be participating in his fourth Olympics, having played every time since table tennis was readmitted to the Games in Seoul in 1988. He won the men's singles gold medal in Barcelona in 1992, and believes that will help him here.

"I have some experience of what the Olympics is like, which is important in this situation as it is not like any other event."

Unified Korea

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ters from the two sides were likely to meet this month.

The IOC asked the two Koreas to march together in Sydney next before the breakthrough summit in Pyongyang.

But it was not until this week that a breakthrough occurred and their new uniforms, which included a blue blazer with a chest patch featuring a unified Korea, were rushed to Sydney from Seoul.

The two countries came close to forming a joint team for the 1994 Tokyo Olympics and the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing, but they failed.

South Korea also approached North Korea about marching together in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and ahead of the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

In 1991, they marched behind the peninsula flag when they fielded a joint team at the 1991 world table tennis championships in Japan and the world youth soccer championships in Portugal.

Those sporting gestures came about while they were also involved in rapprochement talks.

However the progress they signalled were scuttled a year later when a political freeze spread to their sporting leaders and contacts were again broken off.

Though the two countries are fielding separate teams in Sydney, leaders from both countries have foreshadowed increased sporting cooperation in the future.

Among the possibilities mooted are a unified Korean team at next year's world table tennis championships in Osaka, Japan, and the 2002 Asian Games in the South Korean city of Pusan.

South Korea has also offered to let North Korea host two matches in the 2002 World Cup, which it is co-hosting with Japan.



HJK Helsinki's Markus Heikkinen (L) tries to cut off Celtic's Swedish striker Henrik Larsson during their UEFA Cup first round first leg encounter at the Parkhead Ground in Glasgow on September 14. — AFP photo

How drama unfolds

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continent. ★★★★★

While the early settlers were British the later stages of the transformation of Australia had a strong Asian influence with other arrivals from Latin countries and this was then depicted by a section illustrating the rich ethnic diversity of the modern nation.

Chinese dragons, Thai national costumes, immigrants from the Indian subcontinent wearing saris and turbans, and Spanish flamenco dancers gave a flavour of the developing nation.

This cosmopolitan sequence ended with all the ethnic groups forming up in the shape of the map of Australia.

Samaranch, accompanied for the night by legendary Australian swimmer Dawn Fraser and Chelsea Clinton, representing her father American President Bill, were among the audience and shone torches in unison with the rest of the 110,000 invitees.

A long tap-dancing sequence followed before the Sydney 2000 Olympic Band lined up to perform as the Olympic competitors themselves prepared to enter the arena.

The parade of athletes started with Greece the first country into the arena — an accolade traditionally awarded to that country in honour of their role as the home of the Ancient Games.

Sailer Nikos Kaklamanakis carried the flag at the head of the Greek delegation.

Bosnia Herzegovina — with a mixed ethnic team following agreement with the IOC — were led in by flag bearer Elvir Krehmuc, a high jumper.

China were led into Stadium Australia by standard bearer Liu Yudong — a member of their basketball team.

Cuban heavyweight boxer Felix Savon, bidding for a third consecutive gold medal, held the Caribbean island's flag aloft at the head of a delegation expected to do well in Sydney.

World record-holding high jumper Javier Sotomayor, controversially admitted to the Games after a ban for testing positive for cocaine was reduced, marched in the ranks of the Cuban party.

Hong Kong, competing for the first time since reunification with China in 1997, entered the arena led by standard bearer Penella Ng, a rower.

She held aloft the Special Administrative Region of China's new flag — red with a Bauhinia flower.

Tennis player Leander Paes led the Indian delegation with middle distance runner Sonia O'Sullivan carrying the flag of the Irish team to a huge cheer.

Boxer Victor Ramos, representing East Timor, was next to enter but under the colours of the Olympic movement.

And Stadium Australia erupted into a cacophony of noise as the host nation — always the last team to enter the arena during the parade of athletes — made their entrance.

Basketball star Michael Gaze was the standard bearer

from the crowd. Japan's party was preceded by Kosei Inoue, a judoka bearing their standard.

In a historic move the North and South Korean teams entered the arena together under a single neutral flag bearing a depiction of the Korean peninsula.

South Korean female basketballer Chung Eun-Soon and Pak Jang-Chol, a North Korean judo coach, were the joint standard bearers.

★★★★★

Hockey star Minariwan Navasari led in Malaysia while Mongolian judoka B. Bat-Erdene raised a huge cheer as he entered in the most revealing of costumes despite the cold conditions.

Nepalese swimmer Chitra Bahadur Gurung was the standard bearer for his party.

Guests including the world's richest man Bill Gates watched the Australian crowd give their traditional sporting rivals New Zealand a warm ovation as three-day eventer Blyth Tait led in the Kiwi delegation.

And another hockey player Ahmed Alam bore aloft the Pakistan flag ahead of his teammates.

Palestine also were reserved a special cheer in their second appearance in the Games, following their debut in Atlanta.

Russian handballer Andrei Lavrov headed the Russian contingent, replacing wrestler Alexander Karelin who has carried the flag in the previous three Olympics.

Karelin is yet to arrive in Sydney where he will bid for a fourth consecutive gold medal. Distance runner Hezekiel Sepeng was the standard bearer for the South African team.

Chang Pang-Lung — a table tennis star — was the leader of the Chinese Taipei contingent while Thailand's figurehead was talismanic boxer Somluck Kam.

Kayak specialist Cliff Meidl led in the United States delegation — expected to once more top the medals table here to the applause of Chelsea Clinton while Bill Gates waved the Stars and Stripes up in the VIP stand.

At the age of 20 Meidl survived a 30,000 volt electric shock — 15 times the equivalent of a lethal dose in the electric chair — when he put a spade through a cable when working as an apprentice plumber.

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and former Olympic legends Dawn Fraser and Herb Elliott were among the athletes.

★★★★★
Olivia Newton-John, wearing diamonds to the value of 1.6 million (US) dollars, and John Farnham then sang "Dare to Dream" as the athletes — finally all assembled inside the running track — listened.

The singers mingled among the competitors as they performed, shaking hands with many athletes.

It was time for the speeches and Olympics Minister Michael Knight welcomed the athletes of the world to Australia.

"Australians love sport," said Knight.

Knight introduced Samaranch to speak and the Spanish sports supreme began his discourse with the Australian greeting "G'day Sydney."

★★★★★
Samaranch paid a special tribute to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities before inviting William Deane to declare the Games open.

Deane then formally opened the 27th Olympiad of the modern era.

★★★★★
Singer Vanessa Amorosi performed "Heroes Live Forever" as a giant sheet depicting a dove of peace and the Olympic rings was drawn over the athletes.

The stadium fell dark as the Olympic flag was highlighted as it was brought around the track by eight former Olympians.

As the flag was led towards the flagpole and raised the Olympic hymn was sung by a massed choir.

★★★★★
Songstress Tina Arena performed "The Flame" as the Olympic torch relay neared the Stadium as a succession of former Australian Olympic champions exchanged the torch.

Wheelchair-bound Betty Cuthbert pushed by one-time sprinter Raelene Boyle brought the flame into the Stadium.

Cuthbert then handed over the flame to former swimmer Dawn Fraser who transferred the flame to Shirley Strickland, then to Shane Gould and Debbie Flintoff-King.

Flintoff-King handed the flame to Australian 400m gold medal hope for the Sydney Games Cathy Freeman — an Aboriginal and a silver medalist in Atlanta — who then lit a ring in the middle of a pool of water.

The secret was out. Freeman was the woman who would ignite the cauldron and after what seemed an endless wait the flame rose out of the water and up a ramp where it finally took its rightful place at the top of the stadium.

That concluded the ceremonial part of the pageant and a fireworks display greeted the start of the first Games of the new Millennium.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN	
1 Task	41 Story	1 Pugnistic	21 Spencer's co-star
4 Seam problems	42 Postal	2 Brutus' break-	22 Alternative to 401(k)s
8 Body of laws	word	3 Tends kids	23 Do sound-track
12 One of Frank's exes	44 Clemens hero	4 Sloping timber	27 Choke
13 Eastern nurse-maid	46 Step-by-step	5 "bad boy"	29 1956 film
14 State with certain	50 Become one	6 Wear a rug in the rut	30 One of the THES
15 Kenneth Edmonds' nom de music	51 Layaway	7 Curly's brother	31 "Let a Deal" option
17 Unadorned	52 Diane Keaton movie	8 The JFK	33 Nocturnal visitor
18 Nevertheless	56 Radius' neighbor	9 administration	35 It may be noble
19 Napoleon	57 160 square rods	9 Finished	38 Addressee
20 Nero	58 Schlep	10 Golden (Ital.)	40 Ben Mallock, e.g.
21 Acknowledged mistletoe	59 Existed	11 Basin	43 Morocco's capital
22 Chum	60 Lachrymal	16 Indubitably	45 Charlotte's creation
23 "Exotic" character	61 Boundary (Abbr.)	20 Standard	46 Food
26 Bad hairpiece	Solution time: 27 mins.		
28 In judicial raiment	HAM ROUT SAMP		
32 Makes lace	USO IRMA OHIO		
34 Satchel	WIO CRANKCAISE		
36 Poi rot	SALINA RAPPA DEGAS		
37 Montaigne opus	BANKROLL ROSA		
39 Guy's	RITO DRIES TAP		
	AROW TANKTPOS		
	GENE SIOSE		
	ELLE LYRIS		
	BLANKLOOK AXE		
	RUDE ABLE SPA		
	AGAR TIED POT		