

Six matches at Gazipur

SPORTS REPORTER

Six second-phase matches of the Citycell Federation Cup will be played at the Gazipur Stadium when the competition resumes next Sunday after a weeklong break.

Mohammedan are pitted against fellow B. League club Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) while Arambagh meet Sunrise SC at Gazipur on the day of resumption.

The top five B. League clubs -- Abahani, Mohammedan, Muktiyoddha, Sheikh Russel and Brothers Union -- will play all their games at the BNS.

All matches in Gazipur start at 4.30pm while the games in Dhaka will kick off at 6pm except on August 20 when Brothers play BKSP (5pm) and Russell face Victoria (7pm).

The organising committee, which has confirmed that the semi-finals and the finals will be held during the month of Ramjan, however, has yet to announce the dates of the knockout phase that start with the quarterfinals.

MATCHES AT GAZIPUR

Arambagh-Sunrise (Aug 18), Farashgaj-Wanderers (Aug 19), Chittagong Abahani-Jatabari (Aug 21), Rahmatganj-Sunrise (Aug 22), Khulna Abahani-Wanderers (Aug 23), Victoria-BKSP (Aug 24).

Prisons, Army victorious

UNB, Dhaka

Prisons Directorate beat Bangladesh Air Force 31-12 in a preliminary round match of the 28th National Kabaddi Championship at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

The winners lead the first half 23-8.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Navy 41-20 at the same venue.

In today's matches, Bangladesh Police take on Prisons and Navy face Air Force.

Mohammedan's fun matches from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club will organise 'fun matches' in the city from today in a bid to bring back the good old football crowd to the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The popular Dhaka outfit will launch the programme at Lalbagh this afternoon and follow it up at grounds in Azimpur (August 17), Basabo (Aug 19) and Indira Road (Aug 23).

Mohammedan's additional general secretary Mostaqur Rahman told at a press conference at the club tent yesterday that the club's ex-stars including current Bangladesh Football Federation high-ups Abdus Salam Murshed, Badal Roy, Zakaria Pintu, Kaiser Hamid will participate in the four matches to attract the fans.

"We had offers from more areas but at the initial stage, we will play at four grounds. Gradually, we will extend this programme to cover the whole Dhaka city," Mosatq told.

"Almost all the ex-players will join this programme and we hope that it would help bring back the fans in the Federation Cup matches," he said adding that they will distribute club flags and shirts to the fans.

Zakaria Pintu and Fazlur Rahman Babul were also present at the press conference.

FROM PAGE 1

Overall Medal

	ITA	AUS	JPN	RUS	GBR	GEO	CZE	FRA	P	R	K
1											
2											
4											
A	Z	E									
1											
2											
4											
NED	1	1	3								
ROM	1	1	2								
SVK	1	1	0								
SUI	1	0	3								
ESP	1	0	1								
FIN	1	0	1								
IND	1	0	0								
THA	1	0	0								
ZIM	0	3	0								
CUB	0	2	1								
HUN	0	2	1								
SWE	0	2	0								
ALG	0	1	1								
AUT	0	1	1								
KAZ	0	1	1								
KGZ	0	1	1								
COL	0	1	0								
MGL	0	1	0								
NOR	0	1	0								
SLO	0	1	0								
TUR	0	1	0								
VIE	0	1	0								
UKR	0	0	4								
ARM	0	0	3								
BRA	0	0	3								
BLR	0	0	2								
INA	0	0	2								
TPE	0	0	2								
ARG	0	0	1								
BUL	0	0	1								



Brazil star Diego (L) scores the opening goal past China goalkeeper Liu Zhenli (C) during the men's preliminary Group C match at the Quinhuangdao Olympic Center Stadium on Wednesday.

Arch-rivals stay on course

AFP, Beijing



Argentina and Brazil remained on course for a semifinal showdown in the men's Olympic football competition as the final eight sorted themselves out in the last round of Group matches Wednesday.

Italy emerged as the best of the rest and have the kindest draw with the prospect of a semifinal against Nigeria if the Group winners also win their opening play-off match.

Defending champions Argentina kept Lionel Messi on the bench but were still too good for Serbia for their ninth consecutive Games win, an Olympic record after going through unbeaten in Athens four years ago.

They beat the Serbs 2-0 with a penalty by Ezequiel Lavezzi in the 12th minute and a free kick from Angel de Maria more than an hour

later.

A goal from Chelsea striker Salomon Kalou gave Ivory Coast a 1-0 win over Australia to qualify second in Group A and an African showdown with Nigeria in the quarterfinals.

Argentina play the Netherlands in the quarterfinals while Brazil play Cameroon.

A brace from Thiago Neves helped Brazil to beat China 3-0 ending any hope the host nation had of going through.

Such was the pressure on the Chinese to perform that their one point from three games drew the ire of their fans with one online commentator describing their performances as "full of shame and disgust".

But they were never in with a chance against Brazil who have Ronaldinho back to his near best dictating the game from the midfield.

Belgium beat New Zealand 1-0 to be the second qualifiers from group C and a date with Italy.

They Italians and Cameroon both progressed to the quarterfinals after fighting out a turgid goalless draw in Group D which saw the African side play with 10 men for all but 32 minutes.

Whilst Cameroon - who also missed a penalty - will be pleased to have made the last eight, the 2000 Olympic champions will be missing the red carded Georges Mandjeck and defender Paul Bebey - who received his second yellow card of the tournament - when they play Brazil.

Nigeria finished top of Group B when they beat the United States 2-1 with the Netherlands leapfrogging the USA to be the second qualifiers when a late Gerald Sibon penalty secured a 1-0 win over lowly Japan.

America's cause was not helped by playing with 10 men from the second minute when defender Michael Orozco was red-carded.

The quarterfinal matches will be played on Saturday.

happens the task force may well revisit. At this stage I cannot say but certainly the task force will exist to the end of the tournament."

Vaughan afraid

FROM PAGE 17

India and the West Indies will make the next generation focus on the big-hitting needed to flourish in the 20-over game rather than the more disciplined style of five-day Tests.

"My gut feeling is that players will be gearing their game towards the Twenty20 format, more than the five-day format," Vaughan told Wisden Cricketer magazine.

"The new generation of 15-to-20-year-olds, are they going to gear themselves towards travelling the world for nine months of the year playing five-day cricket or earn plenty by playing three-hour cricket a little bit in India and at home? I'm not too sure.

"Suppose you're a young player and you suddenly come into the England team now, and within the first year you play two Stanfords and earn a million quid and get an IPL deal.

"Where's it going to go to? That's my fear for the longer format - that the motivation of players will be more geared towards Twenty20 cricket.

"What we're all saying is that the pinnacle is Test cricket... That's why the administrators have got to be clever."

Jin can now

FROM PAGE 17

Jin was persuaded by his parents to start shooting when he was a tenth-grader. Despite a late start, the talented boy progressed rapidly.

The Athens Games was his Olympic debut, when he not only got a silver, but finished as fifth in 10-meter air pistol event.

A professional shooter for a telecom company, the baby-faced Jin spends half of his time each year training and competing outside home.

But his wife, who was an accordionist, said that "separation makes us treasure and love each other more."

This time, when Jin was competing, his wife, without a ticket to the shooting range, sat in a Korean restaurant outside and watched the competition via television.

Before the Games, the lady had agreed to delay their plan to have baby.

Now that Jin's mission is over, they may consider to carry out the plan.

India win

FROM PAGE 17

wide before Pak did eventually claim his treble from the spot after So was felled in the area and Han subsequently received his marching orders.

Ro then headed home from close range seven minutes after the break as Myanmar continued to leak goals but Pak was denied a fourth goal two minutes from time when another penalty was stopped by Kyaw.

Be positive

FROM PAGE 17

the third and final Test here on Saturday.

"It is always difficult to replace him (Tendulkar) as he contributes not only with his batting and bowling, but also comes out with brilliant suggestions," said Dhoni.

India will play their only practice match before the one-day series here on Friday.

Georgia beat

FROM PAGE 17

Unlike many competitors, who steer shy of any talk of politics, Uryadova's teammate Alexandra Shiryayeva had no hesitation in discussing the conflict.

"It was very stupid for Georgia to start a war with Russia because Russia is very big and Georgia very small," she said, adding, "I don't like war."

After the match, Santanna took exception to Uryadova's remarks.

"I feel like a Georgian. I have a Georgian passport and a Brazilian passport. We have fought for the past two years to be here as one of the 24 teams," Santanna said.

"I don't want this to be a war between us. I appreciate them and respect them as players."

Santanna and her partner Andreza Chagas had made a political statement before the tournament by opting to compete under the Georgian names of Rtvlo and Saka respectively, which, when combined, form the Georgian-language name for that country.

There was greater evidence of Olympic spirit when Russia's Natalia Paderina won silver in the women's 10m Air Pistol last week ahead of Georgian bronze medalist Nino Salukvadze, with the two friends embracing warmly on the podium.

However, Salukvadze would not have had a medal at all if Georgian officials had gone through with their threat to withdraw from the Olympic in protest at the South Ossetia crisis.

But Georgia's National Olympic Committee still used one of the most iconic scenes at any Games opening ceremony to make a political point, a statement issued on Saturday saying: "We hope that the dove that was released on Friday from the 'Bird's Nest' stadium will make its way to the Caucasus and restore peace in the region."

Spin camp

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Khan will coordinate. Wahidul Gani will head the camp.

For further information, all concerned have been requested to contact the BCB's game development department.

Tigers off

FROM PAGE 17

The three-match series between Bangladesh and Australia will be held on August 30, September 3 and 6 at the TIO Stadium in Darwin.

Meanwhile, opener Nazimuddin took off with the Tigers after Shahriar Nafees pulled out of the tour in the last minute, due to his educational commitments.

Starlets ready to shine

AFP, London



For once Arsene Wenger isn't the only manager with a host of young starlets at his disposal as the Premier League's other leading clubs prepare to showcase their own gifted prodigies.

Arsenal manager Wenger has a well-deserved reputation for turning unpolished gems into glittering diamonds, as the likes of Cesc Fabregas, Kolo Toure and Nicolas Anelka can testify.

But Wenger's worldwide scouting network - once so groundbreaking - has been emulated by Chelsea, Manchester United and Liverpool and they are about to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

At Stamford Bridge, new Chelsea coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has already spoken passionately about the need to capitalise on the club's investment in youth.

Roman Abramovich's wealth has allowed Chelsea to sign some of the best young players in the world in their age groups but few have been ready for first-team action until now.

After helping Chelsea reach the FA Youth Cup final last season, Michael Woods, an 18-year-old midfielder, and teenage Slovak winger Miroslav Stoch will be given their chance.

But it is Franco Di Santo and Scott Sinclair who are expected to

make the biggest impact.

Argentine forward Di Santo, 19, only arrived from Auxax Italiano in a three million pounds transfer in January and he has already been given the number nine shirt in Scolari's first-team squad.

He has yet to make his debut but is certain to feature sooner rather than later.

Sinclair, a jet-heeled winger who has dazzled on loan at Championship clubs Crystal Palace and Plymouth, should fulfil the huge potential that persuaded Chelsea to lure him from Bristol Rovers as a 15-year-old.

Few clubs in Europe can match Manchester United's record of producing world-class home-grown stars and Sir Alex Ferguson can benefit from another talented group this year.

Danny Welbeck, a 17-year-old Salford-born attacker likened to Nwankwo Kanu, joined United's squad towards the end of last season as a reward for his progress and has limitless potential.

Fraizer Campbell, who helped Hull win promotion during his loan spell, has impressed Ferguson with his tenacity, while Northern Ireland pair Jonny Evans and Darron Gibson have both been earmarked for more first-team action.

Liverpool's desperation to end an 18-year wait to win the English title may preclude Rafa Benitez from bleeding too many young-

sters immediately but French midfielder Damien Plessis and Argentine defender Emiliano Insua could breakthrough.

Yet Wenger won't be outdone easily.

As well as close-season signings Samir Nasri, 20, and Welsh teenager Aaron Ramsey, Wenger has high hopes for 16-year-old English winger Jack Wilshere and Brazilian midfielder Denilson.

West Ham's latest crop of starlets only had to watch last season's Champions League to see what can be achieved if you make the grade at Upton Park.

The sight of Manchester United duo Rio Ferdinand and Michael Carrick doing battle with Chelsea's Frank Lampard and Joe Cole - all graduates of West Ham's academy - told its own story and Hammers boss Alan Curbishley believes he has a group capable of emulating those stars.

Freddie Sears, 18, announced his arrival with the winner against Blackburn just six minutes after coming off the bench for his debut in March.

Sears made a further six appearances, including his first start, before the end of the season and he should play a more significant role this season.

James Tomkins, a 19-year-old defender, and Jack Collison, a 19-year-old midfielder, both made debuts last season that hinted at greater things to come.

Cheating claims flare up

AFP, Beijing



Claims of questionable officiating and even cheating flared Wednesday with the Olympic shooting and boxing competitions coming under fire.

Australian veteran shooter Russell Mark alleged that Chinese judges, influenced by a boisterous home crowd, helped local hope Hu Binyuan win the Double Trap bronze medal.

Mark, 44, the Atlanta Games gold medalist who finished fifth in the event here, told Australian media that local judges 'had awarded a hit to Hu even though he

missed the target.

"One of them clearly he missed," Mark was quoted as saying. "I don't think anyone out there thought he hit it. If that had been for a gold medal, I would have been protesting."

"The referees have to be in unison but there was a lot of doubt about a lot of the shots out there."

"I'm glad it wasn't for a gold medal because that is all that this Games would have been remembered for unfortunately."

Asked if the judges deliberately ruled in Hu's favour, Mark said: "I'd hate to think that but you get the feeling out there, when someone clearly misses, all the shooters out there can tell if he missed or hit it."

"Everybody stopped."

Mark said the judges may have

been influenced by the boisterous crowd of 10,000 that cheered the Chinese shooter on.

"The crowd were yelling and calling shots in and out," he said. "It was like a circus out there. It would have been a brave Chinese judge that would have put his hand up (to signify a miss)."

There was no immediate reaction on Mark's outburst from Games officials or the International Shooting Federation.

Similar claims of hometown advantage were made at the National Indoor Stadium after China beat the United States to the women's team gymnastics gold medal in front of a noisy Chinese crowd.

US team coordinator Martha Karolyi blamed stadium officials for distracting one of their athletes who went on to make crucial mistakes that she said destroyed their title hopes, although USA Gymnastics later played down the remarks.

China won its showdown after Alicia Sacramone fell off the balance beam then slipped over during the floor exercise, opening the way for the home team to post a narrow 2.375 point victory.

"First they called her name up, then they did not even put her name up even though the Chinese had finished ... (it was) totally unusual holding," said Karolyi.

USA Gymnastics president Steve Penny later said the delay happened because of scheduling issues related to the Games' television feed.

"It's a normal television thing that's typical in international competition," he told AFP.

Judging controversies have also blighted the boxing tournament.

China's Gu Yu caused an upset by defeating Joe Murray, the bantamweight world bronze medalist, on Tuesday but afterwards his camp was adamant he had been on the receiving end of some questionable verdicts.

They implied that the home fighter had been favoured.

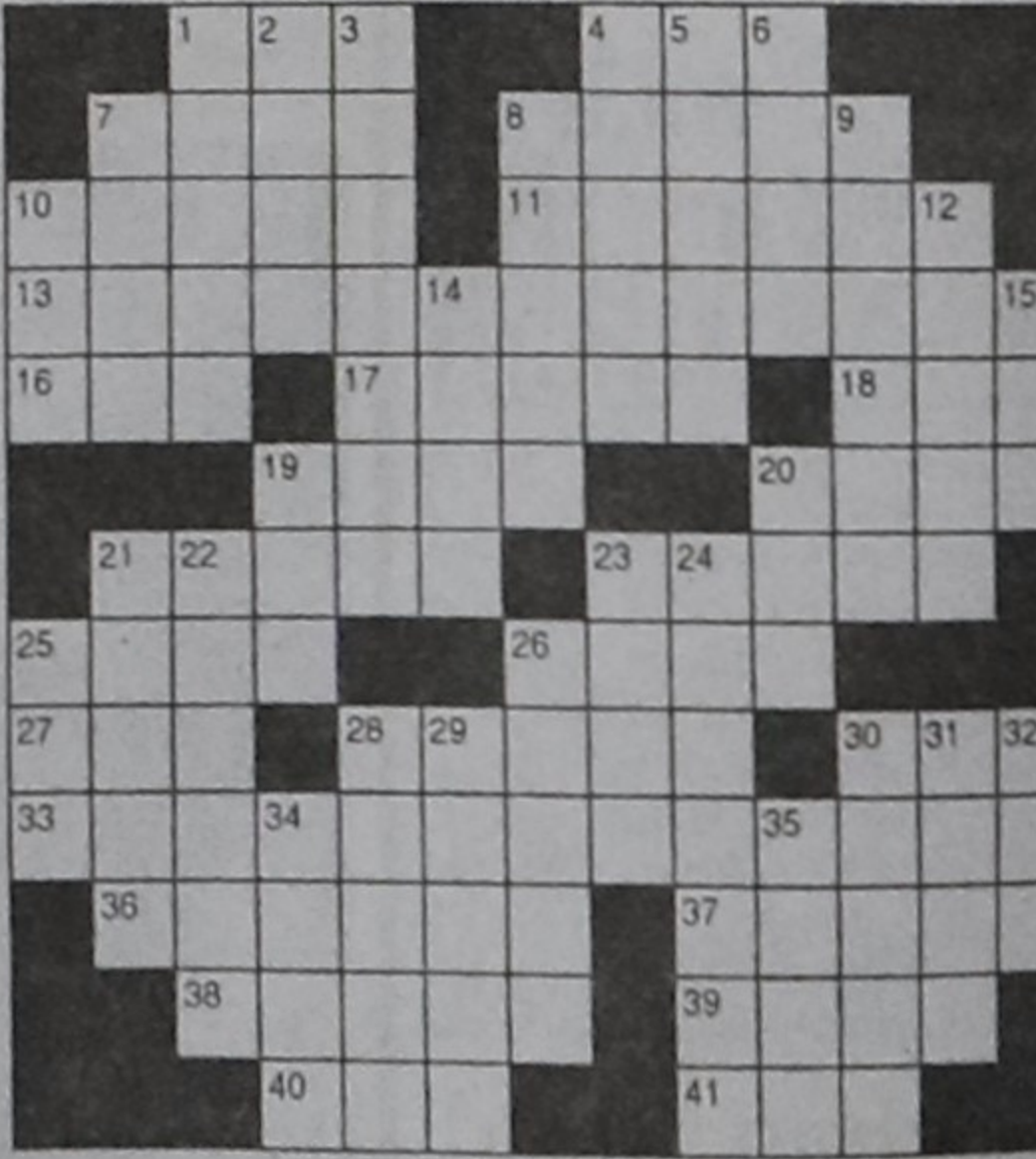
"I knew what it was going to be like. I've been watching the scoring the past few days and I knew it was bad. So I was expecting it," Murray said.



China's Wang Feng and Qin Kai (top) compete during the men's synchronised 3m springboard final at the National Aquatics Centre in the 2008 Beijing Olympics yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Type	1 Hen-
28 Repen-	12 Over and
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37 Expendi-	21 Concise
38 Counts'	22 Save
13 1938 Kurt	23 Perry
Well	Mason
melody	34 Whoever
39 Crucial	24 Third
time	degree?
40 Tackle	26 Iron
opener	28 Simper
41 Japanese	29 Symbols
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	periods
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CRYPTOQUIP

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CRPT YF WFBJOUT GFHP.

DY UX KTCR R OJODCCX

FHKTH CDUE FB HXT.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: AN OVERHANGING

ROOF EDGE FELL DOWN AND CAUSED MUCH

DAMAGE. IT WAS THE EAVE OF DESTRUCTION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals T