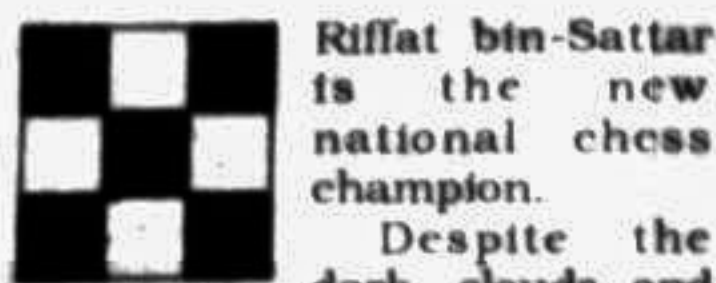


Riffat new national champion

Sports Reporter



Riffat bin-Sattar is the new national chess champion. Despite the dark clouds and heavy downpour all day long yesterday, the young 17-year-old intermediate student of Notre Dame College playing under the Bangladesh Biman banner, succeeded in gathering the half a point he needed to lay claim on the title of the 17th national championship at the NSC chess room.

The depressing weather failed to depress the spirits of this promising youngster who faced a rather difficult final and 15th round clash against Anisur Rahman of Dhaka Metropolis. Having faltered in the 11th and 12th round games, two successive defeats which had threatened to upset his whole rhythm, Riffat managed to call on all his reserves of strength and stamina — both physical and mental — to muster enough skill and settle for a draw with Anis after only 15 moves yesterday afternoon.

Riffat, who had collected 11 points from 14 games, finished top of the 16-player table with a final tally of 11.5 points, just one point ahead of runner-up Ziaul Kader Tuhin, of Dhaka Metropolis.

Tuhin, who achieved the distinction of finishing his first-ever national competition unbeaten, and who had also handed the hitherto unstoppable Riffat his first defeat of the meet in their 11th round clash last week, finished on 10.5 points.

With a late flourish Tuhin had suddenly thrown this year's title race wide open after Riffat looked set to decide the issue well before the last few rounds with his inexorable march of victories. But yesterday Tuhin failed to maintain his tempo, being forced to

agree to a draw by Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Bangladesh Anars.

Three players including last year's champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman of Biman, last year's runner-up Younus Hassan of Anars and Khandaker Kayes Hassan finished tied on 9.5 points each. But according to the tie-break, Younus Hassan was deemed to have placed third in this year's meet, followed by Kayes Hassan at fourth and Tahmidur Rahman at fifth.

Yesterday, Younus beat Sheikh Anwar Hossain of Dhaka DSA while Tahmid earned a walkover against his Biman teammate Rezaul Haq who has not been taking part in the meet since the 11th round.

Shahabuddin Ahmed

ROLL OF HONOUR

Following is the roll of honour of the national chess championship:

Years	Champion
1974	Miah Abdus Saik
1975	Dr Mirza Akmal Hossain
1976	Not held
1977	Dr Mirza Akmal Hossain
1978	Rezaul Haque
1979	Niaz Murshed
1980	"
1981	"
1982	"
1983	Jamilur Rahman
1984	Younus Hassan
1985	Syed Ahmed Sohail
1986	Zillur Rahman Champak
1987	"
1988	Ziaur Rahman
1989	Rezaul Haq
1990	Syed Tahmidur Rahman
1991	Riffat bin-Sattar

Qureishi of Sylhet finished sixth with nine points following his win yesterday over Bogra player Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ritna who took the wooden spoon with only two points to his credit.

Anisur Rahman also finished the meet on nine points but the tie-break placed him seventh in the table.

Former national champion Jamilur Rahman finished eighth while former national women's champion Rani Hamid of Biman finished ninth, both collecting eight points each.

Yesterday Jamil drew his final game against Dhaka Metropolis' Mainuddin Mamoon, who earned five points to finish fourteenth.

Dhaka Metro's Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury's loss to Rani Hamid yesterday left him 13th, with five points.

Shahinur Hossain of Dhaka Metro and Shabana Parveen Nipa of Faridpur placed 10th and 11th respectively with 7.5 points each. The two drew their last game yesterday.

Sheikh Anwar Hossain of Dhaka DSA finished 12th overall while Biman's Rezaul Haq placed 15th with three points, having withdrawn from the meet after the 11th round.

Ratings earned: Three players — Ziaul Kader Tuhin, Khandaker Kayes Hassan and Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureishi earned their new international ratings following their performances in the nationals. Tuhin and Shahabuddin Qureishi both now have a rating of 2,290 while Kayes has a rating of 2,300.

Younus Hassan improved his former rating by five points to 2,320 while Riffat added 85 to his previous rating of 2,265 to now have 2,350.

Rezaul Haq, who had a rat-

ing of 2,230 coming into the meet, has now lost his international rating because of his poor showing.

Riffat, playing for Biman for the past three years, became joint first along with three other players in the Asian under-16 Championship in Qatar and participated in the Loyds Bank tournament in London and the Goodricke international tournament in Calcutta earlier this year.

Playing chess from 1982, Riffat lifted the national Junior titles in 1987 and 1989. He also won the national junior title in 1988.

The only son of Dr Golam Sattar, Riffat is interested in a higher degree in computer engineering.

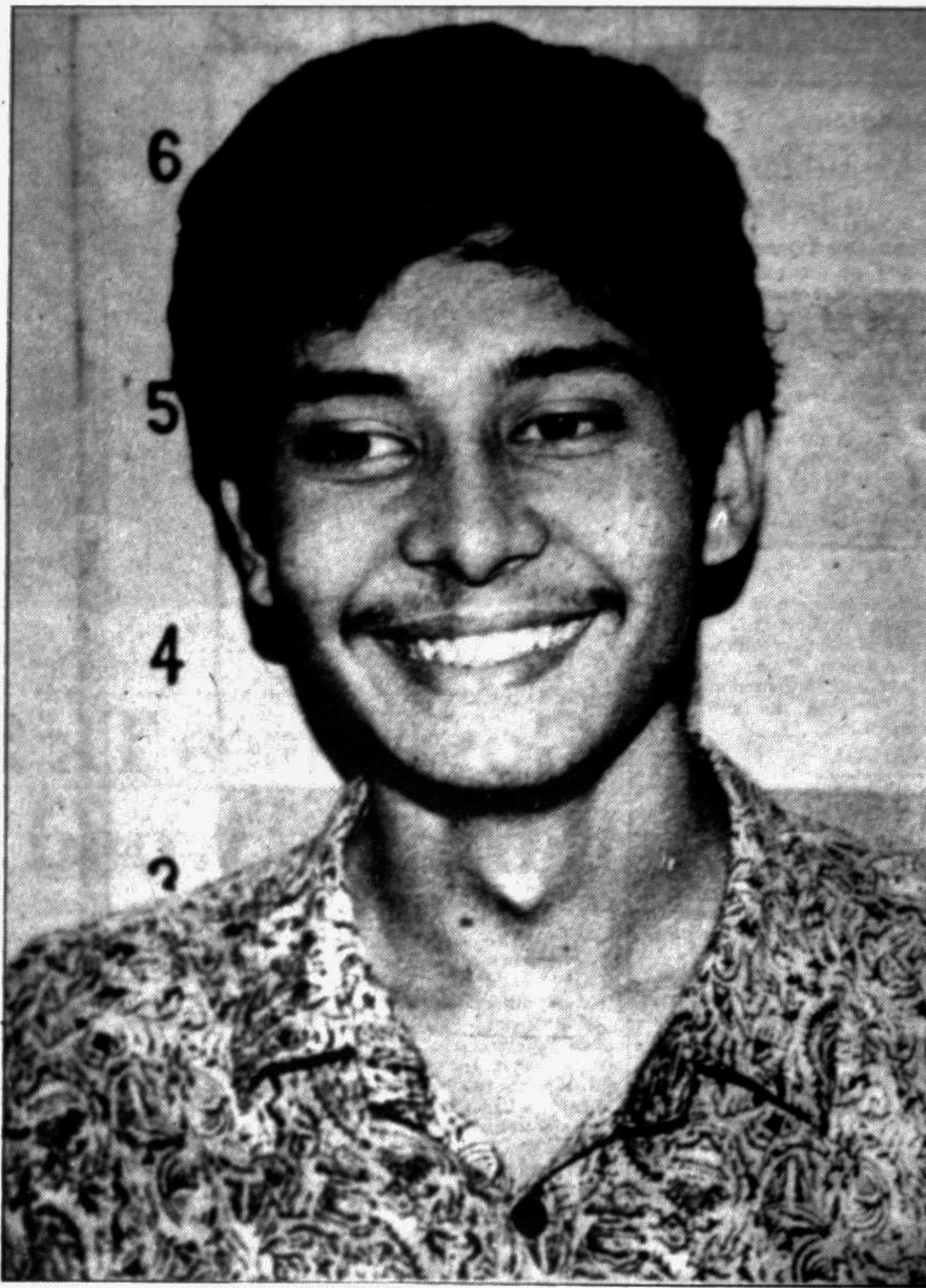
Press Club chess

The Jatya Press Club Chess Competition, organised by the club to mark its 37th founding anniversary, began at the club auditorium yesterday, reports BSS.

President of the club Mozammel Huq inaugurated the meet. General Secretary Showkat Mahmud and convener of the sports sub-committee Shamsul Alam Belal were present.

Eighteen journalists from different dailies are taking part in a five-round Swiss league competition sponsored by Bangladesh Sports.

On the opening day, nine players earned full points winning their games. They were: Shokat Rushdee and Abdur Rahman Khan (Bangladesh Times), Ahmed Nur-E-Alam (Dainik Bangla), Badiul Alam (Janata), Gazi Raunk Hossain (Dainik Bangla), Khaled Haider (Dinkal), Monwar Hossain (Chitrali), Aminul Islam Shaheen (Desh) and Nazimuddin Manik.



RIFFAT BIN-SATTAR... new national chess champion

Fed Cup semis postponed yet again

Sports Reporter

The weather has again played foul with the Federation Cup football schedule.

The once-postponed first semifinal between defending champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra has now again been postponed by a day and rescheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, October 16 at the Mirpur Stadium.

The other semifinal match between Brothers Union and Fakirpool will now be held on Thursday, October 17.

The third place deciding play off will be held on Saturday, Oct 19 while the final will now be held on October 20 at the same venue.

The semifinals were originally billed for October 14 and 15 respectively but organisers Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) were forced to shift both the dates by a day each due to the heavy rainfall over a past couple of days. The incessant downpour throughout yesterday made another rescheduling inevitable.

Feyenoord lead Dutch league

AMSTERDAM, Oct 14: Feyenoord won 4-1 at Den Haag on Sunday to go two points clear at the top of the Dutch soccer league of champions P S V Eindhoven, who have three games in hand, reports Reuter.

P S V and rivals Ajax did not play as some of their players are with the national squad for a European Championship qualifier against Portugal on Wednesday.

Sunday's match was not as one-sided as the result suggested and Den Haag took the lead in the sixth minute when midfielder Harry Van der Laan scored against his old club.

Feyenoord equalised just before halftime and went ahead three minutes after the break through Henk Fraser.

The Rotterdam club sealed the match in the 87th and 89th minutes with goals from striker Regi Blinker and Hungarian midfielder Jozsef Kiprich.

Man City try out Soviet booter

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 14: Soviet Union international Igor Kornev began a week's trial with Manchester City today, but he will be unable to play any competitive games for the English First Division side, reports AFP.

The 24-year-old CSKA Moscow striker is prevented from turning out for City by a clause in his work permit.

City manager Peter Reid said: "We will look at him in practice games and then probably go over to Russia to see him in matches before considering our next move."

Injuries beset Scottish team

GLASGOW, Scotland, Oct 14: Midfielder Murdo Macleod is out of Scotland's European Championship qualifier in Romania Wednesday and striker Ally McCoist is very doubtful, reports AFP.

The Hibernia star has failed to respond to treatment for a knee injury, while McCoist aggravated an ankle injury after hitting two goals in Rangers 3-2 victory over St Johnstone on Saturday.

Rangers assistant manager Archie Knox said: "Ally is suffering a lot of pain and it looks unlikely that he will make the trip."

However, there was some good news for Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh when Leeds playmaker Gordon Strachan declared himself fit for the match.

The Leeds skipper came through 70 minutes of a reserve match at Old Trafford on Saturday without a recurrence of his hamstring injury.

Another coach sacked in Italy

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Oct 14: Struggling Italian club Cagliari sacked Carlo Mazzone as their new coach on Wednesday in a bid to reverse their fortunes after five successive defeats, reports Reuter.

Cagliari became the third First Division club in two weeks to sack their coach on Tuesday when they fired Massimo Giacomini.

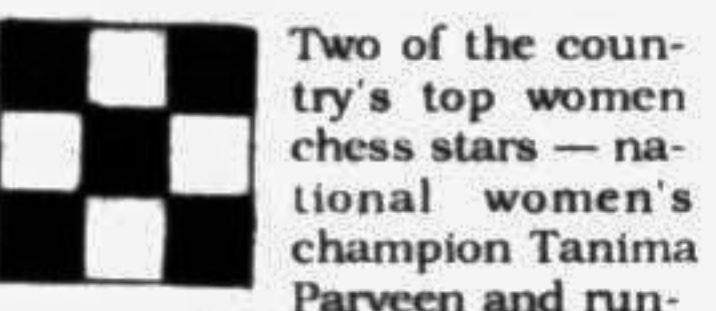
Bari, fourth from bottom with three points from three draws, fired Gaetano Salvemini 10 days ago and took on former Poland international Zigi Boniek as his replacement.

Brazil's 1990 World Cup coach Sebastiao Lazaroni lost his job at Fiorentina last week after achieving just one win. Zigi Radice replaced him.

Last season Cagliari picked up 11 points in an unbeaten run in their final eight matches to avoid relegation

Tanima, Nipa for Bhopal

Sports Reporter



Two of the country's top women chess stars — national women's champion Tanima Parveen and runner-up Shabana Parveen Nipa — will leave Dhaka today to represent Bangladesh in the sixth Asian women's individual chess championship scheduled to be held from October 17 to November 1 in the Indian city of Bhopal.

Last year's national men's champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman will accompany the pair as coach-cum manager.

The Bangladesh girls will fly to Calcutta by Bangladesh Biman and proceed to Bhopal

by train. The organisers of the championship have not yet decided whether the meet will be played on a round robin league or under the Swiss league system. The champion of the meet will earn the International Woman Master's title.

Meanwhile, in another development, a six-member Bangladesh chess team will take part in the Asian team chess championship scheduled to begin from 23rd of this month at the Malaysian port city of Penang.

The Bangladesh squad will consist of Grand Master Niaz Murshed, International Master

Zillur Rahman Champak, Fide Master Ziaur Rahman, new national champion Riffat bin-Sattar runner-up Ziaul Kader Tuhin and Fide Master Younus Hasan are expected to leave Dhaka by October 21.

Twenty Asian teams will be taking part in the meet and, according to Bangladesh Chess Federation officials, Bangladesh has a good chance of finishing in the top quarter.

Toney keeps his IBF title

MONACO, Oct 14: American middleweight James Toney had no trouble defending his International Boxing Federation crown here on Saturday night, knocking out Italian Francesco 'Dell' Aquila in the fourth round, reports AFP.

'Lights Out' Toney, 23, took control of the bout right from the start, giving the Italian a solid battering before a 'right hook had the referee counting 'Dell' Aquila to eight.

The challenger was thrown on the defensive for the rest of the fight, but couldn't keep all of Toney's hammer blows away from the target.

A vicious left hook in the fourth had Francesco in trouble, and a flurry of follow-up punches finally did switch the lights out for the challenger.

Toney said 'Dell' Aquila never bothered me. He was very weak and didn't catch me once. Right from the first punch in the first round, I knew I was going to win quickly."

The American is now set to fight the World Boxing Association title holder, Jamaica's Mike McCallum, to unify the title. The fight will be in either Atlantic City, New Jersey or Paris on December 13.

Not so friendly, after all!

JAKARTA, Oct 14: Clashes among hundreds of opposing supporters of two village soccer teams in Central Java left seven people severely injured and damaged a water supply network, a report said here today, reports AFP.

The brawl at the Gembol village sports field on Sunday followed a series of fouls by the home team and the visitors from the neighbouring village of Condongcampur, the Berita Buana daily said.

The friendship tournament, with a goat as the prize, turned into a battle when supporters of the visitors invaded the pitch to attack the Gembol team.

Fans of the Gembol team came to their rescue and a mass brawl involving hundreds of people ensued. The seven seriously injured people were taken to the local medical centre.

Local police stopped the brawl but condongcampur fans went on the rampage in Gembol, wrecking its water supply tanks and its entire piping network.

Police detained 20 people following the incident, the daily said.

Boban could join Bari

ROME, Oct 14: Yugoslav prospect Zvonimir Boban, with AC Milan, could join struggling Italian First Division club Bari for the rest of the season, reports Reuter.

AC Milan director Arrigo Brada said on Friday there was a strong possibility that Boban would join Bari next month.

He said the move depended on Bari suspending the contract of their Brazilian winger Joao Paulo, who is out for the rest of the season after breaking his leg.

Boban would return to Milan next year when Italian clubs are expected to be allowed to have more than three foreign players on their books, Brada said.

Boban, signed by Milan from Dinamo Zagreb in the close season, has been kept out of the first team this season by Dutch trio Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard.

Salonika's locked-in tie

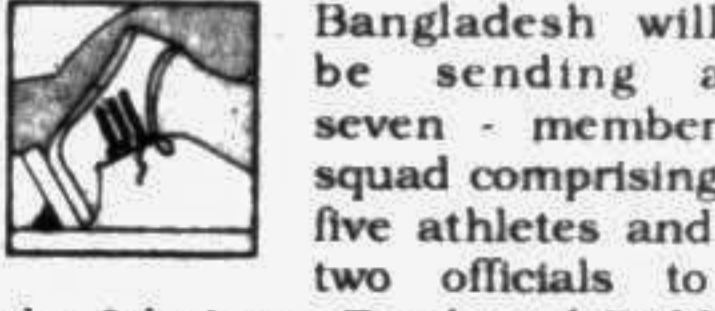
BERNE, Oct 14: Greek club Paok Salonika were ordered on Friday to play their next UEFA Cup match behind closed doors after their fans attacked opposition supporters in last month's first round, reports Reuter.

UEFA also banned live or delayed television and radio coverage of Paok's home tie against Austria's Swarovski Tirol on October 23.

UEFA criticised Paok's organisation of their first round game against Belgian side Mechelen in September, saying match officials had been left to take a taxi to the stadium unaccompanied

Five picked for Asian T&F

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh will be sending a seven-member squad comprising five athletes and two officials to the 9th Asian Track and Field Championships scheduled to be held in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur Oct 19-23.

M A Mannan, a joint secretary of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF) will lead the team as manager while Arzan Khan will accompany as the coach.

Bangladesh will be taking part in the men's 100m and 200 metres sprints, the 400m and 800m races, the 4x400m relay and the triple jump.

The five athletes named to represent Bangladesh at the multi-discipline five-day meet are Milzar Hossain of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), Mehdi Hassan of BJMC, Lance Naik Farid Khan Chowdhury of Bangladesh Army, Havildar A B M Afzal Hossain of Army and Ghyasuddin, also of Army.

The selection of these athletes, all of whom have been undergoing intensive training for the past few weeks in preparation for the fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games scheduled to be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo late December, has given rise to some controversy. While the five names all merit a selection, yet it cannot be explained why Bangladesh Army's Lance Naik Golam Ambia, who won

four gold medals in the national championship last February, and completed a sprint double by winning both the 100 and 200m golds — in the process bettering the existing SAF Games record for the 100m by clocking a remarkable 10.4 seconds — has been omitted from the Kuala Lumpur squad. In the preliminary and final selection lists of athletes picked for the SAF

Games training camp, Golam Ambia's name featured on top. Milzar Hossain, who represented Bangladesh in the Asian Junior championships some years ago and in the 1988 Olympic Games, putting in undistinguished performances in several international and re-

gional meets in between, including the SAF and Asian Games, is basically a 400m specialist. But his former national mark in the event was bettered last February by his BJMC teammate Mehdi Hassan who clocked 47.20 seconds. Mehdi also runs the 200m and placed second in the event in the last nationals.

Farid Khan Chowdhury also packs in the 4x400m relay and the 200m sprint in his repertoire, having won the 200m bionze in the last nationals.

Only Havildar A B M Afzal Hossain's selection for the triple jump leaves no room for doubts. The strong Armyman rewrote the national record in his event by leaping a distance of 15.55 metres, 22 metres better than the previous mark.

Knowledgeable circles wondered why the BAAF limited its squad size to only five and why a few female athletes were not picked.

According to them, given Bangladesh's poor prospects at the Asian level, it would perhaps still not have been a bad idea to send a few more of our athletes from the SAF camp to gain exposure that might have benefited them and the country's prospects at the Colombo Games.

The manager and the coach, whose air passage has been provided by the organisers, leave Dhaka today while the five athletes will leave for Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, Oct 17.

England opt for experience

LONDON, Oct 14: England manager Graham Taylor is expected to drop David Batty and Geoff Thomas for a more experienced midfield against Turkey at Wembley on Thursday, reports AFP.

Batty of First Division Leeds United and Thomas of Crystal Palace have formed the basis of the new England midfield developed under Taylor.

But he now seems to favour the veterans who served predecessor Bobby Robson. Taylor said previous selection experiments were designed to avoid a World Cup slaughter of the innocents, but European Championship qualification currently takes priority.

So Bryan Robson, Chris Waddle and Peter Beardsley are likely to be recalled against Turkey.

"Our short-term goal is the European Championship," said Taylor.

"Hopefully we will qualify for the finals in Sweden but whatever we do there, I wouldn't want to come out of that and go into a World Cup qualification tournament with players of little experience."

"I don't want to go into a World Cup with players innocent of international football. In my selections so far I have given people

experience."

Oldham's Richard Jobson, a late choice as a defensive cover against Turkey, is the 50th player called up by Taylor for 14 matches.

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"Ian Wright has been carrying an ankle ligament injury ever since he joined us and it's slowly been getting worse," said Arsenal manager Graham.

Meanwhile, a Reuter report from London said: Scotland have lost Mo Johnston Ally McCoist, Steve Nicol and Murdo Macleod for their European Soccer Championship qualifier against Romania on Wednesday.

Injuries have ruled out the four players and on Sunday manager Andy Roxburgh called up Hibernian defender Tommy McIntyre and Aberdeen midfielder Brian Grant to boost the squad going to Bucharest.

Two other men on Roxburgh's stand-by list — John Collins of Celtic and Derek Ferguson of Hearts — are also hurt.

Roxburgh is also concerned about Dundee United midfielder Jim McInally, who has a knee injury, but said he had no worries about using either McIntyre or Grant.

"I have no qualms about bringing them into the pack. Although they are both new to the set-up they have a fantastic attitude and are delighted to be involved."

Scotland trail leaders Switzerland by one point in Group Two, with a game in hand, and must at least draw against Romania to have a hope of qualifying for next year's finals in Sweden.



Xie Jun of China makes a move during Game Seven of her title clash against defending world women's champion Maya Chiburdanidze of the Soviet Union at the Manila Hotel in the Philippines capital last week.