

Pakistan call off India tour

ISLAMABAD, Oct 27: Pakistan called off their cricket tour of India today because of threats by Hindu militants to sabotage the one-day series due to start this week, reports Reuters.

"These are very special and unusual circumstances. Our boys would have been under real pressure and not able to play as normal", said Shahid Rafi, secretary of the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP).

While Hindu militants were issuing only threats, Rafi said Pakistan was prepared to go ahead with the five-match tour. But the BCCP was forced to think again following damage to Bombay's Wankhede Stadium pitch last week and communal riots after Pakistan beat India in the final of a triangular one-day tournament in Sharjah on Friday.

India frequently accuses Pakistan of backing independence campaigns in Punjab and India-ruled Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charges.

The first match of the series was due to be played in Madras on Wednesday, but two Hindu student groups warned on Saturday they would not let the game go ahead.

"Pakistan is aiding and abetting terrorists in India and their cricket team's tour of this country should be immediately scrapped", they said in a statement.

Militant Hindu Shiv Sena leaders in India's northern Punjab state also called for a boycott of a match planned for November 6 in Jalandhar because Pakistan was aiding Sikh gunmen, it said.

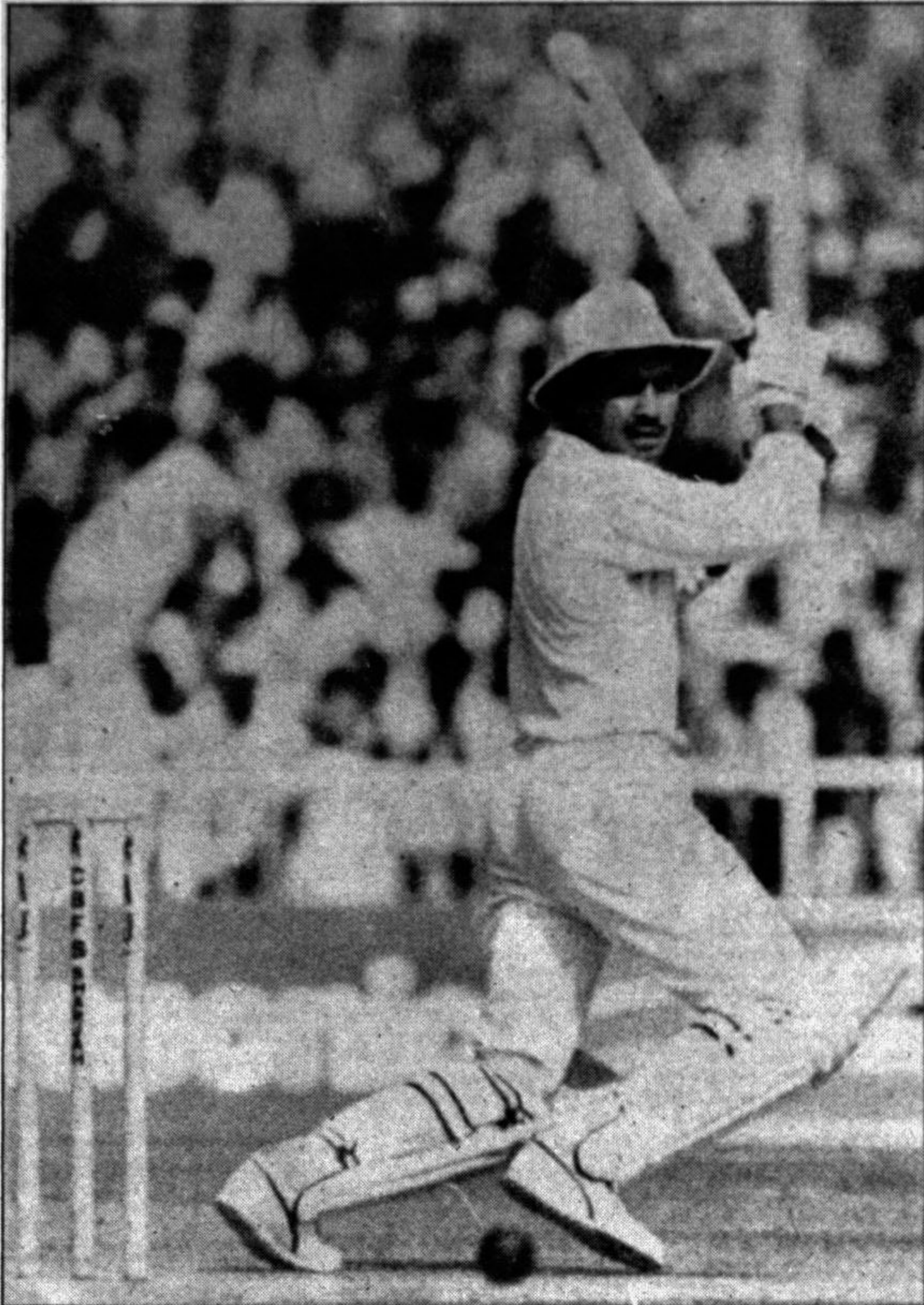
The BCCP was very unhappy at calling off an important tour in the run-up to the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next February and March but felt it had no option, Rafi said.

"It will certainly affect us and our training. We thought this would be good exposure for some of the young players."

Even if conditions calmed down in India, Rafi said there was now no chance of rescheduling the tour until after the World Cup.

AP adds: Tension between Hindu majority India and Islamic Pakistan runs deep. The traditional antagonists have fought three wars—in 1948, 1965 and 1971—since they were freed of British colonial rule 44 years ago.

"A match between Pakistan and India is not just a game of cricket," said Pakistan's Sports Minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmed. "It is steeped in more



Pakistani batsman Zahid Fazal runs after driving bowler Venkatapathi Raju to the boundary. Zahid retired after scoring 98 runs in the final match against India in Sharjah on Oct 25. Pakistan won the match by 72 runs in the three nation Wills International Cricket Trophy.

than four decades of competition and resentment." "Muslim blood cannot be sacrificed for a game of cricket," Ahmed said.

An earlier report from New Delhi said: Militant Hindus who provoked cancellation of one India-Pakistan cricket match first, threatened on Saturday to disrupt another if

the five-match series of one-day internationals was not called off, reports Reuters.

Two Hindu student groups—Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and Hindu Munnani—issued a joint statement in the southern city of Madras demanding cancellation of the Pakistan teams tour. The Indian Government and the Indian Cricket Board for allowing a

team from Pakistan to play in the country.

"We will not allow the Pakistan cricket team to play in Madras," the statement said.

Police were guarding the pitch and regulating entry into the stadium in Madras, where the first match of the rescheduled series is to be held on October 30.

Dhaka, BKSP clash in today's final

Dhaka District Sports Association will meet Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan (BKSP) in today's final of the Seraj Memorial national junior cricket championship carried over from the previous season.

The 40-overs-a-side match starts at the Dhaka Stadium at 9.00 this morning.

BKSP, who had already qualified for the final by winning the first semifinal the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge that hit the southern coast of the country, finally found out who their opponents would be for the title only yesterday afternoon after Dhaka DSA beat Comilla DSA by three wickets in the delayed second semifinal held at the Dhaka Stadium.

Batting first Comilla DSA could muster only a paltry 109 before being all out in the 35th of their 40-over quota. In reply, Dhaka needed 37 overs to post 110 for the loss of seven wickets for a fairly comfortable three-wicket win.

Comilla owed their total to a gallant captain's knock from young Lipu who top scored for his side with 38 runs. Mahub with 21 was the only other Comilla batsman to reach the double figures. Another 21

runs accrued to the Comilla total by way of extras. Opic wrought havoc with the ball for Dhaka DSA claiming three Comilla wickets for just nine runs off only four overs while Monun also bowled well to claim three for 26. Zahid, Shanto and Abir Sr took a wicket apiece.

Dhaka DSA's reply was facilitated by double-figure knocks from six of their batsmen who all contributed towards a fine team effort.

Among them Masud top scored with 18, Chayan made 17, Momin 13, Adil 11 and

Shanto and Shabbir ten each. There was a healthy contribution of 24 extras that complimented the Dhaka effort.

Munna and Anis claimed two Dhaka wickets each for 15 and 18 runs respectively while Imon Jr and Shipon picked up a wicket each.

Although BKSP start today's final as the favourites yet the fact that their players have had to wait such a long time for the match might have made them a bit rusty. On the other hand Dhaka's win yesterday should serve to raise their morale and their players must

be more match fit than their fancied opponents.

AB Bank Limited are sponsors of the under-19 competition which is named after one of their former directors Seraj Uddin Ahmed, founder of the Elite Group.

Div Two hockey from today

Sports Reporter

The Green Delta Second Division hockey league begins today at the hockey stadium.

Tejgaon Agragami will meet Rayer Bazar SC in the curtain-raiser at 2:30 pm, while Barnak Samaj face Uttara Hockey Club in the inaugural day's second fixture starting at 3:45 pm.

The top eight teams of the first phase will qualify for the super league. The first phase of the league runs until Nov 14.

Two matches, at 2:30 and 3:45 pm, will be played every day.

NA Ahmed, Managing Director of sponsors Green Delta Insurance Company Limited, will formally inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Metro Karate on

Sports Reporter

Kazi Mohammad Tareq of the Shokan Karate Academy won the gold medal in the 71kg category on the opening day of the five-day metropolitan karate league at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Sheikh Ehsanur Rahman of the Bangladesh School of Karate took the silver and Arman Khan of young Martial Arts Academy the bronze.

Competition in the -65 kg class was continuing at the time of filing this report last night.

One hundred and eighty-one karatekas from 29 teams are taking part in the league, being held under the aegis of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation.



ALI BACHER

Bacher will visit Pakistan early Nov

KARACHI, Oct 27: A delegation of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) will visit Pakistan early next month at the invitation of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), cricket sources said Sunday, reports AFP.

The visit to Pakistan will be the first ever official one by a South African delegation.

UCBSA managing director Ali Bacher, a participant in the four member delegation, said in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, recently that BCCP had accepted an invitation for Pakistan to play several one-dayers in South Africa in January 1993.

In Sharjah the South Africans won the International Cricket Council's approval for South Africa's entry into the World Cup to be played in Australia and New Zealand starting in February.

The delegation will arrive in Lahore, Pakistan, from India on November 2 and then fly here after talks with Pakistani officials on cricket matters and modalities for easing travel restrictions between the two countries, BCCP sources said.

Bacher was the last Test captain for South Africa before his country was thrown out of

Dhaka's very own Italian soccer team

Sports Reporter

They say the Italians are a soccer-mad nation.

Not only did Italy host the World Cup last year, they have been hosting some of the world's best footballing talents in their rich domestic league. Almost every star worth his name cherishes the dream of striking it rich in the most expensive soccer league in the world.

Well, not to be denied their national passion when away from home shores, the Italian expatriate community in Bangladesh has now formed a soccer team.

A press release issued on behalf of the 'Italian football players' said the convocation of the team members will be held tomorrow, Tuesday at the 'usual football centre'.

The following players have been asked to report at the centre by 5:00 pm on Oct 29: Oscar Secchi, Mauro Giovannetti, Gemo Lodesani, Giuliano Carnavali, Mario Ciccone, Luigi Brughieri, Roberto Francioni, Alessandro Rebesco, Giuseppe D'Imperio, Gino Rinaldi, Giovanni Cabrini, Marco Mazzi and Valerio Piras.

Women soccer

KISHANGANJ, Oct 27: Kerala thrashed Delhi by 4-0 in the 12th Junior National Women's football tournament for the Sanjay Gandhi cup here at the Khagra Stadium today, reports PTI.

In the other matches Rajasthan drubbed Gujrat 7-0, Tamil Nadu beat Jammu-Kashmir by one-zero, while West Bengal managed to win over Punjab by lone goal in a thrilling encounter.

They shot into the lead in the 54th minute through Tushar—who sent the ball home with a header off a fine lob from Salauddin from the left wing (1-0). Four minutes later, Khasru increased the margin, dodging two rival defenders off a pass from Tushar (2-0).

Customs now have collected 12 points from eight matches while Hafiz Jute bagged three points as many matches.

Kobayashi's crown

HIDAKA, Japan, Oct 27: Hirofumi Kobayashi shot a 4-under-par 32 for nine holes in the rain-shortened final round Sunday and won the Itsuki Classic women's pro golf tournament by four strokes, reports AP.

Kobayashi shot five birdies against one bogey Sunday, giving her a 4-under-par total of 104 for 27 holes. The tournament had been scheduled for 54 holes, but heavy rain also washed out Friday's round.

The top prize also was reduced, from 7.2 million yen (dollars 55,000) to 5.4 million yen (42,000 dollars).

Kobayashi now spends most of her time on the US LPGA tour, and Sunday's victory was her first in Japan since she won the Dajo Seishi Eliteur Open in November 1989.

Junko Yasui, Fusako Nagata and Mutsuko Maekawa shared second place at 108, Yasui and Nagata shot 37s and Maekawa had a 38 Sunday on the 6,130-yard, par-72 Edelweiss golf club course, northwest of Tokyo.

At 109 were Nayoko Yoshikawa and Kaori Higo. Defending champion Ku Okhee of South Korea turned in a 36 for 111.

American Kay Cockertill was among 13 players at 116.

A timely boost for Bayern

BONN, Oct 27: Bayern Munich halted a string of humiliating defeats with a 3-0 home win over Borussia Moechengladbach in German soccer's First Division on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The win provided a much-needed boost to Germany's wealthiest club after five losses in the Bundesliga this season and a shock 6-2 defeat by BK 1903 Copenhagen in the UEFA Cup last Tuesday.

But it owed as much to the weakness of Moechengladbach, missing six key players through injury, as to the skill of Bayern.

Brazilian striker Mazinho

put Bayern ahead after 34 minutes but captain Olaf Thon missed a penalty four minutes later.

Stefan Effenberg made it 2-0 for Bayern 11 minutes into the second half and Mazinho rounded it off with another goal in the 80th minute.

Newly-recruited advisers Franz Beckenbauer and Karlheinz Runnenmeyer will have their work cut out in helping new coach Soren Lerby move Bayern up from their lowly 13th place in the table.

"I'm very pleased that the team played so well," Lerby said.

"But we have to be careful that nobody starts thinking we're in the shape we need to be in."

Sea Customs win CJKP tie

CHITTAGONG, Oct 27: Sea Customs comfortably defeated Hafiz Jute Mills Club 2-0 in the CJKP Elite Paint First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here this afternoon, reports BSS.

The first half ended goalless.

Tushar and Khasru scored for the defending champions who had earlier lost four vital points in their last two engagements.

Sea Customs played confidently, specially in the second half and scored both the goals in four minutes.

They shot into the lead in the 54th minute through Tushar—who sent the ball home with a header off a fine lob from Salauddin from the left wing (1-0). Four minutes later, Khasru increased the margin, dodging two rival defenders off a pass from Tushar (2-0).

Customs now have collected 12 points from eight matches while Hafiz Jute bagged three points as many matches.

Paris St. Germain, who signed eight new players this season, achieved a convincing 2-0 victory over Nimes thanks to two superb goals by Amara Simba. They are third, one point behind Monaco.

Argentine star Leonardo Rodriguez, set to join Marseille next season, scored his fifth goal in six matches to give toulon a 1-0 win over Sochaux.

Caen clinched their first away win in two years by beating little 2-1, while bottom-placed Nancy, who have just appointed a new trainer, revived with a 3-1 victory over Nantes.

Once-great St Etienne showed glimpses of their old form when they beat Cannes 2-0.

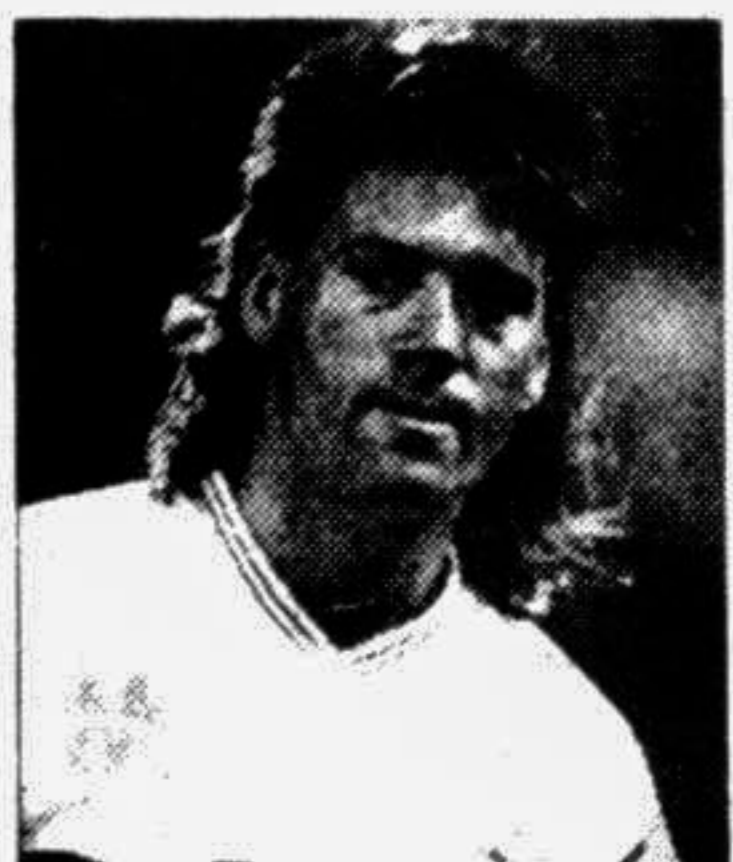
Waddle widens Marseille lead

PARIS, Oct 27: England's Chris Waddle scored in the second half to help Marseille to a 2-0 win at Le Havre on Saturday and stretch their lead in the French soccer league to two points, reports Reuters.

Defender Basile Boli opened the scoring with a header in

the 37th minute and Waddle put the issue beyond doubt in the 71st minute.

"The crowd were just fine here. If only the fans could always behave like that," said



CHRIS WADDLE

Marseille's ace marksman Jean-Pierre Papin, who was struck by a beer bottle last week at St Etienne.

Monaco, disappointing

Barcelona beat Atletico Madrid

MADRID, Oct 27: Leaders Atletico Madrid slumped to their first Spanish soccer league defeat of the season at the hands of defending champions Barcelona on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Atletico's perfect record of six wins out of six First Division games played was ended when they lost 1-0 away to the Catalans.

The result could cost Atletico top spot since Real Madrid, only one point behind, are expected to beat lowly Logrones today.

Barcelona, 13th before this victory, revived their ailing league fortunes by beating an Atletico side who had conceded only one goal in their first six league games.

The winner came after 39 minutes from a move started by Dane Michael Laudrup in midfield and sustained by Aitor Beguiristain, whose pass found Bulgarian striker Kristo Stoitchkov.

EAA will admit

ESTORIL, Portugal, Oct 27: The European Athletic Association (EAA) Council said on Saturday it had agreed to admit the three Baltic states as provisional members, reports Reuters.

EAA president Carl-Olaf Homen said the Council had received membership applications from Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia and discussed them at its two-day meeting which ended on Saturday.

"We have at our Council today made a unanimous rec-

Baltic republics

ommendation to admit the three Baltic states as provisional members," he told reporters.

"Provided that the council will decide this at its meeting in mid-November they are automatically members and will take part in all our activities from the beginning of next year."

The Baltic states, incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940, regained their independence in September, 1991.

Pallima paddlers win at last

Sports Reporter

It was a big day for Pallima Sangshad in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league yesterday.

At long last the league newcomers managed to record their maiden win in the 28-team league when they beat fellow debutantes Purbachal Parishad by 3-0 sets at the National Coaching Centre.

For Pallima it was their first win in five outings while Purbachal it was their fifth straight loss in as many matches.

Kamran of Pallima Sangshad won the opening singles beating Purbachal's Raquib 21-12 and 21-15. Imran took the second singles from Royal 21-5, 21-4 in quick time to raise Pallima hopes. Kamran and Sohag then received a walkover when their opposing pair Royal and Tareq failed to turn up for the deciding doubles.

The win puts Pallima level with Kashatully in fifth-sixth place, just ahead of winless Purbachal in the seven-team Group B cluster.

In another Group B encounter yesterday, Kalpa Taru—yet another league debutant—posted their second win in five encounters when they defeated fellow-newcomers Kashatully in straight sets 3-0. Imran put Kalpa Taru ahead by beating Nabi 21-4, 22-20 in the opening singles while Riad needed three sets to overcome Kashatully's Abid 21-16, 14-21 and 21-18.

Riad and Tanna then faced another tough encounter against Nabi and Saifur before clinching the issue with a 21-10, 20-22 and 21-13 win in the doubles.

Swamibagh Boys suffered their fifth consecutive defeat in Group C when they lost in straight sets to Victoria Sporting Club.

Bright of Victoria gave his side a bright start by claiming the first singles 21-14, 22-20 against Ripon. Aminur of Victoria outplayed Bappa 21-7, 21-12 while Aminur and Shamim ensured Victoria's third win in five games by winning the doubles 21-13

and 21-17 against Ripon and Anis of Swamibagh Boys.

In another Group C encounter yesterday, Armanitola Junior maintained their splendid winning streak by posting their fifth victory in a row.

They beat Young Pegasus 3-1 in the most competitive of the day's four fixtures. For Pegasus it was their third defeat in six games.

Mahub put Armanitola Juniors on the right track by beating Rubel 21-10, 21-18. Hamlet then overcame Hasnu 22-20 and 21-13.

Undaunted, the Pegasus pair of Hasnu and Kamrul reduced the margin by winning the doubles 21-16, 20-22 and 21-18. However, Hamlet won his reverse singles against Pegasus' Kamrul 11-21, 21-17 and 22-20 to settle the matter in Armanitola Juniors' favour.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Medical College vs Combined Sporting Club
Wari Club vs Brothers Union
NMS vs Dhaka Mariners
Lalmatia vs Cynthia SC

Edward happy with games preparations

VICTORIA, British Columbia, Oct 27: Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, Prince Edward, said on Saturday he was impressed with preparations for the next Commonwealth games to be held in 1994 in this sleepy British Columbia capital, reports Reuters.

But the Prince on three-day

Former world high jump record holder plans a comeback

LOS ANGELES, Oct 27: Zhu Jianhua was a star whose flame burned very briefly but very brightly, reports AP.

In 1983, Zhu raised the world record for the high jump to 2.37 meters (7-foot-7 1/4 inches). In June of 1984, he became the first to clear 2.39 (7-10).

But two months later, he could do no better than third in the Olympics.

Illness and injury dogged Zhu's career afterward, and he dropped out of sight on the international sports scene.

Now Zhu, 28, has become a college student at Cal State Los Angeles.

And he plans to lose weight, cut down on his smoking and compete again.

Since Cal State LA is classified in the United States as a Division II school in regard to sports, it has no age restrictions for competition. Zhu could enter as a first-year student and have four years of eligibility in athletics.

And he no longer feels the pressure he did when he was representing his country, with the olympics the low point for

visit to Canada, reminded 700 officials and coaches at a luncheon that the key to the Games' success was the well-being of the 3,000 athletes from 66 countries who are expected to attend.

He said he was ready, as president of the governing Commonwealth Games

Federation, to intervene in any disputes that might arise.

"Perhaps, when my father handed over the presidency, instead of a badge it might have been better if he had given me a whistle and a striped shirt so that I could referee between the organisers and participants," said the 27-year-old prince. He did not elaborate.

Games organising chairman John Walton earlier told the prince that construction of the sports facilities was proceeding smoothly.

"I can tell you we are on budget and on schedule," he said.

Neither Walton nor any of the other speakers made any mention of fears the August Games might be overshadowed by the European Track and

Field Championships to be held earlier in the same month in Helsinki.

After the 70-minute briefing, the prince said he was impressed. "Talking on the games is a brave thing to do and I see that you in Victoria are doing your very best to meet and to overcome that challenge," he said.

The prince was later entertained in a nearby courtyard by Canadian Indian Drummers and dancers. They presented him with a carved cedar necklace and a jewellery box.

The Prince was to fly to Hong Kong on Saturday night to attend an international symposium of the Duke of Edinburgh's awards programme for youthful high-achievers in physical fitness and community service.

Phillip Island to host Aussie GP

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Oct 27: The Federation of International Motorcyclists (FIM) on Saturday awarded the Australian Grand Prix to the Phillip Island circuit in Victoria state, officials said, reports AP.

Phillip Island was the former home of the country's premier 500 cc race. Earlier this week, officials at the FIM annual congress refused to sanction the 1992 Grand Prix at Sydney's Eastern Creek, giving the April 12 date instead to organizers of the Malaysian Grand Prix.

FIM officials were upset that Eastern Creek promoters

have been negotiating with the promoters of a rival breakaway circuit, the International Race Teams' Association (IRTA). The group is headed by Bernie Ecclestone of Britain.

Eastern Creek has signed a five-year deal with the breakaway group, FIM delegates said. IRTA is said to have signed many of the top 500 cc riders, including Wayne Gardner and Michael Doohan of Australia.

On Saturday, the FIM's general assembly said the four big Japanese manufacturers—Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki and Kawasaki—will support its grand prix schedule.

The Christchurch congress approved a final calendar of 16 grand prix events in 1992, in-

cluding an extra race, the Grand Prix of Andorra, to be held on the Spanish circuit of Catalunya on Sept 27.

Only a rider's 14 best finishes will count world championship standings. This system will be reviewed from 1993, when the championship may revert to the former system of counting all results in the season.

In Sydney, New South Wales state officials said the FIM decision to award the Australian Grand Prix of Phillip Island shows the group is in "complete disarray."

"It only shows the FIM fraternity—a bunch of Hill's Grannies—is in complete disarray, which has been clear of some time anyway," Souris said.