Abahani lose Wasim, gain Ghouse Sports Reporter

Two of the most

talented footballers of the country - Wasim Igbal Oholam Ghouse - featured in yesterday's trading, the

transfers for the 1991-92 These two stood out among the 155 players who had taken their tokens by closing time

third day of the soccer

last evening. Among these 155 players, the transfer formalities of 47 booters had been completed.

The team to gain most yesterday was Abahani Krira Chakra. The reigning champions, despite losing Wasim lqbal - the gifted medio whose form often fluctuates between the brilliant and the erratic - to Brothers Union. made amends by signing up Gholam Ghouse, the promising youngster who has been steadily improving ever since his inclusion in the national under-23 Olympic selection.

Abahani also succeeded in convincing their star players gifted striker Rumi, goalkeeper Seltm, desender Rehan - to remain in their tent for at least another season.

Abahani also reconfirmed of Mohammedans, Mamun Joardar of Victoria SC. Mustafa Babu of Mukttjoddha Sangsad to join their side for this season.

Wasim lqbal chose, or was convinced, to go back to his Copibagh roots, to the club where learnt his game.

When Waseem came to the league office to sign for Brothers Union yesterday, the waiting Abahani fans reacted angrily which resulted to a minor scuffle among the supporters of the two teams.

Police had to intervene to quell the fighting.

Abahani's long-serving midfielder Yousuf is almost certain to join Brothers.

Mohammedan Sporting Club played the role of an observer in yesterday's transfer

Sheroil finish runners-up Sports Reporter

Sheroil Sporting Club became runners-up in the Rajshahi Coca Cola First Division football league when they swamped Digantha Prasari Club 4-1 yesterday at the Raishahi Stadium.

Earlier on Wednesday, Abahani emerged championships when they registered a 3-0 victory over Tiger SC. Last year's champions Allied

SC will take on Rajshahi KSS today in the last match of the

Spain beat Uruguay

OVIEDO, Spain, Sept 5 Spain beat Uruguay 2-1 (halftime 2-0) in a soccer friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Spain - Rafael Martin Vazquez (9th min), Manolo Sanchez (18th).

Uruguay — Alvaro Gutierrez (67th). Attendance: 21,600.

Friendly soccer

OPORTO, Portugal, Sept 5 Portugal drew 1-1 (halftime 1-0) with Austria in a soccer friendly on Wednesday, reports

Scorers: Portugal - Rui Barros (30th min).

drama. They reconfirmed their prize catch— defender Jewel Rana from Mukttjoddha Sangsad - and Barun Dewan, another defender also from Muktijoddha to their tent.

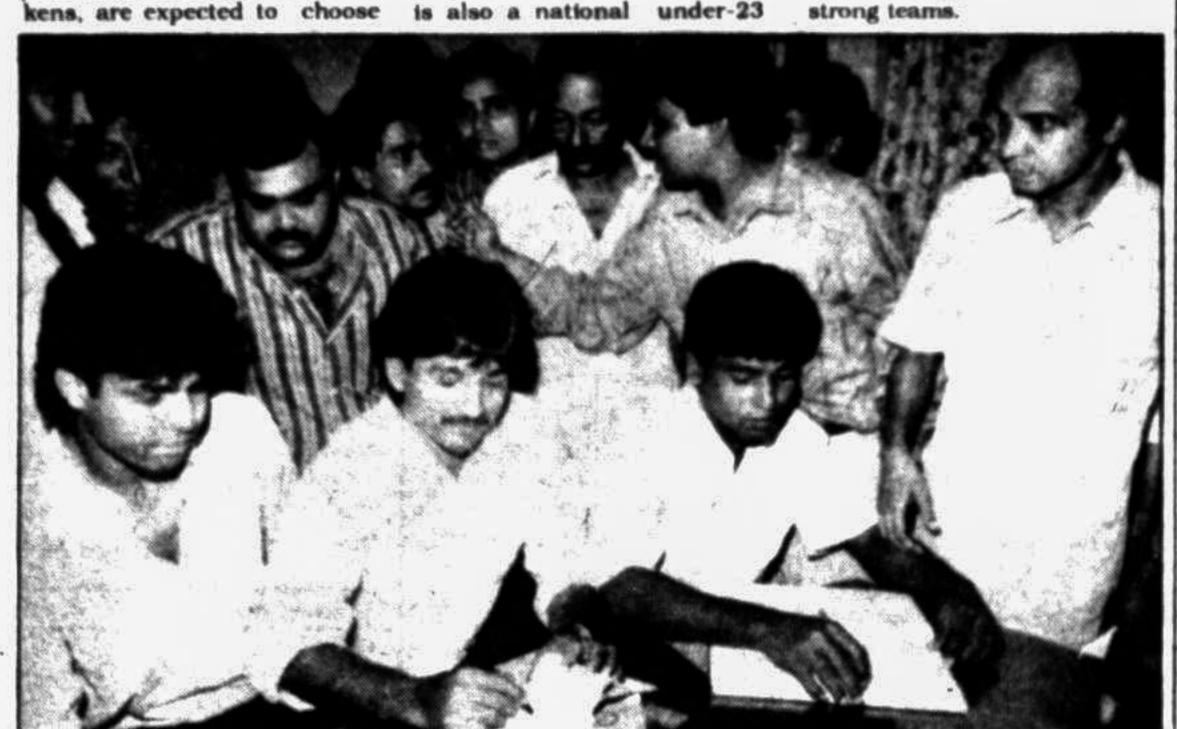
It is reliably learnt that today will be an exciting day when the other star booters, who have collected their tokens, are expected to choose

their destinies. Brothers Union, the team which was doing the most preseason talking, is expected to spring some big surprises today. Their most sought after players are expected to come Abahani and

Mohammedan Sporting. Their defender Moon, who is also a national under-23 player, is expected to join The Mohammedan camp is

they are having fruitful talks with a couple of Abahani stars. PWD and Farashganj, among the lesser-known teams, are also going full steam with forming a balanced and

also buzzing with a rumour that



Ghouse, Rumi and Rehan collect their tokens at the Senior Division football league office - Star photo yesterday — the third day of soccer transfers for 1991-92 season.



Wasim Iqbal, who joined the Brothers Union Club yesterday, seen with the officials of the - Star photo

Graf is No I again



NEW YORK, Sept 5: Seven months after knocking around thoughts of early retirement, Steffi Graf

is back atop the world ranking cracking winners, reports Reuter.

"I'm just enjoying it a lot more," said the top-seeded Graf after shelling eighthseeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez 6-1, 6-3 on Wednesday to reach the US Open semifinals for the seventh consecutive year.

However, it was a sombre Graf who was considering her future after a season opening loss to Czechoslovak Jana Novotna in the Australian Open quarter-finals followed by a quarter-final defeat to

RATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, Sept 5

Striker Jean Pierre Papin scored

championship Group One qualifier on

Scorers: Czechoslovakia - Vaclav

France Jean Pierre Papin (53rd, 89th).

Argentine Gabriela Sabatini in

"I couldn't figure out why I was losing and I didn't enjoy it at all," said the 22-year-old



STEFFI GRAF

German. "I was playing awful and to know that you are not playing up to your potential is really hard.

was thinking real hard, should I take sometime off or play."

Had she quit after completing her "Golden Slam" in 1988 - winning all four Grand Slam' events and an Olympic gold medal - and at least one Grand Slam crown every year since 1987, it would not have shocked her coach, Pavel Slozil.

"Many other girls in her position would have quit," Slozil said. "I mean, she was number one, she had won the Grand Slam and she had made all the money she needed."

Graf's indecision was short-

"At first I thought 'let us stop for a while and then I had a few days off and I said let's get a racquet'," Graf recalled. "It was definitely my decision and I had to go out on the court again.

Upon her return to competition. Graf suffered back-toback losses to her old doubles partner Sabatini.

But, she persevered and in late March, Graf beat Monica Seles, who had replaced her as number one, at the US women's hard courts final.

"That was a huge help," said Graf of her 6-4, 6-3 win over Seles. "Things started to change around and I started

going for my shots." Graf charged into the French Open riding consecutive tournament wins, only to be humbled by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-0, 6-2 in the semifinals. But, even that embarrassment could not dampen her renewed enthusi-

Three days later she said let's get back to work," Slozil remembered.

A month later Graf captured her third Wimbledon title, and she has not lost a set in her bid for a third US Open crown. "She knew that it was a long way back but she also knew that there was a way back,"

Nat'l gymnastics begins

Sports Reporter

The eighth national junior gymnastics championships began at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Three events were decided on the inaugural day.

Gaohar Sultana Daisy of Bangladesh Ansars clinched the gold in the girls uneven bar with 11.25 points. Parveen Akhter of BKSP took the silver followed by Shermin Soheli of Dinajpur who took the bronze.

Shamima Soheli Dinajpur bagged the gold in the girls side horse event with 15.85 points. Morsheda Begum and Shermin Sultana of BKSP took the silver and bronze respectively.

Haroonur Rashid of BKSP captured the gold in the boys' parallel bar event. Amir Ali of BKSP bagged the silver followed by Shamim Rahman of Dinajpur who took bronze.

President of the Gymnastics Federation MA Jalil inaugurated the three-day competi-

In all, 57 gymnasts, including 23 girls, from five teams are taking part in eight events of the meet.

The teams are: Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan (BKSP), Bangladesh Ansars and Dhaka, Dinajpur and Panchagarh district sports as sociations.

TT results

Bangladesh Biman paddlers clinched the boys title beating Nabin Khela of Chittagong by 3-1 sets in the Saleh Open table tennis championship yesterday at Chittagong railway complex.

In the men's team event, Bangladesh Biman and Azimpur Young Star moved into final beating Armanitola and Bangladesh Ansars respectively.

Jahangir forced to withdraw

HONG KONG, Sept 5 Pakistan's Jahangir Khan was forced to withdraw from the 50,000 dollar Hong Kong Open Squash tournament on Thursday because of bronchitis, reports Reuter.

The second seed pulled out a few hours before his scheduled second round match against Scotland's Stuart Hailstone.

Jahangir toiled to beat Australian qualifier Craig Rowland on Tuesday and said afterwards he had a cold and sore throat.

Jahangir, who was not available for comment, will leave for Pakistan on Friday but is expected to miss the Pakistan Open in Karachi next week.

India blank Italy

NEW DELHI, Sept 5: India beat Italy 9-1 (halftime 5-0) in a men's hockey international on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: India - Jagbir Singh (3rd minute, 30th, 45th), Mukesh Kumar (9th, 10th), Jagdev (15th), Edgar Singh Mascarhenas (46th, 63rd, 69th).

Italy - Roberto Gilliani (57th).

Haji Mohsin top Navy aquatics

The annual swimming and waterpolo championships of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at the Naval Headquarters complex swimming pool at Banani yesterday afternoon, says an ISPR re-

Hosts BNS Haji Mohsin team with a haul of 121 points emerged as champions and the BNS Titumir team with 91 points finished runners-up. BNS Issa Khan, BNS Shaheed Moazzam and the Khulna Squadron teams collected 63, 50 and 45 points respectively.

BNS Haji Mohsin team also received the annual efficiency shield

Slozil said. Age prevails over youth



NEW YORK, Sept 5: Martina Navratilova had Jimmy Connors on her mind as she scampered around

the court against a panting, weary teenager and surged into the US Open semifinals, reports AP. "I kept coming in," she said

after her 6-7(6-8), 7-6(7-5). 6-2 comeback against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on Wednesday. "I saw Jimmy doing it over the course of five sets. I said, Gosh, how can he keep it up for almost five hours?"

"Jimmy ! But I thought if he can do it for that long, I can do it for half the time. I figured if he could do it at 39, I can do it at 34. I'm spring chicken next to him."

An incredulous look crossed Sanchez Vicario's face when she was asked if she thought Navratilova, a four-time US Open champion, was old.

"No-oh!" the 19-year-old from Spain said with a laugh, her eyes popping wide with as-

tonishment that anyone could think such a thing after she'd just been turned into a sagging heap by the indefatigable Navratilova.

Navratilova broke Sanchez Vicario's last five services to win the 2-hour, 12-minute match, reach semis here for the 12th time in 17 years and set up a match Friday against No 1 Steffi Graf.

Graf, who beat Conchita Martinez 6-1, 6-3 has beaten Navratilova in their last four matches and has breezed to the semis here without dropping a set. But Navratilova won seven of her first 10 matches against Graf and has improved because of knee surgery since their last meeting two years ago. Navratilova also has a new and better serve since her upset by Jenniser Capriati at

Wimbledon in June. Navratilova struggled in her second straight three-setter of this tournament but got some lovely gifts from Sanchez Vicario, none more welcome than a forehand volley dumped

into the net with the court wide open on the final point. Navratilova was off the court

after chasing down a backhand, and when she saw Sanchez Vicario miss that last easy shot, she pumped her fist and celebrated here return to the semis for the first time since she made the finals in

She could not have gotten there, though, without considerable help from Sanchez Vicario. Among her many presents was an overhead off the frame of her racket on break point in the 11th game of the second set. Navratilova then tied the set

6-6 and won the tiebreaker when Sanchez Vicario smacked an easy forehand wide crosscourt on the last point.

Not only did Sanchez Vicario fail to hold service in the final set, but she won only four points in the four games she served. She lost the last game at love totally on errors - a backhand in the net.

Waqar is first to 100



Pakistani Salim Malik hit an unbeaten century on Wednesday to keep Essex on

course for a victory which would take them to the top of English country championships, reports



SALIM MALIK

bowled out for 119 in their first innings. He then claimed another two in their second. former England captain David Gower becoming his 100th

Tim Curtis scored a careerbest 248 and teammate Neal Radford took seven for 43 to

put Worcestershire on course for a landslide victory over Somerset.

Curtis faced 501 balls and htt 27 fours in a 10-hour in-

Worcestershire declared their first innings at 575 for eight and then whipped out Somerset for 83. Forced to follow-on. Somerset managed to reach 33 without loss.

Lancashtre opener Gehan Mendis scored 114 and shared in a first- wicket stand of 180 with Nick Speak (73) as they reached 217 for two in reply

His fellow international and Surrey fast bowler Wagar Younis became the first player to take 100 first-class wickets this season.

Maltk, who was 139 not out, almost single-handedly carried second-placed Essex in their bid to beat title rivals Derbyshire and replace Warwickshire at the top of the

His sixth century of the season saw Essex through to 323 for five in their first innings and a commanding 92-run lead over third- placed Derbyshire on the second day of their four-day game.

No other batsman to reach 50, with England captain Graham Gooch the next highest scorer on 44.



Wagar, who took four wickets on Tuesday, finished with six for 45 as Hampshire were to Yorkshire's 501 for six de-

Pakistan opposes Springboks Conference (ICC) said last

KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept 5: The Pakistani Cricket Control Board (BCCP) on Wednesday voted

against allowing South Africa to play in the World Cup next February, reports Reuter.

The council members have not found fresh ground to allow South Africa in the World Cup," BCCP President Zahid Ali Akbar told reporters after a council meeting in Karachi.

There is no new reason to allow South Africa in the com-Pakistant council had found petition.

The International Cricket

month that a South African team could compete in the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand if it had the support of the country's non-racial sporting establishment. South Africa must apply to the ICC by September 30 and

such a late date, was administratively possible. Akbar said the ICC had indirectly inquired whether the BCCP had changed its mind about South Africa, but the

organisers have said that South

African participation, even at

Africa on a special invitation extended by the mixed cricket board of South Africa. Akbar said Pakistan would play three one-day matches instead of the previously

He said Imran Khan would

Captain Pakistan to South

planned five during a tour of India in October. He said West Indies would visit Pakistan between November 17 and 25 for three-day and one-day

matches. Sri Lanka would tour

for four Tests and three one-

day games between December

6 and January 15. Edberg in US Open semis

"no fresh ground" for a change



Wednesday.

NEW YORK, Sept 5: Stefan Edberg has played his way through a losing summer to a US Open semi-

final berth, reports Reuter. "I kept working, digging because I had in my mind the Open was coming up," said the second-seeded Edberg after blowing past Spaniard Javier Sanchez 6-3, 6-2, 6-3, on

"I kept very positive in my mind that maybe it is going to happen at the Open where I pick up my game and play better tennis.

Thoughts have turned into action as Edberg has played near- flawless serve and volley tennis in winning six consecutive sets in his last two matches.

"He was always putting pressure on me and it is difficult to play like that," said Sanchez, who had only one break point in the match.

Edberg has dropped just two sets in the tournament in making the open semifinals for the first time since 1987.

"This is great, that is all I can say," said Edberg, who was humbled last year as the Open's first top seed to lose in the opening round in 20 years. "Everything is going very well at the moment."

Disappointments have dogged the two-time Australian Open and Wimbledon champion at the vear's earlier Grand Slams.

An Australian Open semifinal loss to Ivan Lendl, a French open quarter-final defeat to Jim Courier and a heart-breaking, Wimbledon semifinal loss to Michael Stich has him hungering to win his first US

Open.

"I am doing everything I can to try to win," said Edberg, who has made at least one Grand Slam final every year since 1987.

"It becomes more and more important to you to at least win it once and now at least I am in contention."

The easy going Swede has

atmosphere surrounding the US Open. Even the luxurious Trump Tower, where he has stayed in the past, did not offer him.

never thrived in the frenetic

tractions of Manhattan living. "We wanted to get rid of the hassles of Manhattan and try something different for peace of mind," said coach Tony

refuge from the 24-hour dis-

Pickard. So Edberg along with his finance Annette Olsen and Pickard rented a Long Island hideaway house complete with swimming pool.

"Staying on your own, doing you own thing gives you more peace of mind," Edberg said.

"He is more relaxed out there and so far it is working," Pickard said.



Gaohar Sultana Daisy of Bangladesh Ansars won gold in girls' uneven bar event in the national gymnastic championships which began at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Despite Jefferson's show-

ing, the steamy evening at

Jawaharlal Nehru stadium was

dominated by the Kenyans,

who bagged 16 medals includ-

ing five golds, in the one-day



Sept 5: American sprinter Thomas Jefferson recorded a grand double despite Kenyan domi

DELHI,

World 800 metres chamnation of an international track and field meeting here pion Billy Konchellah led the Wednesday, reports AFP. Jefferson, 29, scored easy

Kenyan onslaught with a grand win in his pet event, in which wins in both the 100-metre fellow countrymen Robert Kibet and Wilfrid Kirochi took and 200-metre events against an uninspiring field. Canadian the next two places. sprinter Ben Johnson failed to show up after confirming his

Konchellah surged ahead of his teammates in the last 50 metres to set a new meet

although the time was much slower than the 1:43.99 he recorded at the recent world championships in Tokyo. Kibel, who led the field until Konchellah's late burst,

came in second at 1:45.98.

record of 1 min, 45.93 sec,

Kirochi, the silver medallist in the 1500 metres at Tokyo, was third with 1:46.27. The Kenyans also did a 1-2-

3 in the 3,000 metres steeplechase, won by Scoul Olympic gold medalitst Julius Kartuki in 8 mins 38.90sec.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Champions PSV Eindhoven are one point behind with two

Nemecek (21st minute).



Vitesse lead Dutch league MSTERDAM, Sept 5: Teenage striker Huub Loeffen scored a first half hattrick on Wednesday to put Vitesse

Arnhem top of the Dutch soccer league after defeating SVV Dordrecht 4-1, reports Reuter. Vitesse go top on goal difference ahead of RKC Waalwijk, who thrashed Sparata Rotterdam 6-1, and FC Volendam.

games. Spurs blank Stockerau ONDON, Sept 5: Tottenham Hotspur (England) defeated Sparkasse Stockerau (Austria) 1-0 (halftime 1

0) in a European Cup Winners' Cup preliminary round, second leg soccer match on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Scorer: Gary Mabbutt (42nd minute). Tottenham win 2-0 on aggregate and now meet Hajduk

Split (Yugoslavia) in the first round proper. Swedes surprise Yugoslavia TOCKHOLM, Sept 5: Sweden beat Yugoslavia 4-3 (halftime 1-1) in a soccer friendly on Wednesday,

reports Reuter.

Yugoslavia - Dejan Savicevic (33rd, 66th; Mikael Nilsson (own goal, 75th). Attendance: 11,510

Turkish booters hold the Americans STANBUL, Sept 5: Turkey and the United States drew

Scorers: Sweden - Martin Dahlin (20th, 69th mins),

1-1 (halftime 1-0) in a soccer friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Scorers: Turkey - Erdal Keser (31st minute). United States - Frank Klopas (83rd). Attendance: 10,000.

Anders Limpar (51st), Jonas Thern (85th).