

Masud Rana, Swapan join Abahani

Sports Reporter



Reigning NBL Senior Division football league champions Abahani Krira Chakra had another satisfying day yesterday, the fourth day of the soccer transfers for the 1991-92 season.

Abahani's dependable goalkeeper Mohsin and former national team defender Ranjit collected their tokens and handed them over to waiting Abahani officials, thereby putting an end to all the rumours of their joining the Brothers Union camp.

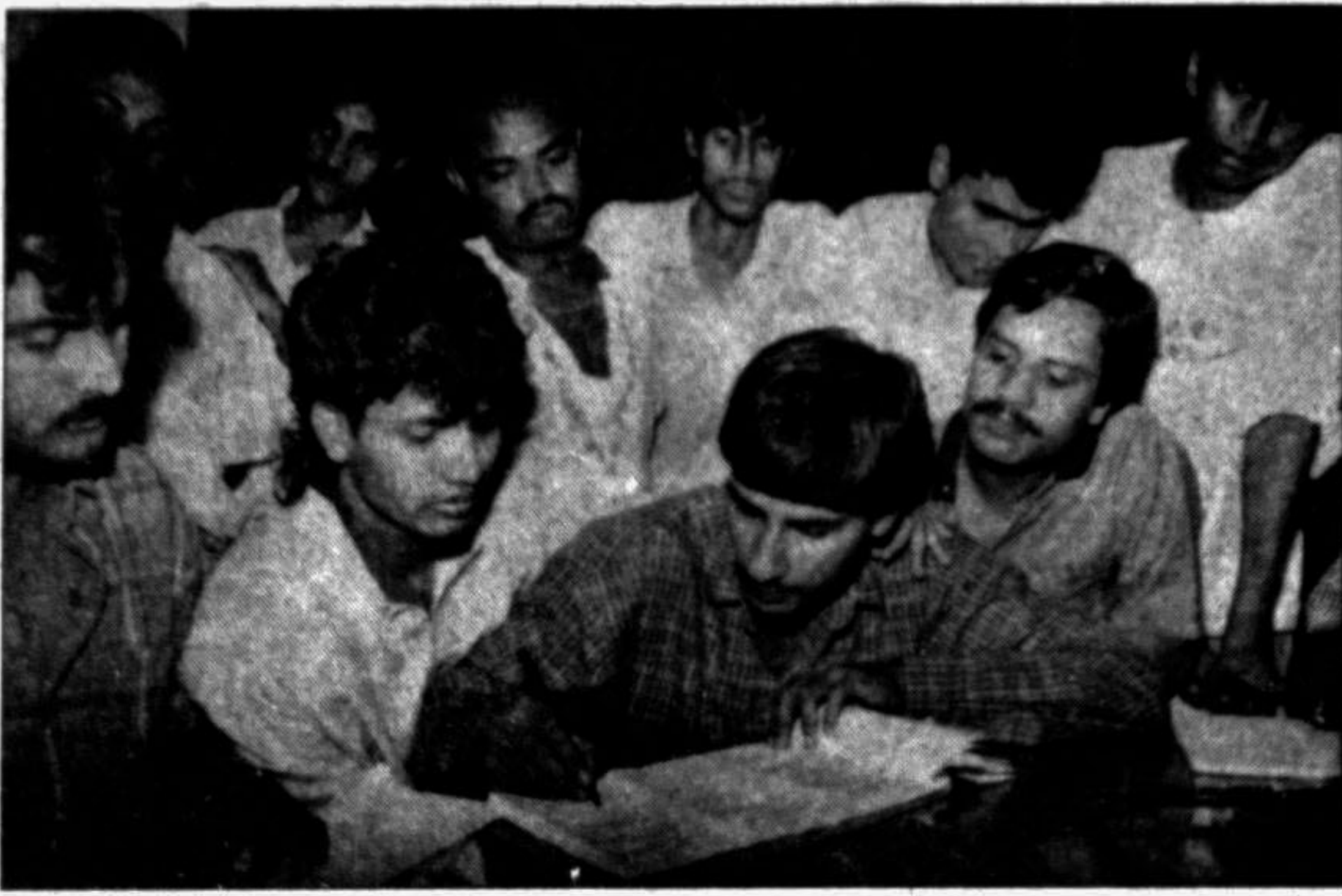
Masud Rana, the BKSP and national under-23 player who played last season for City Club, formally took a transfer to join Abahani. Masud Rana impressed the Abahani officials with his confident display in the last BTC Club Cup and Independence Day football tournaments.

PWD defender Swapan also decided to sign in Abahani's favour.

In all 202 players have collected their tokens with 80 of the booters having completed their transfers formalities yesterday.

Federation Cup champions Mohammedan Sporting Club officials spent another uneventful day yesterday.

BRTC's gifted medio Riaz and Chandan of Agrani Bank, who had earlier surrendered



BRTC midfielder Riaz yesterday signed for Mohammedan Sporting Club. On his right is Mahub Hossain Roxy, who left Arambagh for Mohammedans. — Star photo

their tokens to Mohammedans, completed the signing formalities yesterday at the Senior Division league office.

Brothers Union, the other leading club in the Dhaka soccer, are yet to fulfil their pre-season boast of luring all the major stars from Abahani and

Mohammedans, the sole exception being the signing of Waseem Iqbal on Thursday.

Nabullah of PWD and Parvez of BJMC signed in favour of Brothers Union yesterday.

There was a strong rumour regarding Abahani's national striker Sheikh Mohammad

Aslam is not having fruitful talks with the Abahani officials. PWD, Brothers Union and to some extent Mohammedans were trying to convince the ace goalscorer to join their tents.

Local football pundits expect today to be a more eventful day.

Pakistan to play 5 matches in India

Sports Reporter

NEW DELHI, Sept 6: The president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Mr Madhav Rao Scindia, said here today that Pakistan will play five one-day international cricket matches as announced earlier, reports PTI.

He said that the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) had agreed to play these matches during October and November.

The Pakistan Cricket Board was still considering BCCI's request to hold the sixth match (day-night) to raise funds for the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, he said.

Reacting to press reports from Karachi which said that the Pakistan Board sought reduction in the five matches to accommodate the day-night match, the BCCI secretary, Mr Jagmohan Dalmiya said, the BCCP had not sent any communication to that effect.

Fire Service closer to finals

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Fire Service were well poised to qualify for the final round from the Central Zone of the Uttara Motors national kabaddi championship after winning both their matches yesterday — the inaugural day — at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Four service teams are taking part in the Central Zone qualifying round. Fire Service defeated Bangladesh Police 15-11 in their first match in the morning and then they easily disposed of Bangladesh Ansars 16-7 in the afternoon. They now need only a draw today against Bangladesh Rifles, who lost both their matches yesterday, to qualify for the final round.

Bangladesh Ansars won against Bangladesh Rifles 21-14 in the morning before losing to Fire Service in the afternoon.

Bangladesh Police registered a 24-14 victory against BDR in their evening match.

Besides, the champions, the runners-up of the Central Zone, too, will play in the final round, to be held in Dhaka from September 26 to 28.

Gehrig's jersey fetches \$220,000

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 6: A 1938 jersey worn by New York Yankee baseball player Lou Gehrig fetched a record 220,000 dollars at an auction of sports memorabilia, a spokesman for Richard Wolfers Auctions Inc said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The flannel jersey, which before the auction had been expected to go for less than 175,000 dollars, was purchased on Wednesday evening by Mark Friedland, an Aspen, Colorado, businessman.

The auctioneers said the final price made the jersey, which bore Gehrig's number 4, the most expensive non-card sports memorabilia items year sold.

Zimbabwean can expect no favours from Mark Taylor's Aussies

Sports Reporter

HARARE, Sept 6: A 15-day tour by the Australian 'B' cricket team could provide further ammunition for Zimbabwe as they put their case before the International Cricket Conference for full Test status, reports AFP.

At present, they are in a 'trial' period, with a firm decision promised next year, so a good showing against the Australians, probably the most talented touring team ever to come here, would be a point in their favour.

From the Australians' point of view, the tour is seen as an important step in development of future Test teams.

The Australian second string is captained by Mark Taylor, whose seven Test centuries indicate he has nothing to prove on the field except perhaps his potential as a future Test captain.

The same applies to Steve Waugh, with 2,000 Test runs under his belt, and Tom Moody, the run-scoring sensation of this summer's English county season.

But for others, like New South Wales left-hander Mark Bevan, it is a chance to impress against a country which has proved capable of spectacular upsets and which always provides a high level of spirited determination against

strong opposition. Bevan has hit five centuries in only 10 first class matches and although Zimbabwe are hardly as strong as any Sheffield Shield side, the Test of skill will be real enough.

The Springboks must still be regarded as a powerful force in the game, may be the equal of Australia and West Indies, despite 20 years of isolation.

Zimbabwe have also lost one or two key players, particularly talented batsman Graeme Hick, whose career has taken him to England.

It is a chicken-and-egg situation for Zimbabwe. Until and unless Test status is achieved, they will lose their best players; until they can keep such people, they will not get the results necessary to make the right impression.

Zimbabwe also do not have the depth of domestic cricket, nor the spectator support, which is necessary and many people here believe the cricket 'authorities' optimism is misplaced.

The government is unlikely to allow their national side to play in the domestic league of another country, South Africa's Currie Cup, again and if Zimbabwe cannot persuade the ICC there is room for nine Test countries, they are condemned to a wilderness of relatively meaningless tours and the demise of the sport here.

The Aussies will have no sympathy with that, of course. They are intent on finding their best for their own future and Zimbabwe is a sharpening stone.



MARK TAYLOR

For the Australians will find themselves in quite different surroundings — Harare is at an altitude of 5,000 feet, for instance — and facing opposition

Tufnell loses his top

Sports Reporter

LONDON, Sept 6: England's left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell was involved in an aquabattle with Middlesex colleagues Norman Cowans and Mike Gatting during the country championship match against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Tufnell's temper boiled over after Cowans had dropped an easy and crucial catch off his bowling when Middlesex were attempting to force Notts to follow on. Eddie Hemmings being the batsman to escape.

After venting his frustration with a number of gestures, the 25-year-old clashed with Cowans, who was clearly unhappy at his colleague's actions.

Test umpire John Hampshire urged the pair to "cool it" but the drama did not end there.

Captain Gatting pulled the two players aside to make his feelings clear in a finger waggling discussion but Tufnell, whose brief Test career has been surrounded by controversy, showed his petulance by walking away on two occasions.

Fiorentina fined

Sports Reporter

MILAN, Sept 6: Fiorentina, whose fans clashed with rival supporters in Sunday's Italian league opener at Juventus of Turin, was fined 40 million lire (dhs 31,000), on Wednesday and was threatened with having to play games away from home if the violence recurred, reports AP.

The disciplinary commission also suspended Fiorentina's goalkeeper G9n Matteo Meregini for three games for kicking an opponent in the closing minutes of Sunday's 1-0 victory by Juventus.

only to be summoned back. All Gatting could say was that he had had a "quiet chat" with both Cowans and Tufnell.

Notts were eventually all out in their first innings for 346, Tufnell taking four for 137. At the close of the third day of the four-day fixture Middlesex were 241 for six — a lead of 350.

Surrey boosted their title challenge with a 171 run victory over Hampshire. Waqar Younis ending with match figures of 12 for 92. The two sides meet in the Natwest Trophy on Saturday.

At Chelmsford, title favourites Essex are on the brink of victory over Derbyshire, one of their chief rivals. The visitors, on 142 for seven in their second innings, are still 170 short of avoiding an innings defeat.



Action from yesterday's Milnars women's volleyball match between Comilla and Pabna at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. — Star photo

Walker shocks Martin

Sports Reporter

HONG KONG, Sept 6: World Champion Rodney Martin of Australia was surprisingly beaten in the 50,000 dollar Hong Kong Open squash tournament on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Fifth-seeded Martin, who has been the focus of much media attention since winning the world crown last month in Adelaide, went out to 18th-ranked Englishman Chris Walker 9-15, 15-9, 6-15, 17-15, 15-9 in a tense second round match.

"I feel I have lost a bit of spark since winning the world title and it will be some time before I get back to my best," said a disappointed Martin.

"I made too many mistakes and he took advantage of them. Nothing is cut and dry. You have to play well to win and I didn't."

Walker, 24, hoped the victory would secure him a place in the England squad for the World Team Championships in November.

He will now play defending champion and top seed Jansher Khan of Pakistan in the quarter-finals.

Jansher, chasing a fifth successive Hong Kong Open title, always had the better of Australia's Brett Newton despite dropping a game.

The Pakistani, winner of the Singapore and Malaysian Opens in the last two weeks, defeated Newton 15-3, 15-7, 15-17, 15-4.

Number two seed Jahangir Khan was forced to withdraw from the tournament with bronchitis, handing Stuart Hallstone of Scotland a quarter-final against Australia's Cristian Nancarrow.

The other semifinal match is an all-Japanese affair between Hiroshi Shibuya and Kouji Matsushita.

BKSP gymnasts monopolise

Sports Reporter



BKSP girl Sharmeen Sultana excelled in the floor exercise event of the eighth national junior gymnastic championships yesterday, winning the gold medal. — Star photo

Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan (BKSP) gymnasts, led by ace Haroon-ur-Rashid dominated the second day of the eighth national junior gymnastics championship at the National Coaching Centre yesterday, winning all three gold medals at stake on the day.

BKSP gymnasts made a clean sweep in the boys' horizontal bars. Haroon-ur-Rashid maintained his top form to clinch his third gold medal of the championship with a score of 13.85 points. Haroon also won the gold on Thursday in

the boys' parallel bars event. Asir Ali and Zahidul Islam, both of BKSP, took the second and third positions respectively.

Haroon-ur-Rashid also dominated the long horse event by winning the gold with a tally of 17.25 points. His teammate Amir Ali had to be satisfied with the silver medal.

Laboo of Dhaka DSA broke the BKSP monopoly by taking the bronze medal.

Sharmeen Sultana of BKSP won the gold in the girls' floor exercises with 13.60 points. On Thursday Sharmeen won a

silver in the side-horse event. Parveen Akhter, also of BKSP, took the silver with 12.35 points, followed by Shamima Soheli of Dinajpur who got the bronze. Shamima Soheli had won the gold medal in the side-horse event on Thursday.

The three-day long championships will conclude today with the boys' floor exercises event, to be held in the afternoon.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will give away the prizes among the winners as chief guest.

World gymnastics meet begins today

Soviets again favourites

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Sept 6: Although the Soviet Union are once again set to dominate the World Gymnastics Championships, most attention will be focused on the South African team in the coming week, reports Reuter.

The Championships, which start on Saturday, will be the first in an Olympic sport to include South African athletes since the republic began dismantling apartheid this year.

"For a long time now we have wanted to welcome all nations into our world competitions," said Yuri Titov, president of the International Gymnastics Federation. "This is overdue."

South Africa will not field full teams, but its gymnasts — four women and two men — are eligible to compete for individual honours.

"We will take great experience from these games no matter the results," said team chief Kibus Sceepers, who agreed they were unlikely to take home any medals.

The Soviets, meanwhile, are expecting a large haul. Soviet gymnasts swept gold medals in team and all-around competitions at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul and the 1989 World Championships in Stuttgart.

"We feel that our team is at the peak physical condition of

the sport," said Leonid Arkaev, head trainer of the Soviet men's team, "though the disruptions in our country may have caused minor lapses in mental preparation."

The Soviet men are virtual certain ties to win Tuesday's team final and Thursday's all-around competition may also turn into a Soviet intra-squad contest.

Not since 1974 has a Soviet man failed to win an all-around title at a world Championship or Olympic Games at which the country competed.

Igor Korobchinski returns to defend the world title he won in Stuttgart. Goodwill games champion Vitaly Scherbo and World Cup champion Valeri Belenki are his biggest threats.

Valeri Liukin has performed inconsistently since winning the Olympic silver in Seoul, but cannot be discounted.

China's veterans Yang Bo and Li Li are joined by an inexperienced but talented quartet which, while not as polished as the Soviets, has been training the highest rated skills in the warm-up sessions.

The Americans have not won a gold medal at a World Championships since 1979. But Kim Zmeskal and Betty Okine are the most likely candidates to change that on one of the individual apparatus.



Rear Admiral M M Islam, Chief of the Naval Staff, is seen among others with the BNS Haji Mohsin team who became champions in the annual swimming and water polo of the Bangladesh Navy. The four-day meet concluded at the Naval Headquarters Complex swimming pool at Banani on Thursday (Sept 5).