

Rupu joins Brothers

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra medio Satyajit Das Rupu's decision to seek a transfer to Brothers Union and Syed Rumman bin-Wali Shabbir, Mohammedan's national star midfielder deciding to stay another season with the black-and-whites, were the major stories yesterday, the fifth day of the soccer transfers for the 1991-92 season.

Brothers Union yesterday managed to lure another Abahani star, Rupu their captain to join the Gopibagh team. Waseem Iqbal joined them from Abahani on Wednesday.

Rupu, despite his declining form, played a significant role in Abahani's BTC Club Cup triumph last May-June, captaining the side.

Moon, Brothers' national under-23 right-back, who was

Satyajit Rupu, the former Abahani captain, signs for the Brothers Union Club yesterday. — Star photo

earlier tipped to join Abahani, finally decided to stay on another season and handed his token yesterday to the waiting Brothers officials. Farashganj defender Azmat also took a transfer in favour of Brothers Union.

Mohammedan Sporting officials gave a sigh of relief when their gifted national medio Shabbir handed them his token yesterday. There was a strong rumour that Brothers and Abahani were trying to lure the diminutive dynamo by offering him a very handsome deal. Reza, a defender who played for PWD, also took a transfer in favour of Mohammedan.

Abahani reconfirmed the joining of Mustafa Babu of Muktijoddha and Emily of Mohammedans when they took their signature yesterday.

So far 108 booters have completed their transfers with 28 doing so yesterday.

Karnaphuli women's volleyball from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The Karnaphuli women's handball championship '91, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, will begin from tomorrow at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

State Minister for Information, Nurul Huda will inaugurate the four-day meet at 4 pm.

Karnaphuli Insurance Company, the sponsors of the tourney, held a press conference yesterday. Chairman of the Karnaphuli Insurance, Nizamuddin Ahmed, Mrs. Hamida Ali, President of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, spoke on the occasion.

Eight teams from four divisions along with Bangladesh Ansar will take part in the competition on round robin league basis.

The divisional teams are Rangamati and Bandarban from Chittagong Division, Netrakona and Dhaka from Dhaka Division, Jessor and Chittagong from Khulna Division.

Seles faces the oldest woman in US Open final

Ageless Jimbo inspires Martina

NEW YORK, Sept 7 : Second seed Monica Seles of Yugoslavia won a third-set tiebreak in a slugfest with Jennifer Capriati to reach the final of the U.S. Open tennis championships where she will meet four-time champion Martina Navratilova, reports Reuter.

Twice the 15-year-old Capriati served for the match, but failed to close it out as Seles fought back for a 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 victory to reach her first U.S. Open final.

The win kept up a remarkable string for Seles, who has reached the final of every tournament she has played this year, winning five including the French and Australian Opens.

Earlier on Friday, Navratilova, who at one month shy of her 35th birthday is the oldest woman in the tournament, turned in a vintage performance against her longtime rival Steffi Graf to reach her eighth U.S. Open final.

Navratilova, seeded sixth, served and volleyed far better than in any of her previous five matches to score a 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 victory and earn a shot at the world number two, who at 17 is half her age.

"Jimmy's still in there and has a chance to win and obviously so do I," said Navratilova, who has gained inspiration from the 39-year-old Connors's stunning run to the semifinals. "It shows what spirit can do, defying the odds."

The women's final will be sandwiched between the men's semifinals in the "Super Saturday" programme at the National Tennis Centre.

The programme opens with second seed Stefan Edberg playing three-time champion Ivan Lendl, the fifth seed. Following the women's final Connors takes on fourth-seeded French Open Champion Jim Courier.

Seles and seventh-seeded American Capriati are two of the hardest hitters in the women's game, but neither is comfortable at the net.

As a result, the entire match was spent with the two teen Titans bashing away at each other from the baseline, the two fisted groundstrokes

punctuated by Seles's grunting which seems to get louder as the importance of her matches increase.

Capriati, who knocked out defending champion Gabriela Sabatini in the quarter-finals, had some trouble finding her range in the first set and Seles

off a break point in the next game to hold for 3-1.

But after Seles held for 3-2 there were seven successive service breaks with Capriati failing to hold while serving for the match at 5-4 and again at 6-5.

"I just didn't close it out when I needed to," said a teary-eyed Capriati, who was bidding to become the youngest ever U.S. Open finalist.

"(Losing), is even tougher when you know you could have the match and it's there in your hands and it slips away."

In the tiebreak, in which both players continued to struggle with their serves, Seles was simply the master of the two. At 6-3 she took a short ball by Capriati and whipped two-fisted a cross-court winner to end the match.

"I'm pretty mad at myself for not holding serve," Seles said. "Maybe in that madness I was still suffering from the injury and was told to rest it for about two weeks.

"At the beginning of the tournament I didn't expect to be in the final," added Seles, who was twice beaten by Capriati this summer, once in an exhibition.

"This is great, I want to win a Grand Slam tournament I never won before," said Seles, who will regain her number one ranking by reaching the final.

Navratilova's relentless attacking game produced volley winners throughout to keep pressure on Graf, the 1988 and 1989 champion who was looking to reach her fifth consecutive U.S. Open final.

Her only difficulty came in finishing off sets. Navratilova served for the first set after breaking Graf for 6-5 and for the match after breaking the top seed for 5-3 in the second set.

But each time the German Wimbledon champion turned up the heat on her passing shots and broke back.

Navratilova, however, dominated the first tiebreak, winning 7-2. In the second tiebreak, Graf ran out to a 6-2 lead only to watch Navratilova battle back to 6-6.

Undaunted, Graf reached her fifth set point and unleashed a backhand volley worthy of Navratilova to send

MONICA SELES — the 17-year-old hard hitter.

won with a single service break in the eighth game.

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