

# Federation Cup from Sep-27

Sports Reporter



Twenty teams will be taking part in the first round robin league of the Federation Cup football championship scheduled to begin in Dhaka from September 27.

The teams will be divided into four groups, with the top team from each group qualifying for the second phase.

The four semifinalists of the last Federation Cup — champions Dhaka Mohammedans, runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra, Brothers Union and Mukhtodha Sangshad — will be playing directly in the second round robin league.

The twenty other teams which will take part in the first phase will be comprised of sixteen First Division and three divisional sides and Bangladesh Army. The first

phase is likely to be completed by October 4.

Eight teams competing in the second round will be divided into two groups on a round robin basis.

## Gaffar, Babloo off to Hong Kong

Two former national footballers, Abdul Gaffar and Hasanuzzaman Khan Babloo, left Dhaka yesterday afternoon for Hong Kong to participate in a two-week long coaching programme there, reports UNB.

Organised by Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the programme, titled 'Third Asian Football Confederation coaching school' begins tomorrow (Saturday).

The coaching programme is organised by AFC every year to groom football trainers from the Asian countries.

vided into two groups on a round robin basis.

Top two teams from each group will move into semifinals crosswise.

The BFF is trying for the permission to hold the matches at the Dhaka Stadium. If they don't get then the matches will be held only at the Mirpur Stadium.

BFF Secretary Haroon-ur-Rashid told the press that they are trying to fix up the fixture, allowing Mohammedan Sporting Club to have no matches between October 8 to 20, since Mohammedans will be taking part in the Asian Club Cup championship match against Pakistan champions on a home-away basis. Pakistan will play in Dhaka October 11 and Mohammedans will travel to Pakistan to play their return match scheduled for October 18.

# TT league from Oct 20

Sports Reporter

The Mahanagar table tennis league '91, organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, will begin from October 20 in Dhaka.

All interested Club and sports associations have been asked to send their entries along with fees of Taka 200 by September 30 at the Federation office.

The table tennis players' transfers will begin from September 30 and end by October 3. The players seeking transfers can withdraw their names between October 3 to 5.

## Powell rates his chances 50-50

BRUSSELS, Sept 12: Mike Powell, who broke Bob Beamon's 23-year-old long jump world record last month, said on Wednesday he had a 50-50 chance of competing at the Brussels Grand Prix meeting on Friday, reports Reuter.

Powell hurt his right hamstring at the Berlin Grand Prix on Tuesday when he won with a leap of 8.10 metres well below the record of 8.95 he set at the World Championships in Tokyo.

"It's more of a cramp than anything else. At first I thought it was a strain but I think it's just from the travelling I did after I left Tokyo... not getting a proper rest," Powell told a news conference.

"Right now I say the chances are 50-50 that I'll be jumping on Friday, but I'm optimistic."

## Soviet bid to unite athletes

MOSCOW, Sept 12: Soviet Olympic officials meet today in a bid to send a team from the whole of the Soviet Union — minus the Baltic republics — to the Barcelona Summer Olympic Games and the winter Olympics in France next year, reports AFP.

State sports committee spokesman Rudolphe Nevezdski said the 40 officials will gather at Novogorsk, the Olympic training centre outside the capital, to try to keep the team together.

What happens after (the 1992 Games) is another story which will depend on political decisions, Nevezdski said.

The International Olympic Committee executive board meets next week in Berlin and is expected to recognise Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, who want to compete under their own flags following independence.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka gives away the Karnaphuli Insurance handball trophy to the team leader of Bangladesh Ansars who retained it for the fifth consecutive year in the final at Women's Sports Complex yesterday. — Star photo

# Ansars' fifth in a row

Sports Reporter

Favourites, Bangladesh Ansars became unbeaten champions for the fifth consecutive year

yesterday — the concluding day of the fifth Karnaphuli women's handball championship, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Ansars earned full 12 points from six matches. Dhaka District Women's Sports Association finished runners-up with eight points.

Three matches were held yesterday.

Ansars crushed Jessore DSA 41-3. Dhaka outplayed Bandarban 31-15 and Rajshahi trashed Chapainawabganj 45-8.

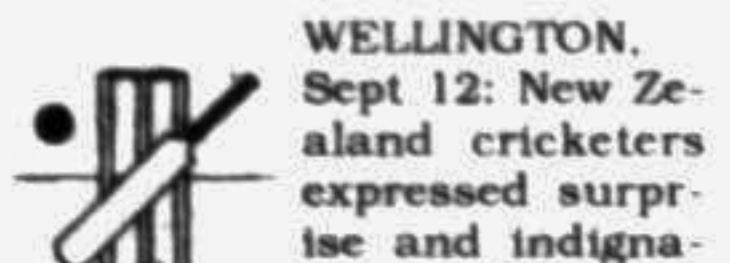
Seven teams — Ansars, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Bandarban, Jessore and Netrokona DSAs —

took part in the four day competition.

Farzana of Rajshahi was adjudged the best player of the meet while Bandarban won the most disciplined team award.

State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadeq Hossain Khoka distributed the prizes among the winners as chief guest. Chairman of the Karnaphuli Insurance Company, Nizamuddin Ahmed was also present on the occasion.

# Kiwis irked by Botham caper



WELLINGTON, Sept 12: New Zealand cricketers expressed surprise and indignation today that England vice-captain Ian Botham will be allowed to miss part of next year's New Zealand tour so that he can appear in a Christmas pantomime, reports Reuter.

"It's unprecedented... not turning up for part of the tour because he's doing something else," New Zealand captain Martin Crowe told Radio New Zealand.

"But that's how they obviously regard his selection, they really want him here for the World Cup especially."

England's selectors gave the all-rounder dispensation to turn up on the tour three weeks after the rest of the team leaves on December 27 because he had already signed contracts for the pantomime

and a television quiz called A Question of Sport.

"He's going to play the role of the king apparently in Jack



IAN BOTHAM

and the Beanstalk — there certainly wasn't a king in the version I used to know," former New Zealand captain and sports commentator Jeremy Coney commented.

"He must be staying back to memorise the lines perhaps."

"Botham has made it quite clear, hasn't he, that he has reached the stage in his life and in his career that he wants to do other things," said Coney, who is a star of a New Zealand version of A Question of Sport.

"Other players have opted not to tour certain countries, but not because of the thespian nature. Some would say I suppose that. It would be slightly arrogant of him to say that he is almost indispensable."

"It's not a sound principle at all," Coney said.

Botham will arrive just before the first of the three Tests but will be available for the World Cup starting immediately after the tour in New Zealand and Australia.

English newspapers were reported to have slammed the English selectors' decision to allow Botham dispensation.

# Aussies win with 6 wickets to spare

MUTARE, Zimbabwe, Sept 12: Australia 'B' team made hard work of a six-wicket victory over

Zimbabwe's second string cricketers here Thursday, reports AP.

The visitors finished the three-day match two hours early by scoring the 94 runs needed to win but they lost four wickets in the process.

Zimbabwe 'B' had scored 220 and in the second innings 164 with only skipper Nigel Hough (53 runs) and Grant Flower (40 runs) resisting the Aussie bowlers.

Australia 'B' made a first innings total of 291, enough to establish their superiority, but they had to work hard in their second innings.

The Aussie batsmen tended to sky catches looking for quick runs.

Test veteran Mark Taylor scored 37 before being caught with a lazy shot.

The Australians cannot be too satisfied with this result.

They appear rusty and in need of practice tourists, who include four Australian test players, move from this resort town in mountainous eastern Zimbabwe to the second city of Bulawayo for a one day match on Sunday.

They then play a four-day unofficial Test against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo.

Tour officials say the six encounters of the current Aussie tour are an important practice run for both countries ahead of the forthcoming cricket World Cup.

Zimbabwe does not have Test status but is ranked among the world's top ten cricketing nations.

Reuter adds in an earlier report, Australia were all out for 291 in reply Wednesday to Zimbabwe's first innings total of 220 in the second match of a six-game tour.

In their second innings on the second day of play, the home team were 49 for 3, leaving a deficit of 22 with seven wickets standing.

For Australia 'B', Tim Nielsen hit a fine 79 after being dropped first ball. He was well supported by Test batsman Steve Waugh with 59

and Test colleague Mark Taylor with 35.

Zimbabwe 'B' pace bowler Hitesh Hera took five

Australian wickets for 74 which included a hat-trick.

He had Rod Tucker caught, then he clean bowled Wayne Holdsworth and Dennis Hickey in successive balls.

At Wednesday's close, the Aussies hold the help hand. Their score rate of 4 runs an over left them confident of victory on the third and last day in mountainous eastern Zimbabwe.

The visitors, skippered by Aussie Test vice captain Taylor, say the month-long Zimbabwe tour to improve ground for young players ahead of the forthcoming cricket World Cup.

# Soviet women win gold but Americans steal the show

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Sept 12: The Soviets won the gold medal in the women's team competition at the World Gymnastics Championships here yesterday, but the Americans stole the spotlight when they won the silver medal, serving notice they should no longer be taken lightly, reports AFP.

The Soviets, the defending champions, began the optional just a little more than a point in front of the Americans, but performed nearly flawless routines and gradually pulled away, finishing with 396.055 points, almost two points higher than the United States, which captured its first-ever team medal.

Romania, the 1987 champions, took the bronze with a

score of 393.841, while China finished fourth at 390.642.

"Once again, the Soviet Union won and we won by two points, which in gymnastics is a big margin," said Soviet coach Alexander Alexandrov. "It just shows what a great team we have."

While the Soviet women failed to dominate as completely as the men did on Tuesday, they were impressive, nonetheless, led by defending all-around champion Svetlana Bogunskaja who, despite being near the end of her career at the age of 18, placed first individually with a score of 79.548.

"I'm still able to do the same programme I used to, but I'm stronger now and am more sure of myself," said Bogunskaja, who will compete against 35 other gymnasts for

the all-around title on Friday.

But while the Soviets were setting the standard to which the rest of the world aspires, the Americans were just slightly less brilliant, capping off their silver medal performance with the only perfect '10' so far — by Kim Zmeskal on her final vault.

"I've been doing that vault for quite a while and I'm comfortable," said the 15-year-old two-time national champion. "I got excited because the vaults in front of me got high scores, so I thought it could happen."

The U.S. team was tied for second with the Romanians after three events and needed five high scores on the vault.

"We knew we were tied with them, but we also knew the vault was a strong event for us," said Betty Okino, who finished 10th individually.

# Cason outsprints Mitchell

KOBLENZ, Germany, Sept 12: Andre Cason underlined his recent impressive form when he defeated world bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell over 100 metres in 9.99 seconds at the Koblenz international athletics meeting on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Cason, who defeated world silver medalist and fellow American Leroy Burrell in Italy latest week, became the seventh fastest man over the distance this year despite coolish conditions unfavourable for sprinting.

Compatriot Mitchell was second in 10.23.

American world 200 metres champion Michael Johnson, fastest over 400 metres this year, showed his versatility by taking third place, also in 10.23.

Cason was very fast out of his blocks and never looked in danger of being overhauled. He immediately went on a lap of celebration to the delight of the 10,000 crowd on the tiny terraces at this Rhineland track.

In the 400 metres hurdles, world silver medalist Winthrop Graham of Jamaica held off Briton Kriss Akabusi,

who was third at the Tokyo World Championships, to win in 48.99 seconds.

Graham set off at a furious pace in the first 200 metres and could afford the luxury of being able to ease down in the final 10 metres as Akabusi came through to finish in 49.18. American Kevin Young was third in 49.57.

World champion Samuel Matete of Zambia was billed to make an attempt on the world record of 47.02 set by American Edwin Moses on the same track eight years ago.

But Matete chose to save his energy for the Brussels Grand Prix on Friday.

# Stephenson sparkles in Essex' win

LONDON, Sept 12: Opener John Stephenson upstaged England captain Graham Gooch with a thunderous century to keep Essex firmly in front of rivals Warwickshire in the race for the county cricket championship on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Stephenson scored 113 and dominated a first wicket stand of 189 with Gooch (68) to thrust leaders Essex to a maximum eight bonus points against Leicestershire, while second-placed Warwickshire lost ground.

The second day of the penultimate round of four-day matches ended with Essex 15 points ahead of Warwickshire whose attempt to close the gap was thwarted partly by bad light preventing play before lunch and forcing an early close in their game against Northamptonshire.

Stephenson's innings, occupying 146 balls and containing 18 fours and two sixes, gave Essex a flying start which Nasser Hussain later consolidated by compiling on unbeaten 107 in his side's first innings of 405 for four — 52 ahead.

Hussain, named on Tuesday in England's squad to tour West Indies early next year, played scarcely a false stroke in a high-class innings including 15 boundaries. He and wicketkeeper Mike Gurnham

(66 not out) shared an undefeated sixth wicket partnership of 173.

Warwickshire, having quickly taken Northants' last wicket to end their first innings for 375, suffered early setbacks against West Indian pace bowler Eldine Baptiste.

He dispatched openers Andy Moles and Jason Ratcliffe cheaply, making Warwickshire 36 for two, but captain Andy Lloyd responded with a brisk 53 before falling to Zimbabwe-born all-rounder Kevin Curran.

Warwickshire were 123 for three when bad light ended play for the day. They need a

further 157 from 43 overs today to take maximum batting points and keep Essex in their sights.

Graham Thorpe, another England squad member, hit a fine 117 against Middlesex at Lord's but his Surrey team managed only an 11-run first innings lead against the champions, 15th in the 17-team table after a wretched season.

Thorpe's 298-minute innings contained 18 fours but Surrey crumbled from 161 for four to 235 all out, former England off-spinner John Embury taking four for 29.

# Boost for Vogts

LONDON, Sept 12: German coach Bert Vogts walked away from Wembley, filled with relief as

much as pride after his side ended England's 12-match unbeaten run in the Lion's den, reports Reuter.

In a showdown between the new managers of two of the world's major soccer powers, Vogts and Germany emerged clear winners on Wednesday as Graham Taylor cursed what he described as a "minute of madness" that brought his first defeat.

Of the two managers who stepped into their roles after last year's World Cup,

Vogts had most to smile about from the friendly international.

One goal, on the stroke of half-time, was all that separated the teams on the score-sheet, but in an inspired re-run of last year's classic World Cup semi-final, there was a gulf of talent and class on Germany's credit balance.

Wednesday's performance has given Vogts the confidence boost he needed ahead of next month's return match with Wales — one the Germans must win to avoid missing their first major finals since 1968.

Captain Lothar Matthaus has no doubts Germany will qualify, add says: "We will see England again in Sweden next year."

# Chess results

Sports Reporter

Four players were leading the points table of the 17th National Chess Championship securing four and half points each at the end of the fifth round played yesterday at the chess room of National Sports Council.

The leading players are International Woman Master Rani Hamid and Fide Master Rifat Bin Sattar, both from Biman, Fide Master Jamfur Rahman of Ansars and Shahtnoor Hossain of Dhaka Mahanagar.

Seven players were jointly placed in the second position with each collecting four points. They are — FM Rezaul Hoque (Biman), Almasur Rahman (Ansars), Kh. Kayes Hasan (Ansars), Sheikh Anwar Hossain (Dhaka DSA), Rafiqul Islam (Chittagong), Anisur Rahman (Dhaka Mahanagar) and Shabana Parveen Nipa (Faridpur).

Rezaul defeated Afroza Khanam, Almas beat Khaled Shawkat, Anwar defeated Mahmudunnabi, Anis outplayed Sharfuzzaman and Nipa beat Altaf Hossain in the 5th round encounters.

The other 5th round match between Kayes and Rafique ended in a draw.

# Contrasting wins by Jansher, Jahangir Khan

KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept 12: World number three Chris Robertson was beaten in the first round of the Pakistan Open squash championship on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Australian fourth seed lost 15-12, 16-17, 15-13, 15-6 to Pakistan's Zarak Jehan Khan, ranked 44th in the world.

Said Robertson: "I don't often lose to players ranked below me, but all credit to Zarak. He played very well."

Zarak's younger brother Zubair Jehan also reached the second round with a 15-13, 15-7, 13-15, 17-16 victory over another Australian, Rodney Eyles.

Second seeded Jahangir Khan spent only 24 minutes on court beating England's Paul Carter 15-4, 15-3, 15-4 while fellow Pakistani and top seed Jansher Khan was made to work harder for his 15-12, 15-6, 15-8 victory over another Englishman, Philip Whitlock.

# Sanchez, Novacek eliminated

BRASILIA, Sept 12: Top seed Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia and second-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain were both eliminated by unsung opponents in the second round of the Brasilia Open tennis tournament on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Novacek, 10th in the ATP rankings, was humbled by 205th-ranked Australian Sandon Stolle in straight sets 6-4, 7-6, while 12th ranked Sanchez lost to 17-year-old Brazilian Marcelo Sallola, ranked 285th; 7-6, 5-7, 6-2.

Sallola, serving strongly and backed by a noisy crowd, took a tense two hours and 14 minutes to dispose of Sanchez. It was the greatest victory of my career, he said afterwards.

Novacek blamed the court for his defeat to Stolle. The court was too fast for me, he said.

Third-seeded Francisco Clavel of Spain survived but had a difficult time beating Kent Kinnear of the United States, ranked 312th in the world.

Clavel lost the opening set 3-6 and was then taken to an 18-point tiebreak in the second before taking the match 6-2 in the final set.

# Honduras upset Mexico 1-0

TELUCA, Mexico, Sept 12: Honduras upset Mexico 1-0 Wednesday in an Olympic soccer qualifying match, reports AP.

"Honduras stole the game," said Canadian assistant coach Derek Possee of Vancouver, who was at the match scouting both teams for the next qualifying round. "They came and just literally defended the whole 90 minutes."

Honduras now leads its three-country group with three points from two games. Mexico is second with two points from three games. Suriname is third with one point.

The winner of the group joins Canada and the United States in the final qualifying round for the North and Central American and Caribbean region. The three will be joined by the best second-place team of the three groups in the current qualifying round.

Mexico needs a win against Suriname next Wednesday for a chance of taking the wildcard spot.

# England fight back well

OLD TRAFFORD, England, Sept 12: Australia's bid for victory in their three-match under-19 Test series with England was held up by a second-innings fightback from the host nation here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Three England batsmen hit centuries on the third day of the deciding Test as Australia enforced the follow-on.

All-rounder Ronnie Irani completed a defiant unbeaten ton as England struggled to 296 all out in their first innings, 180 behind, with Tasmanian spinner David Castele taking six for 87.

Then England captain John Crawley led the second-innings rally, stroking a supers 121 and sharing a second-wicket partnership of 178 with Philip Weston, who was 103 not out at the close after batting more than five hours.

England eventually finished on 298 for three.

# Tyson pleads not guilty

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 12: Former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson pleaded innocent on Wednesday to rape charges, admitting he gets confused around women but calling the allegations ridiculous, reports Reuter.

"I am going to prove my innocence," Tyson told reporters after he was released on 30,000 dollars bond.

Promoter Don King, who accompanied Tyson, quipped at one point that the rape case might add to the glamour of Tyson's November 8 title fight against Evander Holyfield.

But King later told a news conference he was wrong to have said that adding that rape is a terrible thing to happen to a woman.

He then criticised the 18-year-old Rhode Island woman who brought the charges, mentioning her by name several times — even though her name has not been used by news organisations.

Tyson, King said, is just the last in a line of men ranging from Pee-wee Herman and

former Senator Gary Hart to have been victimised by problems.

Tyson was indicted on Monday on rape and other charges after being accused by the woman, a contestant he met during a Miss Black America beauty pageant in Indianapolis last July. Trial in the case was set for January 27.

The woman said she was driven to Tyson's hotel in his limousine and assaulted.

"A situation has occurred that is totally ridiculous. I didn't hurt anyone or do anything to anyone," the 25-year-old fighter said.

"Every time I trust a woman or get involved with one in a certain way like this, something happens, so I'm confused."

"I am looking forward to fighting and confident I am going to be the champion on November 8," Tyson said of his scheduled 12-round bout with Holyfield in Las Vegas.

"I have to fight. That's how I make my living," Tyson said. "I love and respect women... 4

know what happened and she knows what happened and that's that."

A friend of the victim said Tyson had grabbed her hips and tried to feel her breasts earlier on the night of the alleged rape.

Noemi McKenzie, another contestant, said in testimony obtained by the New York Daily News that Tyson pressed his body against hers and said, "Let's go out, don't you want me?"

She said she replied, "Not in a million years."

Tyson entered his plea after flying from Las Vegas, site of the title match promoters say may be the biggest money maker in boxing history, grossing 100 million dollars or more.

Tyson was charged with one count of rape, which carries a prison sentence of six to 20 years; two counts of criminal deviate conduct, which carries the same penalty per count; and one count of confinement — unlawful restraint — which carries a sentence of one to three years.



US heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson (R) arrives for a court appearance accompanied by an unidentified defence attorney (C) in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Tuesday (Sept 11) to answer an indictment and be booked on a four felony charges stemming from an alleged rape on July 19. — AFP photo