

Sport

Eleven share lead

Sports Reporter

Eleven players — Riflat bin Sattar, Rezaul Haque, Jamilur Rahman, Rani Hamid, Khandokar Kayes Hasan, Anwar Hossain, Shahnoor Hossain, Anisur Rahman, Tuhin, Motuuddin Mamoon and Shahadat Hossain — brightened their prospects of qualifying for the national championship when they shared the lead with five-and-a-half points each after

completion of the sixth round matches at the NSC chess room yesterday. Badrul, Rafiqul Islam and Khalequr Rahman were placed second with five points each. One hundred and two players from all over the country are taking part in this qualifying competition for the 17th national championship. Fourteen players will finally move to the final round which is scheduled to begin in Dhaka from September 23. The reigning champion

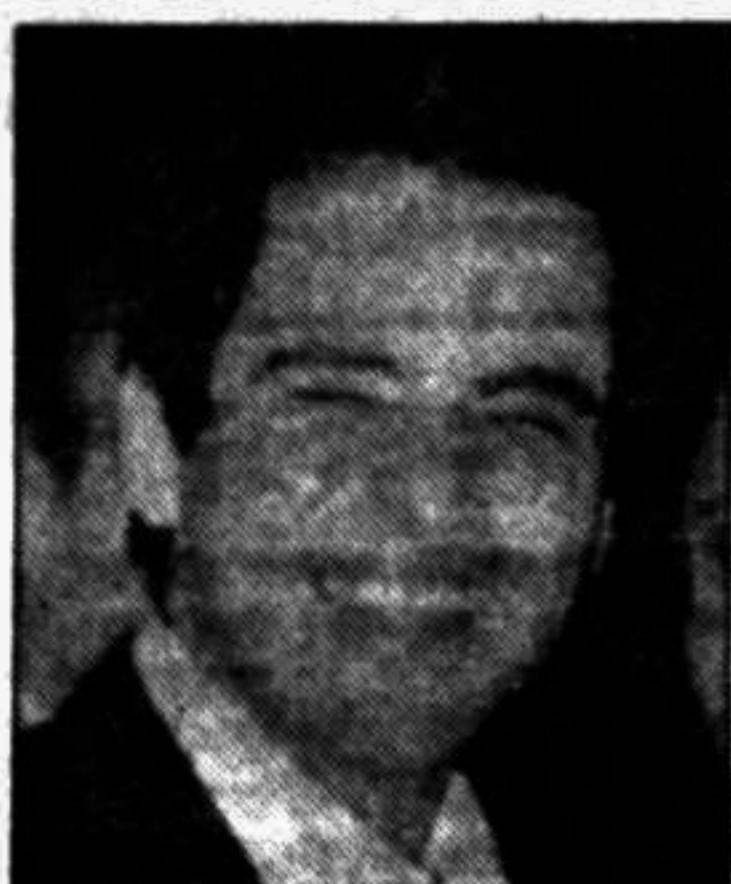
Syed Tahmidur Rahman and last year's runner-up have automatically gained their rights to play in the final round which will be played on a 15-round Swiss league basis. Fide Master Almasur Rahman, rated, 2230th internationally, had to bow out of the tournament when Shahadat Hossain — a competitor from Bogra — defeated him yesterday. A few matches were in progress till finishing of this report at 9.00 pm.

Inflow of cash worries Kasparov

SITRASHBOURG, France, Sept 13: World chess champion Gary Kasparov urged the West against sending money directly to the Soviet Union or its republics, in a statement on Thursday to deputies in the European Parliament, reports AFP.

Kasparov said this was a "dangerous game" that would only "enhance the ambitions of (Soviet) leaders" and increase the country's debt, which now amounts to some 70 billion dollars.

The chess master said the West should confine its Soviet aid to technical help and emergency food supplies, warning "We cannot make it through this winter alone," as he spoke to the Christian



GARRY KASPAROV

Democratic group at the parliament. Kasparov, a leader of the Democratic Russia Movement,

told the European deputies he was thinking about standing as a candidate in Moscow should Soviet legislative elections be held next year.

He criticized Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as the "Louis XVI of communism," and said Russian President Boris Yeltsin "Does not yet represent democracy," even if he is "the sole guarantee" of Russia's evolution towards democracy.

Kasparov also forecast that all Soviet Republics would eventually have a seat in the United Nations, that they "will not need a common currency," and that their cooperation would be limited to nuclear arms, transportation and energy resources.

Shah Sports soccer result

Sports Reporter

Khelwar Kalyan Samity emerged champions in the Shah Sports football tournament when they beat Mitail Road Jubo Sangha 2-0 in the final match yesterday at the Hazaribagh Park ground. Alamgir and Taju netted one goal each for the winners in the second half. Kazi Kamal of Mitail Road JS was adjudged the best player of the match.

Nepalese World Cuppers missing

TOKYO, Sept 13: A Nepali marathon runner and his coach were missing after taking part in the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, officials said today, reports Reuters.

Officials of the Championships organising committee said they were informed by the Nepal Athletics Association on Wednesday night that runner Krishana Bahadur Basnet and his coach, Nar Bahadur Dahal Basnet had not yet returned home.

The Japanese officials said the two men appeared not to have taken their planned flight from Japan after checking out of a Tokyo hotel September 2.

The 32-year-old runner finished 31st in the September 1 men's marathon final.



Soviet star Vitaly Scherbo, seen here on the Roman rings, was upstaged by his less-known compatriot Grigori Misutin of the men's all-around gold medal at the World Gymnastics Championships in Indianapolis, USA on Thursday. — Star file photo

Soviet Misutin best allround

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Sept 13: Grigori Misutin of the Soviet Union won the gold medal in the men's all-around at the World Gymnastics Championships here Thursday and, in so doing, fulfilled a promise he made to his coaches two years ago, reports AFP.

Misutin, a 20-year-old from the Ukraine, led a Soviet sweep of the all-around competition, which featured the top 36 gymnasts from the team portion of the meet. Misutin was dazzling, scoring a 9.900 on the highbar and the floor exercise en route to an overall score of 59.050, one tenth of a point better than compatriot Vitaly Scherbo and a little more than half a point higher than Valeri Liukin.

"I think any one of my athletes could be the world champion," said Soviet coach Leonid Arkaev. "The other gymnasts are on the same level as these three."

Li Xiaoshuang finished fourth with 58.350 points, followed by Italy's Yuri Chechi and German Sylvio Kroll at 58.000. Daisuke Nishikawa of Japan was seventh at 57.975 and China's Li Chunyang was eighth with a score of 57.950.

An alternate on the 1989 Soviet team that won the gold medal in Stuttgart, Misutin promised Arkaev that if he were elevated to the top six, he would win the gold medal at the next World Championships.

Following the good will games last year, Misutin got his chance and, after placing second behind Scherbo in the team competition, proved he was a man of his word by snatching the gold.

"I was ready," he said. "I've been training for a long time. I've been planning for this competition since the Goodwill Games."

Misutin's victory, which was not a sure thing until the very end, came as a surprise to everyone who was not familiar

with the Soviet gymnast's abilities.

"I think that helped a little bit," he said of his anonymity. "Everyone thought (Igor) Korobchinsky or Scherbo would win, so I was able to quietly do what I had to."

Scherbo, the all-around champion at the Goodwill Games, was the leader after three rotations, but the 19-year-old from Minsk could not match his 9.900 performance on the still rings in any of his final three events.

"It wasn't any particular event," Scherbo explained. "I did everything I could. I'm not to blame, the judges are."

Liukin, the first gymnast to perform a triple back flip in the floor exercise, won the bronze medal despite a painful left heel, the result of a hard landing off the high bar during warm-ups.

At 23, the oldest of the three Soviets, Liukin preferred not to use the injury as an excuse. He still did the triple-back, but his landing on the vault proved gingerly and he received only a 9.600—his lowest score.

"It's complicated to say whether I would have won or not," Liukin said, adding, "It's very difficult to say."

Scott Keswick led the Americans, finishing 10th with a score of 57.825. His best routine was on the high bar, carrying a 9.825, while his worst was a 9.425 on the pommel horse, his first event.

"I was very nervous for the pommel horse," said Keswick, who had to carry the Americans after Lance Ringald withdrew with an injured shoulder during the compulsory.

"Obviously, I was a little disappointed. I would've liked to have done better. Still, it was a great competition."

With Jarrod Hanks placing 16th and Chris Waller making 20th, the Americans had three gymnasts in the top 20 for the first time ever. The United States was fifth in the team

competition.

"Everyone's been talking about this team, how it's the best since 1984," Keswick said, adding, "I really believe that's true. We have a great bunch of guys."

Britain's Neil Thomas, who helped his team qualify for the Olympics, finished 27th, while teammate James May was 34th.

Christian Chevalier of France was last.

'3 AGAINST WORLD'

AP adds in an earlier report, they played the Soviet version of three-against-the-world Thursday night in the Hoosier Dome — and the world lost.

Grigori Misutin, Vitaly Scherbo and Valeri Liukin swept the medals in the men's all-around finals in the Championships, dominating a field that included 33 other athletes.

Misutin won the gold with a score of 59.050. Scherbo captured the silver with 58.95 and Liukin took the bronze with 58.5.

Soviet coach Leonid Arkaev said the sweep was nothing less than he and his athletes expected when they arrived in Indianapolis.

"Before they came here they had a programme. They worked on this programme many times," Arkaev said. "There was nothing unexpected tonight for the athletes and the coach."

Arkaev then tacked on a bit of a boast, indicating the Soviets' lineup in the all-around really wouldn't have mattered.

"We have tremendous balance. I know if the rest of the (Soviet) athletes had performed instead of these athletes, they would have done the same performance," he said.

Li Xiaoshuang of China was fourth with 58.35 and Germany's Sylvio Kroll and Italy's Yuri Chechi tied for fifth at 58.0.

The Soviet sweep was the latest installment in their display of awesome talent that has thrilled American fans throughout the competition. The Soviet Union captured the team gold medal two nights earlier, its eighth since 1954 in the championships held in alternate years.

The Soviet have won the all-around title at every world Championship since 1978.

Scott Keswick, the UCLA gymnast who has had the meet of his career this week, finished in a three-way tie for 10th, the highest finish by an American since Mitch Gaylord was eight at the 1983 worlds in Budapest, Hungary.

The tip-off on how tough the Soviet would be in the all-around came Tuesday night when their defending world champion, Igor Korobchinsky, couldn't even make his country's starting lineup for the all-around.

With countries limited to three individuals in the all-around, Scherbo, Liukin and Misutin traded the top three places throughout most of the finals.

Scherbo, whose hometown is in Ilychorusia, one of the republics that has declared its independence, added to his collection of medals from international competition. He won three golds at the 1990 European Championships and five at last summer's Goodwill Games.

His best scores included a 9.90 on rings, a pair of 9.850s on high bar and floor and a 9.80 on pommel horse.

Liukin four years ago became the first gymnast in history to pull off the triple somersault and used it at the 1988 Olympics to help the Soviets capture the gold medal.

Liukin held onto third place despite limping badly after his fifth event — the rings. Hobbling down the ramp, he still managed a respectable 9.6 on the vault, his final apparatus.

The women's all-around finals will be held Friday.

Samaranch for Baltic states in Albertville

CHAMBERY, France, Sept 13: Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Thursday he would recommend next week that the three Baltic states rejoin the Olympic movement and he believed they would take part in the Winter Games next February.

Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said he would put his proposal to the IOC executive committee meeting in Berlin next Tuesday.

"I hope it will accept my proposal and recognise the admission of the three Baltic states," he told a meeting of Winter Olympic host cities in this Alpine town in the area where the 1992 Albertville Winter Games will be held.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, whose independence from the Soviet Union has been widely recognised, were members of the Olympic movement before they were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

"I believe and I hope they will be present in Albertville," admission of the three Baltic states," he told a meeting of winter the 1992 Albertville winter games will be held.

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Samaranch later told a conference he had not received official membership applications from the Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Slovenia or from Soviet Republics which have declared with independence.

But he said the IOC would not act on any application until self-declared independent countries had won wide international recognition.

"The IOC always its doors open," he said. "But sport cannot overtake politics... political problems need political solutions."

"If there is international recognition by big countries, the IOC will be prepared to consider (applications), but not before that," he said.

Marc Hodler, president of the International Skiing Federation (FIS), said his organisation had already been in touch with the Baltic states' Skiing federation and was prepared to recognise them so they could participate in the forthcoming games.

Samaranch also said the IOC would be prepared to consider splitting winter games events between two countries in order to solve organisation problems and cut costs.

Several prospective host cities and countries have complained Olympic rules force them to build costly bobsleigh and huge tracks which hurt the environment and had little use after the games.

Samaranch said host cities may be allowed to use existing facilities in neighbouring countries.

But responsibility for the games could not be split and would remain with one single city or country, he said.

Hodler said it would be possible to split Skiing events between Finland, which has no downhill track, and Sweden.

Finland successfully staged the Summer Games in 1952 but has not been able to host Winter Games because it lacks slopes for Alpine Skiing.

Samaranch said the IOC would in future review the programme of both the Summer and Winter Games but he declined to say which events would be scrapped or admitted.

He said a new programme would be in force for the winter games of 2002 following the 1998 Games recently awarded to the Japanese city of Nagano.

Aussies made to sweat it out

MUTARE, Zimbabwe, Sept 13: The Australian cricket tourists made hard work of beating a Zimbabwe second string side here Thursday, reports AFP.

Aussie-England U-19 Test drawn

target after England had been bowled out for 433.

But Pearson, who took seven for 146 in Australia's first innings of 476, put the brake on, although Martyn finished unbeaten on 62.

Earlier, opener Phil Weston, 103 not out overnight, reached 146 as England collapsed from 405 for five.

Summary Old Trafford: Australia Under-19 476 (C. Barr 113 not out, C. Linhart 88, G. Blcwell 78, R. Pearson 7-146) and 223-7 (D. Martyn 62 not out, G. Hayne 51). England Under-19 296 (R. Iran 106 not out, D. Castle 6-87) and 433 (P. Weston 146, J. P. Crawley 121, M. Lathwell 66, Castle 5-103). Match drawn.

OLD TRAFFORD, England, Sept 13: Australia had to settle for a draw in the third Under-19 Test and the three-match series with England here on Thursday, reports AFP.

They came unstuck against Richard Pearson's precise spin bowling as they chased 254 for victory and eventually closed on 223 for seven.

The Cambridge, undergraduate claimed four for 66 to finish with match figures of 11 for 212 — the best by an Englishman at Under-19 level, beating Richard Ilwingsworth's 10 for 82 against the West Indies in 1982.

Pearson came on with the Aussies, led by skipper Damien Martyn, cruising towards their

Essex pair's record stand

LONDON, Sept 13: Nasser Hussain and Mike Garnham broke a 57-year-old

country record as they amassed 316 runs to move Essex closer to the English county championship title on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The pair's exhilarating partnership, off 81 overs, smashed Essex's previous best fifth-wicket stand of 287 and earned them a first-innings lead of 207 at lunch on the third day of their four-day game against Leicestershire.

Hussain was finally out for 196, just a single short of a career-best score, and Garnham made 123, his second championship century in eight days.

Hussain's 277-ball innings was studded with 28 fours and a six while Garnham lashed 17 fours and six as the championship leaders reached 560 for six in reply to

Leicestershire's first innings score of 353.

Essex were finally all out for 621, their highest score of the season and a lead of 268.

Paceman Neil Foster then set about pressing home the



NASSER HOSSAIN

advantage by having captain Nigel Briers caught behind for 22 as Leicestershire reached 54 for one in their second innings by tea.

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McCoist keeps Scottish hopes alive

PARIS, Sept 13: Ally McCoist kept Scottish dreams of a European Championship appearance alive on Wednesday with a goal seven minutes from the end of their game against Switzerland, reports AFP.

The 2-2 draw—Scotland's best result in four matches at the Wankdorf Stadium in Bern—keeps Andy Roxburgh's side within a point of the Swiss at the top of qualifying Group Two.

They have never been to the European finals before, but have a real chance to overtake the Swiss as they have a game in hand, both countries must go to Romania, but Scotland round off their qualifying campaign by entertaining little San Marino.

Roxburgh admitted though that his heart missed a few beats before he could breathe a sigh of relief. "I've just said to Ule Stielke, the Swiss coach, who would be football manager. In the 24th minute Swiss striker Alain Sutter fired a ball

that hit the crossbar over the head of Scots goalkeeper Andy Goram and bounced off the goalline.

Six minutes later Stephan Chapuisat exposed gaps in the Scots' defence with a long range shot. Heinz Hlermann made in 2-0 by the break.

The Scots assault started straight after the break. A Gordon Durie header in the 47 minute and McCoist, as so often in the past, equalised by leaping upon a Durie shot that Swiss keeper Stephan Huber failed to hold on first attempt.

Roxburgh heaved a sigh of relief after the fightback. "It's not good for the heart. I feel as if I went through all 90 minutes out there myself."

"Switzerland played very well and their finishing was lethal in the first half. But we showed fantastic character in fighting back." "Obviously at half-time we had big problems on our hands but that was the moment to show the spirit we have in the squad. You can just lie down but that is not for me or my players," said Roxburgh. He believes that the group

is still wide open and that the visits of both sides to Romania in the next two months will be critical.

The bad news from the match was that Rangers striker Mo Johnston was taken to hospital following a 42nd minute penalty box collision which resulted in him being stretchered off.

Roxburgh said Maurice took a kick in the kidneys. He was in terrible pain when he came off and we were obviously very concerned.

Northern Ireland cannot reach the Euro finals, but did their confidence no harm with a 5-0 win over the Faroe islands at Lindskrone in Sweden.

Colin Clarke hit a hat-trick to sink the north Atlantic Group Four giant-killers, his feat put him in the record books equalling his country's goal-scoring record with 12 in 31 internationals.

He joins Gerry Armstrong, Billy Gillespie and Joe Brambrick and insists that he now wants the record to himself. "It's something that's been

on my mind since I'd scored seven or eight goals for my country, so it's great to finally get there."

"I want the record outright and I have a couple of early chances to do it with the matches against Austria and Denmark coming up."

Manager Billy Bingham had feared for his job after a run of bad results that includes being held at home by the Faroes.

He feels happier now though, we dominated the game just like we did in Belfast but this time we took our chances. We paralysed them. It was a one-horse race, the victory was one of his biggest in 12 years in charge.

Clarke claimed his first five minutes later heading in a Kingsley Black cross. Queen's Park Rangers' defender Alan McDonald notched the third after just 17 minutes.

Faroes' offender Allan Morkov, was sent off for a second bookable offence after conceding a penalty for deliberate handball. Clarke converted the 70th minute penalty.

Soviet sports chiefs pledge a united team

MOSCOW, Sept 13: Sports chiefs from all of the Soviet Union's republics pledged on Thursday to contest next year's Olympic Games in a single team despite the political turmoil in the country, reports Reuters.

A joint statement issued after a meeting of republican sports leaders appealed to the three Baltic states which have already won independence from the Union to train and compete in the Olympics with the Soviet team.

Representatives from the republics said in the statement carried by Tass news agency that they had agreed to "perform at the 1992 Olympic Games as a single national team."

It added "We appeal to the Olympic Committees, sports leadership and sporting community of the sovereign states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to take part in joint work to train and compete as a national team in the 1992 Olympiad."

It was not immediately clear whether the Baltics would accept the invitation. The statement said the three republics had been represented at the meeting by

Snooker result

MOTHERWELL, Scotland, Sept 13: World number five Gary Wilkinson staged a fine fightback to surprise third seed Jimmy White in an all-English quarter-final in the Regal Masters here on Thursday night, reports AFP.

Latvian Olympic Committee president Vilnis Baltins. Sports chiefs here are anxious to prevent the break-up of their empire despite the fact that three republics have quit the Soviet Union and pine more are seeking independence.

At the Albertville Winter Olympics in February and the Barcelona summer Games in July and August they want to repeat past triumphs like those of 1988, when the Soviet medal machine swept 66 golds at Calgary and Seoul.

The statement said the sports chiefs would appeal to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to adopt a decree on preparation of athletes for next year's Olympics, but did not spell out what measures they were demanding.

It added that current Soviet

sports structures should be preserved. A mechanism should be created to give the centre an the republics joint control over Olympic training bases and other key sports facilities.

The sporting leaders also appealed to the leadership of the country an sovereign states and republics to do everything possible to guarantee every athlete's right to take part in the games.

Earlier, Russian Sports Minister Vasily Machuga proposed that athletes in a Soviet team could wear emblems denoting their individual republics at the Olympics.

"Let them perform together but let each athlete wear the emblem of his own republic," said Machuga, who noted that his republic provides 95 per cent of Soviet winter sports

athletes and up to 70 per cent in summer sports.

"What's wrong with that, if Baltic sportsmen have their emblem and Georgian and Russian athletes have theirs, just to designate individual republics within the team? They would perform under one flag and as one team."

In a separate development, the head of the Ukrainian Soccer Federation said on Thursday the republic should launch its own independent championships and create five national teams, including one for the Olympics, Tass said.

The Ukraine has long been a powerhouse of Soviet soccer. Dynamo Kiev alone provided no fewer than nine members of last year's World Cup squad, including such stars as defender Vasily Rats and striker Oleg Protasov.

Frost to play in Danish Open

COPENHAGEN, Sept 13: Morten Frost, who announced his retirement from top class badminton after a first-round defeat in the World Championships in May, said on Thursday he was misunderstood and would play in the Danish Open, reports Reuters.

Danish Badminton Federation officials said Frost, 33, had signed up for the men's singles, and quoted

Frost as saying he intended to go on playing at a high level.

"My remarks at the World Championships were misunderstood," the Frost told Denmark's Ritzau news agency.

"I said then that I'd played in my last tournament with the best possible preparation... I didn't say I was stopping playing," he said.

Frost said he was still training, though less than before. "I feel I'm still good enough to take part in top-class tournaments, and next week I'm

playing in the Vienna masters invitation tournament."

But Frost said the public should not expect too much of him in future. "I'm less ambitious now than I used to be, and I hope the public will understand that," he said.

Frost, one of the great names of badminton, won the all-England mens singles four times but had never won the World Championships and was bitterly disappointed to lose his first round match before a home crowd here in May.