

## BFF announces Fed Cup schedule

Sports Reporter

**Dhanmondi Club will meet Sadharan Bima K.S. in the inaugural match of the Federation Cup football championship, scheduled to begin in Dhaka from September 27.**

Wari Club will take on Rajshahi DSA in the second match of the opening day. Twenty teams, divided into four groups, are taking part in the preliminary round of the competition.

Four group champions will qualify for the second phase where they will be joined by the four semifinalists of the last Federation Cup — champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra, Brothers Union and Muktiyoddha Sangsodha — who are drawn directly in the second phase.

The teams placed in the four groups for the first phase are as follows:

Group 'A': BRTC, Dhanmondi Club, Sadharan Bima K.S., Wari Club and Rajshahi and Rajshahi DSA.

Group 'B': Dhaka Wanderers Club, Arambagh K.S., Agrani Bank Club, Bangladesh PWD S.C. and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Youngmen's Fakirerpool Club, Rahmatganj M.F.S., Victoria Sporting Club, Adamjee S.C. and Khulna DSA have been placed in Group 'C'.

In Group 'D' are Bangladesh Army, Farashganj S.C., BJMC, Police S.C. and Dhaka DSA.

Two matches will be held daily in the first phase at the Dhaka Stadium and Mirpur Stadium.

The BFF is yet to obtain permission from the National Sports Council to use the Dhaka Stadium for the Federation Cup. It seems unlikely that BFF will get the permission to use Dhaka

Stadium pitch since the BCCB had already drawn up plans to hold a number of one-day international matches between the West Indies, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in the third week of October.

The first round matches of the Federation Cup will finish on October 5 with the second phase likely to start from October 7.

### Russell soccer

Sports Reporter

Bangabandhu Avenue and National Friends Club won their respective matches while Islambagh drew with Chanpara Nabin Shanga in the Sheikh Russell memorial football tournament matches held yesterday.

Bangabandhu Avenue defeated Purana Palton Shanga by three goals to nil. Syed Jr. scored two goals while Babul got the other.

Matuati Friends Club defeated Friends XI by a solitary goal in the second match of the day. Atal Bihari netted the winner.

In the third match of the day, Islambagh held Chanpara Nabin Shanga goalless.

All matches were held at the Outer Stadium handball court.

### Amal Dutta in town

Sports Reporter

Former Indian national coach Amal Dutta arrived in Dhaka yesterday to join as coach of Muktiyoddha Sangsodha.

Muktiyoddha Sangsodha will be taking part in the All-India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament in Sikkim.

The Dhaka Club who have been placed directly in the quarterfinals will leave for Sikkim on September 30.

## US Olympic chief Helmick won't seek re-election

LOS ANGELES, Sept 17:

US Olympic Committee president Robert Helmick, whose business dealings recently have come under scrutiny, will not seek re-election when his term expires next year. The Los Angeles Times reported in Sunday's editions, reports AP.

Helmick announced the decision Saturday to a meeting of the USOC's Athletes' Advisory Council in Indianapolis, the Times reported.

"I don't think it's a remarkable decision, frankly," Helmick was quoted as saying. "It's very logical under the circumstances after all that my wife and family have gone through."

Concerns about conflict of interest had been raised following revelations about consulting fees paid to the Des Moines, Iowa, lawyer by several sports companies with ties to the Olympics.

Helmick, who works as a volunteer for the USOC, earned at least US \$127,000 in 1990 from the companies.

Last week, the USOC executive committee gave Helmick a vote of confidence, saying there was no evidence of improper influence. But Helmick acknowledged errors in judgment concerning the appearance of conflicts of interest and apologized, the USOC said. He agreed to terminate and refrain from all activities that could raise conflict-of-interest concerns.

On Wednesday, the USOC appointed a special counsel to review all of Helmick's records to determine whether full disclosure has been made.

Helmick, 54, was elected president in 1985 following the death of John B Kelly and was given a full term in 1989. Since becoming president, he also has been a member of the International Olympic Committee and was elected to the executive board in 1989.

## WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Sept 17: The top 20 women's singles rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
4. Martina Navratilova (US)
5. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
6. Jennifer Capriati (US)
7. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
8. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
9. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)
10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
11. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Zina Garrison (US)
13. Lella Meskhi (Soviet Union)
14. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia)
15. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
16. Judith Wiesner (Austria)
17. Gigi Fernandez (US)
18. Anke Huber (Germany)
19. Barbara Paulus (Austria)
20. Amy Frazier (US)



China's Li Jing salutes the crowd after receiving his gold medal for parallel bars in the men's individual event finals on September 15 at the World gymnastics championships in Indianapolis, Indiana. Li won the gold medal with a score of 9.862. —AFP photo

## Final World Cup draw in Dec

ZURICH, Sept 17: FIFA, the governing body of world soccer, said on Monday they had not sanctioned a South American World Cup "qualifying draw" carried out in Paraguay at the weekend, reports Reuters.

The draw, for the South American qualifying groups for the 1994 finals, was made in the Paraguayan capital Asuncion on Saturday at an executive committee meeting of the South American Football

Confederation (CSF).

But FIFA who were not informed in advance, said the official draw would be made in New York in December.

"Contrary to other reports, the FIFA organising committee will decide on the group draw for the various confederations in New York on 6 December 1991 before conducting the draw in public in New York on Sunday, December 8," FIFA said in a statement.

A FIFA spokeswoman said that included the South American Confederation and added: "The (Asuncion) draw

was not FIFA sanctioned". She could not say what action FIFA would take about the draw.

Francisco Figueredo Brites, CSF administrative manager, admitted in Paraguay on Monday that the final decision lay with FIFA but said the draw was "the position of the CSF and the member federations."

FIFA said a record 134 countries have entered for the 1994 finals, which are being held for the first time in the United States. The 1990 tournament in Italy attracted 123

opponents Athinaikos. Manchester manager Alex Ferguson has demanded no let-up from his side.

"We have started well this season and we had great success last year but no one will settle for that here," he said.

"But we are going about it the right way. We have a big squad of talented players and the attitude is right."

The quest for English Championship Trophy, last at Old Trafford in 1967, will be forgotten when United step out for what could be an explosive match in Athens.

Ferguson is another man forced into making changes because of UEFA rules on foreign players.

He will be taking seven foreign players, but only Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, Scotland's Brian McClair and Welsh international Merik Hughes are certain starters.

Welshmen Clayton Blackmore and Ryan Giggs, defender of Ireland defender Dennis Irwin and Soviet Winger Andrei Kanchelskii will be fighting for the remaining place.

Ferguson, without groin victim Lee Sharpe and suspended captain Bryan Robson, is also worried over the fitness to England defender Paul Parker and his fellow defender Lee Martin.

Red Star Belgrade start their defence of the Champions' Cup against northern Irish part-timers Portadown at Segez in Hungary.

The European Football Union ordered all Yugoslav clubs to play their home matches in a neutral country because of the fighting in Croatia.

Belgrade are without speedy winger Dragisa Binic, who attacked a referee in a league match after their cup triumph

back and the English winger spent 90 minutes at right-back.

The players reverted to the 3-5-2 system Belgian coach Raymond Goethals, still on the staff, brought in last season.

Barcelona must have thought they had an easy opening tie when they were drawn against former East German side Hans Rostock. But the former East German side led the Bundesliga for the first seven games.

Ajax star Richard Witschge, who joined Dutch compatriot Ronald Koeman in the summer, brought Barcelona's foreign contingent for Europe to full strength. Denmark's Michael Laudrup and Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov are the other two.

Dutch coach Johan Cruyff will hope for a better display than in last season's cup final defeat to Manchester.

Arsenal, whose 4-1 win on Saturday at last showed some of the form which swept them to last season's English title, look much too strong for Austria Vienna.

This year's Champions' Cup changes to a mini-league after the first two rounds, the eight qualifiers split into two groups of four with the winners meeting in the final.

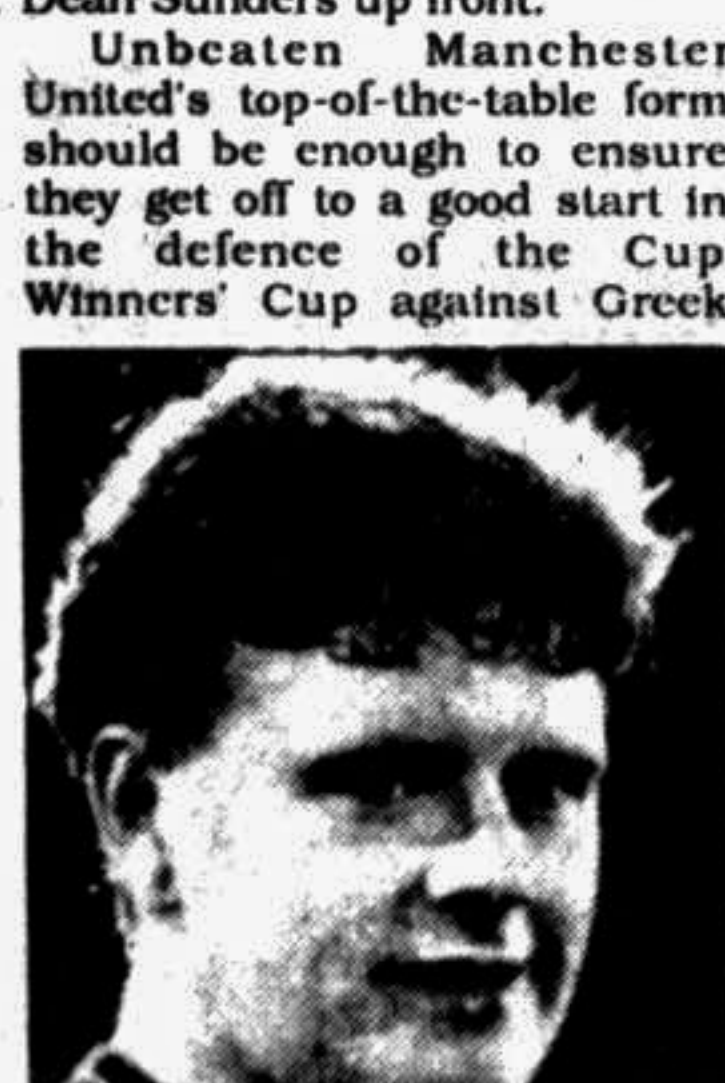
English FA Cup holders Tottenham Hotspur, still trying to prove there is life after Paul Gascoigne, travel to Linz in Austria to play Hajduk Split.

The Yugoslavs took a round-about trip to Austria because of the civil war in their country. They had to catch a ferry to Italy as Split airport is closed.

Since fighting broke out they have refused to play in the national league. "We are totally unprepared," said Split coach Stanko Poklecovic. "We stand



DEAN SAUNDERS  
Ian Rush, who started his season by playing the last 22 minutes against Villa, is likely to partner fellow Welshman Dean Saunders up front.



PAUL GASCOIGNE

in Bari, defender Slobodan Marovic and striker Darko Pancev.

Binic and Marovic were suspended by UEFA. Pancev was suspended by the club for "saying rude things" to directors who had stopped him accepting Milan's invitation to an exhibition game.

Midfield star Robert Prosinecki and coach Ljubomir Petrovic have also left. Prosinecki is now with Real Madrid. Petrovic is still looking for a job, preferably in Spain.

Olympique Marseille's millionaire president Bernard Tapie came to the defence of his Yugoslav coach Tomislav Ivic before the French club's easy opening match against US Luxembourg.



ROBERT PROSINECKI

"Let him get on with his job", said Tapie who got through three coaches last season. "I don't need anybody to tell me if and when I need to make any changes."

Ivic came up against a virtual players' revolt led by captain Jean-Pierre papin. Things came to a head when he asked Chris Waddle to play further

## Kabaddi zonals from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Twenty-two teams from the country's four divisions are taking part in the final rounds of the Uttara Motors national kabaddi championship beginning tomorrow at the four divisional venues.

The Dhaka Division matches will be held in Dhaka with five teams — Tangail, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Shergpur and Dhaka — taking part in the three-day competition.

The Chittagong Division matches will be held at Comilla

with Rangamati, Chandpur, hosts Comilla, Chittagong, Feni and Moulvibazar playing in the final divisional phase.

Matches of the Khulna Division will be held at Saikhira with Khulna, Jessore, Narail, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and hosts Saikhira taking part.

Bogra, Gaibandha, Serajganj, Rajshahi and Kurigram will be playing in the final round of the Rajshahi Division in Rajshahi.

All these teams will be play-

ing on a knock-out basis with the top two team from each division qualifying for the national finals scheduled to be held in Dhaka from September 26 to 28 at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Bangladesh Fire Service and Bangladesh Ansars have already qualified for the final round from the Services Zone.

The final round in Dhaka will also be held on a round robin league basis.

## BCCI had backed India's failed World Cup bid

NEW DELHI, Sept 17: The collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) backed India's unsuccessful bid to host the 1991 World Cup cricket tournament.

N.K.P. Salve, a senior politician and a former President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, reportedly said Monday that the BCCI wanted to sponsor the event if it was allotted to India.

India's bid was, however, thrown out by the International Cricket Conference (ICC), which handed the competition of Australia and New Zealand. The limited-overs tournament

will be held February-March, 1992.

"It was a blessing in disguise that we lost the bid by a single vote," said Salve, under whose leadership India and Pakistan had jointly hosted the 1987 tournament.

The Indian Board had no idea then that the bank was under investigation for fraud. We were considering its offer to sponsor the event," Salve, a former federal minister, told parliament.

An unnamed senior BCCI official had arranged a meeting with him in London in June 1988 to discuss the sponsorship issue, he said.

The meeting fell through when the then Indian ambassador to Britain P.C. Alexander, advised Salve to desist from

having any involvement with the BCCI.

"The ambassador told me not to have any links with the bank, whose activities were being investigated," Salve said. "I immediately cancelled the meeting."

He also denied Indian press reports that the BCCI had pumped 100,000 dollars into the 1987 tournament held in India and Pakistan.

"The BCCI was not in the picture in 1987. The accounts of that event have been cleared by the Reserve Bank of India (India's central bank) and the ICC," Salve added.

Newspapers here have speculated about BCCI's links with the Bombay-based Reliance Industries, who sponsored the 1987 tournament.

## Clashes mar Maracana tie

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 17: Four people were shot and wounded and 47 suffered other injuries in clashes between rival Brazilian soccer-supporters armed with guns, home-made bombs, sticks, stones and knives, police said on Monday, reports Reuters.

The trouble began three hours before the start of Sunday's Rio De Janeiro championship match between Flamengo and Vasco Da Gama, watched by 70,000 supporters at the Maracana Stadium.

Organised gangs of supporters clashed in front of the main gate and had to be separated by police using tear gas. Four people were shot during the fight—three in the stomach and one in the leg — and

were taken to a nearby hospital where they were under observation, police said.

Fighting continued inside the stadium as fans threw home-made bombs and stones at each other. One fan was taken to hospital after a bomb landed on his foot. Outside the stadium another bomb narrowly missed a passing bus.

Police said seven people were arrested, one carrying a revolver.

There was also violence on the pitch as Flamengo came from behind to win 2-1. Franca of Vasco and Charles of Flamengo were sent off for fighting in the first half while five other players were booked.

Gaucha of Flamengo and Geovani of Vasco also came to blows but the referee took no action.

Striker Bebeto made up for his lackluster performance during Brazil's friendly international defeat by Wales last week by opening the scoring for Vasco in the fourth minute.

After a foul-ridden first half Gaucha equalised for Flamengo in the 51st from a controversial penalty awarded for an alleged handball against Macena. Nelio scored the winner in the 70th minute.

Vasco left the field complaining about the referee and Flamengo about the Vasco tackling.

Controversial striker Renato, left out of last week's international, provided the perfect response by scoring four goals and setting up another as Botafogo thrashed bottom-of-the-table Volta Redonda 6-1.

## Indian kabaddi player honoured

NEW DELHI, Sept 17: Noted Kabaddi player Randhir Singh Schrawat was presented the National Citizen Award by the Prime Minister, Mr P V Narasimha Rao, here yesterday, reports PTI.

The Randhir Singh is the third player to receive the Citizen Award, the first two being master tennis player Ramesh Krishnan and chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand. Randhir Singh, who rose into prominence when he

helped Delhi win a gold medal in the national kabaddi championship held in 1983, has an excellent record in kabaddi.

He was the vice-captain of the kabaddi team which won the only gold for the country in the Beijing Asian Games held last year.

He was also a member of the Indian team which annexed the gold medal in the second Asian Kabaddi Championship held in Jaipur.

## Women's W Cup soccer draw

BEIJING, Sept 17: Germany will play Italy, Taiwan and Nigeria in the first round while the co-favourites United States drew Sweden, Brazil and Japan in Group B on Saturday for the inaugural FIFA World Championship for women's soccer, reports AP.

The other favourites, Norway and Denmark, were joined in Group A along with host China and New Zealand for the Nov 16-30 tournament, to be staged in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou and four nearby Chinese cities.

FIFA drew the opening match pairings at a ceremony in Guangzhou, near Canton.

China will open the first-ever women's championship on Saturday, Nov 16 against Norway at Guangzhou.

Germany, which beat Norway 3-1 in extra time on July 14 for the European Championship, the United States, and the three Scandinavian countries that have qualified for the 12-team event are considered the favourites.

Germany advanced through its preliminary round European Championship group with an 18-1 goal differential and Denmark with an 18-2 differential.

The United States did not win a game by less than 10 goals in the CONCACAF Championship in April until the final, where it routed Canada 5-0.

The top two teams in each group plus the two best third-place teams will advance to the quarterfinals on Nov 24.

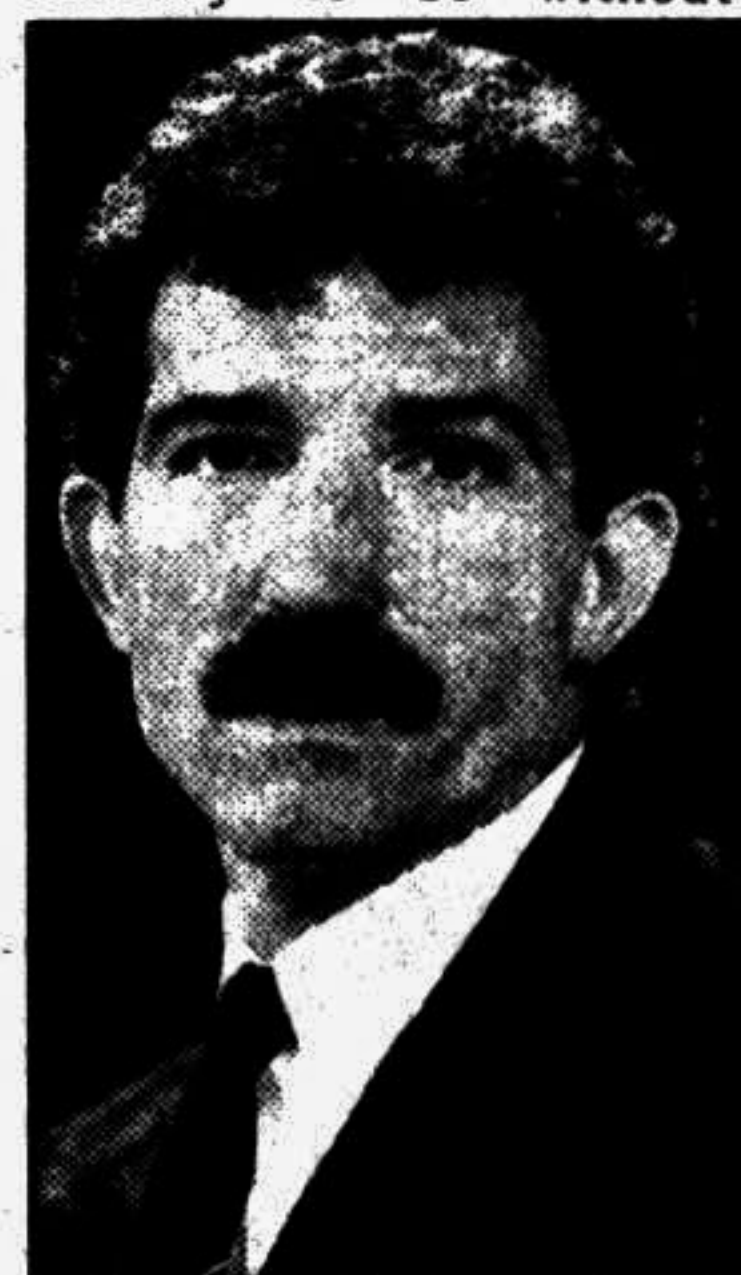
## Brazilian forward undergoes surgery

BARI, Italy, Sept 17: Joao Paulo, the flashy forward of Bari and of the Brazilian national team, underwent a surgery to reset his broken left leg, his Italian club announced Monday, reports AP.

Doctors of Centro Ortopedico in this southern city said the operation was successful but made no prediction about Joao Paulo's comeback to action.

Club sources indicated that the 27-year-old player, who moved from Guarani to Bari in 1989, would be sidelined for about four months.

Joao Paulo broke his left leg when he was tackled by Italian defender Marco Lanna during Sunday's Bari-Sampdoria league game, which ended in a 1-1 draw.



GRAEME SOUNESS

Prosinecki when they tackle Slovan Bratislava.

The injured Yugoslav missed last weekend's Spanish league match but at least Emilio Butragueno is in form. The "Vulture" scored twice in



MARK WRIGHT

the 4-1 win against Athletic Bilbao.