

Fed Cup kicks off today

Sports Reporter



The 1991-92 local soccer season kicks off today with two first round matches scheduled on the inaugural day of eleventh Federation Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium.

Dharmodi Clubs will take on Sadharan Bima Krira Sangha in the opening encounter of the tourney at 4 pm while in the second match of the day, Wari Club will face Rajshahi Division at 6 pm.

Sadeq Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Youth and Sports will formally inaugurate the meet.

Twenty teams — sixteen Senior Division teams and four

divisional teams — are taking part in the first round, split into four groups.

The Group 'A' comprises BRIC SC, Dhanmodi Club, Sadharan Bima, KS, Wari Club and Rajshahi Division.

Dhaka Wanderers, Arambagh KS Agrani Bank, Bangladesh PWD SC and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha are placed in Group 'B'.

In Group 'C' are Youngmen's Club of Fakirerpool, Rahmatganj MFS, Victoria Sporting Club, Adamjee SCC and Khulna Division.

The national champions Bangladesh Army, Farashganj SC, BJMC SC, Police AC and Dhaka division make up Group 'D'.

The Group champions will



The national kabaddi final round match between Ansars and Comilla in progress yesterday at Outer Stadium kabaddi court. Ansars won 40-10 in move into the semifinals. —Star photo

Swansea stun Spurs

LONDON, Sept 26: Championship contenders Tottenham Hotspur slumped to a surprise 1-0 defeat against Third Division strugglers Swansea on a night of upsets in the English League Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Liverpool were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Third Division Stoke. Crystal Palace managed only a 1-1 draw at Hartlepool — also from the same division — and champions Arsenal drew 1-1 at Second Division Leicester.

Swansea, without a league victory and rooted to the bottom of division three, inflicted Tottenham's second defeat of the season when captain Jimmy Gilligan scored two minutes from time in the first leg of their second round tie.

F A Cup holders Tottenham were without top-scorer Gary Lineker and lost internationals Pat Van Den Hauwe and Gordon Durie in the first half.

Liverpool's Ian Rush scored his first goals of the season with strikes in the 16th and the 71st minutes, but substitute Tony Kelly's equaliser two

minutes from time earned Stoke a surprise away draw.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness blasted his defence after they let Stoke back twice. "The goals we conceded you see in school park games," he said.

Arsenal's new 2.5 million pounds sterling (4.3 million dollars) striker Ian Wright scored 44 minutes into his debut, but the champions were also undone by a late goal from Leicester's Steve Walsh, he scored in the 88th minute.

Palace missed the firepower of Wright, who they sold on Monday, as they struggled to break down Hartlepool. Mark Bright opened the scoring in the 11th minute, but Brian Honour equalised in the 52nd.

Former Liverpool striker John Aldridge earned second division Tranmere a 1-1 draw at Chelsea, who trailed for 20 minutes before Andy Townsend equalised in the 74th.

Scottish League Cup holders Glasgow Rangers were knocked out of this year's tournament in the semifinals by Ilbernian. Keith Wright scored the only goal in the 29th minute to set up a final against Dunfermline.

qualify for the second round.

Reigning Federation Cup champion Mohammedan Sporting Club, last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra, and last year's beaten semifinalists Brothers Union and Mukhtijodha Sangsad will play directly in the second round.

The rates of tickets have already been announced earlier with the first round Gallery tickets costing Taka 10 each.

Season tickets will be available at the Agrani Bank, Bangabandhu Avenue branch from today.

The champions of the meet will earn the right to represent Bangladesh in the next Asian Club Championship while the runners-up will qualify for the Asian Cup Winners' Cup.

Meanwhile, the BFF yesterday got permission from the National Sports Council to use the Dhaka Stadium for the Federation Cup on condition that it will leave the venue at 48 hours' notice should the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) — which has a priority on the ground which was basically designed for cricket — requestions it for any cricketing purpose.

A day of draws

CHITTAGONG, Sept 26: Both matches of the CJKP Elite First Division football league held at the Chittagong Stadium here this afternoon ended in draws, reports BSS.

Bakalia and Rising Star split points in a goalless encounter while in the other match Land Customs and Brothers Union shared points in a one-all draw played on a heavy ground following incessant downpour.

The goals of the Customs-Brothers encounter came in the first half. Moni scored for Brothers and Faruq for the Customs.

Bakalia have collected 6 points from four matches while Rising and Customs have collected two points each and Brothers have only one point from same the number of encounters.

Connors may take on Seles in battle of the sexes

LOS ANGELES, Sept 26: A Los Angeles promoter said on Wednesday he is offering 39-year-old Jimmy Connors and 17-year-old women's number one Monica Seles one million dollars to play a winner-takes-all 'battle of the sexes,' tennis match in Las Vegas, reports Reuter.

Promoter David Krieff said a television 'pay-per-view' deal for the match was 'looking good' and private investors are ready to put up the money.

Connors won headlines and recaptured the imagination of the tennis world when he reached the semifinals of the US Open earlier this month after two miraculous come-from-behind, five-set wins.

On the same day Connors lost his bid to reach the final, Seles used her powerful two-fisted groundstrokes to sweep aside Martina Navratilova and capture the women's US Open crown 7-6, 6-1.

The proposed 'battle of the sexes' would come 18 years after Bobby Riggs, then 55, lost 6-1, 6-2 to Billionaire King in a match televised round the world to 90 million people and seen at the Houston Astrodome by 30,000 fans.

Riggs, who had won his last Grand Slam title back in 1941 but claimed no woman player could beat him, said the publicity let him live off the match for five years.

"I made a million and a half dollars and Billie Jean made 100,000," he said.

But King's lop-sided victory provided a tremendous and much-needed boost for the fledgling women's tennis tour.

Krieff said the Connors-Seles match could be staged at Caesars Palace casino and hotel, possibly in March.

"Jimmy Connors is very enthused about the idea," he said.

Ansars, Tangail Fire Service in kabaddi semis

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars, Tangail DSA and Bangladesh Fire Service moved into the semifinals of the Uttara Motors eighteenth national kabaddi championship yesterday at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Ansars will clash against Tangail DSA this morning in the first semifinal at 9 am while in the second semifinal at 3-30 pm, Fire Service will meet the winners of Khulna versus Bogra pre-semifinal match which is also billed for today at 8 am.

Four matches were held yesterday.

Khulna routed Feni DSA by 34-8 points, Tangail edged past Dinajpur 17-14, Fire Service won against Dhaka DSA by 24-13 while Ansars blanked Comilla DSA 40-10 in the last encounter of the day.

M Azizul Haque, president of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation formally inaugurated the three day meet in the morning.

Nine teams — Bangladesh Ansars, Fire Service, Comilla, Feni, Tangail, Dhaka, Bogra, Dinajpur and Khulna DSAs are the teams qualified for this year's finals.

Montca Seles has not made a decision, but it is looking good from her side."

RULE CHANGES

Krieff said rules for the match would be slightly altered to give the Yugoslav teenager more of a chance to beat the former world number one, who is old enough to be her father.

The match would be decided on the best-of-three sets but Connors would be allowed only one serve per point instead of two, Krieff said.

Seles would also be allowed to hit into the two outside alleys, usually reserved for doubles play, while Connors would be allowed to use only one, he said.

Krieff also hinted that a player, whom he described as one of the two best known on the international tennis scene.

Aussies win by nine wickets

HARARE, Sept 26: Leg-spinner Shane Warne completed his career-best bowling performance as Australia B wrapped up a nine-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in their second and last four-day cricket international on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Warne took the wicket of Adam Huckle to add to the six he captured the previous day, finishing with his best first-class figures of seven for 49.

Zimbabwe, 144 behind on first innings, subsided from their overnight 151 for seven to 179 all out, leaving Australia B 36 to win with more than half of the final day left.

They reached their target in only 15 minutes for the loss of Stuart Law, with second-innings bowling hero Warne fittingly scoring the winning runs with a fierce cut to the boundary off paceman Malcolm Jarvis.

Australia B won both four-day games and also took the limited overs series 2-1.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Vialli sent off as Bulgaria despatch Italy



SOFIA, Sept 26: Gianluca Vialli was one of three players sent off as Italy crashed 2-1 to Bulgaria in an uncompromising friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Sampdoria striker Vialli was shown the red card in the final minute along with Bulgaria's Trifon Ivanov for fighting.

Bulgaria's Lyuboslav Penev had been ordered off in the 11th minute for striking Massimo Crippa with his elbow.

Italy also had Vialli and Pietro Gianluca Vialli Vierchow booked as they sunk to another demoralising defeat ahead of next month's crucial European Championship qualifier against the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria's Georgi was cautioned.

Emil Kostadinov put Bulgaria ahead in the eighth minute and the World Cup semifinalist found themselves two down in the 50th minute.

Barcelona's Christo Stoichkov scored from the penalty spot after Nasko Strakov was brought down by Italy's reserve goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca, who came on for Walter Zenga in the 46th minute.

Giuseppe Giannini hit back for Italy with a goal in the 56th minute when he blasted home a headed pass from Attilio Lombardo from eight metres.

The unmarked Roberto Mancini had a chance to score in the third minute but failed to connect with a perfect centre.

Parreira to again manage Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 26: Carlos Parreira, the coach of top Brazilian club Bragantino, is back in his job of managing the national side, reports AFP.

Parreira, who had the post in 1983, takes over from former international star Falcao, who quit in August after a lacklustre run in the Copa America tournament won by archrivals Argentina.

Ricardo Teixeira, head of the Brazilian Football Federation, said Parreira would continue to manage Bragantino until the end of the year. Brazil will only be playing friendlies during that time.

Teixeira also announced on Wednesday night that new team officials will be named over the next few days.

In his previous reign, Parreira's Brazil played 14 matches, winning five, drawing seven and losing twice.

The 49-year-old, whose club side were runners-up in last season's championship, has also coached Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates during their respective 1982 and 1990 World Cup campaigns.

Pringle has a fractured finger

LONDON, Sept 26: All rounder Derek Pringle, a member of England's cricket squad for the forthcoming tour of New Zealand and the World Cup, fractured his left index finger in two places while playing for Essex on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

A hospital specialist said the break was so bad that Pringle would be sidelined for "two months at best."

He suffered the injury taking a slip catch in the third day of the match against Victoria.

The England party leave for New Zealand on December 27.

Danes sink Faroe Islands

LANDSKRONA, Sweden, Sept 26: Denmark scored twice in the first seven minutes as they cruised to a 4-0 win over the Faroe Islands on Wednesday to remain in the hunt for a place in next year's European Championship finals, reports Reuter.

The Danes quickly made sure of the two points they needed to keep the pressure on group favourites Yugoslavia with a second-minute penalty by Kim Christofle and a second goal from Bent Christensen.

But their attack failed to produce the promised goal feast as they struggled to break through the packed Faroese defence in a match played in driving rain.

The amateurs from the remote north Atlantic Islands, who caused a sensation last year when they beat Austria in

Army beat Navy

BOGRA, Sept 26: Bangladesh Army beat Bangladesh Navy 3-1 in the tie-breaker in the second match of the Inter-Service football championship '91 at the Bogra cantonment today, an ISPR release said.

The scheduled period and another 30 minutes of extra time ended in a 1-1 draw.

Jahangir Alam, mechanical engineer 1, scored the first goal for Army in the 23th minute while L/Nk Abdur Rahim got the equaliser in the 39th minute of the second half.

Bangladesh Army netted two more goals from the tie-breaker to earn their victory as Navy missed their spot kicks.

Hungarian booters hold the Soviets

MOSCOW, Sept 26: The Soviet Union drew 2-2 (half-time 1-1) with Hungary in a European Championship Group three soccer qualifier on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Scores: Soviet Union — Igor Shalimov (penalty, 37th minute), Andrei Kanchelskis (47th). Hungary — Jozsef Kiprich (7th, 83rd).

PSV Eindhoven thrash Dordrecht

MSTERDAM, Sept 26: PSV Eindhoven thrashed SVV Dordrecht 5-0 on Wednesday to home in on Dutch league leaders Vitesse Arnhem, who suffered their first defeat of the season, reports Reuter.

PSV led by a single goal from Juul Ellerman at halftime, but Romanian Gila Popescu struck two more from free kicks soon after the break.

Twan Scheepers and Edward Linskens added their names to the scoresheet to complete the visitors' humiliation.

Mid-table MVV Maastricht fully deserved their 2-1 home win over mediocre Vitesse Arnhem.

Roger Meijners scored Maastricht's first goal, with former Vitesse player Hans Visser heading the second.

Philip Cocu replied for Vitesse just before time.

Vitesse remained top with 13 points from nine games while PSV were fourth on 10 points after winning all five of their matches.

Cool Icelanders dent Spanish hopes

EYKJAVIK, Sept 26: Unrated Iceland ended Spain's slim hopes of a place in the European Championship finals with a stunning 2-0 victory on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The result left Spain with only four points from five games in Group One — eight behind unbeaten leaders France.

Iceland's collection of amateurs and part-timers went ahead in the 71st minute when midfielder Thorvaldur Orlygsson controlled a long, high pass and slid the ball home.

Seven minutes later Eyjolfur Sveinsson put the result beyond doubt.

He scored from close range after the ball bounced out of Spanish goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta's hands.

The unexpected victory was a gratifying reward for manager Asger Eliasson, in charge of Iceland for the first time. He had been criticised earlier for dropping long-serving captain Atli Edvaldsson because he did not fit his strategy.

Swiss submit their '98 World Cup bid

URICH, Sept 26: Switzerland confirmed they were still in the running to host the 1998 World Cup when they submitted their formal bid to FIFA on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Two days before Friday's deadline, only France and Morocco of the seven remaining candidates had indicated continuing interest in staging world soccer's premier tournament.

Morocco, narrowly beaten by the United States in the vote for the 1994 finals, is making a fresh bid to become the first African nation to stage the World Cup.

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said of the four remaining countries who had made submissions earlier this year, only India had officially indicated they were pulling out.

"Media reports say Brazil, England and Portugal are also no longer interested but we do not have anything officially to say now," he said.

FIFA's executive committee will choose the 1998 host country in Zurich on July 2 next year.

Ethiopians score a fine double

CAIRO, Sept 26: Ethiopians won the women's 10,000 metres and men's marathon at the All Africa Games on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Tulu Derartu, eighth at the World Championships, underlined her promise with victory in the track event in 33 minutes 40.37 seconds.

Tena Negere took marathon gold in two hours 31 minutes 16 seconds. The Oromo tribesman put his slow time down to the heat and the fact that he was running against the wind in a race begun at the pyramids.

He refused to be carried away by his triumph at these sporadically staged continental Games which have met with an apathetic response from many top runners.

Winner of 5 golds fails dope test

CAIRO, Sept 26: Tunisian swimmer Senda Gharbi, winner of five gold medals at the All Africa Games, has failed a dope test, Egypt's national news agency reported on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Middle East News Agency, quoting an unnamed official of Egypt's Swimming Federation, said Gharbi had tested positive for an unidentified banned substance.

It added that a second sample had been sent to the

Chiburdanidze late for her Chinese challenger

MANILA, Sept 26: China's Xie Jun, seeking to break six decades of Soviet dominance, played her favourite King's pawn opening on Wednesday at the start of her battle for the World Women's Chess title against holder Maya Chiburdanidze, reports Reuter.

The 20-year-old former physical education student from Beijing drew the white pieces to win the advantage of making the first move in the 16-game series at the Manila Hotel in the Philippine capital.

Xie started her challenge without Chiburdanidze, who was two minutes late for the match, and only arrived when the clock was ticking.

The two shook hands and the 31-year-old Soviet world champion immediately made her response. They are playing in a small room in front of around 20 spectators.

Chiburdanidze, playing under the flag of the separatist Soviet Republic of Georgia, is defending her title for the fifth time since winning it 13 years ago.

Xie launched her challenge by playing the classical Ruy Lopez opening, setting off an early exchange of queens in a battle for space.

After 12 moves, the positions appeared equal.

Xie held a potentially dangerous advanced King's pawn, while Chiburdanidze's pieces enjoyed more freedom to manoeuvre.

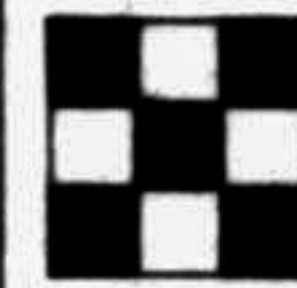
Soviet players have dominated the women's championship for 64 years.

Chiburdanidze had predicted a tough match with Xie, who gave herself "a 50-50 chance" of dethroning the champion.

The first player to score 8.5 points wins the crown. One win counts for a point and a draw for half a point.

National finals begin today

Sports Reporter



The final round of the seventeenth national chess championship, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, begins today at National Sports Council's chess room.

Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Textiles will formally inaugurate the championship at 3 pm by opening draws for the participants. Sixteen players will be vying for the prestigious national crown.

The participating players are champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman, last year's runners-up Younus Hasan, Fide Master Rifat-bin-Sattar, Khandaker Kayes Hasan of Bangladesh Ansar, International Woman Master Rani Hamid, Shahinor Hossain of Dhaka District, Fide Master and former national champion Jamilur Rahman, Skeikh Anwar Hossain of Dhaka District, Anisur Rahman and Moiruddin Mamoon of Dhaka Metropolis, Rezaul Haque of Biman, Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury, Shabana Parveen Nipa of

Faridpur, Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi of Sylhet, Ziaul Kader Tuhin of Dhaka Metropolis.

The championship will be held on a round robin league basis.

Vietnamese leads Asian Jr. meet

DUBAI, Sept 26: Twenty-year old Vietnamese Tu Hoang Thong had a half-point lead over Qatar's Mohammed Al-Modihi at the conclusion of the seventh round of the Asian Junior Chess Champion late Wednesday, reports AP.

The Qatari, with a 2275 Fide rating and joint leader with Tu Hoang after the sixth round, was forced to a draw by Singapore's Lee Wang-Sheg.

Tu Hoang now leads the 22-player table with six points, followed by Modihi (5.5 points) and Indonesia's Andi Suhendra (5.5). India's V. Saravanan is lower down the order with four points.

Tu Hoang opened with a Sicilian variation and took advantage of a better strategy than Saravanan, his opponent.

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Adamjee's soccer camp from today

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Adamjee will play their first match on September 29 in the Federation Cup tournament which starts today, against Fakirerpool Young Men's Club.

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A bad week for boxing

INDIO, California, Sept 26: A pair of fighters in California and Britain were still in coma on Wednesday, four days after losing title fights in which they received blows to the head that apparently caused blood clots requiring surgery, reports Reuter.

Bantamweight boxer Fernie Morales, still unconscious on Wednesday and on a life support machine, was in critical but stable condition following brain surgery to remove a blood clot apparently caused by blows sustained in his fight on Saturday in Indio, California, a hospital spokesman said.

The 25-year-old Morales, a Mexican-born US citizen who lives in Texas, collapsed in a parking lot on Saturday shortly after losing a 12-round decision to International Boxing Federation bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales in Indio, about 140 miles (225 km) east of Los Angeles.

In London, 26-year-old British boxer Michael Watson also was in a coma following two rounds of emergency surgery to remove blood clots from his brain after his defeat in a World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title fight against compatriot Chris Eubank on Saturday.

American flyweight Anthony McWilliams, a 20-year-old army private, died on Friday in Tucson, Arizona, after spending more than two weeks in a coma following a September 3

Prize-giving

The prize distribution ceremony of the indoor and outdoor games competitions of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) was held on Tuesday in the Students' Centre of the ICTVTR at Board Bazar, Gazipur, reports BSS.

Prof. Dr. A M Patwari, Director General of the centre distributed the prizes to the winners as a chief guest and Prof. Dr M Anwar Hossain, Head of the Department of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering and chairman, ICTVTR presided over the function.

Umpires' refreshers course from Sept 30

The Bangladesh Cricket Umpires' Board is organising a refreshers course for the umpire which will begin from September 30 at the BCCB office.

The course will start at 5.30 pm and all the interested umpires have been asked to register their names at the BCCB office.

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