

Sparks fly, but fire is avoided

Sports Reporter

When two of the top teams clash sparks are bound to fly, but certainly not in the way it happened yesterday at the Hockey Stadium where defending champions Abahani Krishna Chakra and Mariner Young's Club shared points in an important tie of the Green

Mariners, spearheaded by Jamil Pervaz Lulu who really played well yesterday, dominated the first half and quite befittingly put his side into the lead in the 21st minute. Mariners, who forced four penalty corners, came close to scoring in the twelfth minute of the match but Nanna failed to score from a lovely cross by Mukti.

a dangerous cross to Alamgir but the latter missed. Abahani drew level in the 55th minute when Fazal Mahmud, making the most of a defence lapse, scored from close after teammate Rahmatullah had sent a cross. (1-1). Abahani missed a fine chance at the fag end of the match when Raju failed to connect a fine cross by Akhtar



HOCKEY OR HACKING? Jashimuddin Kanchan (Mariners) is trying to snatch Tisa's (Abahani) stick away in yesterday's troubled encounter between Abahani and Mariners at the Hockey Stadium.

Delta First Division hockey league. Both Abahani and Mariners, who had been maintaining a clean slate by winning all their earlier matches, dropped their first points as the match, interrupted by clashes among the rival players, ended in a one-all draw. Mariner Young's led the first half one nil.

Trouble started after this when the Mariners custodian Rana got hit in a goalmouth melee and the Mariner players reacted in an orchestrated manner. Jashimuddin Kanchan of Mariners behaved in a hysterical manner and added unnecessary fuel by hitting Tisa and the injured player who was shown the red card for colliding with the goalkeeper had to go out for medical attention. The Mariner goalkeeper Hasanullah Khan Rana was shown the red card.

Kanchan of Mariners and Raju of Abahani were shown the yellow cards while Mariner official Sona Miah, a former player, umpire and national coach was shown the red card for intruding into the field to instruct his players.

Abahani and Mariners both now have 25 points from 13 outings. In the first match of the day, Police and Wari shared points in a goalless drawn encounter. Wari, who had an edge over their opponents, failed to do anything from the two penalty corners they earned.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bima vs Bachelors SC (1.45 pm)
Mohammedans vs Ajax SC (3.15 pm)
ABAHANI: Asir, Mamun, Jumman, Rahmatullah, Pitu, Fazal, Harun, Alamgir, Raju, Tisa and Akhtar.
MARINER YOUNGS: Rana, Dipu (Pintu), Selim, Shahid, Apu, Kanchan, Biaka Lusai, Minar, Mukti, Lulu and Nanna (Kamrul).
Umpires: Monwar Ali and Kamal.

Day of draws

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank Sports Club maintained their unbeaten run in the First Division football league when they held fancied Bangladesh Public Works Department Sporting Club to a goalless draw at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The draw took Agrani's points tally to 12 from ten matches while PWD have 13, also from ten games.

The bankers displayed a better brand of football throughout the match but poor marksmanship by their forwards denied them victory.

In the 56th minute, the advancing PWD custodian Lahul failed to grip a Jahangir cross, yet an unmarked Bakhtiar of Agrani failed to seize upon the chance.

Soon afterwards, an angular shot by Mustaq of PWD went over the Agrani post.

Earlier, in the 42nd minute, Munna of PWD deprived his side of an early lead when he unwisely hung on to the ball thereby allowing Agrani defenders clear the danger.

Yellow card: Lokman of PWD and Piter of Agrani.

The day's first encounter, between the newcomers Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Farashganj Sporting Club, also ended in a goalless draw.

The result left Eskaton with eight points while Farashganj have seven, from ten outings each.

Farashganj, however, were denied an early lead when a Raj header upon a Shimu cross went wide of the mark.

In the sixteenth minute, Sharif of Eskaton passed a ball to the unmarked Rinku who failed to push it into the net.

Borhan of Farashganj saved his side in the 34th minute when he cleared a ball from the goalline.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BRTC vs Police AC (1:30 pm)
Fakirpool vs Muktijoddha (3:30 pm)

Nepal won't host SAF Games

KATHMANDU, Mar 10: Nepal has decided not to host the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games next year, the national RASS news agency said today, quoting National Sports Council (NSC) secretary Raj Bahadur Singh at a press conference, reports AFP.

Singh said Nepal was not in a position to bear the estimated cost of more than 500 million rupees (11.17 million dollars), nor did it have a spacious stadium, the necessary swimming pools and other physical facilities.

He said the the Nepal Olympic Committee had taken the decision to host the sixth SAF Games in haste, and the NSC could not take it as an authoritative decision.

For the past few years, the sports sector in the country has been experiencing stagnation, Singh said.

He noted that national sports competitions had not been organised and the success and even participation of Nepalese in international contests had remained unsatisfactory over the past two or three years.

Soccer may return to Dhaka Stadium

Sports Reporter

The First Division football league which is now in progress at the Mirpur Stadium may be switched over to the Dhaka Stadium from March 17.

In a meeting held yesterday evening at the National Sports Council (NSC), State Minister for Youth and Sports and chairman of the NSC Sadek Hossain advised the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) authorities to hold their proposed Independence Cup and Shaheed Smriti cricket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, to facilitate the staging of the football league matches at the Dhaka Stadium.

He told us it was impossible because the other 11 republics would want the same thing," said David Kakabodze, a Georgian spokesman. "We agreed in principle to a unified team because we had no choice."

Jurors feel Tyson lied

INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 10: Two members of the jury that convicted Tyson of rape said in an interview broadcast Monday night that they believe the boxer lied to the jury during his trial, reports AP.

Juror Number Five, who was only identified as Steve, and Juror Number 11, Michael Wetteg, also told WISH-TV they are dismayed by criticism that Tyson didn't receive a fair trial.

Tyson was convicted Feb. 10 in Marion Superior Court of one count of rape and two counts of criminal deviate conduct in connection with an attack last summer on Desiree Washington.

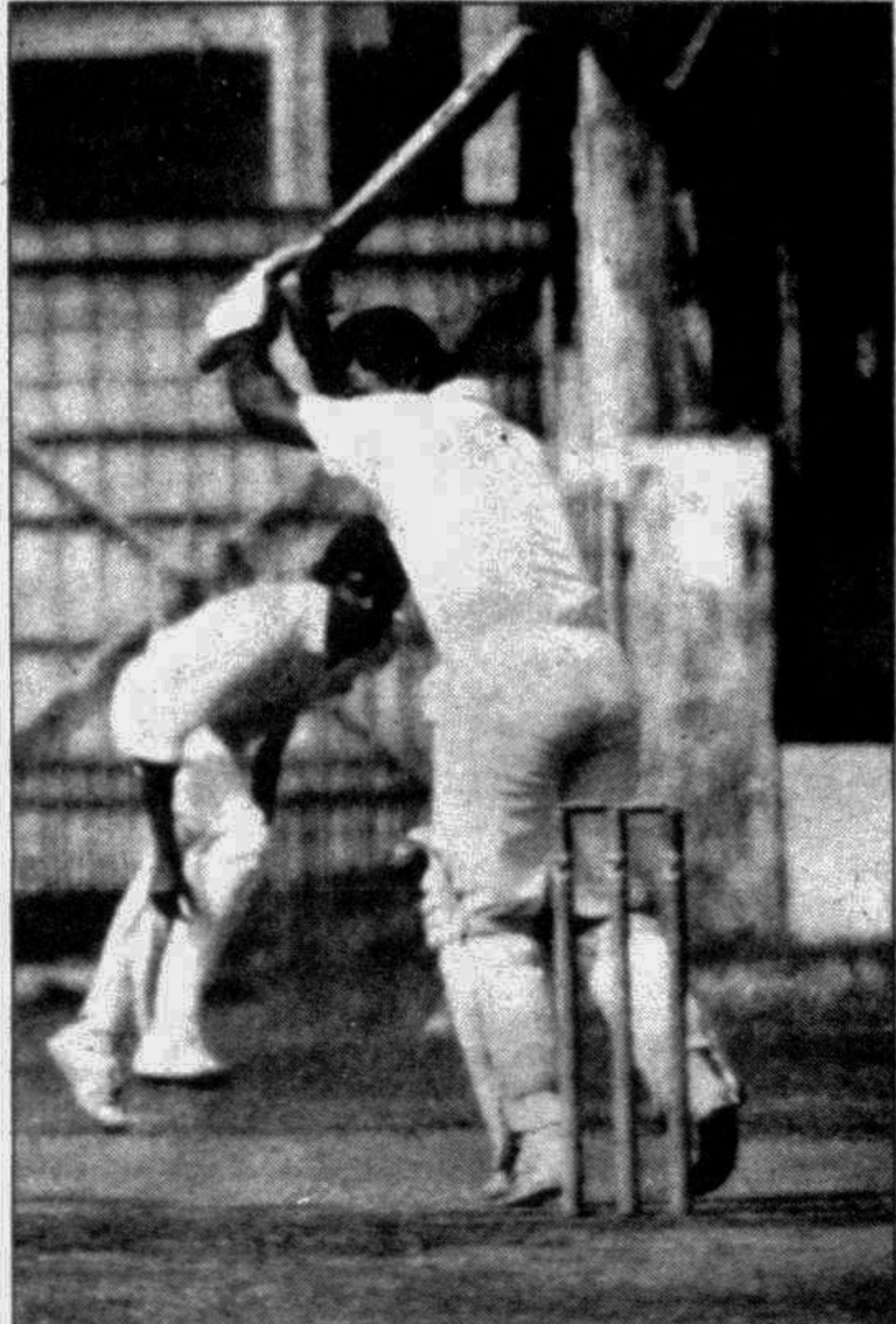
Biman fly smoothly past GMCC

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman, aided by Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu's off-spin bowling, defeated the Greater Myensing Cricket Club by four wickets in the Navana Premier Division super league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Biman, who started their super league campaign with a

cid to bat first. GMCC, who did not field their regular openers Ilarun-ur Rashid Liton and Selim, soon ran into trouble as wicket-keeper Nasir Ahmed Nashu, pushed up in the order as the makeshift opener, left early, caught by Moni off Piyal for nine. Mithu, the other opener, also departed cheaply and only watchful batting by Anisuddin



Biman's Zakaria leaves this one alone from GMCC's Zakir in yesterday's Navana Premier super league at Dhaka Stadium.

bang by beating title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting, lost their second match narrowly to PWD but returned to winning ways with yesterday's well-deserved victory. Their spinners restricted GMCC to a meagre 169 in 43 overs, after former national skipper and the present GMCC captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu had de-

Bhulayan Pika and Shri Lankan Sharath brought back a semblance of respectability to the innings.

Pika batted patiently to complete a fine half-century, his 53 including two hits to the fence. Sharath gave him good support with a brisk 25. But the later batsmen lost

Two share lead

Sports Reporter

Masuda Begum and defending champion Tanima Parveen shared the lead at the end of yesterday's third round of the 13th national women's chess championship, now being held at the National Sports Council chess room.

Both Masuda and Tanima have two points each, but Masuda has played only two games while Tanima has played three.

Yesterday Masuda posted her second straight win beating Jahanara Huq Runu.

Tanima, who was held to a draw in her opening game by Jahanara Huq on Sunday, but recovered to beat Rani Hamid the following day, was held to yet another draw yesterday, this time by Hamida Rahman. Playing black, Tanima agreed on a stalemate offered by Hamida after 52 moves.

International Woman Master Rani Hamid, eight times national champion who lost her second round match on Monday, drew with last year's runner-up Shabana Parveen Nipa, leaving her with one and a half points from three encounters. Nipa beat Zakia Sultana on Monday. Despite playing white Rani Hamid failed to gain any advantage from her younger opponent who lost her first match Sunday to Rokhana Gulshan and the players agreed on a draw after only 22 moves.

Rokhana Gulshan Nikkon could not play her third round match against Afroza Khanam Babec yesterday and the match will be held at a later date.

In the other match of the day in this ten-player, nine-round Swiss league competition organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, Afana Parveen Nipa, the younger sister of Nipa, drew her match against Zakia Sultana.

The players — Rani Hamid, Shabana Parveen Nipa and Jahanara Huq Runu have one and a half points each.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Biplab and Rupu scored centuries for their respective sides in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket super league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Rupu got a swashbuckling 104 off just 58 balls to help Shantinagar B record a six-wicket victory over Gandaria Cricketers, for whom Biplab made an unbeaten 105 off 87 deliveries, but all in vain.

Batting first, Gandaria scored 197 for eight wickets in their allotted 40 overs.

In their turn, by virtue of Rupu's fine 105, Shantinagar B cruised past Gandaria's total, scoring 198 in 30 overs with six wickets to spare.

Murad made an unbeaten 24 and Morshed 20.

Dhanmondi Club registered a three-wicket victory over Rayer Bazar AC in the other match of the day.

Batting first, Dhanmondi were all out for 177 in 39.5 overs with Shampa making 49 and Mozammel 33.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Evergreen vs Azad Boys (T&T ground)
Orient SC vs Amar Jyoti (DCS)

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

Khilgaon Govt High School and BCSIR School won their respective quarter-finals of the Dhaka zonal championship of the ninth Nirman schools cricket competition at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Khilgaon School and BCSIR School will now clash with each other in the semifinals tomorrow, March 12.

Khilgaon School registered an emphatic 130-run victory over Kakoli High School while BCSIR posted an easy six-wicket victory against Baganbari High School.

On the eastern side of the ground, sent into bat, Khilgaon School made a handsome 266 for the loss of nine wickets in their stipulated 40 overs with Bulbul getting 36, Roman 26, Allah unbeaten 23 and Suman and Sentu 22 each.

In reply, Kakoli School were dismissed for 136 in 31.3 overs.

Shahnewaz made 41 and Shohag got 24 for Kakoli School.

Tamal, Suman and Rana bagged two wickets each for Khilgaon School.

On the western side of the ground, Baganbari School put into bat, were all out for 141 in 33.1 overs.

In reply, BCSIR School needed only 27.3 overs to score 145 with six wickets to spare.

Johnny top scored with 38 off 69 deliveries and Arzoo made 31 while extras contributed 40 to pave the path for BCSIR School's victory.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Mohammedpur School vs Saint Joseph's School (DCG)
Dhanmondi School vs Wilkes Little Flower School (DCG) (Quarter-finals)

Graf may push Seles for No 1

BOCA RATON, Fla Mar 10: Matches between No. 1 and No. 2 have become extremely rare in women's tennis, reports AP.

Germany's Steffi Graf, whose 3 1/2-year reign at No. 1 ended a year ago Tuesday, hasn't had a chance to play her successor in 10 months. But she and Yugoslav Monica Seles could meet next week if both reach the finals of the International Players Championships in Key Biscayne.

"That's a long way to go," Graf said. "It's strange that we don't meet more often, but that's the way it is I look forward to it."

Graf won her first title this year on Sunday, beating Conchita Martinez of Spain in the Virginia Slims of Florida. Seles skipped the tournament.

Once so dominant that she won 66 consecutive matches, Graf needed three sets to beat Martinez as well as Zina Garrison in the quarter-finals.

"I pulled out some close matches, and that's what I needed to do," Graf said. "I need to have the feeling that when the match is getting closer, I'm still in there. That's why I'm really happy about this."

Graf regained the No. 1 computer ranking briefly late last summer, but she's now a distant second to Seles, winner of four of the past five Grand Slams. Even if Graf were to win the Key Biscayne title and Seles were to lose her first match, Seles would remain No. 1.

"Numbers are not something that I go for and I never have," said Graf, 22. "There's no pressure being No. 1 or No. 2 I don't think about

it at all." Graf would like another crack at Seles, though, especially after winning their only two meetings last year, most recently at the final of the Citizen Cup in Germany last May 5.

Graf looked overwhelming at times in Boca Raton. She lost just three points in the first set of her semifinal against Mary Joe Fernandez, and lost just five points in the last set against Martinez.

"Sometimes I don't want to realize that I'm playing that well — wait a minute, it's too easy," Graf said.

Still, Martinez said Seles is tougher. Seles beat the Spaniard on March 2 in the final of the Indian Wells Open.

"For me it's difficult to play against Seles," Martinez said. "She has a good forehand and backhand. At least with Steffi you can play to her backhand. She slices and it's not so difficult."

Sigh of relief for organisers

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Mar 10: Organisers of the Summer Olympic in Barcelona can breathe a sigh of relief. There definitely will be a single team from the former Soviet Union, not 12 separate teams, reports AP.

"It's a good solution," said Jose Miguel Abad, chief of the Barcelona organising committee. "This is what we hoped for all along."

The prospect of making room for hundreds more athletes from a dozen new countries was put to rest Monday when the former republics agreed to field a unified team in Barcelona.

Many of the states — especially Ukraine and Georgia — preferred to compete independently, but the International Olympic Committee left them little choice.

Under the accord, the former republics were granted provisional IOC recognition on the condition that they join a united team.

"This agreement means the athletes will not be punished," said IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. "The most important thing was to stick to the principle that the best athletes from all the 12 republics should participate in Barcelona."

will mark the last Olympics where Russia and the other republics compete as one. Starting Jan. 1, 1993, the 12 will be considered fully independent by the IOC and free to compete on their own.

"At the next Olympics they will have their separate teams," Samaranch said.

As was the case for the Albertville Winter Games last month, the former Soviets will be known as Equipe Unifree, or United Team in Barcelona.

Samaranch emphasised that the team does not represent the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was formed following the break-up of the Soviet Union in December. Georgia is not a member of the CIS.

"Unified Team is a sports term, not a political term," Samaranch said.

The IOC's logic won out over political considerations. Ukraine, the biggest and most powerful republic after Russia, wanted to compete independently in individual sports in Barcelona. But its delegation reluctantly agreed to accept the unified team rather than jeopardise the chances of competing at all.

"We are not 100 per cent happy with the result, but I think it's a good compromise," said Valery Borzov, the former Olympic sprinter who head the Ukrainian sports committee.

Borzov said the joint team would include between 70 and 100 Ukrainian athletes, including world record pole vaulter Sergei Bubka.

Georgian officials had hoped their request for a separate team would be accepted because they are not part of the CIS, but Samaranch refused.

"He told us it was impossible because the other 11 republics would want the same thing," said David Kakabodze, a Georgian spokesman. "We agreed in principle to a unified team because we had no choice."

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Rani Hamid (L) ponders a move during her third round match against Shahana Parveen Nipa in the 13th national women's chess championship at the National Sports Council yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	31 Lymphocyte producers	52 Showing courage	10 A Huxtable daughter
1 Engender	35 Harrumph	53 Guiding principle	11 Evidence a pinprick
6 Legend-ary	39 Short-lived	54 Avarice	13 Charger
11 Volks-wagen model	40 Of Blue Eyes'	1 Hunter's companion	18 Hulk Hogan's surface
12 Whit-man's " — of Grass"	42 Garbage vessel	2 Bounce back	21 Vamp
14 The house, in Barcelona	43 Author Umberto	3 H	23 Days' centers
15 Aim	44 Name	4 "Born Free" subject	25 Visualize
16 Freudian concept	46 Pedal extremity	5 Loved ones	27 1, 2, 3, etc. Abbr.
17 Ready to fight	47 Guarante	6 Lilac: Ger.	29 Diamond
19 Trygve of UN fame	49 Fly	7 Tear	31 Haste
20 Yalies	51 Engine type	8 Devour	32 Ants' invasion site
22 Blue	Solution time: 28 mins.	9 One of the Waughs	33 Not so snug
23 AMEX counter-part	NASAL PAS RAW	10 Jargon	34 Perched
24 Sandwich shops	AKILL AMI ENE	35 Do to do	37 Cheered
26 Mated with a mortise	MARLA SYRINGE	38 Tammany Hall boss	41 Jargon
28 Defendants, in law	LIMITS NEED	44 Genea-logical chart	45 Inces-santly
30 Kangas' kid	ECO ABE AVERY	48 Employment	50 Wrath
	SUIT SLOPE		
	SENATE VESSEL		
	MINCE TERI		
	BOWIE ONS RAP		
	AVON PUSHUP		
	SURGEON ARENA		
	ELM LOT VINES		
	DEY FRY ESTES		

Yesterday's answer 9-7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				13
14					15				
16		17		18				19	
20		21		22				23	
24		25		26				27	
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31	32	33		34		35		36	37
38				40		41		42	
43				44		45		46	
47				48		49		50	
51						52			
						54			

9-7 CRYPTOQUIP

GBOBVW BV E LEPJ YCDMA
TI UYA PBOAP BM VBNA,
TDU MCJACVA BM EGLEIM
TEPWVW BV

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CHESS CLUB'S INSTRUCTORS CALLED FOR A HEFTY ACROSS-THE-BOARD SALARY INCREASE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals B

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.