

Abahani in final

Sports Reporter
 Abahani Krira Chakra, the Dhaka league champions, moved into the final of the Indian Independence Day football tournament now being played in Assam, India, according to a message received here in Dhaka yesterday.
 Nagaland Police, Abahani's semi-final opponents, failed to turn up for the semi-final replay, thereby giving the Dhaka team a rather facile passage into the final.
 In the semi-final Saturday Abahani and Nagaland Police drew goalless and lack of sufficient light prevented extra time being taken to decide the issue.
 Abahani who competed from the pre-quarterfinal stage, began their campaign with a 2-1 win over Banpur United. Then they dumped Assam Police six nil.
 Abahani are expected to meet Border Security Force in today's final at the Nurul Amin Stadium, Nowgong.

Coaching for Pioneer booters from tomorrow

Sports Reporter
 The football training programme for booters who will be inaugurated tomorrow, September 8 at the Dhaka Stadium at 5 pm.
 Players selected from different zones have been asked to report to their zonal coaches or the assistant coaches, in time to be present at the inaugural ceremony.
 Fifty players from each of the five zones — East, West, North, South and the Central zone — have been culled for the coaching programme.
 Three trainers — one coach and two assistant coaches — will take care of the 50 booters of each zone.
 Amir Hossain Babul will be in charge of the East zone while Abdullah Al-Mamun Milon and Manzurul Islam will be his deputies.
 Bazul Rahman is the West zone coach, his two assistants are Nazir Ahmed and Fatmi Babu.
 North zone players will have to report either to Shamsud-doha Chand or anyone of the two assistant coaches — Md Selim or Altaf-ul-Huq.
 Md Mohsin is in charge of the South zone. His two aides are Moynuddin and Manu.
 Central zone booters will be guided by Khalequzzaman Zahid, the chief coach, Narayan and Khokan the two assistant trainers will be there to make up for the non-availability of the chief coach.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter
 Little Friends' Club and Kadamtala Sangsad won their respective matches of the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.
 Little Friends beat East End Boys Club by two goals to nil in the first match of the day.
 Arshad Ali put Little Friends ahead in the very seventh minute of play (1-0) while Azizul Huq completed the tally in the 30th minute (2-0).
 Mokhebur Rahman Hassan of East End Boys received the yellow card.
 Kadamtala Sangsad beat Amin Bazar Krira Chakra, also by two goals to nil, in the day's other match.
 The winners led 1-0 at the breather.
 Nepal Chandra Sarkar scored the first goal in the 21st minute (1-0) while Ripon Hossain consolidated the winners' position in the 6th minute of the second half (2-0).

TODAY'S MATCHES

Fire Service vs Gandaria Famous (3 pm: Outer Stadium)
 Lalimata vs Jagarati Sangsad (4:30 pm: Outer Stadium)
 PDB vs Rahmatganj SC (4 pm: T&T Ground)

Div II chess

Sports Reporter
 Narayananj Chess Club topped the points table with 16 and a half points at the end of the fifth round of Second Division chess league now in progress at the National Sports Council.
 Yesterday at the NSC chess room, the Narayananj team defeated Anushtian Daba Krira Chakra.
 Kamalapur Samajkalyan and Krira Sangstha and Golden Chess Club jointly held the second position with fourteen points each.
 Kamalapur beat Ekak Sangha 3-1 while Golden drew with Patuakhali two-all.
 Maashul Mehfil of Narayananj got past Sonali Bank with the former notching two and half points and the latter only one and half points. South Kamalapur dumped the Jahangirnagar University chess team 3-1.
 Daniya Pathagar made short work of Ulan Chess Club at three and half points to half.
 West End got the better of Arbachin Club by two and half points to one and half.

Jr team leaves for KL today

Sports Reporter
 A nineteen-member Bangladesh youth team led by manager Ibrahim Saber leaves Dhaka for the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur this morning to participate in the Pakistan and hosts Malaysia in Pool A and Bangladesh, China, India, South Korea, Singapore and Sri Lanka in Pool B.
 Top two teams from either group will play in the semi-finals on September 21 while the final and the third place



The Bangladesh youth team, which leaves Dhaka for Kuala Lumpur today to take part in the second Asian youth under-21 hockey championship, to be held from September 11 to 23.

second Asian Cup youth under-21 hockey championship to be held from September 11 to 23.
 The team includes 16 players and three officials.
 Following is the list of officials and players:
 Manager: Ibrahim Saber; Asst Manager Md Monwar Hossain; Coach Ehtesham Sultan.
 Players: Rahmat Ali Astr (captain), Md Mahubur Harun (vice-captain), Md Jahangir Alam, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Mamunur Rashid, Zahurul Islam Mitul, Khwaja Inteza Kader Ouddu, Khurshid Alam, Md Mahfuzul Alam Nixon, Kazi Abu Zafar Tapan, Md Haider Alam, Md Sadek, Md Alamgir Alam, Md Abdur Rashid, Md Akhter Hossain and G H Zahid Biswas.
 Bangladesh Hockey Federation president Alamgir Mohammad Adel, who has been nominated an assistant technical delegate by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF), Mir Monwar Ali and Mirza Farid Ahmed — judge and umpire respectively — will also leave with the team today.
 While the AHF will bear all expenses of Adel, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation will bear the travel expenses of Monwar and Farid Ahmed.
 Twelve Asian countries in two pools will participate in the competition. They are, Chinese, Taipei, Japan, Macao, Oman, defending champions

deciding matches will be held on September 23.
 Bangladesh, who finished fourth after losing to India in the first Asian Cup junior championship held in the Indian capital New Delhi in 1988, will start their campaign on the inaugural day against China.
 Bangladesh will play their second match against Korea on September 13, against Sri Lanka on September 13, against Singapore on September 17 and their last group match against India on September 18.
 Defending champions Pakistan will start their title-defence against Taipei on the evening of September 23.

Talking to The Daily Star on the eve of the team's departure coach Ehtesham Sultan said yesterday he cannot predict anything about the performance of his team in the forthcoming meet.
 "All my players are fit and they underwent tough, extensive coaching.
 "But they did not have adequate practice matches. Therefore a proper evaluation of the team's strength was not possible," the coach regretted.
 The youth team only played against the Bangladesh Army in four warm-up matches.
 "Besides, all the players are new and fresh and have not yet been exposed to such a big event," Ehtesham said.
 The coach also felt that a 55-day coaching programme can never be enough for perfect preparation.
 Ehtesham said that Bangladesh will adopt the 4-2-4 method but if necessary variations can be made.
 Ehtesham, who was the coach of the Bangladesh hockey team to 1982 Asian Games held in New Delhi, claimed that his team's defence is stronger than its forward line.
 "I enjoyed absolute freedom in choosing the players," Ehtesham assured.
 The team met State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka at the NSC last evening.

Indian girls take one big step in FIH hockey

SINGAPORE, Sept 6: Underdog India took another big step towards their aim of qualifying for the semifinals of the second FIH inter-nations women's hockey tournament when they scored their third consecutive victory today. In an exciting match, played under a heavy drizzle, they downed a fighting Italy 2-1 at the Delta Sports Complex here, reports PTI.
 It was a good result for the Indians, who had finished eighth in the last Inter-Continental Cup, played in New Delhi in 1989.
 goal in the fourth minute, crossing to forward Jose Maria Bakero, who headed the ball past Jaro for the lead.
 The game evened out soon thereafter, however, as Real Madrid composed themselves and played well for the rest of the match.
 Twice Zamorano—in his first season with Madrid — narrowly missed scoring opportunities, heading the ball just above the bar.
 Real missed an opportunity to tie the game in injury time when forward Luis Enrique Martinez Garcia drove a shot just left of the net after a scramble in front of Barcelona keeper Andoni Zubizarreta.
 Jose Migue "Michael" Gonzalez finally tied the game on a penalty kick in the 72nd minute, fooling Zubizarreta but putting his shoe into the net as well as the ball.
 Barcelona scored the game winner when Bakero headed the ball to Stoichkov in front of the net. Jaro mishandled the Bulgarian's first shot and couldn't recover quickly enough to block the game winner.
 Real Madrid lost the services of defender Miguel "Chendo" Porlan Noguera early in the match when he dislocated his right elbow. There was no immediate word on whether Chendo would be ready for next weekend's match.
 The two teams tied 1-1 in both their league encounters last season. Valencia were to host Rayo Vallecano later Saturday, with the rest of the division scheduled to play Sunday.

Barcelona beat rivals Real

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 6: Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov scored on a rebound off his own shot with two minutes remaining Saturday, giving defending champion F C Barcelona a 2-1 victory over bitter rival Real Madrid in the opening game of the Spanish First-Division season, reports AP.
 Six minutes after Barcelona midfielder Eusebio Sacristan was ejected, Stoichkov blasted a shot off keeper Pedro Luis Jaro's chest, corralled the rebound and shot again for the game-winner.
 The loss continued the frustrations for Real, which led Barcelona entering the last game of the season, but lost the title in the final 20 minutes.
 "I think, we played a good game, but what matters are the two points, Madrid's Chilean striker Ivan 'The Terrible' Zahorano told regional Telemadrid television.
 Barcelona, who also won last year's European Champions Cup, pressed the disorganized Real Madrid defence from the opening kickoff.
 Stoichkov set up his first

BG Press win 2-0

Sports Reporter
 Bangladesh Government (BG) Press got the better of Mahakhali XI 2-0 in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.
 Captain Mohammad Ali put BG Press in the lead in the 26th minute (1-0).
 Mahabubur Rahman doubled the margin for the winners in the 52nd minute (2-0).
 Mahub Hossain of Mahakhali invited the yellow card for rough play.
 Bangladesh Boys Club shared points with Jurain Jan-ata Club in the other match at the same venue.
 Monwar of Bangladesh Boys and Zakir and Mostafa of Jurin Club were cautioned with yellow cards.



The Second Division chess league in progress at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star Photo

Sarfraz wants to see Lamb in court

LONDON, Sept 6: England batsman Allan Lamb was handed a libel writ an hour before the start of Northamptonshire's NatWest Trophy final against Leicestershire at Lord's here on Saturday, reports AFP.
 The writ, served by a legal representative of ex-Pakistan pacesetter Sarfraz Nawaz, concerned Lamb's claims in an article in the Daily Mirror newspaper last month that Nawaz had shown him years ago how ball-tampering was possible.
 Northants were so concerned about Lamb being approached by a legal representative when he walked out to bat that manager Mike Procter and coach Bob Carter accompanied him until he was safely on the field.
 But it didn't stop Lamb steering Northants to an eight-wicket victory, as he put his two-match ban for allegations that Pakistani bowlers doctored the ball in the final one-day international behind him.
 Procter, recently appointed South Africa's team manager, said: "I'm not in a position to comment on the question of ball doctoring, but I know Lamb feels very strongly about it. He had the balls, or should I say guts, to speak out."
 "He's a man of principle and he stuck to his guns. I admire him and so do the team and a lot of people in Northampton as well."
 "I think if anything this issue has helped team spirit. It certainly hasn't gone the other way."
 Lamb, who took over as captain four years ago, will decide whether he wants to carry on as leader at the end of the season.
 "I said I would give myself four years to win something and I'm delighted we've now got a piece of silverware," said Lamb.
 "I'll discuss the situation with my family and then when I've made my mind up, Northants can make their own decision."

Cairns ruled out

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Sept 6: Allrounder Chris Cairns will miss New Zealand's cricket tour of Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka starting next month to undergo surgery for a kidney ailment, reports AP.
 New Zealand coach Warren Lees said Sunday that Cairns had called him from England, where he is playing for Nottinghamshire in the country championship, and said he would not be able to make the tour.
 Chris Pringle, who was considered unlucky not to make the World Cup squad early this year, is the leading contender to replace Cairns if the selectors choose a medium-fast bowler.
 Pringle, who is due to return from England on Tuesday, went on New Zealand's 1990 tour of Pakistan and took 11 wickets in the third Test there.
 The Junior's Association of Cricketers in Khilgaon (JACK) registered a thrilling two-wicket victory over Abakash Krira Chakra yesterday en route to the semifinals of the first Abdul Alim Smriti cricket tournament.
 The JACK — organisers of the competition — found the modest target of 73 runs set by the losers rather difficult to overcome. But thanks to a defiant 18 from Rana, they managed to sail home safely.
 Earlier, Nafeez bowled superbly to restrict the Abakash Krira Chakra boys to a meagre total. He ended the day with figures of four for 32. Russell and Mamun gave him able support taking two wickets apiece for six and 24 runs respectively.
 Shaif top-scored with 21 for the vanquished.
 The winners will play in the first semi-final against Natunbagh Sangsad of the Khilgaon Govt School ground on Tuesday.

JACK in Alim cricket semis

Sports Reporter
 The Junior's Association of Cricketers in Khilgaon (JACK) registered a thrilling two-wicket victory over Abakash Krira Chakra yesterday en route to the semifinals of the first Abdul Alim Smriti cricket tournament.

Fischer-Spassky 3rd game drawn

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 6: Chess legends Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky played to a draw on Saturday in the third game of their 5 million dollar match in the Montenegrin resort of Sveti Stefan, reports Reuters.
 Fischer, the only ever US world chess champion, proposed the draw after the 39th move and four hours of play against Spassky, one of the Soviet Union and now playing under the French flag.
 After a Ruy Lopez opening favoured by Fischer, the game followed their first encounter of the series until the 16th move, when Fischer introduced a variation. It was their quickest start so far, with 20 moves in the first 40 minutes.
 Spassky, now ranked 101st in the world, displayed more fight than in the previous two games, apparently surprising the eccentric American who is making a comeback to competition chess after a 20-year absence.
 Fischer quit the chess scene after winning the world title against Spassky in a highly publicised contest in Iceland in 1972.
 After the three games, Fischer now leads 1-0, draws not being counted the first player to score 10 points will win the match.

Napoli deny report on negotiation with Palmeiras

NAPLES, Italy, Sept 6: Napoli on Sunday denied published report that they were negotiating the transfer of their Argentine star Diego Maradona to Brazil's Palmeiras, after rejecting a bid by Spain's Seville, reports AP.
 However, a club official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Napoli suggested that Palmeiras sound out Maradona to see if he's willing to move to Brazil before starting any talk on a possible transfer of the player.
 The Argentine forward, who's under contract with the Naples club through next June, does not want to return to Italy after serving a 15-month international suspension for cocaine use.



Aussie skipper Allan Border makes a full-length dive to stop Hashan Tillekeratne's shot off his own bowling in the third and final one-dayer between Sri Lanka and Australia in Colombo on Saturday. Wicketkeeper Ian Healy and non-striker Aravinda de Silva eagerly look on. — AFP Photo

Northants lift NatWest Trophy

LONDON, Sept 6: England batsman Allan Lamb celebrated his return to cricket's headquarters by inspiring Northamptonshire to their first major success for 12 years here on Saturday in the NatWest Trophy final, reports AFP.
 The Northants skipper put behind him the two-match ban for ball-doctoring allegations against Pakistan at Lord's two weeks ago by masterminding an eight-wicket drubbing of Leicestershire.
 The South African-born batsman lashed 24 from 22 balls after Alan Fordham (91) and Rob Bailey (72 not out) had set up Northants' second triumph in the 60-over competition with a stand off 144.
 Leicestershire's 208 for seven was pitifully inadequate, even though James Whitaker (84) and Phil Robinson (62) added 130 in 34 overs for the third wicket.
 Just 46 runs came from the last 10 overs, with five wickets tumbling in as many overs to West Indies pace giant Curtly Ambrose and Zimbabwean all-rounder Kevin Curran.
 Whitaker faced 160 balls, hitting seven fours, while Robinson struck just three boundaries in his 106-ball stay.
 Leicestershire's inability to accelerate left Northants with a relatively straight forwards task, although they almost made a mess of it early on.
 There were still 10.2 overs to spare when Bailey drove Benson for successive fours to set off the Northants celebrations.

SCOREBOARD

Close of play scoreboard in the NatWest Trophy final between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire at Lord's here on Saturday:

LEICESTERSHIRE: 208-7 (J J Whitaker 84, P E Robinson 62)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: A Fordham c Potter b Mullally 91
 N A Felton b Mullally 6
 R J Bailey not out 72
 A J Lamb not out 24
 Extras (lb 9, w 9) 18
 Total: (2 wks, 49.4 overs) 211
 Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-173

Bowling: — O M R W
 Benjamin 12 0 65 0
 Mullally 10 2 22 2
 Millans 10 0 43 0
 Parsons 9 1 31 0
 Potter 4 0 18 0
 Benson 4.4 1 23 0

Fischer remains eccentric as ever

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 6: Bobby Fischer is almost as well known for his eccentricities as his chess game. On Saturday, both were on prominent display, reports AP.
 The former superstar of American chess has continued to amaze, irritate and baffle observers here as — in own mind at least — he defends the world chess championship title he took from Boris Spassky in 1972.
 The latest bizarre twist came Saturday when Fischer demanded reporters refer to the match as the "World Chess Championship" or he would ban media coverage. He relented three hours later, apparently satisfied he had made his point.
 The governing International Chess Federation does not recognize the Sveti Stefan match as a world Championship.
 But Fischer, 49, appears either unaware of unconcerned that virtually no one in the chess world still views him as the title holder. The new backdrop for Saturday's game, which ended in a draw after 39 moves — "The World Chess Championship."
 The outburst was in keeping with a long history of unusual behaviour by the chess legend.
 For nearly 20 years, Fischer has seen few people, refusing all requests for interviews and gaining a reputation as a chess hermit.
 Friends have described him as holding extreme right-wing political views, becoming rabidly anti-Semitic and so paranoid as to insist on removal of all his dental fillings to keep the government from trying to transmit messages through him.
 All these accounts have come from former friends, because anyone who speaks to the press has been immediately cut off by Fischer.
 He also denied he refused to defend his title over the past 20 years, asserting that no one had agreed to play him. He said he was putting together a book to explain how international chess had been hijacked by a cabal of cheats.
 Fischer has always been different.
 He has been playing chess since age 8 with a single-minded intensity that left room for little else, childhood friends recall.
 He would turn up late for tournaments, walk out of matches and refuse to play unless the lighting suited him. His made what were then considered audacious demands for pay.
 In 1972, he blundered in his first game with Spassky and blamed distractions from photographers. In a huff, he boycotted the second game and was deemed to have forfeited.
 He received a private indoor tennis court and exclusive use of the hotel's swimming pool — even when he wasn't there.

Dhaka Chess Samiti elections Oct 30

Sports Reporter
 Elections of the Dhaka Metropolis Chess Samiti for the year 1992-93 will be held on October 30.
 A three-member election commission has been formed with Shaheedul Islam, Deputy Inspector General of the Bangladesh Railway, as its chief.
 The committee is expected to announce the election schedule within the next 15 days.