

Niaz, Zia go to Doha today

Sports Reporter

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed and former national champion FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman leave Dhaka today for Doha, Qatar to take part in the Doha Chess Festival to be held September 17 to 28.

They leave by Gulf Air at 8:25 this morning.

Niaz and Zia, along with national champion Rezaul Karim, FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman, both FIDE Masters, will be taking part in an 11-round Swiss league competition which includes a field of five Grandmasters and 25 International Masters.

The invitational meet offers a total prize money of 6600 US dollars to be distributed among the top six finishers. Besides, the champion will receive a trophy and a gold medal while the runner-up will pick up a silver medal with a bronze medal going to the player finishing third. Places will be decided, if necessary, through FIDE rules regarding tie-breaks.

The National Sports Council is bearing Niaz's travel expenses while Zia is paying his own way. Rezaul and Tahmidur are already in Doha, having gone there to compete in the recently-concluded Asian Junior under-20 meet. Tahmidur had gone as the coach-cum-manager of Rezaul and Shaukat Hossain Pallab, the Bangladesh sub-junior champion who also competed in the Asian under-16 meet held simultaneously.

Niaz is expected to return home on Sept 30. He will later leave for the Interpolis Grandmasters' championship to be held in Tilburg, Netherlands from October 8. World champion Garry Kasparov is also expected to play in that tournament.

U-16 booters return home

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh national youth under-16 football team returned home late Monday night after taking part in the fifth Asian youth championship which ended on Sunday last in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The 25-member Bangladesh youth squad had left Dhaka on September 1.

Bangladesh, placed in Group A along with North Korea, Bahrain and hosts Saudi Arabia, failed to win a single point conceding an incredible 13 goals and scoring only two.

Bangladesh lost to North Korea 0-3 in the second match on the inaugural day on September 4. Bahrain blanked Bangladesh 6-2 in the second match while they lost to Saudi Arabia 0-4 in their third and final group match on September 8.

The United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Thailand and China were the Group B teams.

The leader of Bangladesh team Shah Abul Kashem, who is also a joint secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), when interviewed by some newsmen yesterday, astonishingly failed to mention who became the champions and runners-up of the meet.

"We left for Dubai en route to Dhaka on September 11 and the final was held on September 13," Shah Kashem said.

According to him, despite conceding 13 goals, the Bangladesh boys displayed good footballing skills.

The BFF joint secretary said that the defeats had been mainly caused by the astro-turf pitch.

"Our players are not familiar with the synthetic surface and invariably towards the end of almost every match they ran out of strength.

The Thai players had a long six-month long preparation on the astro-turf for this meet, he said.

Besides the excessive heat also had an adverse impact upon the Bangladeshi players, Shah Kashem said.

Players like Ruhul Amin and Bipul Marma reportedly fell sick.

Whatever the reason, the bottom line is that Bangladesh were swept aside in each and every match.

Earlier, last June, the Bangladesh senior team lost to South Korea 0-6 and to Thailand 1-2 in the qualifying tournament held in the Thai capital Bangkok.

One hopes the concerned authorities will take up the issue of the country's pathetic footballing standards seriously to determine what needs to be done before it is too late.

Williams ends Tottenham revival

LONDON, Sept 15: John Williams scored his third goal of the season against Tottenham on Monday to put Coventry second in the English Premier League, reports Reuter.

Williams, on target twice in last month's win at Spurs, sent a looping header over Ian Walker in the 61st minute of an exciting tussle.

E Bengal beat Abahani 1-0

GUWAHATI, Sept 15: East Bengal entered the final of the Bordoloi Trophy soccer tournament getting past Abahani Krira Chakra of Bangladesh by a solitary goal in the Nehru Stadium here Tuesday, reports PTI.

The all-important goal was headed in by Nigerian star Chibuzor off a measured cross from Tushar Rakshit from a throw in by Ilyas Pasha in the 26th minute of the first half.

The game never rose to any great heights and was often marred by frayed tempers in which the East Bengal skipper, Kuljit Singh, was shown a yellow card and defender Rezaul Karim Rehan of Bangladesh given marching orders.

Although the Calcutta team enjoyed a slight territorial advantage over their rivals across the border, most of the play remained confined to the mid-field and was marked by rough tactics.

Both the teams, however, had their share in front of the goals but on each occasion poor finishing failed to produce any results.

Striker Golam Othous, who played well for the Bangla outfit, provided a good opening for Mamun Joarder, who missed an easy chance from close range in the first half.

The Abahani custodian Mo-

hammed Mohsin brought off a brilliant save when he flatted away a shot from Mushtaq Ali following a free-kick after Chibuzor was brought down in front of the box.

In the 25th minute play had to be stopped for about seven minutes when rival players attacked each other and the Abahani Krira Chakra goalkeeper Mohsin assaulted the referee Abani Sarma.

UNB adds: Abahani, who clinched the prestigious BTC Club Cup tournament beating East Bengal Club 1-0 in Dhaka last year, suffered their second consecutive defeat at the hands of East Bengal this year.

East Bengal Club Abahani by 1-0 in a return leg tie of the Asian Cup Winners' Cup tournament in Calcutta early this year. The first leg match between them ended goalless in Dhaka.

Abahani left Dhaka on August 29 to participate in two football tournaments in Assam. They will leave Assam for Calcutta Wednesday.

In the Independence Day Cup tournament in Nowgong, Abahani beat Banpur United 2-1 in the pre-quarter final, beat Assam Police 6-0 in the quarter final, got a walkover against Nagaland Police in the semi final and lost to Border Security Force (BSF) 0-3 in the final.

In the Bordoloi tournament, Abahani beat Assam Police 5-0

in the pre-quarter-final and beat Nepal Airlines 3-0 in the quarter-final.

The Abahani team against East Bengal Club was: Mohsin, Alamgir, Rehan, Ataur, Nira (Jewel), Masud Rana, Wasim, Zakir, Othous, Rumi (Aslam) and Mamun Joarder.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

City Club shared points with Shantinagar Club after their encounter ended in a one-all draw in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

City Club led 2-1 at the breather.

Md Badal Hossain put City Club in the lead in the 15th minute (1-0) while Rezaul Rahman doubled the margin in the 25th minute (2-0).

Md Siraj reduced the margin in the 33rd minute (2-1) while Tapan restored parity for Shantinagar Club in the 50th minute (2-2).

The day's second match between Rayerbazar Athletic Club and Azad Sporting Club ended in a one-all draw.

Dipu scored for Rayerbazar and Rabiul Mahmud for Azad Sporting Club.

TODAY'S MATCHES

East End Club vs Jurain Janata (3 pm: Dhaka Stadium).

Dhaka WASA vs BCG Press (4:30 pm: Dhaka Stadium).



A midfield melee in the Sonali Bank Second Division match between Rayerbazar AC and Azad SC at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The match ended goalless. —Star photo

Lamb to play in SA cricket league

CAPE TOWN, Sept 15: Allan Lamb, dropped from the England squad to tour India later this year, has signed to play for South Africa's Western Province in 1992-93, reports AFP.

Kevin Cummins, managing director of the Western Province Cricket Union, told AFP on Tuesday Lamb had signed for an undisclosed sum. The South African season from October to March coincides with England's tour of India.

Lamb will be returning to England where he has another two years of his contract with Northamptonshire to run.

South African-born Lamb played for Western Province between 1971 and 1980, before moving to England where he captained Northamptonshire and became a regular number four Test batsman.

Allan Lamb is facing further punishment for his allegations of ball-doctoring against Pakistan.

The Northamptonshire skipper, who recently served a two-match ban imposed by his county because of the claims, has been ordered to appear before the Test and County Cricket Board's disciplinary committee on Wednesday.

Lamb, who was also fined around 2,000 pounds by Northants,

Aussies, Lankans both need reshaping

COLOMBO, Sept 15: Australia's tour of Sri Lanka proved that with an injection of killer instinct the island side could threaten the established cricketing powers, reports Reuter.

It also exposed shortcomings in the Australian batting line-up which will need to be sorted out before their West Indies tour in November.

Australia beat Sri Lanka 1-0 in the three Test series, but only after the home side collapsed in the second innings of the first match, wasting a winning position.

"I rate them very highly. Once they get a taste of how to win, how to nail sides fully when they get them under pressure, they can be a real force," Australian captain Allan

Border said after the final Test ended in a rain-drenched draw on Sunday.

"I would go past to say that Sri Lanka are a better Test match side than India from what I saw of them last year in Australia."

It was Sri Lanka's first series at home for five years due to separatist violence.

The tour, which went off without incident, opened the doors for others to follow.

New Zealand are due for a six week trip from November 15 followed by England, India, South Africa and West Indies within the next 12 months.

Border who won the "man-of-the-match" award in the last Test for his scores of 106 and 78, made 243 runs in the series, and is only 348 runs away from overhauling the Test

record of 10,122 runs held by Indian batsman Sunil Gavaskar.

"For the last 18 months I have not played particularly well. But I felt quite good in this Test. Obviously I am taking things as they come. If I come through the West Indies series I think I could do it," he said.

He said Australia's top order was causing some concern.

"Unless we get it going against the West Indies we are going to be in trouble."

Australia's top five contributed 110 or more runs only twice in six innings, with Mark Waugh out for a duck four times in a row.

All-rounder Greg Matthews could also find it hard to win a place against the West Indies, despite an excellent batting record in the series.

Matthews cut a very popular figure amongst Sri Lanka

spectators with a few crowd-pulling stunts like dancing to the beat of Sri Lankan drums and joking with the spectators on the boundary line.

"His role is more as a bowler and to get wickets. His batting is a bonus for the side. He will come under the hammer if he goes back to Australia and doesn't take wickets. It is simple as that," said Border.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga said he was satisfied with the way his team had played throughout the series.

"Sri Lanka dominated the play on all five days of the Test matches. This will be a good eye opener for the New Zealand tour," he said.

But he added: "We have to improve our spinners, fielding and lower order batting."

Kent finish 2nd behind Essex

LONDON, Sept 15: Kent clinched second place in the English county championship and a cheque for 23,000 pounds after crushing Warwickshire by an innings and 143 runs at Edgbaston on Tuesday, reports AFP.

They needed only 54 minutes and 19 overs to polish off Warwickshire's second innings, which resumed at 120 for five and finished on 171.

Spinners Richard Davis wreaked havoc, with Davis capturing five for 41 and West Indies all-rounder Carl Hooper a county-best four for 57.

David Gower, the batsman

surprisingly left out of England's forthcoming tour to India, has been given a new two-year contract by Hampshire.

Gower wanted a five-year agreement, but Hants chief executive Tony Baker insisted: "It was never a contentious issue. We all wanted him to stay."

Gower commented: "I've enjoyed my three years with Hampshire and I want to stay in the game long-term. This shows my commitment to cricket, which some might have doubted."

"It is still very much my aim to get back into the England side but I know I must score runs at county level to be considered."

Hampshire are releasing 33-year-old wicket-keeper Bobby Parks after 15 years on the staff and 35-year-old Dutch seamer Paul-Jan Bakker, who took 193 first-class wickets in seven years with the county.

Parks, who holds the club record for dismissals of 1,000, has been told that the county cannot afford to keep two capped keepers.

"I feel I've been kicked in the teeth," stormed Parks, who has lost his place to Adrian Aymes.

"Obviously there is no loyalty in the game. This is a big let-down because I want to stay in the game."

Gower to stay with Hampshire for two more years

LONDON, Sept 15: England reject David Gower has been given a new two-year contract by his country cricket club Hampshire, reports Reuter.

Gower said: "I have enjoyed my three years with Hampshire and I want to stay in the game long-term. This shows my commitment to cricket, which some might have doubted."

Gower, 35, England's leading Test run scorer, is still unhappy at being left out of the squad to tour India and Sri Lanka next year.

He said today, "It is still very much my aim to get back into the England side, but I know I must score runs at county level to be considered."

Fischer won't comply with IRS

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 15: Legendary chess maverick Bobby Fischer, in the midst of a 5 million dollar rematch against Boris Spassky, showed no sign on Monday of relenting in his defiance of US authorities over tax matters, reports Reuter.

"I have not paid my income taxes since 1976 and have no intention of paying them now," Fischer said at a joint news conference with archival Spassky in the Yugoslav Adriatic island resort of Sveti Stefan.

Spassky and Fischer are re-playing their epic encounter in Reykjavik in 1972 when Fischer won the world chess championship title.

Bert Gimm, a US Internal Revenue Service representative in Rome, told Reuter that Fischer, a US citizen, would have to pay 31 per cent of his tournament earnings in taxes.

Asked about Fischer's re-

jection of US tax law, Gimm said: "It is only September 1992. Let's wait and see whether he will file his tax returns when the time comes in April 1993."

"You would be surprised how many people who publicly claim they will not pay income tax actually do at the end."

The Temperamental American chess legend at in contempt at a letter by the US Treasury Department warning him he was violating sanctions on Yugoslavia by playing there.

Fischer, 49, formerly the eccentric enfant terrible of chess, still displays a grudge against communism, chess authorities and particularly against his own country's Chess Federation.

"I have nothing to do with the US Chess Federation. I consider them to be pro-Soviet, a criminal organisation," Fischer said.

He blames the American Chess Association for not siding with him when he sent 99 demands to the World Chess Federation before a 1975 match against title contender Anatoly Karpov.

After his demands were brushed aside, he did not appear for the match and the title was awarded to Karpov.

Despite the Superpower Cold War prevailing at the time, Fischer accused the US Chess Federation of falling under the influence of the powerful Soviet State Chess Federation.

But Fischer's resentment actually, dated back to 1965 when he was forbidden to play at Capablanca's memorial tournament in Havana because communist Cuba was under a strict US economic blockade.

Fischer found a way around this by playing other contestants in Havana—by telex—

from a New York apartment.

Spassky, 56, reported by sources close to the match organisation to be suffering from prostate gland problems, said on Monday he was experiencing problems with his concentration.

"The problem is the fifth hour, that is when my concentration drops," said Spassky, a Russian who has long lived in France.

In the eighth game on Sunday, after four hours of play in which he was close to victory, Spassky made a fatal oversight and lost. In the seventh game, Spassky left his seat 27 times.

But Spassky played the problem down at the news conference, saying he had kidney trouble which affected his play at the French Championship earlier this year.

Fischer leads the rematch series 3-2, with three draws which are not counted for victory. The first player to score 10 points wins 3.5 million dollar and the loser gets 1.5 million dollar.

ABC top group

Sports Reporter

Zahir and Asghar continued their high scoring form as star-studded Azad Boys Club finished their first leg engagements with a clean slate when they registered a facile 79-57 win over Eagles Club in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Tired from their high-strung encounter with Greta Club the day before, the Azad Boys cagers started sluggishly giving the opponents enough space to score. As a result, they finished the first half with a tentative lead of 29-25.

In the second half, the winners got their winning touch back. They dribbled and scored with astonishing ease and left their opposition dumbfounded.

Zahir and Asghar, once again, proved to be the scoring wizards of the side, slam-dunking 30 and 20 points respectively. Abed weighed in with 13 points.

For Eagles, Imon top-scored with 27 points.

Azad Boys Club now enter the super league as the Group B champions.

In the first match of the day, Hornets SC found Dharmketu Club for too superior giving up the match 44-75.

Shahin led a three-man offensive for the Dharmketu boys, who had a marginal edge of 33-26 in the first half, notching up 22 points. Tipu and Nawsher played their part caging in 17 and 16 points respectively.

For Hornets Julian and Taron scored 10 and 12 points respectively.

Chess results

Sports Reporter

Abul Kashem Bhuiyan and ANM Ruhul Qudus maintained their leads in the qualifying tournament for the forthcoming international rating chess competition with full five points after winning their fifth-round matches at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Kashem defeated Waliullah Patwary while Qudus beat Anisuzzaman.

Waliullah and Anis, who shared the top place with Kashem and Qudus the day before, slipped down to third place after their defeats in the fifth round.

Mintu improved his position by beating Eliza and now trails the top duo by half a point.



Players absorbed in their fifth-round matches of the qualifying tournament yesterday at the NSC chess room. —Star photo