

Office cricket league from this season

Sports Reporter

Turning and tossing in the eddy of improvement, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday announced the introduction of an office league from the coming season — 1992-93.

Various government and non-government organisations, autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, banks, insurance companies and other commercial firms based in Dhaka will be eligible to participate in the league.

Originally a proposal earlier recommended by the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA), the decision came as poor consolation for the welfare association for the league cricketers who have been pressing for a change in the guidelines for the newly-introduced players' pool.

The BCCB earlier introduced the pool comprising 17 players who have been in the reckoning for the national team in the last couple years. Resentment grew over the stipulation about the registration of a maximum three pool players by any team from this year.

With the scope of bargaining over their fees considerably narrowed in the general milieu of shambles, the cricket players were reasonably miffed. Few rounds of meetings with the BCCB officials ended with a whimper as the authority apparently rejected the players' plea to raise the ceiling of three players per team to four.

Meanwhile, the proposed meeting of the DCPA was not held yesterday.

Indian soldiers beat BN 3-1

CHITTAGONG, Sept 17: The visiting Indian Armed Forces team defeated Bangladesh Navy 3-1 in a friendly football match at the BNS Issa Khan here this afternoon, says an ISPR release.

The visitors dominated the first-half 2-0. Hav John Brook of the Indian team opened the account in the fourth minute of the match (1-0).

After conceding the first goal the Bangladesh Navy team launched all-out offensives for the equaliser but their attempts were thwarted by the strong defence of the visiting team.

Hav Chakradhar doubled the lead for the visitors by scoring in the 42nd minute of the first-half.

Bangladesh Navy missed a good number of scoring chances. Moazzam Hoque, AB netted the solitary goal on behalf of the hosts in the 15th minute of the second-half from a penalty (2-1).

NK Manoran raised the tally for the visitors by scoring the last goal of the match in the 25th minute of the second-half (3-1).

The Commodore Commanding Chittagong, Commodore AZ Nizam was the chief guest and distributed souvenirs among the participants.

The match was witnessed, among others, by senior Naval officers, officials of the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh and a large number of Army, Navy and Airforce personnel.

Kashem leads in chess qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Abul Kashem Bhuiyan of Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation (BTMC) led the field till yesterday in the race for a place in the club of twelve that will play in the international rating chess tournament to be held in Dhaka in October.

He beat Almasur Rahman of Ansars in the seventh round at the chess room of the National Coaching Centre Thursday to raise his points tally to six and a half.

ANM Ruhul Quddus trailed him with six points.

Seven players — Hasibul Hassan Hanif, Ali Amjad Mintu, Ranadeb Dasgupta, Kazi Mahmudunnabi Lenin, Mizanur Rahman Labu, Anisuzzaman Malik, and Rezaul Kabir Liton collectively held the third position with five and a half points each.

As many as ten players were ranked fourth yesterday. They were Almasur Rahman, Arifuzzaman Shikdar, SM Shawkat Hossain, Khalequzzaman, Rafiqur Rahman Ronny, Waliullah Patwari, Tayebur Rahman, S Islam, Shabbir Ahmed and Taimur Noor.

The eight-round tournament concludes today.

Neil wins long jump gold in World Jrs

SEOUL, Sept 17: Neil chance of the United States jumped 7.89 meters (25 feet, 10 1/2 inches) Thursday for a gold medal in the 4th World Junior Athletic Championships, reports AP.

Fellow American Robert Thomas won the silver medal with 7.84 meters.

Inter-club transfers begin today

Lipu to return to Abahani

Sports Reporter



Gazi Ahsan Hossain Lipu whose deontological dedication for Abahani Krita Chakra and furtive feelings for Mohammedans often served as a savoury and a bit bemusing topic for 'maiden' gossip, is returning home after two years in the wilderness.

Now well past his prime, this versatile cricketer, a former national skipper known as one of the few gentlemen in local cricket, is being deemed as rather fortunate to make it to his old club because of the current depression in the cricket economy in the wake of the players' transfers beginning today, following the controversial pool system.

At the onset of this coming cricket season the BCCB announced the introduction of a pool comprising players who have been representing the country over the last two years. The more immediate implications of the new system, however, lay in the binding which said that one team would be able to sign only three players from the pool, making quite a few good players rather dispensable in the traditionally hectic pre-season transfer activities.

Rafiqul Alam, a seasoned player and former national colour, was wise enough to be relieved of the unprofitable honour of representing the country and he is probably staying with his last year's club champions Mohammedans.

Minhazul Abedin Nannu, reportedly the highest paid cricketer of the country, Bangladesh and Mohammedan Sporting skipper, is in a tight corner, according to sources close the club.

With Mohammedan finances in a bad mess and the pool robbing cricketers of the different tunes they would have liked to make the club officials dance in other times Nannu, the best one day batsman in the country will, in all probability, prefer to spend another year in the Mohammedans.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, by far the best allround cricketer, is another club whose services Mohammedan should retain for the second successive season.

The third spot for the pool player will cause Mohammedan officials quite a bit of headache because, wicket-keeper cum opening batsman Jahangir Alam is parting with them in favour of archrivals Abahani Krita Chakra.

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Panthers post easy victory

Sports Reporter

Panthers SC and Josephites Club registered facile victories in their Partex First Division basketball league engagements at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Rousseau scored 17 and Helal, Manju and Pampa caged in 14 points each to lead Panthers to a convincing 81-51 victory over Hornets SC in the first match of the day.

The winners had a 35-22 lead at the recess.

For the Hornets Dipak and Tarun notched up 12 points each.

In the other match of the day, Josephites' Baby (21) found scoring against Wanderers easy as his side took a 15-point lead at the first half.

The final score read 72-52. Sobel weighed in with 12 points to have his role well played for the winners.

Wanderers played with better composure in the second half and Suman in particular displayed spectacular scoring skill, slam dunking 21 points, but it wasn't quite enough.

The league resumes tomorrow after today's break.

Panthers Club have now earned nine points from five outings while Hornets Club have three points from three matches.

Josephites Club's collection rose to five points from four encounters while Wanderers Club have two points from as many matches.

Allahma Gold Cup

Blani Bazar XI outplayed Sheikhpur Sangha by two goals to nil in the last match of the second round fixtures of the third Mustafa Allahma Gold Cup soccer competition at the Dhaka Dakshin School Stadium in Sylhet to move into the third round.

The winners dominated from the very beginning of the match pulling ahead through Lulu in the 15th minute.

Obhi doubled the margin in the 36th minute of the second half.

dergoing now. Stressing on possible and somewhat routine, belated dramatic development the organiser, however, kept the options open for old players; "Badahah can be very handy for



LIPU

any team even now!" quipped the successful businessman, once known for his penchant to big the ball at the batsmen.

Mohammedans are reportedly trying to ensure the services of GMCC paceman Zakir. In the event of a 'poor team' because of monetary constraint Mohammedans, according to Tanveer Haider, would opt for a really good foreign players, somebody like Sri Lankan Athula Samarasekara to keep the team in the premier league fray.

Runners-up Abahani Krita Chakra will retain the services of star batsman Akram Khan although skipper Farouque Ahmed is yet to make up his mind. Farouque, who went through a lean patch last year, is reportedly considering a lucrative offer from Brothers Union, whom he represented in 1990-91.

Golam Faruq Suro is likely to leave Mohammedans for Brothers Union.

Brothers Union have dealt Abahani a body blow by luring away Zahid Razzak Masum, the hard-hitting opening batsman. With Nurul Abedin Nobel there the Brothers opening batting might rob many bowlers of their quiet night's sleep. Masum, too, played for the Gopibagh side in 1990-91.

Athar Ali, however, is one of the strange cases of apathy

provoked by the pool system. Brothers, who have ensured the services of Calcuttan Arup Bhattacharya and Sri Lankan TL Fernando as two of their four foreign players quota, are no longer interested in the tall all-rounder and their captain in the past seasons.

Same indifferent attitude is also being shown to Golam Nowsher Prince, the number one paceman of the country. With Abahani no longer considering him indispensable; the poor left-arter is negotiating with Victoria Sporting, the promotes to the Premier League.

National wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu is another player from the pool whose condition can be likened to an orphan rather than a stumper as his old club GMCC have virtually received him of the obligation of allegiance.

Bangladesh Biman, who cut a sorry figure last year, have made the most of the distress of the other big teams. They had few problems in confirming the two poolers — Enamul Huq Moni and Shanawaz Shaheed Shanu, last year's skipper. In addition to this they have reportedly roped in Mahbubur Rahman Selim from Abahani with the middlelings giving the airlines team a solid look.

Maradona retires, again

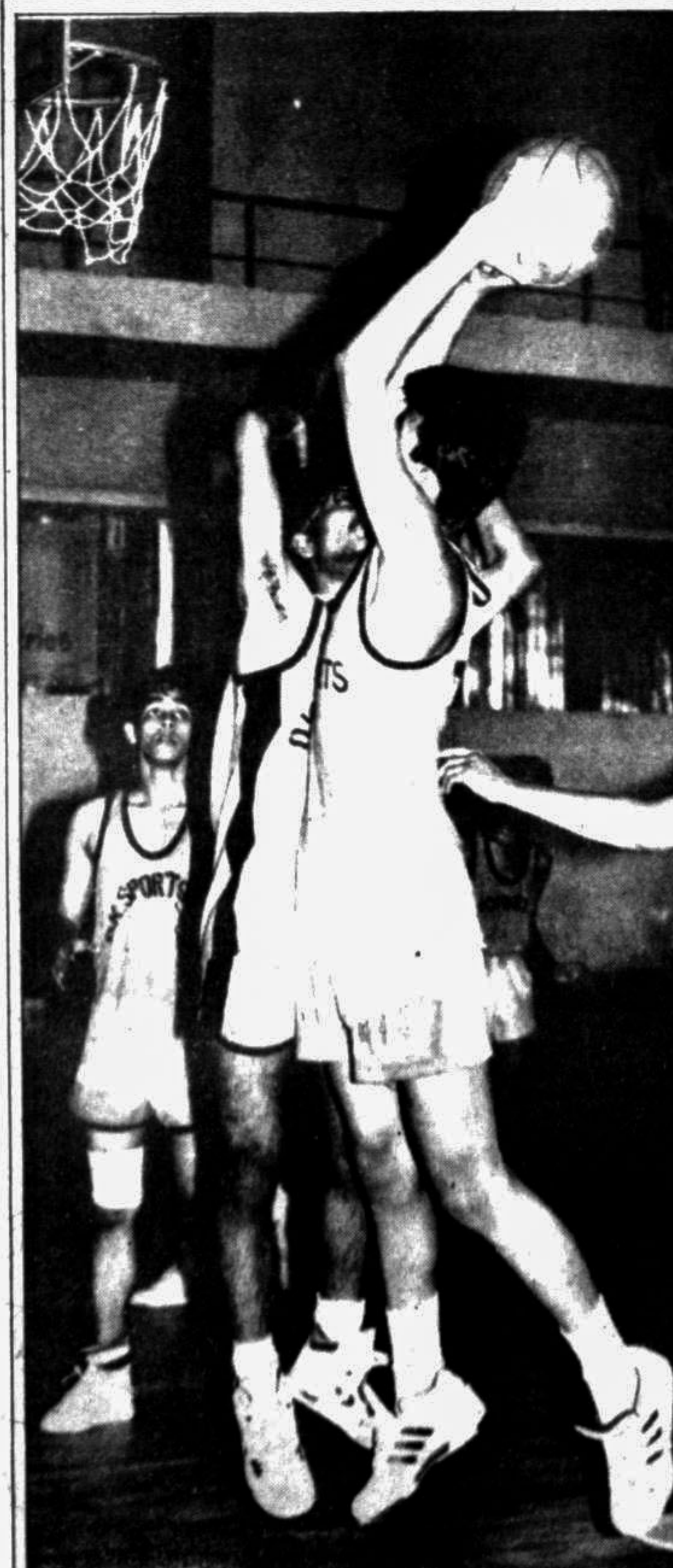
SEVILLE, Spain, Sept 17: Diego Maradona on Thursday announced he was retiring from soccer, ending his widely-publicised bid to return to competitive soccer and repeating a position he has retracted before, reports AP.

He said he would leave Spain on Saturday for Buenos Aires.

"The decision has been made," he told reporters in the lobby of a Seville hotel. "I'm sorry for me because I had an enormous desire to play. But enough is enough."

Maradona, 31, arrived Sunday in Spain in hopes negotiating his transfer from Italian First-Division club Napoli to Sevilla of the Spanish League.

Sevilla on Wednesday offered Napoli 4.5 million for the rights to his contract, and on Thursday Sevilla officials said a meeting was to be held Monday in Zurich to negotiate the transfer.



A Hornets cager about basket during yesterday's Partex First Division league match against Panthers SC at the wooden-floor gymnasium. Panthers beat Hornets 81-51. — Star photo



Minister for Local Govt and Rural Development Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder along with IOC instructor WK Lee, BOA officials and participants of the Olympic solidarity course which concluded at the NSC conference room yesterday. — Star photo

Spassky's kidney forces postponement

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 17: The 10th game in the 5 million re-match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky was postponed Thursday after Spassky complained of kidney trouble, match organisers said, reports AP.

Spassky appealed for Thursday's match to be held over until Saturday after he lost the ninth game to Fischer on Wednesday, giving the controversial American a 4-2 lead in the re-match. Draws do not count.

Under match rules, players' requests for game postponement due to illness must be backed by medical certification. A brief announcement on closed-circuit TV monitors at this Adriatic resort said Spassky had asked for the delay late Wednesday and his request was supported by match doctors Zika Petrovic, Ljubo Zivkovic and Mitar Lubisa.

Spassky, 55, has made a series of blunders in the last three games that experts at the match speculated could be health-related. But match organisers declined to comment.

However, one match official briefly showed what was apparently an internal document that spoke of Spassky's "complete physical exhaustion and sleeplessness."

Spassky told a news conference Monday that he was suffering from recurring kidney trouble that forced him to abandon the last French championships.

"I have had some problems with my kidney but I'm all right," said the Russian-born French citizen.

"I started this marathon match like a sprint distance, and now I am really tired," he said. "I have put in so much energy (as) I have never done before in my life."

Fischer also made references to illness and post-

ponement at Monday's news conference.

"In this match, the days off are only if you are really sick, and you have to get a doctor's certificate," he said.

The postponement, three days after Fischer and Spassky's comments, raised speculation among the dwindling audience here that the announcement might be a ploy to increase sagging interest in the match.

Fischer, who has returned to chess after a 20-year absence, is playing Spassky four times weekly — on Saturday,

Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday. Thursday's delay means the next match would be scheduled for Saturday.

The first player to win 10 games clinches the 3.35 million first prize, while the runner-up gets 1.65 million. The prize money has been put up by a shadowy Yugoslav businessman, Jozimir Vasiljevic, with the match taking place in defiance of UN sanctions against Yugoslavia for instigating war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The winner of the series will be the first player to score 10 points.

Fischer extends lead

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 17: US chess legend Bobby Fischer on Wednesday scored his third consecutive victory over rival Boris Spassky in their comeback tournament, giving him a 4-2 lead in the series, reports Reuters.

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Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday. Thursday's delay means the next match would be scheduled for Saturday.

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Fischer employed his favourite Ruy Lopez opening and the two quickly exchanged queens.

The last time Fischer traded queens in this opening against Spassky was in the 16th game in their 1972 encounter in Iceland in which the American won the world title.

In Wednesday's game the 55-year-old Spassky, who has been troubled by a prostate gland ailment, emerged poorly from the opening moves.

On the 17th move, experts said he moved his king from behind a pawn shield into a "suicidal" position in front of Fischer's knights.

"I made a blunder moving the king to C6. Instead of that I was calculating on along variation with bishop D5, and I couldn't find the actual advantage for white. All of a sudden I changed by mind, and that was a big mistake," Spassky said after the game.

Using his well-deployed pieces, Fischer snatched a pawn and Spassky, with a vulnerable king, resigned.

BOBBY FISCHER

This was their ninth game and there were only three hours and 10 minutes of play. It was the quickest victory in the 5 million US dollar replay series between the two old rivals in the Montenegro resort of Sveti Stefan.

Italian clubs on a rampage in UEFA Cup

PARIS, Sept 17: The first round of the European Champions Cup was a dream for AC Milan but a nightmare for Leeds United on Wednesday night, as both clubs made a dramatic return to international football, reports AP.

AC Milan, banned from last season's competition, trounced Slovenia's Olympia Ljubljana 4-0 in their first leg tie, while Leeds lost 3-0 to VfB Stuttgart in their first continental game since losing the 1975 European Cup final.

There were mixed fortunes too for holders Barcelona, who were booed on their way to a dismal 1-0 win over the plucky Norwegians of Viking Stavanger, and PSV Eindhoven, who crushed Lithuania's Zalgiris Vilnius 6-0.

In the night's other tournaments, the form book held the line in the European Cup Winners Cup, with Ian Rush breaking a club Europe record with four goals in Liverpool's 6-1 drubbing of the Cypriots from Limassol, and Atletico Madrid overpowering Slovenia's Maribor Branik 3-0 away.

However, Feyenoord could only beat the Israeli newcomers of Hapoel Petach Tikva 1-0 at home — leaving the Dutch stars, like most of the other teams, wishing they had Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca on their side.

Fonseca scored all five in Napoli's 5-1 demolition job of Valencia in the UEFA Cup, where the biggest victory and biggest fright of the night came at Sheffield Wednesday.

The English club were 8-1 winners over Spora Luxembourg, but striker Paul Warhurst nearly died after scoring twice.

Warhurst collapsed in a fit, after a collision with Spora goalkeeper Fernand Felin in the 77th minute as he headed his second and Wednesday's

seventh goal.

Wednesday physio Alan Smith had to hold Warhurst's tongue as he was carried off the pitch unconscious to allow him to breathe. He was then rushed to hospital for a brain scan.

There was a drama of a less dangerous kind, though, in the San Siro Stadium as the seemingly invincible AC Milan gave the Slovenians a football lesson.

Banned for a year after a player protest wrecked their Champions Cup tie against Olympique Marseille two seasons ago, Milan were given a flying start with goals from Marco van Basten in the fifth and seventh minutes.

Fellow Dutchman Ruud Gullit ripped the Slovenians apart in midfield, and Jean Pierre Papin, Milan's lackluster European footballer-of-the-year, scored his first for the club in the 55th minute to complete the rout.

Unbeaten in the Italian League since 1990-91, Milan already look to have one hand on the trophy. The only disappointment for the night was seeing Olympia's Zulk sent off for a second bookable offence.

But as Milan go marching on, English champions Leeds look to be marching out of the competition after conceding three goals in the last half hour.

Stuttgart, who won the Bundesliga title on the last day of the season, broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute with a Fritz Walter strike off a pass from Ludwig Kogl.

Walter added his second five minutes later and Andreas Buck left Howard Wilkinson's side with a mountain to climb by scoring the third nine minutes from the end.

Local police said 20 people, including 17 Britons, had been arrested in scuffles before the match. Six people were slightly injured including one police officer.

There was anger but no violence in Barcelona, where

Europe's kings needed an 86th minute header from Guillermo Amor to beat Viking Stavanger.

Johan Cruyff's men gave a hopelessly disorganised performance and were badly missing their two stars, Bulgarian goal ace Hristo Stoichkov and Dutch defender Ronald Koeman.

France's Olympique Marseille made no such mistake though in their trip to northern Ireland, hammering Glentworth 5-0.

Marseille, losing finalists two campaigns ago, scored four times in a whirlwind first half display that left the part-timers chasing the shadows of German international Rudi Voller and the midfield pair of Rafael Martin Vasquez and Frank Sauze.

Scotland's Glasgow Rangers beat Denmark's Lyngby 2-0 with goals from former England striker Mark Hateley and Dutchman Pieter Huistra, while Juul Ellermand scored a hat-trick in PSV Eindhoven's easy victory over the Lithuanians.

With few surprises in the Cup Winners' Cup, aside from Luxembourg's Avenir Beggen holding Spartak Moscow to a merciful 0-0 draw in the Lenin Stadium, the spotlight turned to the UEFA Cup where Juventus showed no such mercy with Anorthosis Famagusta.

The Turin club crushed the Cypriots 6-1, with Roberto Baggio opening the scoring after three minutes and German international Andreas Moller making it 2-0 within 10 minutes.

Gianluca Vialli got the first of two goals just before the break, as the full weight of the Italian giants bore down on the Famagusta defence.

One man to miss out on the goal rush was England striker David Platt, playing his first game for Juventus, although his creative work was among the highlights of the match.

There was misery though

IOC solidarity course concludes

Sports Reporter

The second five-day Olympic solidarity sports leadership course under the Olympic instructor Dr WK Lee of Hong Kong concluded at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

Of the 42 persons selected for the programme, only 35 showed up at the closing ceremony.

Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder attended the ceremony as chief guest and gave away certificates among the participants.

In his speech, the minister assured that the government will extend all out cooperation for the development of the country's sports.

Presided over by the president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Gias Kamal Chowdhury, the meeting was addressed by the course instructor WK Lee and the BOA Secretary General Bashir Ahmed.

Enamul Huq and Capt (retd) Siddique Ahmed — the BOA vice-presidents — were also present.

The five-day programme, which began on September 13, was organised by the BOA and financed by the International Olympic Committee.

The first five-day programme was held from September 6 to 10 in Chittagong.

Thirty-eight persons had taken part in that programme.

Kashmitola lift Shah Sports Cup

Sports Reporter

Kashmitola Shaheen Smriti Sangad clinched the title of the third Shah Sports Cup soccer tournament, organised by Ganakuti Kishore Football XI, beating Swadesh Samaj Kalyan 5-4 in the tiebreaker at the Hazaribagh Park ground in the city yesterday.

In yesterday's exciting final both teams gave hundred percent for a result in their favour. As a consequence the match ended goalless in the stipulated time.

In the tiebreakers, Badal, Javed, Rashid, Jahangir and Arman scored for the winners.

Sona, Tareq, Selim and Jahangir converted their chances for Swadesh Samaj Sangha but Shamsuddin's failure sealed their fate.

Reaz of Kashmitola got the top-scorer's award for scoring four goals in the meet.

Obituary

Sports Reporter

Ashrafunnessa, mother of former Brothers Union footballer Abdus Salam, died of a massive cardiac arrest on Wednesday night, says a press release.

She was 56.

The quikhwani of late Ashrafunnessa will be held tomorrow after the Zohr prayer at her residence at 34/1, Hatkhola Road.