

Niaz trails Thipsay, Kuzmin in Doha chess

By M I Khan Tojo

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed of Bangladesh collected one and half points at the end of the second round of the fourth Doha International chess festival that got underway at the Sofitel Doha palace in Qatar yesterday, according to a faxed message received in Dhaka yesterday.

International Master Kuzmin and Pravin Thipsay of India, also an International Master, led the points table with two points each.

Current national champion Reefat bin-Sattar, former national champions FIDE masters Ziaur Rahman and Tahmidur Rahman, all three from Bangladesh, won their opening matches to collect one point each. But according to latest reports, both Reefat and Tahmid had lost their second round games while Zia's match was still in progress.

Thirty-five players from 13 countries are taking part in this invitational tournament including prospective title winners GM Niaz Murshed (2505), GM Vasukov (2495) and IM Kuzmin (2545).

PTI adds: Indian IM Thipsay slowly outplayed IM Hamid Kazi (Yemen) with the black pieces in a Ruy-Lopez game whereas IM Sharad Tilak crushed Khalid Salem (Palestine) in 30 moves.

Hamid constantly pressured Thipsay with aggressive play but his attack could make no headway against Thipsay's accurate defence. Thipsay later sacrificed an exchange to launch a powerful counter attack decided the game in his favour.

Khalid adopted a passive system against Tilak's king's Indian defence but failed to obtain a satisfactory position. Tilak advanced his king side pawns to launch a king side attack which helped him clinch the issue.

German booters may face random tests

BONN, Sept 19: German soccer players may soon face random doping tests during training as well as at games, reports Reuters.

The German Soccer Federation (DFB), which carried out 266 tests on First Division players at matches last season, said on Friday its doping commission was considering expanding its testing programme to training.

"The commission is discussing it. The tests would probably be introduced in the important training periods like the period before the season and in the winter break," DFB spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach said.

"We already test at matches. Football is different from some sports which have three or four main competitive highlights in a season. There are 34 highlights in a season in the German League — every Wednesday and Saturday."

Several players, including former national team goalkeeper Toni Schumacher, have suggested in the past that drugs were being used in German soccer. But Niersbach said all the tests carried out in the Bundesliga last season were negative.

Germany is a leading campaigner in the fight against doping and carries out regular random training tests in athletics and swimming. Team sports such as ice hockey and handball will test players at matches this season.

Eder joins Limeira

LIMEIRA, Brazil, Sept 19: Brazilian veteran Eder, known for his blistering left foot shot and his fiery temperament, has joined struggling provincial club Internacional Limeira, a club spokesman said Friday, reports Reuters.

The 34-year-old forward, who starred in the 1982 World Cup when he scored two spectacular goals, has signed on loan, initially for three months.

Eder played 53 times for Brazil but his career has been littered with sendings-off and fights with opponents.

He was axed by Brazil two months before the 1986 World Cup for hitting an opponent and being sent off during a friendly against Peru and has not played for his country since.

International are bottom of their 14-team group in the Sao Paulo soccer championship with one win in 13 games.

Sonali Bank soccer

Sports Reporter

The Sonali Bank inter-regional (Dhaka-Narayanganj) football competition-92 got underway yesterday at the Notre Dame College playground in the city.

Another quiet day's trading

Sports Reporter



Day Two of the inter-club transfers for the Senior Division cricketers followed the pattern set on the inaugural day as predictions proved right for the second consecutive day with 20 cricketers submitting tokens yesterday at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office.

So startling has been the ef-

fect of stumper Barooah was evened out yesterday by their buying of Narayanjan player Abdur Rahim Dalim, perhaps a better man in both respects.

With Mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers deferring their emption for the second day in a row, middle-tier teams like the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) came under the cross-lights. GMCC, who have been hit hard by serious pecuniary shortage,

tuates his inclination to quit Brothers.

Meanwhile, Mohammedans are reportedly continuing negotiations with GMCC opener Harun-ur-Rashid Liton whose terrific form and inexplicable omission subsequently from the preliminary selection of the national team for the next Asia Cup has been the tongue-tie topic for every sentient follower of the game.

Public Works Department



VICTORIA'S VICTORY! Paceman G M N Prince, all-rounder Selim Shahed and lusty left-handed bat I H Partho signed for newly-promoted Victoria Sporting Club on the second day of the cricket players' transfers yesterday at the BCCB office. National player Prince played for Abahani last year while Shahed and Partho served Biman and PWD respectively.

fect of the newly-introduced players' pool system that the signing of Golam Nowsheer Prince, for newcomers Victoria Sporting Club this year hardly sprang any surprise. It was finally a much sought sanctuary for the tall left-arm paceman who has been serving the national team for a pretty long time. This year's stipulation of only three pool players per team turned his last year's club Abahani Kirta Chakra extremely apathetic towards him and with other big teams like Mohammedans and Brothers Union not showing any interest in his talents the good-looking guy was caught between the devil and the deep sea at the beginning of the players' transfers. In the end the reported Taka three lakh bargain was not too bad.

In a manner Bangladesh Biman set their house in order on the first day Victoria who, along with Udit Club climbed up the ladder to a more prestigious Navana Premier league from the Milnars First Division league this year, signed Biman batsman Selim Shahed and PWD's big-hitting left-hander Imran Hamid Partho. Victoria's

signed promising left-arm spinner Biplob Sarkar Billu who played for Rupali Bank, one of the two bottom teams in last year's Navana Premier league.

Tariquezaman Munir, the only triple centurion in the annals of Bangladeshi cricket, will in all probability sign for GMCC today after having spent five years in Bangladesh Biman. GMCC are also likely to retain the services of young paceman Saiful Islam — a pool player for having done national duty — while Mohammedan paceman Jahangir Talukdar Dulu, another pool player, might also join their ranks. The fate of Zakir, Saiful's new ball partner last year is yet undecided as reigning league champions Dhaka Mohammedans Sporting are yet to take any decision about booking this young right arm paceman.

West Bengal cricketer Arup Bhattacharya, who played for Brothers Union last year, may be one of GMCC's two putative foreign recruits. The burly left-handed allrounder, however, is now in Calcutta and GMCC will have to wait till the former Ranji player returns to accen-

(PWD), last year's promotees in the Premier league who started with a bang by beating 1990-91 champions Brothers Union, entered the recruitment race by signing a rookie Sajjad Hossain from non-league Orient SC. Rownakul Islam Tutul, who opened the batting for PWD last year, may opt for GMCC in a day or two.

Of the twenty-eight players who took tokens yesterday 20 who submitted theirs were — Golam Nowsheer Prince, Selim Shahed, Abu Hamid Partho, Abdur Rahim Dalim, Abdus Salam Probal, Towfik Hassan Rupu, Azim Ahmed Chowdhury, Mokhelesur Rahman Bablu, Mohammad Talha, Saifullah Khan Gem, A K M Nazir Biplob, Mafizur Rahman Kaiser, Abdul Mukit Tipu, Chowdhury Abdur Rahim Heera, Syed Tanvir Kamrul Islam, Kafi Khan, Kamal Ahmed Farooq, Biplob Sarkar Billu, Anisur Rahman and Sajjad Hossain.

DATE EXTENDED

Meanwhile, the league committee has extended the transfers date till Sept 24 from the original deadline of Sept 22.

Angels cagers top Group A

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Angels Club finished as the unbeaten champions of Group A by registering an easy 112-80 victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club in their last group fixture of the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Angels Club now have ten points from five matches.

Panthers Sporting Club, who had completed their group encounters on Thursday last, have nine points to finish as the Group B runners-up.

Josephites Club, who have seven points from five matches, are the other prospective team to make the six-team super league from Group A.

However, Dhumketu Club, who have six points from four outings, also have a fair chance of making the super league from this group.

Fancied Azad Boys Club, who have won all their three matches, have already made the super league from Group B.

Dhaka Winners Club — last year's runners-up — and Gregs Club, who have collected five points from three matches each, are likely to be the two other teams to make the super league from this group.

In yesterday's keenly-contested first match, Josephites Club beat Hornets Club by 50 to 48 points.

Josephites, who scored 32 points in the second session, trailed 18-34 at the breather.

Baby with 18 points led the late charge for Josephites while Kim and Shehzad chipped in with 10 and eight points respectively.

Dipak, the highest scorer of the match, got 20 points for Hornets while Tarun and Prakash caged in 14 and six points respectively.

Angels Club beat Wanderers Club 112-80 in the other match of the day.

The defending champions led the first session 54-28.

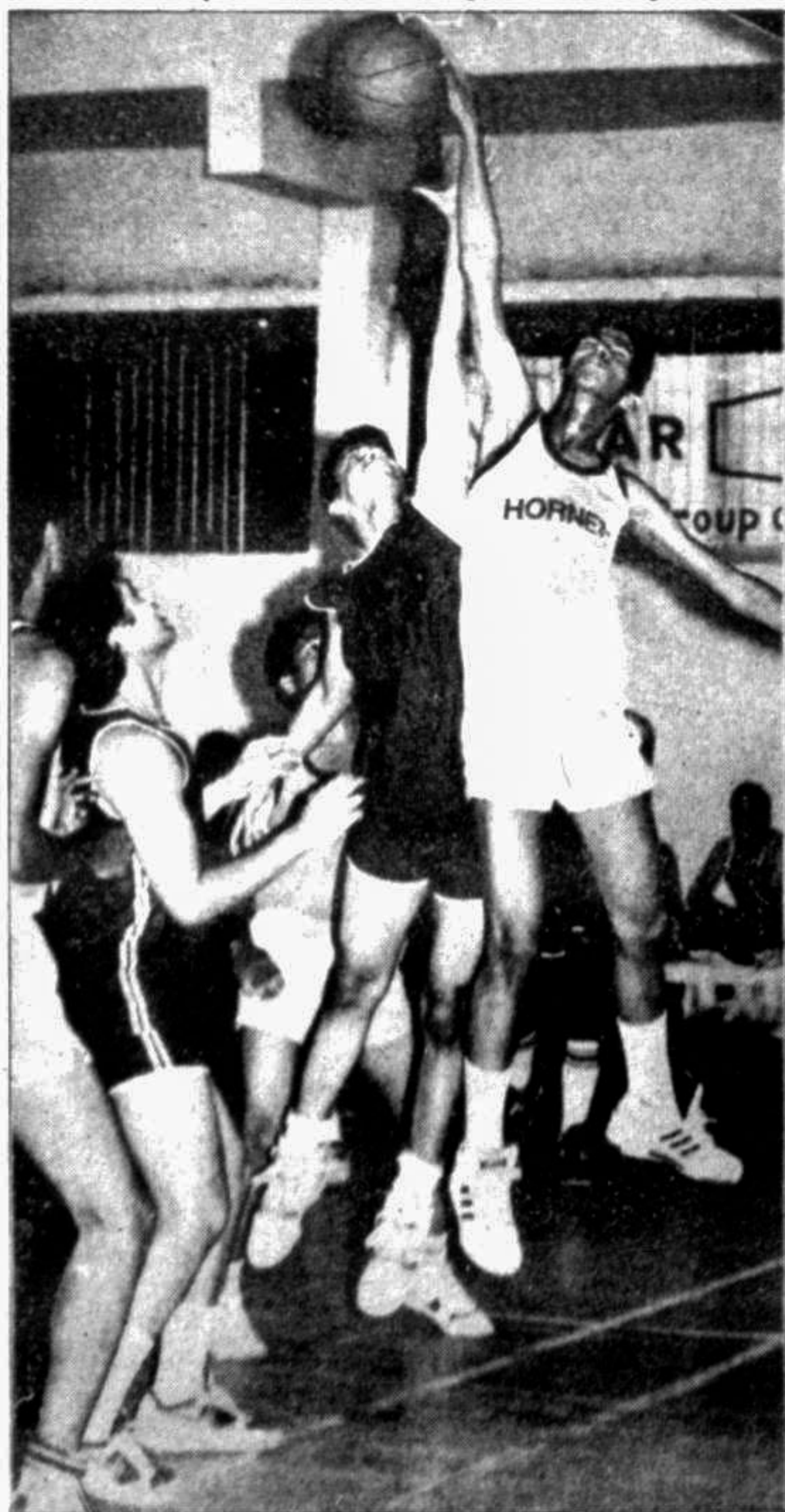
Jami with 26 points led the scoring for Angels while Mintu got 24. Dulal and Raju with 20 points each were the other two notable Angels' cagers.

Suman, Diba and Probal

scored 28, 20 and 18 points respectively for Wanderers.

No matches of the league will be held today.

Tomorrow, Dhumketu Club will play Wanderers Club at 4 pm while winners will take on Gregs Club at 5:30 pm.



Action from yesterday's Partex First Division basketball league encounter between Josephites Club and Hornets Club at the wooden-floor gymnasium. Josephites won the hard-fought thriller at 50-48.

—Star photo

Gower ties the knot

WINCHESTER, England, Sept 19: Many British sporting stars turned out on Friday to support David Gower as he married long-time girlfriend Thorunn Nash, reports AFP.

Former England football captain Gary Lineker joined past England cricket captains Ian Botham, Bob Willis and Chris Cowdrey for the ceremony at Winchester cathedral.

There were hundreds more will-wishers inside an outside the cathedral to see the record-breaking batsman and his 34-year-old bride, a dental assistant.

Current England captain Graham Gooch, who came in for criticism in Gower's recent autobiography, was not present. There has been a national outcry in England over the national selectors' decision to leave Gower out of the squad to tour India this winter.

Khoka may head Asian kabaddi organising body

Sports Reporter

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, who is also the Chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC), is likely to head the 27-member organising committee for the third Asian kabaddi championship to be held in Dhaka early next year, a highly-placed NSC source told The Daily Star yesterday.

India, Nepal, Pakistan, China, Japan and hosts Bangladesh will participate in the competition.

Bashir Ahmed, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), is likely to become the secretary of the organising committee.

There are likely to be five vice-presidents including the BOA chief Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Azizul Huq, president of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, and two joint-secretaries in the proposed committee.

The NSC secretary A S M Ali Kabir is likely to act as the organising secretary of the proposal committee.

An amount of Taka six lakh has been estimated for the successful conduct of the meet.

The first and second Asian kabaddi championships were held in India.

Volleyball refs' course from today

Sports Reporter

A volleyball referees' course under the auspices of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation begins today in Dhaka. The volleyball referees' committee members will conduct the programme.

Bashir Ahmed, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, will inaugurate the course as chief guest at the National Sports Council Conference room at 4:30 this afternoon.

National Award winning sports organiser Abdul Hamid will be present as a special guest.

Thirty-seven trainee referees from various districts and institutes will take part in the course.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

City Club and Shantinagar Club won their respective matches of the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

City Club beat Azad Sporting Club 2-0 in the second match of the day.

Mujib scored both goals for City Club.

Shahriar of City Club received the yellow card.

Shantinagar Club edged past Lalbagh Sporting Club 1-0 earlier in the afternoon.

Kazi Ataur Rahman was the scorer.

Shahadat Hossain Tipu, Zakir Hossain, Abul Hossain and Helal Uddin of Shantinagar and Zakir and Kamal of Lalbagh invited the yellow cards for rough play.

Jurain Janata Club will play Mahakhali XI in today's only match at 4:15 pm at the same venue.

Jhenidah soccer

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 19: Kushiya District Sports Association beat Narail Players' Samity by five goals to four in the tie-breaker in the inaugural match of the 1992 DC Gold Cup football tournament at the Jhenidah Stadium yesterday (Friday).

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka inaugurated the tournament as chief guest.

Sixteen teams are taking part in the knockout meet organised by the Jhenidah District Sports Association.



Ukrainian Sergey Bubka easily clears 6.13 metres to break his own world outdoor pole vault record at the Tokyo Super International track and field meet yesterday.

—AFP photo

Record entries for nat'l soccer

Sports Reporter



This year's national soccer championship for the Sher-e-Bangla Cup will have a record number of entries, as many as 70 teams.

The qualifying round begins on October 18 at ten different venues across the country.

The meet, which was initially scheduled to get underway on October 10, has been deferred till October 18 for better preparation by the participating teams.

Sixty-two district sports associations (DSAs) out of 64 of the country in eight zones will participate in the qualifying round.

In addition, four office teams and five university teams will compete in two other zones.

The final round of the meet comprising the ten zonal champions, defending champions Bangladesh Army and hosts Mymensingh will get underway on November 4 in Mymensingh.

Four DSAs who will be missing out of the meet are Shariatpur, Barguna, Magura and Panchagar.

The service teams which are not participating are Bangladesh Railway, Bangladesh

Rifles and Bangladesh Customs. The Bangladesh Agricultural University is the only other affiliated university which will not take part in the qualifiers.

Although the tournament committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has selected eight zonal venues — two from each Division — for the DSAs. They are yet to decide the venues for the office on service teams and universities.

The eight district venues are Madaripur and Netrokona from Dhaka Division, Bandarban and Sunamganj from Chittagong Division, Joypurhat and Nilphamari from Rajshahi Division and Khulna and Jessore from Khulna Division.

Sixteen out of 17 DSAs under Dhaka Division have been divided in two groups as follows:

Madaripur: Dhaka, Narayanjan, Munshiganj, Narsingdi, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and hosts Madaripur.

Netrokona: Mymensingh, Sherpur, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur, Tangail, Manikganj, Gazipur and Netrokona.

All 15 DSAs under Chittagong Division will play in the qualifying round in two different zones.

Bandarban: Chittagong, Cox's

Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachari, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni and Bandarban.

Sunamganj: Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur and Sunamganj.

Fourteen out of 16 DSAs of Khulna Division have been placed under the following two groups:

Khulna: Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Bagerhat and Khulna.

Jessore: Narail, Jhenidah, Kushiya, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Satkhira and Jessore.

Fifteen of the 16 DSAs under Rajshahi Division have been placed in the following two groups:

Joypurhat: Rajshahi, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Natore, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna and Joypurhat.

Nilphamari: Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Nilphamari.

The fixtures of the qualifying round will be finalised within a couple of days.

Bangladesh Army and star-studded Dhaka University finished as champions and runners-up in the 16th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football competition held last year.

Marseille denies interest in Maradona



MARSEILLE, France, Sept 19: Diego Maradona will not be joining Olympique Marseille, despite claims from Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino that the French club had offered eight million dollars for the Argentine star, reports AFP.

Jean-Pierre Bernes, the French club's general manager, indicated that Ferlaino was trying to up the price of the player.

"Bernard Tapie did make an offer of eight million dollars, but that was a long time ago," he said. "The Italians are talking about an old bid which is not still on the table and the idea of Maradona coming to Marseille is no longer a possibility."

The suggestion that Ferlaino had received a fax from Tapie, offering eight million for Maradona, came from a source within the Italian Football Association on Friday, as negotiations between Napoli and Spanish club FC Sevilla broke down.

Napoli rejected Sevilla's offer of 4.3 million dollars, as it was only half the nine million dollars price-tag they had put on the 31-year-old's head.

Ferlaino spent most of Friday in the Italian FA offices to discuss Monday's meeting in Zurich called by FIFA, football's governing body, aimed at resolving the protracted transfer.

"That makes it two weeks that I have been trying to keep him calm," said Bilardo.

Bilardo, who coached Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexico in 1986 with Maradona as captain, said the player was under intolerable pressure.

"They've been telling him to wait till tomorrow for the past 45 days," he said. "If newspapers are getting fed up with it, just think what it's like for him."

Maradona, who returned from a 15-month suspension for cocaine use this summer, refuses to play out the final year of his contract with Napoli.

Soccer results

SUVA, Fiji, Sept 19:

New Zealand won the World Cup qualifying Oceania Group 2 tie Saturday after playing to a scoreless draw with Fiji, reports AP.

New Zealand entered the match needing only a tie to advance to the next round. Vanuatu was the third team in the group.

On Sunday, Australia, who lead the Oceania Group 1 standings, plays Tahiti at Brisbane. Last week, Australia beat Tahiti 3-0 at Papete.

—Star photo