

MSC get into the act

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, last year's Navana Premier cricket league champions, recorded a belated but fruitful entry into the transfer market on the fourth day as they signed Harunur Rashid Liton, the dashing opening batsman and young paceman Zakir Hassan, both from the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC), yesterday at the BCCB office.

On a day in which GMCC lost as many as four star players, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, former skipper of the national cricket team, returned to his old club Abahani while wicket-keeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu completed the quartet by opting to play for Gulshan Youth Club.

None of the transfers, however, caused any flutter as the club officials by the grace of the pool system had no fear of having their apple cart upset by any unexpected turn of event and things fell into place in line with the speculations in the sporting circle.

Abahani Kriha Chakra, second only to Mohammedans in last year's title race, also had a fair share of the day's transaction as they ensured the services of four players which included Anisur Rahman apart from veteran batsman Lipu.

Anis, who represented the Bangladesh national youth team, is a promising left-arm new ball bowler with a flowing action and good control. Last year he played for Lalmitia and lent the cutting edge to

an otherwise pedestrian attack of the lower tier team. Abahani seemed to have set their house in order as skipper Farooq Ahmed and medium-pacer Khairuzzaman Babu reportedly gave their tokens to the officials with a view to staying with the Dhanmondi

players who either decided to stay in their old clubs or joined new teams yesterday is given below:

Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu (GMCC), Anisur Rahman (Lalmatia), Sheikh Mesbahuddin Tito (PWD), Nuzaim Ali Khan Shamim (Gulshan) — all four to



Harunur-Rashid Liton, who served GMCC last season, signed for Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday at the BCCB office. —Star photo



Anisur Rahman Anis, a left-arm medium-pace bowler who played for Lalmitia last year, joined the Abahani camp for the coming season. —Star photo

based club for another year.

Among other notable players who took tokens but did not submit them were national pool player Athar Ali Khan and Salahuddin, both from Brothers Union. Athar this year is hard pressed to find a team to play for. Brothers Union, whom Athar captained last year, are reportedly apathetic about the all-rounder this year.

Among the lesser teams Gulshan Youth did some useful signings with allrounders Jafar Ehsan, Ashish Malik and Zakiruzzaman joining their ranks. Promising medium-pace Joydev Basak also parted ways with the Public Works Department to play for Gulshan Youth.

The complete list of the 23

Abahani, Harunur Rashid Liton and Zakir Hossain (GMCC) to Mohammedans. Ashish Malik (Lalmatia), Nasir Ahmed (GMCC), Zakiruzzaman Shabbir (Biman), Shahed Sobhani (Pegasus), Joydev Basak (PWD), Ehsan (PWD), Nasirul Hossain (Lalmatia) — all to Gulshan Youth. Anisur Rahman Prince (Lalmatia), Shariful Huq Plaban (Rupali Bank), Shafayet Umar Rabbu (War) — to GMCC. Zia Hassan Masud of Lalmitia and Kazi Abul Bashar Apan of Nirman to Lalmitia. Sarwar Shahriar of Ajax to Surja Tarun. Mazul Islam of Gandaria, H M Zakaria of Wanderers opted for Dhanmondi while Tashriqul Islam Tutan of Three Star switched over to Evergreen.

More wait for Maradona

ZURICH, Switzerland, Sept 21: Officials of Diego Maradona's club Napoli and FC Sevilla, the team the Argentine soccer star wants to join, will meet Tuesday to discuss his future, the sport's governing body FIFA said Monday, reports AP.

Maradona's contract with Napoli runs through this season, but after finishing a 15-month suspension for cocaine use he has refused to report to the team. Instead, he wants to go to Sevilla.

FIFA said it will host the meeting at its Zurich headquarters. Also attending would be Italian soccer association president Antonio Matarrese, who FIFA has named as mediator, and Spanish soccer association president Maria Angel Villar.

A brief FIFA statement did not identify the Napoli and Sevilla representatives.

The announcement that FIFA persuaded both sides to meet followed a week of on-again, off-again reports in efforts to arrange the transfer of the 31-year-old player from Italy to Spain. Maradona's agent Marcos Franci said Friday the player would give Napoli until Monday to decide on his wish to join Sevilla, but that deadline might have been superseded by Tuesday's meeting.

Italian news reports say Napoli rejected a Sevilla offer of \$4.5 million. Unconfirmed reports have cited a much higher offer from Sevilla and a \$8 million bid from French champion Olympique Marseille.

Reuters adds: The FIFA official said the postponement was due to Napoli officials being unable to arrive in Zurich in time for the scheduled Monday evening meeting.

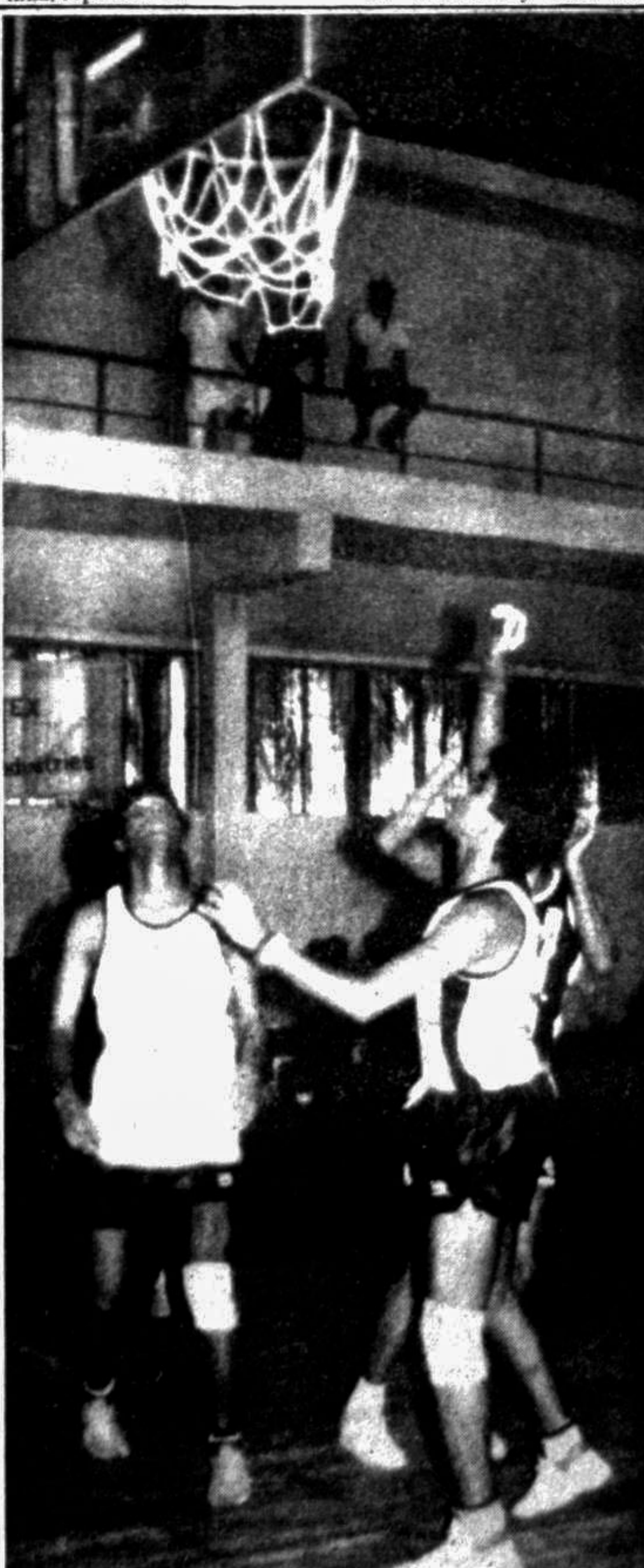
Maradona technically remains under contract to Napoli until June 1993 but refuses to return to Italy.

Sevilla, coached by Maradona's friend and compatriot Carlos Bilardo, have offered 4.5 million dollars for him.

The postponement will prove a further frustration for Maradona, who threatened to fly home to Argentina from Spain on Saturday but agreed to wait until Monday.

Medvedev's third

BORDEAUX, France, Sept 21: Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine won the \$200,000 ATP men's tennis tournament here on Sunday when he beat Spain's Sergi Bruguera 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 in the final, reports AFP.



An exciting moment, from yesterday's Partex First Division basketball league match between Dhumketu Club and Dhaka Wanderers at the wooden floor gym. Dhumketu marched into the super league with a convincing 101-50 win. —Star photo



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (L), his wife Claudia (2nd right) and his daughters Dafna (R) and Gianina, arrive at the airport for talks on his transfer from Napoli to FC Sevilla in Seville, Spain yesterday. —AFP photo

A weekend marked with temper and talent

PARIS, Sept 21: Iristo Stochkov's explosive talent and anger set European football alight again at the weekend, reports AFP.

The Bulgarian striker smashed a first half hat-trick for Spanish champions Barcelona against Atletico Madrid, got himself sent off and left the field with blood streaming from his mouth.

Having been the architect of Barcelona's winning start to the championship and scored in Bulgaria's win over France, in a World Cup qualifier, Stochkov, was furious at being left out of his club's European Cup game last Wednesday.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff said Stochkov did not have the energy for two games in a week. But his temperamental striker gave an emphatic reply.

Three times in Barcelona's 4-1 win over title challengers Atletico, Stochkov escaped opposing defenders to shoot virtually unchallenged past Abel in the Atletico goal.

He continually beat his

marker Lopez, but the tussle between the two ignited Stochkov's anger.

The Bulgarian erupted because the referee did not whistle when he was fouled in the face by the Atletico defender. He was booked in the first half but after being fouled again in the second half was sent off for protesting too much again.

As he left the field, with blood flowing from his swollen mouth, Stochkov still found energy to shouting abuse the match officials.

Atletico, who had made an excellent start to the season, also ended with ten men. Paolo Futre was ordered off shortly after scoring Madrid's goal. Guillermo Amor added Barcelona's fourth goal in the dying seconds.

La Coruna's table-topping start to the season continued with a 2-1 home win over Osasuna Pamplona. Coruna scored in each half through Bebe and Nando and they are the only team with a 100 per cent record.

Real Madrid suffered a new setback with a 0-0 draw at Sporting Ojón. Real Zaragoza are equal second with Barcelona after a 1-0 win over Oviedo.

Bayern Munich welcomed Lothar Matthaus back to the German League and saw another World Cup star Olaf Thon put them ahead against Wattenscheid, but lost their all-win record.

Senegal's Souleyman Sane equalised in the 90th minute. The only consolation was that they remain at the head of a virtually unchanged German title chase.

Bayern lead with a game in hand over Bayer Leverkusen, who drew 2-2 at VFL Bochum. Third-placed Eintracht Frankfurt suffered similarly agonising 1-1 draw with newly-promoted Saarbrücken.

Frankfurt also reached the 90th minute with a one goal lead from Axel Kruse. But his teammate Dietmar Roth planted the ball in his own net in the dying seconds.

Fritz Walter, who leads

United in the European Champions Cup, was on target again for VfB Stuttgart in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Bayer Uerdingen.

Uerdingen scored three times in the last 10 minutes — and were trailing 3-1 after Thomas Strunz scored for Stuttgart in the 85th minute.

Swiss ace Adrian Knapp got Stuttgart underway after five minutes and Walter made it 2-0 after 25 minutes. Andreas Sassen pulled one back for Bayer in the 81st minute, only for Strunz to strike again. But goals in the 87th and 90th minutes from Heiko Lassing and Dirk Bremser levelled the game.

FC Kaiserslautern won 3-1 over Werder Bremen, whose consolation goal came from on-form New Zealander Wynton Rufer.

In Italy, AC Milan won their third game in a row but face a growing storm from Raul Gullit.

The Dutch star gave a public dressing down to club president Silvio Berlusconi and coach Fabio Capello at a meeting with AC Milan supporters before their 2-0 win at Atalanta.

"I have a heart and a sensitivity and at the moment I am not happy," he said, adding to Berlusconi: "If you like me that much then I should not be here because I want to be on the pitch."

Gullit was a substitute and French import Jean-Pierre Papin rested altogether for the game which saw the controversial foreign stars feature again.

Dante Massaro came on as substitute for Dejan Savijeic in the second half to get the first goal. In-form Marco van Basten added the second. The win was further spoiled by fighting between rival fans.

AC Milan are tailed by Torino and Sampdoria who are unbeaten on five points.

Torino swamped Parma 3-0 with Uruguay's Carlos Aguilera scoring twice and Brazilian Walter Casagrande getting the third. Sampdoria won 2-1 at Udinese.

Juventus gave England's David Platt his league debut, after his accomplished mid-field showing in midweek in the UEFA Cup, and he earned them a point with his 73rd minute equaliser in the 2-2 draw at Genoa.

Performance of the day came from Fiorentina, long the nearly men of Italian football, who drubbed newly-promoted Ancona 7-1.

Fabrizio di Mauro and Danish international Drian Laudrup scored twice each in the win.

Inter Milan surprised with a 2-1 win at Napoli to stand level with Juventus and Fiorentina. The second half goals came from German star Matthias Sammer and Serbian striker Salvatore Schillaci.

In France, a hat-trick by Aphet N'Doram put Nantes on top of the French First Division alongside Paris St Germain who had to be content with a 0-0 draw at Montpellier.

The 26-year-old Chad forward was on target in the 45th, 65th and 74th minutes in a 3-2 win over Lens.

Referee Pierre Larigot needed the protection of riot police as he left the pitch after Bordeaux had scored their first win of the season with a home 1-0 triumph over Monaco.

Police stepped in to keep angry Monaco players away from the official after Bordeaux snatched their win thanks to a controversial injury-time penalty from Bixente Lizarazu.

Olympique Marseille drew 1-1 with Croat Alen Boksic levelling after Le Havre took the lead through Teddy Bertin.

Belgian leaders Anderlecht beat Cercle Bruges 5-2 with Dutch international Peter van Vossen scoring twice.

In Portugal, three teams share the top position. Goal difference leaders Maritimo Funchal came back from a goal down to get a 1-1 draw at home to mid-table Estoril.

Nigerian international Ricky scored a hat-trick in Boavista's 4-1 win over Famalicao. Their neighbours Porto stayed in the top three with a 4-1 hammering of Salgueiros.

UEFA upholds Bratislava's victory

ZURICH, Sept 21: European soccer's governing body UEFA has upheld a 4-1 victory by Czechoslovakia's Slovak Bratislava over Hungary's Ferencvaros in a match which caused a diplomatic row, reports AP.

The Hungarians had protested that the result of last Wednesday's Champion's Cup match was invalid because of disruption after police stormed the stadium in the Slovak capital, wounding 15 Ferencvaros fans.

UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Commission rejected the protest at a meeting late Sunday, saying the incidents in the 60th minute of the match took place off the pitch and did not influence the outcome of the game.

However, a UEFA statement said the action of the police was excessive. It particularly criticised the fact that some of the 250 elite troops were masked.

UEFA fined both teams 15,000 Swiss francs (\$11,500). It said Bratislava should have informed UEFA that it was likely to be a high-risk game. Ferencvaros was penalised because of the team's history for fan violence.

UEFA said the two sides had until midnight (2200 GMT) Wednesday to appeal the fines.

After the match, Hungary demanded an official explanation of the action, which one senior foreign ministry official condemned as open political provocation. A foreign ministry spokesman warned it would result in a hostile atmosphere between Hungary and Slovakia, a republic which plans to become fully independent of the Czechoslovak federation next year.

Bratislava, now the Slovak capital, was formerly the seat of the Hungarian Diet and Hungarians still call the city Pozsony.

Gregs win a thriller

Sports Reporter

The Gregs Club made a remarkable second half rally to beat last year's runners-up Dhaka Winners' Club by a narrow one-point margin in their last group match of the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium yesterday. But the result didn't stop Winners from reaching the super league.

The thrilling victory took the Gregs to the top of Group B. But they are unlikely to retain that position for long as the fancied Azad Boys Club are almost certain to snatch it away this afternoon. Azad Boys Club, the only unbeaten team of the group, play their last match today against underdogs Back Stroke Boys Club. If they win, which they are expected to do, they will go on to the super league with a clean slate.

Top three finishers in either group will qualify for the six-team super league.

Winners' Club, last year's losing finalists, started the match confidently, racing away somewhat too easily to a 33-18 first half lead.

But in the second half, things started to change and they found it hard to hold on to their first half form as the Gregs cagers pulled them

Sonali soccer

Sports Reporter

Head Office team edged past Wage Earners' branch 1-0 in one of the two matches of the 1992 Sonali Bank inter-regional (Dhaka-Narayanganj) football competition at the Notre Dame College ground yesterday, says a press release.

Ratan Das scored the decider.

The other match between Local Office and Principal Office, Ramna ended in a scoreless draw.

The meet, organised by the Establishment and Welfare section of Sonali Bank, got under way on September 19.

themselves together. They launched smooth offensives and effectively thwarted their opponents' moves; in short they dominated in every aspect of the game.

Faisal (21), Shahed Ali (12) and Khaled (10) pulled the Gregs basketballers around from what had seemed to be a lost cause.

Tanu, Francis and Asif Hossain notched up 20, 11 and 10 points respectively for the losers but probably were blaming themselves for not being sharper in the second half.

From Group B, the Gregs Club, Azad Boys Club and Dhaka Winners' Club qualified for the super league.

Earlier, in the first match of the day, Dhumketu Club, led by a three-pronged attack by Shahin, Mamun and Tipu, tore the Dhaka Wanderers defence apart to march away with a big 101-50 victory and book their super league tickets.

Wanderers seemed helpless and short of ideas as Dhumketu's Shahin (40), Mamun (22) and Tipu (20) dribbled and scored with absolute abandon dancing away to a 40-22 lead at the end of the first session of play.

That margin proved too much for Wanderers and they wilted before the powerful Dhumketu attack in the second session in which they let their opponents cage in as many as 60 points.

Debashish and Suman scored 15 and 13 points respectively for Wanderers but that was nothing in comparison to the huge total compiled against them.

Yesterday's matches literally brought the first episode of the league to an end. The remaining fixtures of the first leg are of mere academic importance.

Today's other match is between Wanderers and Hornets at 5-30 pm, the last match of the first leg.

Scandal rocks Philippine sports

MANILA, Sept 21: President Fidel Ramos today ordered Philippine sports officials to tighten up screening of Filipino athletes competing abroad after the Philippine Little League team was stripped of their world title, reports AFP.

Ramos insisted that the Filipino kids were blameless and that he was "proud" of them, one week after Little League Baseball International stripped them of the title they won in Pennsylvania over a rule infraction.

The Filipinos, who represented Zamboanga city in the competition were disqualified after their coach confessed that the team had been stacked with players from other districts.

The team have also been hounded by press allegations here that several members were well over the age limit of 12, but no definitive proof has emerged.

"I am now directing the Philippine Sports Commission to ensure the strict compliance by coaches, managers and participants to international competitions and to provide protection to our teams," he told a news conference.

He acknowledged that the sports body had "no clear mandate" over the formation of the team, which was spon-

sored by private organizations. But he said there should not be a repetition of the incident.

"I am proud of our young Little League baseball players. Their prowess in the playing field has been proven and is incontestable. The controversy surrounding their title is truly unfortunate but the children do not have any fault," Ramos said.

He rejected suggestions that he withdrew a one million peso (40,000 dollar) scholarship fund he had given to the boys as a reward when they paid a courtesy call on him.

Veterans score in Brazilian soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 21:

Veterans Junior and Roberto, both aged 38, scored a goal each to set up wins for their Brazilian soccer clubs at the weekend, reports Reuters.

Junior, who played in the 1962 World Cup, scored for Flamengo in the Rio de Janeiro championship with a 25-metre shot from a free kick as his team beat Fluminense 2-1.

Roberto, who played in the 1978 World Cup, opened the scoring for Rio championship leaders Vasco da Gama as they thrashed America Rio de Janeiro 4-0.

Corinthians took the lead in their group of the Sao Paulo championship

following their win.

He said it would serve as the country's token of appreciation of their accomplishments on the baseball playing fields, which is unprecedented in Philippine sports history.

Hong Kong breeze to easy victory

SEOUL, Sept 21: Hong Kong breezed to a 76-3 victory over Malaysia Monday in Group A preliminaries of the 13th Asian Rugby Football Tournament, reports AP.

It was Hong Kong's second victory against no defeats. Malaysia suffered their second consecutive loss.

In another Group A match, South Korea beat Thailand 97-9 for its first victory against one loss. Thailand, also 1-1, meets Hong Kong Wednesday in their last preliminary game.

Eight teams are divided into two groups for the seven-day tournament that began last Saturday. Group A includes South Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia. Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Taiwan form Group B. Finals will be held on Saturday.

In opening matches, Hong Kong beat South Korea 30-13 and Thailand brushed off Malaysia 53-6. On Sunday, Japan overpowered Singapore 120-3 and Taiwan beat Sri Lanka 35-9.