

Rajshahi may not stage ITF meet

Sports Reporter
Although necessary arrangements have been already made to hold the first of the four legs of the ITF Bangladesh-Pakistan Satellite circuit tennis championships, scheduled to be held from September 5 to 11 at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex, hosts Rajshahi DSA might stay back and withdraw their name from the circuit tennis for lack of fund. Zafar Imam, a deputy secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association and the secretary of the Rajshahi Divisional Sports Association told The Daily Star yesterday.

Taka four lakhs have been estimated for the successful conduct of the meet but Rajshahi DSA have not yet received any grant from the government, Imam regretted.

Bangladesh Tennis Federation, who have reportedly received Taka four and a half lakh, from the Bangladesh Tobacco Company for the Satellite tennis, have not contributed anything to the Rajshahi DSA, Imam complained.

Second leg of the competition is expected to be held at the National Tennis Complex at Ramna while the third and the final legs will be held in Pakistan.

If Rajshahi refuse to host the meet they will be fined three thousand dollars by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

But more important thing is that in that case ITF may cancel the Satellite circuit tennis for this part of the world, Imam expressed his concern.

Div III super league from Sept 25

Sports Reporter
Gandaria Famous Sporting Club will play Lalmitia Club in the inaugural match of the eight-team super-league of the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league on September 25 at the Mirpur Stadium.

The six other teams, who have qualified for the super-league, are Maghbazar Kishalaya Sangha, Purbachal Parishad, Matuati Juba Sangha, Badda Jagarani Sangsad, Bashabo Tarun Sangha and Kadamtala Sangsad.

Top two teams of the meet will play in the Second Division league next year.

Earlier, 17 teams in two groups participated in the first round with top four teams moving into the super-league.

Nabarun Sangsad, who did not turn up, were scratched from the Third Division league and will play in the Pioneer league along with Power Development Board, who finished last in the Group B.

Nayeem finishes 42nd in World Jr Athletics

National record holder Abdur Rahim Nayeem of Bangladesh Navy was placed 42nd in men's 400 metre hurdles among 49 participants in the 4th World Junior Athletics which concluded Sunday in Seoul, reports UNB.

Nayeem, the SAF Games silver medalist and new national record holder of the First Power Summer Athletics, finished 6th out of 8 athletes who took part in the heat on the opening day (Sept 16). Despite fever, he clocked 53.62 seconds.

Nayeem was the only athlete of Bangladesh and from SAARC countries who participated in the World Junior Athletics, said Faruqul Islam, Manager of the two-member Bangladesh team, on return from the South Korean capital Tuesday morning.

NSC AGM today

The annual general meeting and sports award distribution ceremony of National Sports Council (NSC) will be held today, reports UNB.

The annual general meeting will be held at the conference room of NSC at 10:00 am with its Chairman and State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain in the chair.

More than one hundred councillors including representatives of different district sports associations will participate in the one-day meet.

The sports award distribution ceremony of NSC will be held at Hotel Purbani at 7:00 pm where Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed will be the chief guest.

Earlier, the NSC announced the names of nine selected sportsmen and organisers for the sports award '91.

They are: Syed Rumman Bin Wali Sabbir and Mohammed Monem Munna (football), Minhazul Abedin Nannu (cricket), Azizul Haider Jamal (Hockey), Golam Ambia and Shamim Satter Momo (athletics), Shahana Parveen (shooting), Tozazzul Hossain Chowdhury of Mymensingh and Rasheed Asgar Chowdhury of Chittagong (organisers).

Masum rejoins Brothers Union

Sports Reporter



Zahid Razzak Masum, the tall, hard-hitting opener made an official declaration of his intention to return to Brothers Union.



Zahid Razzak Masum, went back to Brothers Union after serving Abahani Krira Chakra last season.

— Star photo

Union while some of the stars gave clear indications of retaining their respective positions in the firmament, at the end of the fifth day of transfer for the cricket players.

Twenty-four players were recorded to have changed teams which included Tariquezaman Munir, Mohammad Ali and Abu Hamid Piyal. Munir's switching over to Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club as the captain of a depleted side is too familiar to be played on once again. Mohammad Ali, the once promising but blighted right arm medium pacer left champions Mohammedans for Kalabagan KC for which he once started his career. Abu Hamid Piyal the medium pace bowler joined Mohammedans from Biman.

Although more celebrated names did not come in the foreground in yesterday's inter-club transfer market most of them ruled out the possibility of any drama by either submitting the tokens to the respective officials or by remaining passive.

Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Azhar Hossain Shantu, the three pool players of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club are reportedly remaining in the champion club.

Rafiqul Alam, the first knacky and silent protestor against the pool system took token yesterday and is likely to pass it on to Mohammedan officials for a possible second year.

Nadir Shah, the lanky, seasoned cricketer was amusingly tight-lipped about his fate or decision preferring to make his revelation today.

Brothers had their shopping almost complete by obtaining the tokens of Athar Ali Khan, the stylish right hander who led the side last year and young exciting prospect Habibul Basbar Suman. A competent right hand batsman and a right arm leg-spinner Suman performed well in domestic cricket last year and was extremely unfortunate to have missed a berth in the national team.

Abahani yesterday signed Rafiqul Hassan Ripon a promising right hand batsman who scored more than three hundred runs last year for Bima in Milnars League and took ten wickets.

Rownakul Islam Tutul, the PWD opener signed for GMCC, another office team, while bulky Belayet Hossain Belal, one of the veterans known for his jocular temperament quit Rupali Bank to play for Dhanmondi who seem to be on an old trip. Samtur Rahman Sami a veteran allrounder who had earlier signed up for Dhanmondi can vindicate the statement.

Itinerary for NZ's tour

WELLINGTON, Sept 22: New Zealand will play a Test cricket match against Zimbabwe that will take a break in the middle to allow the two to play a one day international, the Evening Post reported here Tuesday, reports AFP. It said it was believed to be the first time ever that a five-day Test had been broken up to allow a one-dayer. New Zealand will play their first ever Test against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo starting November 1. The tour there will include two Tests before the New Zealanders fly to Sri Lanka for a three Test tour.

THE ITINERARY

- ZIMBABWE**
- October 24 v Zimbabwe Districts, Harare.
- October 26-28 v Zimbabwe B, Harare.
- October 31 v Zimbabwe, Bulawayo.
- November 1-5 v Zimbabwe (1st Test), Bulawayo**
- November 7 v Zimbabwe (2nd Test — first day), Harare.**
- November 8 v Zimbabwe, Harare.
- November 9-12 (2nd Test resumes).**
- SRI LANKA**
- November 17-19 v Kurunegala.
- November 21-26 v Sri Lanka (1st Test), Kandy.**
- November 28 v Sri Lanka (day-night), Colombo.
- December 1-3 v Matara.
- December 6-10 v Sri Lanka (2nd Test), Moratuwa.**
- December 12-17 v Sri Lanka (3rd Test), Colombo.**
- December 19 v Sri Lanka, Colombo.
- December 20 v Sri Lanka (day-night), Colombo.

Jahangir decides to hang his racket

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 22: Jahangir Khan, the greatest squash player of all time, caused a sensation at the World Open championship on Monday by announcing he is retiring at the end of the season, reports Reuter.

The 28-year-old Pakistan, who has won the world crown 15 times, said: "This is my last try for the title. This is definitely my last season."

"I am getting injured again and again and it is very difficult to keep in proper training. I am under a lot of pressure. I don't want to risk losing in the first round of tournaments, so I am quitting."

Jahangir had just beaten German number one Hansi Wicns 15-7, 15-11, 15-7 in the opening round, his first match for six months because of a back injury.

Two years ago, Jahangir was away from the circuit for five months and threatened to retire after suffering extreme mental and physical exhaustion. But he returned to reclaim his world number one ranking.

But now he is down to number five and added: "I do not want to fall any lower than that and there must be a risk if I keep getting injured."

"I will play exhibition matches and I have a business and a job with an airline. I will have plenty to keep me busy."

Defending champion Rodney Martin of Australia was given an early shock by unseeded Philip Whitlock of England before coming through 8-15, 15-9, 15-11, 15-4 in 49 minutes.

Martin, seeded third, looked badly out of form in the opening game but as Whitlock tired, Martin finally hit champion form to reach the second round and a clash with former British champion Del Harris.

Australian-born Austin Adarraga, who now plays for Spain, caused a surprise when he knocked out 13th seed Simon Parke of England 15-10, 15-9, 15-5.

Adarraga is certainly having a better World Open than last year, when he was knocked out in the first round by Ross Norman, and was then banned for three months for disciplinary offences in the match.

Ironically, his second round opponent here is New Zealander Norman.

"I played confidently as I had beaten her twice before."

True grit

DOVER, England, Sept 22: A 28-year-old woman weathered a thunderstorm Tuesday to swim across the English Channel for a 20th time and set a record, reports AP.

Allison Streeter has paddled across the Channel more times than any other woman, taking the record from Canadian Cindy Nicholas who made her 19th crossing 10 years ago, according to Press Association, the national news agency.

Streeter finished her 10 1/2-hour, 22-mile (35 kms) swim from France's Cap Gris Nez to Shakespeare Beach, near Dover, in a thunderstorm.

"It was quite spectacular swimming with lightning flashing around," said Streeter. "It was her seventh crossing this year."

Gullit having a tough time

ROME, Sept 22: Relations between AC Milan and their Dutch star Ruud Gullit have become very strained, according to the player's teammate and compatriot Marco van Basten, reports Reuter.

Van Basten said Gullit felt the club had lost faith in him after being dropped for the first three league games, and it was undermining his confidence.

"I think this is the most difficult period for Gullit since he came to Milan," Van Basten told Italian newspaper "Gazzetta Dello Sport" in Amsterdam, prior to Wednesday's World Cup tie against Norway in Oslo.

"To play to his best, he needs to feel himself surrounded by total faith and when he senses that this trust is not unconditional, then he is immediately undermined."

The 30-year-old Gullit, who has played in European and Italian Cup games this season, is competing for one of the three foreign player places with Van Basten, Frank Rijkaard, Dejan Savicevic, Jean-Pierre Papin and Zvonimir Boban.

Gullit, who performed poorly at the European Championship finals, told the Dutch Football Federation last week he was not available to play for the Netherlands against Norway for "personal reasons."

Milan president Silvio Berlusconi has said that whatever he might have to say to Gullit would be said behind closed doors.

Frazier falls to Wardel

TOKYO, Sept 22: Unseeded Marianne Werdel upset American compatriot Amy Frazier, the fifth seed, 6-1, 6-4 Tuesday in the first round of the Nichirei International Ladies Tennis Championship, reports AP.

Werdel scored with well-placed passing shots in the 71-minute match at the Ariake Coliseum.

Werdel, No 80 in the world women's rankings, jumped to a 4-0 lead before Frazier, ranked 19th, broke service in the fifth game. Werdel broke back in the next game, after trailing 40-0, and then served out the set.

Frazier went ahead 4-1 in the second set as Werdel's shots became erratic, but Werdel regained her touch and won the next five games.

Frazier saved one match point with a passing shot, but then netted a forehand.

"I played confidently as I had beaten her twice before."



Michele Piero, vice-president of the Italian Football Federation, Antonio Matarrese, the president and Corrado Ferlaino, president of FC Napoli (from left to right) are seen during the talks hosted by the FIFA yesterday in Zurich to on the transfer of Diego Maradona from Napoli to Sevilla. Napoli agreed to sell Maradona to Sevilla for \$ 7.5m. — AFP photo

Napoli agree to sell Maradona

ZURICH, Sept 22: Napoli have agreed to sell Diego Maradona to Sevilla for 7.5 million dollar, FIFA said today, reports Reuter.

After weeks of speculation amid stalled negotiations, Napoli finally agreed to sell the former Argentine soccer captain to the Spanish club after a meeting at the International Football Federation's headquarters in Zurich.

Spanish radio reported that Sevilla had agreed to pay an initial transfer fee of 3.5 million dollar within a week and the rest in instalments.

Spanish radio said the remainder of the fee would be paid in four, six-monthly payments without interest.

Sevilla president Luis Cuervas told a joint news conference with Napoli chairman Corrado Ferlaino that the fee "includes all the possible debts which Maradona might have incurred with Napoli or the Italian Football Federation."

Maradona, under contract to Napoli until June 1993, refused to return to Italy after completing a 15-month ban from world soccer for cocaine abuse in June.

Sevilla, coached by his friend and compatriot Carlos Bilardo who led Argentina to World Cup triumph in 1986, stepped in with a bid but Napoli were reluctant to part

and ordered Maradona to return to Italy.

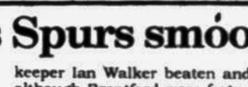
In July, the Argentina Football Association asked FIFA to intervene and after two months of negotiations through the Spanish and Italian Football Federations, representatives from the two clubs met under FIFA auspices on Tuesday.

Maradona arrived in Spain more than a week ago and has trained with Sevilla.

Spanish press had speculated that he would make his debut in Sevilla's home match against Logrones on September 27, but he may wait until the next home fixture with Zaragoza on October 7.

FIFA said the two club presidents would shortly be signing a formal letter of agreement to be witnessed and also signed by FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter.

A spokesman said that one of the conditions set by Ferlaino was that Maradona should not play in Italy for two years. The transfer would go ahead subject to a satisfactory medical.



DIEGO MARADONA

Durie steers Spurs smoothly through

LONDON, Sept 22: Gordon Durie conjured up a goal out of nothing to give Tottenham precious breathing space for the second-leg of their Coca-Cola League Cup second-round tie at Brentford in two week time, reports AP.

Spurs were clinging to a slender 2-1 advantage, given to them by debut boy Kevin Watson's 60th minute header when Durie, playing his last game before facing an FA misconduct charge on Friday, struck a 25-yard short over startled goalkeeper Ashley Bays 18 minutes from time.

Meanwhile, in the Premier League, Nigel Clough rescued his father Brian from the public embarrassment of equalling Nottingham Forest's worst ever run of defeats, by scoring in the 68th minute to force a 1-1 draw with visiting Coventry.

In the Cup match, Spurs went in front from a sweet effort by Teddy Sheringham following Steve Sedgley's through-ball five minutes before half-time.

But both before and after that goal the home side were frequently under pressure by the guile and pace of their brave London neighbour from the Barclays league First Division.

Lee Luscombe had a shot deflected wide with Spurs' keeper Ian Walker beaten and although Brentford were fortunate to survive a penalty appeal just two minutes before Sheringham's goal, when Jamie Bates appeared to trip Darren Anderton, the fully deserved their 55th minute equaliser.

Gary Blissett glanced home a header from Luscombe's cross for his sixth goal of the season and almost hooked home another from the same source three minutes later.

Spurs struggled to regain control and Luscombe missed another good chance but the Paul Allen battled his way through a fierce Bates tackle to find Durie whose intelligent cross was headed home by 18-year-old midfielder Watson.

Brentford, managed by former Spurs midfielder Phil Holder and with ex-Tottenham full backs Brian Statham and Chris Hughton in their defence, continued to give Tottenham worrying moments until Durie's spectacular goal.

Manager Brian Clough went into the clash with Coventry in the full glare of the football world and satellite television cameras after six successive defeats.

It is his worst sequence of results in 25 years of management and another reverse on Monday would have matched Forest's all-time low of seven losses — suffered back in the 1971-72 season when they were relegated.

Matters looked grim for over an hour as high-flying Coventry, seeking an historic fifth successive away win, held the upper hand and the lead thanks to Robert Rosario's opener on the stroke of half time.

The 6ft 4ins striker provided the last touch to Andy Pearce's low drive after Roy Keane had been penalised for obstructing Peter Ndlovu in the penalty area.

But Rosario knew little about his score. He had little chance of getting out of the way of Pearce's blockbuster.

Coventry, boasting six wins in eight matches in their best ever start to a season, were full of pace and confidence. By contrast the Forest side, lacked ideas and cohesion.

Clough's son Nigel saved the day with only his second goal of the season when he reacted first in a crowded six-yard box thru shoot home after Carl Tiler had headed in Gary Crosby's corner.

It was Forest's first point since the opening day of the campaign when they beat Liverpool.

Forest skipper Stuart Pearce, reported to be at loggerheads with his city ground manager, almost helped his side steal and undesired lead moments later with a typically fierce left foot shot but Orgrizovic produced another fine stop to beat out the effort.

Fischer ready to take on Kasparov

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 22: Errant chess genius Bobby Fischer said on Monday he was interested in playing against world champion Garry Kasparov but not before the Russian government paid him royalties on a chess book, reports Reuter.

"His government owes me some money for my book. I won't forgive them that. After the debt is settled, negotiations about a match with Kasparov could start," the American told a news conference in the Montenegrin resort of Sveti Stefan.

Fischer, in relaxed mood, was answering questions after the end of the first part of his 5 million US dollar rematch against Boris Spassky — a repeat of their epic 1972 World Championship encounter in Reykjavik.

Fischer, 49, who won that match and then went into retirement for 20 years, leads this series by five games to two against Spassky, 55, whose play may have been affected by illness.

Doctors said last week the former Soviet Grandmaster, now a naturalised Frenchman, was suffering from high blood pressure and insomnia.

The players now move to Belgrade where they will continue until one of them has 10 points and takes the 3.5 million dollar winner's prize. Draws, of which there have been four so far, do not count towards the total.

Fischer surprised no one by saying he considered his first and last games the best of those played so far.

He stunned experts with a brilliant win at the start of the series, then appeared to have lost his way for several games, allowing Spassky to take a 2-1 lead before finding form again and running off a hat-trick of victories for 4-2.

In Sunday's 11th game Fischer played an apparent in-

novation by sacrificing an early pawn against the Sicilian defence and then relentlessly destroying Spassky.

"Fischer is playing like a young man," said Spassky, calling him "The king of chess".

Fischer broke US law by agreeing to play in Yugoslavia in defiance of a trade embargo and is in dispute with the US tax authorities over previous earnings.

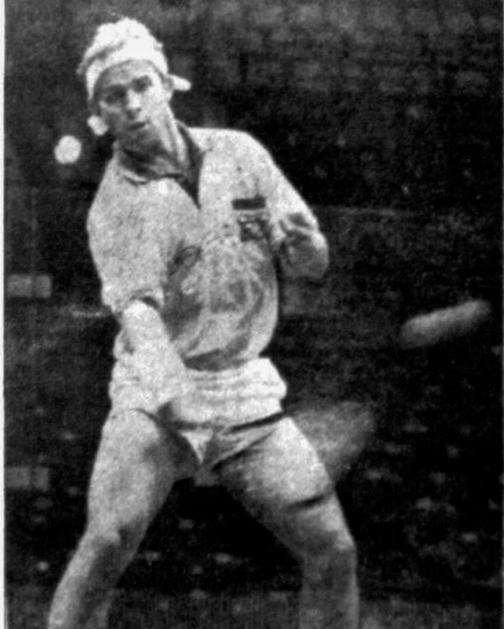
He declined to comment on reports that these disputes might lead to his being put on trial or becoming a permanent exile, possibly in Yugoslavia.

"I am now concentrating solely on the match and will see later about temporary residence in Yugoslavia," he said.

Tyson's attorney wants new trial

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 22: The attorney for Mike Tyson wants to present the boxer's appeal for a new trial in an oral argument before the Indiana Court of Appeals, reports AP.

Alan M. Dershowitz, a Harvard University law school professor representing Tyson, said Monday that the significant legal issues raised in the appeal of Tyson's rape conviction deserve a full airing before a three-member appellate panel of Indiana's second-highest court.



New Zealander Ross Norman hits the ball in his first round match of the World Open squash championship at Johannesburg's Standard Bank Arena on Monday against Welshman Adrian Davies which he won 15-9, 10-15, 15-12, 14-17 and 15-10. — AFP photo