

Poura Gold Cup semifinal today

Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 3: BSEC (Dockyard) of Narayanganj booked the last semifinal berth of the local Poura Gold Cup football tournament beating Dhaka First Division league campaigners Arambagh Krira Sangstha by a solitary goal in the last quarterfinal match of the competition at the local Omani Stadium.

Luxmi of Dockyard netted the winner in the 23rd minute of the first half.

BSEC (Dockyard) will take on Mukttajoddha KS, who won their quarterfinal encounter against Shuktara Jubo Sangsad, on October 5.

In tomorrow's semifinal, Dhaka league veterans Rahmatganj MFS face local favourites Mohan Club.

Rahmatganj beat fellow Dhaka First Divisioners Eskaton Sabuj Sangha 4-1 while Mohan Club edged past Nitaiganj Krira Chakra 1-0 in Friday's quarterfinal.

BU to borrow Abahani stars

Sports Reporter

The 1991 Federation Cup football champions Brothers Union, who will represent the country in the 12th Asian Club Championship, will seek the borrowed services of some leading local footballers belonging to other teams, according to a responsible Brothers Union official yesterday.

Brothers will play Wahab Club of Pakistan in the first leg of the Central Asian zonal qualifiers on October 10 in Dhaka, instead of October 9 as was initially scheduled.

The return match will be held in Pakistan on October 17.

The winners will qualify for the eight-team finals to be

held from December 19-30. The venue of the final round is yet to be decided.

Brothers officials, who have singled out the forward line as

their weak point, are likely to recruit Rizvi Karim Rumi, Mamun Joarder and Zakir Hossain from the Dhaka First Division league champions



RUMI



MAMUN JOARDER

Abahani Krira Chakra.

Masud Rana, the promising national defender, who also plays for Abahani, is also likely to don Brothers Union's colours in the forthcoming meet.

In addition, the PWD striker Rakib has also been approached by Brothers officials.

Abahani, who included veteran winger Wasim Iqbal and Aatur Rahman in their side for the recently-concluded Lokopyta Bordoloi memorial trophy in Assam, India, are likely to allow their players to play for Brothers Union. Officials of both teams have already had a talk in this connection. Final agreement is likely to be made within a couple of days.

Brothers Union received a walkover against the Nepalese representative to qualify for the Central Asian zonal final while Wahab Club beat a Maldives Club on their way to the final.

Twenty-five Asian countries have been placed in four groups — West Asia, Central Asia, South East Asia and East Asia.

Nine teams are vying for the four berths reserved for West Asia. They are Lebanon, Bahrain, Jordan, the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Six countries are competing for a single South East Asian berth. They are Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei.

Two teams from East Asia will play in the final round. They are DPR Korea, Hong Kong, China, Chinese Taipei and Japan.

Either Brothers Union or Wahab Club will fill the only berth reserved for Central Asia.

Under Asian Football Confederation (AFC) rules, players representing one team in a tournament in any season shall not be eligible to play for another side in any other AFC-sponsored or sanctioned competition during the remainder of the season. Since Abahani did not qualify for any AFC meet this year — either the Cup Winners' Cup or the Asian Club Cup — its players are eligible to play for Brothers Union.

Meanwhile, last year's Federation Cup runners-up Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club will be representing Bangladesh in the Asian Cup Winners' Cup later this year.

Lodhi — the proud Pathan

Sports Reporter

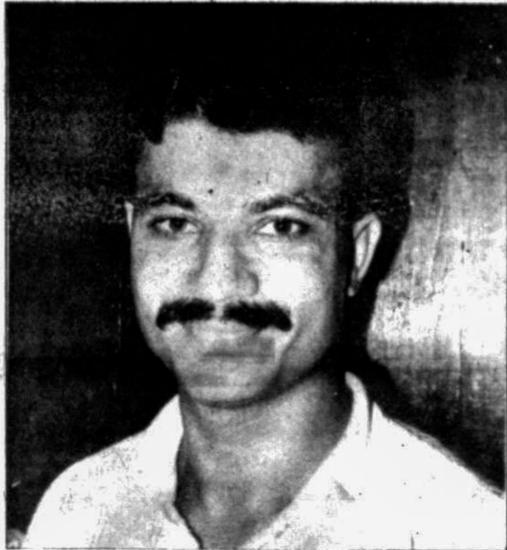
With the ninth Qazi Motahar Hossain international invitational chess tournament only a week away players from abroad have already started coming here.

Mahmud Ahmed Khan Lodhi, the champion of 1990 — when the meet was last held — and seven-time Pakistan national champion, has already won a round in this cerebral warfare comprising 16 players.

Six Indians, including three International Masters and three rated players, will be taking part in this tournament along with Pakistani International Master Lodhi and one German chess player, also an International Master.

The tournament, which will be played on a robin league system, will be inaugurated on October 6. The six Bangladesh players who are taking part in this tournament are FIDE Masters, Ziaur Rahman, national champion Rezaul Bin Sattar and Tahmidur Rahman — three of the Bangladesh quartet who took part in the recently-concluded festival chess tournament in Qatar.

Niaz Mursheed, the only Grand Master from Bangladesh shared the runner-up slot, along with others who finished second only to the eventual champion, Russian International Master V Kuzmin.



MAHMUD AHMED KHAN LODHI

Saifuddin Lavlu, national eves' champion International Women Master Rani Hamid, Ziaul Quader Tuhi and Zillur Rahman Champak are the other Bangladeshi players likely to take part barring Rezaul, Zia and Tahmid.

Talking to The Daily Star Mahmud Lodhi, the pre-eminent Pakistani chess player, expressed his desire to win the title he won couple of years back. However, Lodhi was all praise for the young Bangladeshi chess players like Rezaul Bin Sattar and Ziaur Rahman.

A genial but proud Pathan from Gujranwala where his ancestors settled and who boasts himself as someone who considers 'Izzat' (respect) and 'Piyar' (love) ahead of everything else, unabashedly confessed his recent loss to Rezaul in Qatar. The Pathans are not known for their calculating minds, but Lodhi is a pleasant exception. He is cool and composed under pressure.

Lodhi had a special word of praise for Ziaur Rahman, the FIDE Master, calling him an aggressive player.

The 28-year-old Lodhi said that with regular exposure he is bound to improve a lot. Lamenting the lack of cooperation at both government and private level for the development of chess in Pakistan, Lodhi commended the increasing involvement of private sponsors in Bangladesh. A businessman, Lodhi has signed a two-year contract to hone the skills of the young players in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE.

Comparing the 'bleak future' of chess in Pakistan with that of Bangladesh, Lodhi said that Bangladesh's showing in Qatar was quite good and it was indicative of the marked improvement over the years.

Advocating for a yearly competition among the SAARC countries, Lodhi who happens to be on his fourth visit to Bangladesh, observed that without coaching players are bound to get stunted.

Even in countries like China where players do not have much exposure they have many good players simply because they have a streamlined coaching system. Filipino players are good and they play lot of tournaments both at home and abroad.

Picking Bangladesh as second only to India in chess strength, the uninhibited jovial Pakistani passed it on that the Qataris are improving fast. "They have a Russian Grand Master to coach the young prospects," he said.

Zia wins title

Sports Reporter

Former national champion FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman became the undefeated champion in the Azad Products holiday (weekend) chess competition securing six and a half points out of a possible seven.

International Master Zillur Rahman Champak of Biman and FIDE Master Jamilur Rahman of Ansars, both ex-national champions, placed second and third respectively after the tiebreaker, each of them having secured five and a half points.

Abul Kashem Bhuyan of BTMC and A N M Ruhul Quddus were placed fourth and fifth respectively with five points each.

Abdul Khaleq of Pory Electronics, Khurshed Alam, Kalmullah Kalam, Amin Ahmed of Konica and Krishnapada Biswas of the Dhaka University Chess team placed from sixth to tenth, all of them managing four and half points each.

The seven-round Swiss league tournament under the auspices of Anurban Chess Club which concluded in the city Friday, was participated by 32 players.

Pakistani IM Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi, who is now in the capital to compete in the forthcoming 'ninth' Dr Q M Hossain International Masters' tournament, distributed prizes among the winners at the NSC chess room.

Referee Nasir Chowdhury's award of a penalty to East End Club in the 13th minute of the second half angered the Shantinagar players and officials, leading to an interruption of the proceedings.

Shantinagar, who led 1-0 at the breather, protested and pressed the referee to change his decision, halting play for about ten minutes.

Nasir Chowdhury stuck to his guns and Shawkat Ali drew level for East End Club by converting the penalty.

The proceedings once again came to a stand still immediately following the penalty conversion when stand-by players, officials and supporters of both teams entered the playing area.

Although both teams alleged that the referee blew the whistle before completion of the scheduled time, the referee in his report wrote that full time was played.

East End Club now have two points while Shantinagar Club have one from two matches each.

The other match of the evening between Muslim Institute and City Club was in progress when reports last came in.

Rajshahi, BAU booters win

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi University put behind the memory of their humiliating 1-6 drubbing at the hands of the hosts Jahangirnagar University Thursday to dump BUET 4-0 in yesterday's first match of the inter-university football championship at the Mir Mosharruf Hossain Hall playground in Savar.

Ruhjn opened the account for the winners in the 10th minute of the first half. Rest of the play in the first session could not produce any goals as both teams fought hard.

In the second half, Mithu made the breakthrough to put team his two goals ahead eight minutes into the second half. Thereafter it was easier for the Rajshahi forwards to score.

In the 66th minute Ruhin scored his second to make it three-nil.

Mithu then got his second goal of the match to complete the tally.

Although the score is suggestive of a one-sided affair the result could have been different had the BUET strikers been able to drive home the chances they got.

In the second match of the day, at the same venue, Bangladesh Agricultural University beat Islamic University 3-2.

Mustafiz netted in the 35th minute of the first half to put his side one-up.

Arifur doubled the margin in the 15th minute of the second half and Amal made it three in the 26th.

But in the dying minutes of the match the Islamic University strikers suddenly burst into action and Rumi scored to quick goals to bring the match back into life. Alas it was too late.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka University vs Chittagong University (1:30 pm)

Jahangirnagar University vs BUET (3:30 pm)

SASF meets in city Oct 12

National representatives of the South Asian Sports Federation (SASF) will meet in the capital on October 12 to decide the preparations for the Sixth SAF Games scheduled next year, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has already invited all the seven SAARC member countries to join the meeting, particularly to finalise the disciplines on events of the games to be held in Bangladesh in December 1993.

Nepal has already confirmed participation in the meet while the other members are expected to confirm their participation within the next few days.

Bangladesh, hosts of the 1985 Second SAF Games, will also press the other members to increase the participation fee which is now US dollars 16 per head.

Earlier, the BOA selected a tentative list of 15 disciplines for the SAF Games of which 10 will be included in the Games.

BCCB invites entries for office league

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has confirmed its intention to introduce the newly proposed 'office league' from this year.

Yesterday, in a press release, the BCCB asked all the willing organisations to put their intentions in black and white in written applications by October 20.

Earlier, in a circular issued on September 16, the BCCB first sounded off the proposal of an office league, parallel to the club league, in the backdrop of resentment among the cricketers at the introduction of the players' pool.

The Dhaka Cricket Players' Association, a welfare organisation for the cricketers, had recommended for the introduction of an office league from the coming season to provide more paying opportunities for its members.

BHF calls up 11 more for camp

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation named 11 more players for the camp to select the team for the All India Surjit Singh memorial hockey tournament to be held in the Indian town of Jullunder, Punjab from November 3-13, reports UNB.

With these 11 players, the BHF has so far called 27 players including all 16 members of the national junior team which participated in the Second Asian Junior tournament held in Kuala Lumpur last month.

The camp will begin at the BKSP, Savar from October 5 and the players have been asked to report at the camp site on the day, says a press release.



Diego Maradona (R) shakes hands with a fan (L) after his arrival with the Sevilla soccer team in Bilbao, Spain yesterday, where he will play in his first league match of FC Sevilla against Athletic De Bilbao today. — AFP photo

Maradona's exile ends today



MADRID, Oct 3: 24, 1991.

Diego Maradona returns to competitive football on Sunday, making his Spanish league comeback for Sevilla at Athletic Bilbao, his bogey team in days at Barcelona almost a decade ago, reports Reuter.

Sevilla officials have confirmed that only an accident can keep the newly-signed former Argentine captain out of the starting line-up in Bilbao's San Mames Stadium, the "Cathedral" of Spanish football.

With a capacity 45,000 crowd, the Basque Citadel where football is traditionally played in English-style — hard, fast, no prisoner taken — will be a stern test for the midfield maestro in his first serious match for 18 months.

Maradona, 31, was transferred to Sevilla from Italian club Napoli for 5 million dollar last month after ending a 15-month world soccer ban for cocaine abuse.

He has played just one friendly game since then, helping Sevilla to a 3-1 win over Bayern Munich with many uniquely skilful touches and surviving the full 90 minutes.

His last league appearance was for Napoli against Sampdoria of Genoa on March

Carlos Bilardo, former Argentine national team manager who now coaches Sevilla, told reporters: "Diego is really motivated and is dying to get out onto the pitch. I am not concerned that he is not 100 per cent physically. What matters is just having him in the team."

Maradona's past experience of Athletic Bilbao is all bad. During his two seasons with current Spanish champions Barcelona between 1982 and 1984, Maradona fell foul of the Basques repeatedly.

In both seasons athletic, then coached by current Spanish National trainer Javier Clemente, snatched the league title from the clutches of habitual winners Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Maradona's last game for Barcelona, the Spanish Cup final in June 1984, ended in a 1-0 defeat by Bilbao and a punch-up on the pitch which brought him, among others, a hefty suspension.

The previous September a crashing tackle by Bilbao full-back Andoni "The Buicher" Golektxea during a league match in Barcelona's Camp Nou Stadium had wrecked Maradona's left heel and kept him out of the game for three months.

Maradona himself was happy to put the past aside. "It does not bother me that my return is at San Mames. I am going to Bilbao without the slightest desire for revenge and without any resentment against anybody," he told reporters.

Golektxea, until last week on the Athletic Bilbao coaching staff but now appointed number two to Clemente with the national squad, was equally keen not to stir bad memories. "That is all history and is forgotten," he said. "I am delighted that Maradona is making his comeback in Spain. He is a great player and everyone in football must be happy that he is back in the game."

When the whistle goes on Sunday, Maradona can expect to find himself in very close company with 22-year-old Bilbao defender Altor Larrazabal, who is detailed to mark him.

Athletic, managed this season by former West German national coach Jupp Heynckes, have won two and lost two of their first four games this season, but they are notoriously hard to beat on their home turf.

Sevilla have a slightly better record, with two wins and a draw against one defeat. They are currently sixth in the table.

Stuttgart, PAOK face action

ZURICH, Switzerland, Oct 3: European soccer officials will decide Saturday how to punish Germany's VfB Stuttgart for a coach's blunder and Greek club PAOK over their rioting fans, reports AP.

Stuttgart could be disqualified from the Champions Cup after using four foreign players, one over the allowable limit, for the final seven minutes against English club Leeds on Wednesday.

Leeds won Wednesday's game 4-1 to tie the aggregate score at 4-4, but the Germans advanced on away goals (1-0).

It was later discovered Stuttgart substituted Yugoslav defender Jovica Simanic for

midfielder Maurizio Guadino in the 83rd minute, placing him on the field with Icelandic midfielder Eyjoelgur Sveinsson, fellow Yugoslav defender Slobodan Dubajic and Swiss striker Adrian Knap.

"It is an obvious mistake by (coach) Christoph Daum and manager Dieter Hoernes," Stuttgart president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder said. "If a mistake like that had happened in any other commercial organisation the board would have to be fired straight away."

UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Commission will decide Saturday whether to disqualify Stuttgart and send Leeds into the next round against Glasgow Rangers. Alternatively, it could rule

the game a forfeit for Leeds, giving it a 3-0 victory, but that would leave the two-leg aggregate score 3-3, and thus requiring a replay.

The Commission also will hear how fans of PAOK Salonica hurled fireworks and other items onto the field after their team fell behind 2-0, 4-0 on aggregate, to French club Paris-St. Germain.

Dutch referee John Blankenstein halted the game in Salonica and took the players off the field. As they left, they were pelted with stones from fans who managed to get on to the playing area.

Under UEFA's rules, PAOK faces expulsion and a lengthy ban from any European event.

Malaysian PM pontificates on bid for C'wealth Games

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad on Saturday lectured sports officials who have so far failed to reach a consensus on how to stage the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, reports AFP.

The problem with Malaysian sports is that boardroom battles are fiercer than on the playing field, said Mahathir, reacting to press reports of infighting among sports officials on how the Games should be managed.

Mahathir complained that disputes among sports officials could be avoided if they stopped pulling ranks and bickering over petty issues.

Kuala Lumpur, demanding that it was time a developing country be allowed to host the Games, beat out Adelaide, the capital south Australia State, to win the right to stage the quadrennial event.

The Games have only been staged once outside the traditional bloc of Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia — in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1966.

The Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) and the Sports Ministry however, remain divided over a host of issues, including the appointment of officials to Sukom, the company which will manage the Games and the event's marketing rights.

Sports Minister Annuar Musa announced recently that Mahathir's brother-in-law, Hashim Ali, had been appointed chief executive officer of Sukom but OCM officials said the announcement was premature.

News reports quoted an OCM official as saying that although two candidates, in-

cluding Hashim, were nominated by the OCM for the top post, only Hashim's name was submitted to the Prime Minister.

The appointment of Hashim, who retired as chief of the defence forces earlier this year to marshal the Games, fuelled speculation that he would be appointed the mayor of Kuala Lumpur.

Former mayor Elyas Omar, who resigned last month after allegations that he had misused public funds, was among those who helped in promoting Malaysia's bid to host the Games.

Mahathir said there was no legal condition that the person supervising preparations for the Commonwealth Games also be the mayor of Kuala Lumpur.

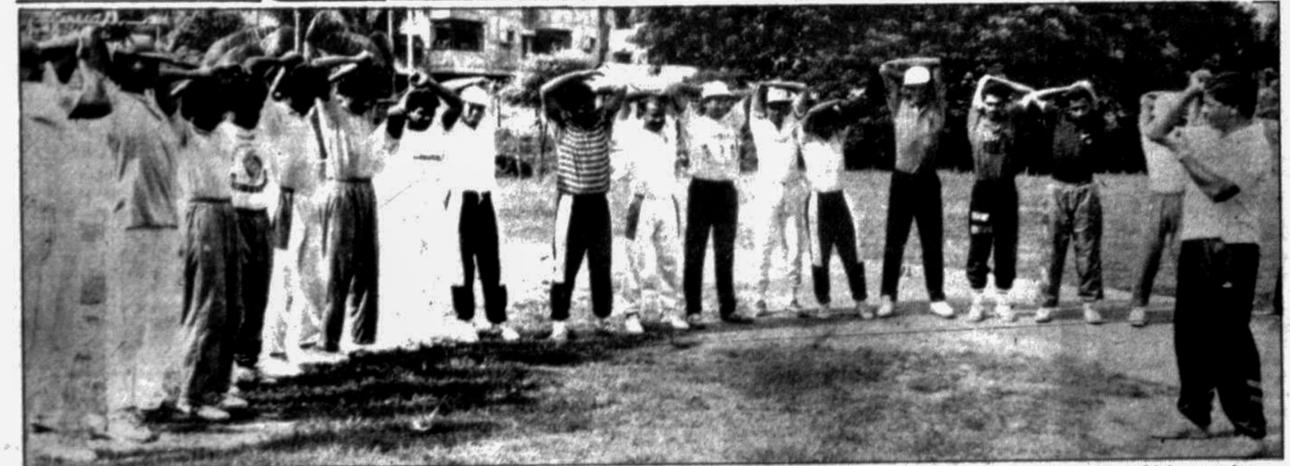
"But if the press wants to speculate, they can carry on," he said.

NZ climbers make it without oxygen

KATHMANDU, Oct 3: Three New Zealanders have successfully climbed the 6440 metre (21,162 feet) high Mount Cholatse via the Rocky West Face route without the aid of Oxygen, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

The climbers — Martin Hunter, 28, Cameron Falkner, 30, and Derek Chinn, 27, — made the ascent on September 26, and returned safely to their basecamp the next day, the official announcement said.

Warming up for the big occasion ... Coach Osman Khan (extreme right) puts the reigning Navana Premier League champions Mohammedan Sporting Club cricketers through their paces at the nets at the club tent yesterday. — Star photo



Warming up for the big occasion ... Coach Osman Khan (extreme right) puts the reigning Navana Premier League champions Mohammedan Sporting Club cricketers through their paces at the nets at the club tent yesterday. — Star photo