

Bagan to play in President Cup

Sports Reporter

Mohun Bagan Athletic Club of Calcutta will take part in the President Cup football tournament scheduled to begin in Dhaka on January 10 next year.

The reputed Calcutta team confirmed their participation in the international tournament yesterday.

Two clubs from Russia, one each from Poland, Malaysia and South Korea are expected to add to the meet which will have two host teams in the shape of Bangladesh 'Reds' and 'Greens', or any other colour for that matter.

9th QM chess resumes today

Sports Reporter

Three adjourned matches of the ninth Quazi Motahar Hussain International Masters chess championship were held at the NSC conference room yesterday, a rest day for the other competitors.

Jamilur Rahman of Bangladesh beat Atanu Lahiri of India in the morning and then went on to beat compatriot Khondaker Kayes Hassan in the evening to secure four and a half points after the tenth round.

Atanu quit after just one move of the carried over eighth round match, adjourned after the 65th move Friday.

Yesterday evening Jamil, a former national champion, beat Kayes Hassan in their ninth round match.

In the other match completed on the day PDS Girinath of India, playing with a French defence, beat Zillur Rahman Champak, the only IM of Bangladesh, after the 70th move.

The victory gave Girinath five and a half points.

POINTS TABLE

Following is the points table after the 10th round of the 15-round competition:

	W	D	L	Pts
K Murugan (Ind)	6	4	0	8
Ziaur Rahman (Ban)	7	2	1	8
MA Lodhi (Pak)	5	3	2	6.5
Hamed Mansour (Yem)	5	3	2	6.5
Lenka Ravi (Ind)	4	3	3	5.5
Refaat (Ban)	3	5	2	5.5
Arun Vaidya (Ind)	3	5	2	5.5
PDS Girinath (Ind)	2	7	1	5.5
Z R Champak (Ban)	3	4	3	5
Jamirur Rahman (Ban)	3	4	3	4.5
K Kayes Hassan (Ban)	2	3	5	3.5
Tahmidur Rahman (Ban)	1	5	4	3.5
S Labu (Ban)	2	2	6	3
Atanu Lahiri (Ind)	2	1	7	2.5
Ravi Hamid (Ban)	0	2	8	1

Nat'l age-group swimming Oct 22-25

The 12th national age-group swimming championship, organised by the Bangladesh Swimming Federation, will be held in the capital on October 22-25, reports UNB.

About 250 promising swimmers representing 21 teams from all over the country are expected to participate in competitions to be held in four different age groups.

These are: Under 10-years, 11-12 yrs, 13-14 and 15-17 years.

Besides, a youth competition for over 17-year-old swimmers will also be held this time on October 25, the concluding day of the four-day meet.

The participating teams are — Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP), Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), Rajshahi Education Board, Shimanta Swimming Club of Chuadanga, Dolphin Swimming Club of Jessore, Pabna Swimming Club and Pabna DSA, Rajshahi, Munshiganj, Dhaka, Satkhira, Comilla, Bagherhat, Champainawabganj, Kushtia, Madaripur, Jhenidah, Gopalganj, Brahmanbaria, Jessore and Bogra DSAs.

Khulna drown Bhola 13-1

Sports Reporter



Fourteen goals with three hat-tricks — and that in one match — was the highlight of the second day of the qualifying round of the 17th national football championship for the Sher-e-Bangla Cup now being held across the country.

The day also saw the beginning of the zonal qualifiers at another three venues including Khulna.

On Saturday, the qualifying round got under way at three zonal venues out of ten.

At Khulna, the hosts sank lowly Bhola DSA by 13 goals to one in a farcical game thanks to three hat-tricks by Asaduzzaman, Jahangir (Sr) and Jahangir (Jr).

Khulna DSA led 8-0 at the breather.

Jahangir (Jr) opened the flood gates for Khulna in the very third minute of play.

Taking the cue, Asaduzzaman scored three goals in a row in the 11th, 20th and 21st minutes to notch up the first hat-trick of this year's national championship.

It was then Jahangir (Sr)'s turn to score three goals in quick succession — in the 28th, 31st and 43rd minutes.

Shah Alam got another for the winners in the first half of the totally mismatched encounter.

Jahangir (Jr), who had scored the first goal, got another two in the 53rd and 68th minutes to achieve the third hat-trick of the match.

Asaduzzaman and Jahangir (Sr) got another two goals for their side in the 62nd and 76th minutes respectively.

Sunny completed the tally for the victors a minute from time.

Hapless Bhola got their consolation goal from Jagul Kater in the 58th minute.

With this convincing victory Khulna moved into the zonal semifinals where they will play the victors of today's match between Jhalakathi and Peripur.

The Khulna zonal final will be held on October 26.

At Jessore, the hosts edged past Narail DSA by three goals to two in the opening match of the Jessore zonals.

Zahid opened the account for Jessore in the 40th minute (1-0).

Kazi Jamal Hossain doubled the margin in the 46th minute (2-0).

Mahfuzur Rahman reduced the margin for Narail in the 74th minute.

Azizur Rahman of Jessore

made it 3-1 in the 81st minute but Mizanur Rahman narrowed the gap for Narail in the 85th minute (3-2).

Jessore will meet the winners of today's match between Meherpur and Jhenidah in the semifinals on October 23.

The opening day for the University zone qualifiers at the Mirpur Stadium in the city saw the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) receiving a walk-over against Jahangirnagar University.

Jahangirnagar University, who only last week finished joint-champions with Dhaka University in the inter-university championship, did not show up for reasons best known to themselves.

BUET will face Rajshahi University in the semifinals tomorrow.

Another walk-over may mark today's fixture of this zone as Chittagong University have reportedly expressed their inability to participate. Chittagong are scheduled to play Dhaka University today.

At the Banani Naval Complex, Bangladesh Ansars beat hosts Bangladesh Navy 2-1 in a match of the Services zone.

Angur put Ansars ahead in the fourth minute (1-0).

M Hossain drew level for Navy in the 44th minute (1-1).

The sailors failed to surge ahead when Mozammel muffed a penalty in the 67th minute.

Alfaz netted the decider for Ansars in the 63rd minute (2-1).

Bangladesh Navy team officials later filed a letter of protest with the Bangladesh Football Federation, challenging the bonafides of several

East End-WASA play-off today

Sports Reporter

Former First Division side East End Club clash with Dhaka WASA Club in a play-off match to decide the runners-up of the Second Division soccer league today at 4:30 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

One hundred and fifty competitors from nine city schools took part in the meet in three groups. The participating schools were St. Joseph's High School, St. Gregory's High School, Maple Leaf High School, Vigarunnessa Noon School, Kakoli High School, Radiant International, Residential Model School, Dhanmondi Tutorial and Dhanmondi International.

Brother John Rozario distributed prizes and certificates among the winners and participants at a simple but impressive ceremony attended by teachers, students, guardians and sport personalities.

In the junior group, Rezaul Rahman, Jashim Gani and Ejaz Ahmed — all from Dhanmondi International — became champion, runner-up and third respectively.

In the intermediate group, Tanvir Asghar and Rezwana Amin Khan of St. Joseph's School became champion and runner-up while Seemim Ahsan of Vigarunnessa Noon secured the third position.

In the senior group, the championship trophy went to Salahuddin Khan of Residential Model School. Meraj Hossain of Dhanmondi International and Rajiv of St. Joseph's bagged the second and third prizes respectively.

The prizes of the inter-class chess competition of St. Joseph's were also distributed on the occasion.

BWSF secy off to Iran

Sports Reporter

Secretary of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation Nazma Shamim left Dhaka yesterday for Iran to attend the two-day sports solidarity congress for women of the Islamic countries which begins today, says a press release.

She will represent the Bangladesh Olympic Association in the programme.

Nazma Shamim will return on October 25.

Damal cricket restarts today

Sports Reporter

The 14th Damal Summer cricket tournament restarts after a gap of five days because of inclement weather.

Surja Tarun Club meet Dhanmondi Club in one of the day's two matches at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Victoria Sporting Club face Sadharan Bima at the Dhaka stadium.

Both matches begin simultaneously at 9.30 am.

The curtain-raising tournament of local domestic cricket season came to a halt on October 15 after incessant rain during the past week rendered the pitches unplayable.

Surrey moves to stamp out ball tampering

LONDON, Oct 19: Surrey, officially warned by English cricket's governing body for tampering with the ball, has moved to stamp out the crime, reports AP.

From next season, Surrey players will hand the ball to umpires for inspection after every over and each wicket.

Surrey chairman Derek Newton said Monday he wanted all other counties to adopt the same system.

Newton released the report Monday of an internal inquiry into ball tampering, set up last month after the county was fined dollars 1,620 by the Test and County Cricket Board for three breaches of cricket's Law 42(4) and (5) over the past three seasons.

The laws relate to lifting the seam and changing the condition of the ball.

Allegations of ball tampering against Pakistan during their summer tour of England soured relations between the two teams, and created uproar within the cricket world.

"Unfortunately it is very seldom that umpires can identify individual culprits in cases like this," Newton said. "We shall look very much to Alec next year and he is very keen that this whole problem be put right."

Fischer-Spassky Game 22 drawn

BELGRADE, Oct 19: Chess legends Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky drew the 22nd game of their 5 million dollars replay series in Belgrade on Sunday after 26 moves and three hours and 20 minutes of play, reports Reuter.

Neaz Morshed inter-school chess concludes

The Neaz Morshed inter-school invitational chess competition ended yesterday at St. Joseph's High School with distribution of prizes and certificates, reports BSS.

The competition, sponsored by the Joshephite Chess Club, was inaugurated on September 28 by the Head Master of St. Joseph's School Brother John Rozario.

One hundred and fifty competitors from nine city schools took part in the meet in three groups. The participating schools were St. Joseph's High School, St. Gregory's High School, Maple Leaf High School, Vigarunnessa Noon School, Kakoli High School, Radiant International, Residential Model School, Dhanmondi Tutorial and Dhanmondi International.

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African stars glitter in Europe

PARIS, Oct 19: Diego Maradona and Ruud Gullit may grab the headlines, but African footballers now keep many European teams at the top of the pile, reports AFP.

While millionaire strikers like Jean-Pierre Papin and Rudi Voller wallow in the media spotlight, African players were last week's top goal scorers in France, Germany and Portugal.

The quiet revolution in Europe has been the arrival of Africa's flourishing football talent from Liberia, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Senegal.

The situation is nowhere more clear cut than in France, where hero of the moments is Paris St Germain's prolific Liberian George Weah.

Weah was discovered by Monaco while playing for Cameroon's Tonnerre Yaounde. He spent five years in Monaco before heading for Paris this season.

But he has not forgotten those who helped him to the top, particularly Monaco coach Arsene Wenger.

"When I arrived in Monaco, he made it clear from the start that if I worked hard, he would make a footballer of me," said Weah. "Even though I'm no longer at Monaco, and even if one day I leave Europe and go back to Africa, I will never forget Arsene."

"He always treated me like a son, and that helped a lot when I arrived. It is never very easy for an African player to adapt and to succeed in Europe." Weah's secret is his steely determination.

"You have to be strong and to know what you want. I'm here to work, and I behave accordingly. That's perhaps what makes me different — I have an objective and I feel confident."

"My family always taught me to take things seriously, and I was never spoilt. My grandmother used to say, 'Nothing is too difficult ... To be successful, you have to work hard, respect others and be disciplined.'"

Another man who obviously listened to Weah's grandmother is his cousin James Debah, having a fine season at First Division rivals Lyon.

A third Monrovia and former flatmate of Weah and Debah, Joe Nagbe, is heading across the Channel to English Premier League club Aston Villa.

French champions, Olympique Marseille owe much of their recent success to Africans at opposite ends of the pitch.

Ghana's Abedi Pele, current African footballer-of-the-year, is the lynchpin of Marseille's strike force while Ivory Coast-born Basile Boli now plays for the French national team in

Houghton hits historic ton

Sports Reporter

HARARE, Oct 19: David Houghton hit an unbeaten century today to fire Zimbabwe to 406 for five at the end of the second day of their inaugural Test against India here Monday, reports AFP.

The 35-year-old skipper was on 110 as Zimbabwe headed toward a substantial

pronged Indian attack into the slow wicket.

The dejected Indian bowlers went through their motions in conditions that offered no assistance to pace or spin.

But Indian tour manager Amrit Mathur said today's performance on the field was no reflection of the bowlers' inability. "It would be unkind to

blame the bowlers for failing to end Zimbabwe's innings quickly," he said.

"With the wicket not responding to any kind of bowling, it has become a game of patience."

"I must concede that the Zimbabwe batsman, without exception, have shown admirable application."

The home team's batsmen followed the advice of their English coach John Hampshire to graff for runs, despite suffering setbacks in the first two sessions.

Resuming at 188 for three, Zimbabwe lost overnight batsman Mark Burmester within the first 30 minutes of play after the addition of only 11 runs.

Zimbabwe scored 64 runs in the two-hour morning session and 65 in the second. But the rest of the day belonged to Houghton and Flower.

"It's like a dream come true," a delighted Houghton said. "One could not have asked for more."

Barely 500 spectators were at the Harare Sports Club to see the pair ground the six-

Houghton hits historic ton



DAVID HOUGHTON ... century on Test debut



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first innings score in the one-off Test.

Houghton was aided in the display by vice-captain Andy Flower, who was 55 not out during an unbroken 154-run stand for the sixth wicket.

The pair took charge late in the day to compensate for slow batting in the first two sessions.

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