

### Romanian club may play in President Cup

**Sports Reporter**  
A leading football team of Romania is likely to take part in the seventh President Gold Cup soccer tournament to be held in the city from January 10 to 20 next year.

In reply to the invitation extended by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) the president of the Romanian Football Federation Mircea Sandu informed the BFF secretary that they could send a First Division team instead of the Romanian national team to participate in the tournament.

The Danish Football Association (DFA) has also reportedly expressed interest in the meet.

In a letter to the BFF, a couple of days ago, the DFA asked for elaborate details about the terms and conditions of the President Cup.

The BFF will spend at least 25,000 dollars as prize-money. The travel expenses of the foreign teams will be also paid by the BFF.

Although the Russian Football Association has reportedly agreed in principle to send two top clubs, the BFF will accept only one of them to participate in the championship.

One club team each from Malaysia, Poland, South Korea and Mohun Bagan Club of India are also likely to take part.

Unlike previous occasions, only one Bangladesh team — the national squad — will represent the country in the tournament, BFF secretary Shaikh Akmal Hossain told some newsmen yesterday.



Jamilur Rahman (L) with white pieces against IM Rahul Shetty of India in their 14th round match of the ninth Dr Q M H International Masters' chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

### Zia ruins Reefat's hopes

**Sports Reporter**  
It was 'Niro fiddles while Rome burns' sort of a thing at the conference room of the National Sports Council, yesterday.

In the 14th round of the 15-round ninth Quazi Motahar Hossain International Masters' chess tournament Ziaur Rahman, the cynosure of the local chess lovers, sustained the mood of euphoria for completing his second IM norm when he temporarily sopit his friend and rival Reefat bin-Sattar's ambition for the first norm.

The would-be IM Zia revived the memories of last national championship as he beat the reigning national champion Reefat in 49 moves yesterday. Playing with white pieces in a game of the English opening Zia opened with e4. Reefat made a crucial mistake in the 13th move, e6 which led to the loss of a pawn and subsequently the game.

Reefat himself needed two more points to get the first

norm for an IM title. With just one match to go, Reefat will now have to wait some time for the elusive norm.

Kayes Hassan drew with Indian I M Krishnamurthy Murugan in a match of the Sicilian defence of the Sveshnikov variation. After 22 moves both players settled for a draw.

Syed Tahmidur Rahman drew with Pakistani IM Mahmud Lodhi. Playing with black, defending champion Lodhi moved e6 to counter Tahmid's opening d4 to adopt a French defence later. The match continued till the 43rd move.

Arun Vaidya, the Indian IM, drew with his junior compatriot Atanu Lahiri in one of the four drawn matches of the day.

The King's Indian classical match lasted 35 moves.

PDS Girinath, the Indian rated player, beat Rani Hamid in a 27-move match.

Indian IM Lanka Ravi beat Yemeni IM Hamed Mansour Qadhi in a match of the Karocan defence in 29 moves.

So far, the only IM of Bangladesh Zillur Rahman Champak beat Saifuddin Lablu in a match of the French defence variation. Lablu accepted defeat after 59 moves.

The match between Indian rated player Rahul Shetty and Bangladeshi Jamilur Rahman also ended in draw after 67 moves.

Today is a rest day with the tournament concluding tomorrow.

**PRANTIK CHESS**

Meanwhile, the second Prantik International Masters Prizemoney chess tournament begins from October 28. Organised by the Dhaka Chess Foundation, the tournament will feature foreign IM and rated players alongside local players who qualified for the final round of the 18th national chess championship.

Interested players have been asked to contact Manzur Hossain Jiminu at the Chess Federation by October 26 to complete entry formalities.

### DU chess meet

**Sports Reporter**  
Fifteen players with full two points jointly led the points table of the 1992 Dhaka University chess competition after the completion of the second round of the eight-round meet at the University cafeteria yesterday, says a press release.

### Muktis lose in Governor's Gold Cup final

**GANGTOK, Oct 23:** Defending champions Mohun Bagan stood off a spirited second-half rally by Mukti Joddha Sangsad of Bangladesh to emerge victorious by a solitary goal, lifting the coveted 14th all India Governor's Gold Cup trophy for a record sixth time, reports PTI.

Playing before a 20,000 crowd at the Paljor Stadium, the Calcutta giants played positive football in the first half. The match-winner was scored by left-winger Babu Mani.

The Sikkim governor, R H Tahilant gave away the prizes to the teams, including the fair play trophy to the SPA (Blue), man of the tournament to Baichun Bhutia of SPA and the man of the final match award to Mukti Joddha's forward, Zahid.

### DU book final round berth

**Sher-e-Bangla Cup by trouncing Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) by seven goals to nil in the University zonal final at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.**

The finals, comprising the ten zonal champions, defending champions Bangladesh Army and hosts of the final round Mymensingh DSA, will begin from November 4.

In yesterday's universities final, the promising Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club striker Imtiaz Ahmed, Naquib scored four goals in a row for Dhaka University.

However, the highlight of the match was a goal scored by Jewel Rana, another Mohammedan player, with a spectacular side volley from inside the BUET box.

Yet another MSC player Roxy opened the flood gates for the 16th national soccer runners-up Dhaka University in the 10th minute (1-0).

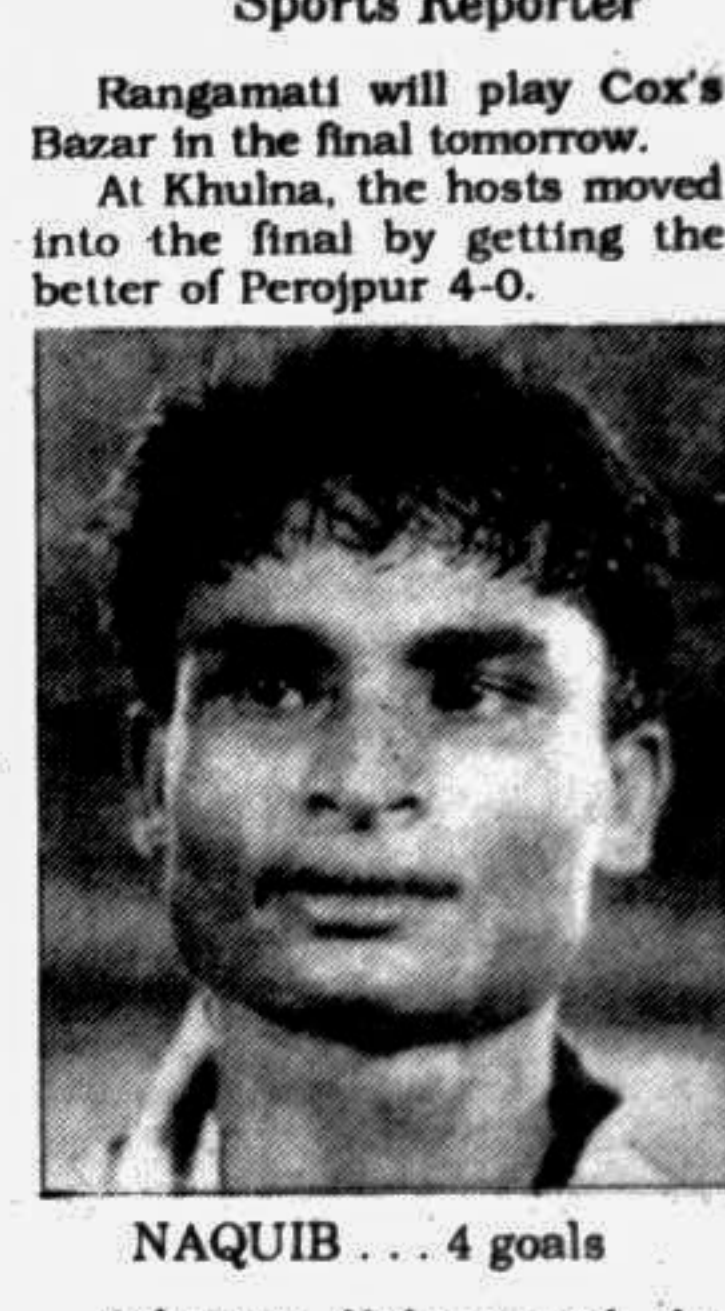
Naquib doubled the margin in the 25th minute (2-0). He made it 3-0 in the 43rd minute and completed his hat-trick in the 43rd minute (4-0). Naquib got his fourth goal of the day a minute from the lemon break (5-0).

Syed Rummán bin Wali-Shabbir, the fleet-footed winger of the Bangladesh national team, scored the sixth goal in the 57th minute (6-0). Jewel Rana completed the tally for the star-studded DU in the 81st minute (7-0).

At Bandarban, Rangamati qualified for the final by beating the hosts by a solitary goal.

Aung Chaung Chowdhury got the winner in the 67th minute.

Biplab Marma of Rangamati and Nurul Islam Babu of Bandarban received the marching orders from referee Rafiqul Islam for rough play and misbehaviour.



NAQUIB ... 4 goals

**Rangamati will play Cox's Bazar in the final tomorrow.**

At Khulna, the hosts moved into the final by getting the better of Peropur 4-0.

40th minute. Pabna will face Rajshahi in the semifinals tomorrow.

Another match was decided through the penalty shoot-out. At Nilphamari, Kurigram beat Dinajpur by four goals to two. Both teams were locked 2-2 after the scheduled time.

Shamir and Rahim scored for Kurigram and Tazul and Imam for Dinajpur during the regulation period.

Kurigram will clash with Gaibandha in the semifinals tomorrow.

At Madaripur, Narayanganj registered an easy 4-1 victory against Faridpur to qualify for the semifinals.

Rakib put Narayanganj in the lead in the 26th minute (1-0). Chandan made it 2-0 in the 60th minute. Six minutes later Reaz got the third. Zakir scored the fourth goal for Narayanganj in the 72nd minute (4-0).

Ujjal Kumar got the consolation goal for Faridpur in the 79th minute (4-1).

Narayanganj will play Rajbari in the semifinals tomorrow.

At Netrakona, Kishoreganj registered an emphatic 4-0 victory against Sherpur.

Azharul Haq and Masud Iqbal netted two goals each for Kishoreganj.

Kishoreganj will play hosts Netrakona in the semifinals tomorrow.

One more zonal final will be held today with hosts Sunamganj taking on Chandpur at Sunamganj.

Sunamganj beat Sylhet while Chandpur beat Comilla in their respective semifinals on October 21 and 22 respectively.

### Maradona to don Bayern jersey

**MUNICH, Oct 23:** Diego Maradona will make a guest appearance for Bayern Munich in an exhibition soccer match against Lazio Rome next month, the Munich club said Friday, reports AP.

The game is scheduled for Nov 11 at Munich's Olympic stadium, Bayern spokesman Markus Hoerwick said.

The Argentine forward, who recently joined the Spanish club Sevilla after serving a 15-month ban for failing a drug test, will be paid for his appearance. But Hoerwick declined to specify Maradona's fee.

"This is a highlight for Munich," Hoerwick said.

Lazio's roster includes Germans Kalheim Riedel and Thomas Doll and English midfielder Paul Gascoigne. Before his suspension, Maradona played for Napoli in the Italian league.

The idea to invite Maradona came from Bayern Manager Uli Hoeness, after the Argentine made his comeback four weeks ago in an exhibition game between Sevilla and Bayern, Hoerwick said.

### AC Milan poised to make history

**PARIS, Oct 23:** The difference between Italian giants AC Milan and the rest of Europe's elite could not be more clearcut this weekend, reports AFP.

While Barcelona, Olympique Marseille and VfB Stuttgart are desperate for a win to lift their flagging title campaigns out of the doldrums — AC Milan are set to make footballing history.

The Spanish champions haven't won all month and crashed to their first defeat of the season against leaders La Coruna on Saturday.

A European Cup draw away to CSKA Moscow in midweek restored some confidence, but Johan Cruyff's men are still three points adrift in the Spanish league.

Victory over Valencia would mark Barcelona's first win since September 27 and restore the wavering faith of the Nou Camp crowds.

But with La Coruna facing basement club Real Burgos, Cruyff's side need maximum points simply to keep up with this season's surprise packet.

Marseille are no better off in France, slumping to their second consecutive league defeat last weekend against leaders Nantes — a disappointment not experienced by their fans for four seasons.

The French champions were held to a goalless draw on Wednesday by Dinamo Bucharest, despite dire warnings from boss Bernard Tapie that a second round exit would cost the club 10 million dollars.

With creditors reportedly beating a path to his door, the Marseille president is desperate to cobble together a

### Khokon soccer

**Sports Reporter**  
The first Khokon memorial football tournament under the joint auspices of Mansur Sporting Club of Dhaka and BSM Mansur Sporting Club will be held from October 30 at the Bajaj Ramani Mohon High School ground, says a press release.

### Shearer's chance to prove United wrong

**LONDON, Oct 23:** Alan Shearer, Britain's most expensive footballer, can show Manchester United what they missed when Blackburn attempt to regain the leadership of the English Premier League at Ewood Park on Saturday, reports AFP.

Seventh-placed United were one of the clubs chasing the England striker before he left for Southampton, but he opted for their unfashionable Lancashire neighbours in a 3.4 million-pound transfer and has not stopped scoring since.

United Director Bobby Charlton, who scored in the clubs' last league game at Blackburn in May 1966, said of the 15-goal forward: "I'm pleased he's doing well. If he does as well for England, then it is doubly good."

The England legend is equally pleased to see Blackburn back in the big time after a long and sometimes painful absence of 26 years.

"Blackburn are a big club with a great history and a long



ALAN SHEARER the top flight. They're obvi-

ously moving now and it's going to be a tough one for us."

A win for Kenny Dalglish's side would see them leapfrog over Norwich back to the top, although their role position may be only temporary, as the Canaries visit Liverpool on Sunday.

How Everton manager Howard Kendall wishes for a forward of Shearer's potency in front of goal as they prepare to face Arsenal at Highbury.

A succession of combinations involving England international Tony Cottee, ex-Scotland regular Mo Johnston, Paul Rideout and Stuart Barlow have failed to end a run which has brought Everton just one league goal in four games.

Kendall admitted: "It does give me cause for concern. We're not finishing off the good work up to the box. In these situations you've got to be positive."

"I have four math strikers right now. We would be overloaded if we brought another one in. If I was going to buy, someone would have to make way."

### 'Striker' — World Cup USA's mascot



**HOLLYWOOD, California, Oct 23:** "Striker", a smiling dog with a nose for goals, was chosen Thursday as the official mascot for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

reports AFP.

"Striker is the player on the team who always gets the job done and who can be counted on to take the ball, score and excite the crowd," organising committee vice president Jim Trecker said as he announced the choice.

Over 25,000 people participated in World Cup USA's

### Struggling Napoli turn to Vicini

**ROME, Oct 23:** Former national coach Azeglio Vicini is set to take over as coach of struggling Napoli from next week, reports AFP.

Claudio Ranieri will coach the team on Sunday against AS Roma, but Napoli owner Corrado Ferlaino has already chosen his successor following the club's fourth consecutive defeat on Wednesday against Paris St Germain in the UEFA Cup.

Ferlaino spent the past couple of days discussing the plummeting fortunes of the club with advisors as well as the players, who reportedly rallied to Ranieri's defence.

Napoli are stuck in the bottom-half of the Serie A after recording only one win in six games this season.

### Struggling Napoli turn to Vicini

**Marseille** their confidence sky high after an impressive 2-0 away win at Napoli in the UEFA Cup in midweek.

Stuttgart, like Barcelona and Marseille, are lying fifth in their national league and playing second fiddle to the resurgent Bayern Munich. On Saturday they travel to bottom of the table Cologne.

Tipped for relegation at one

### Graf sails into semis

**BRIGHTON, Oct 23:** Top-seeded Steffi Graf eased into the semifinals of the Brighton indoor women's tournament Friday with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Lori McNeil, reports AP.

Graf won eight straight games before the American, playing with a strapped left thigh, managed to get on the scoreboard.

"My backhand was working very well today," Graf said. "I have been working so hard the last few weeks and it showed today."

In other action, fourth-seeded Anke Huber of Germany earned the right to face Graf in the semifinals when she downed Pascale Paradis Mangon of France 6-3, 6-1.

Second-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States was to play No 7 Nathalie Tauziat of France in the night session.

The American won 6-3, 6-0 in 64 minutes and now looks set to live up to her seeding by driving to a final meeting with top seed Steffi Graf, who reached the quarters on Wednesday.

"I hit what I thought was a great forehand and they stayed silent like it was no big deal," said Fernandez.

"It's a little hard to play when they don't get into it, but

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Dynamo Moscow trounce Torino 2-1

**TURIN, Italy, Oct 23:** Dynamo Moscow, unexpectedly playing an all-attack game on the road, upset Italian first division Torino 2-1 in their second-

round first-leg of the UEFA Cup Thursday night, reports AP.

The Russian players scored all goals, including an own-goal, and were applauded for a well-deserved victory by a crowd of 26,000 at Turin's Delle Alpi stadium.

Dynamo, with a strong midfield and fast forwards, dominated the first half and failed to convert two scoring chances in the initial minutes.

Defender Timofiev, who had been thought suspended for this game but included in the starting 11, was stopped by Italian goalie Luca Marchegiani a few metres (yards) from the net in the 3rd minute. Two minutes later Timofiev hit the bar with a powerful shot from the penalty area limit.

Striker Kassumov, one of the best players of the match, opened the score in the 45th minute, kicking the ball into the open mouth following two beautiful saves by Marchegiani, the Italian national team goalkeeper.

Torino surprisingly tied the score in the 55th minute when a header by Belgian midfielder Vincenzo Scifo, which appeared to go out, was diverted into his own net by Timofiev.

The Russian team continued on the attack, and 19-year-old forward Simutenkov kicked in the winning goal in the 68th minute.

Italian back Raffaele Sergio failed to intercept a long cross and the Russian forward kicked the ball just below the bar with a diagonal shot from five metres (yards).

Scifo was the best man on the lineup of Torino, which is second to AC Milan in the Italian League standings.

Brazilian centre forward

Walter Casagrande and Uruguayan Carlos Aguilera were shutout by the Russian defence.

"We lost to a very strong, good team," said Casagrande after the match. "They played very well here. The second-leg game looks very difficult."

Torino's defenders Pasquale Bruno and Enrico Annoni were booked by the referee for foul play. Russian goalie Kleimov was given a yellow card for wasting time.

### Ex ITF chief dead

**ROME, Oct 23:** Giorgio De Stefani, a longtime member of the International Olympic Committee and a former president of the International Tennis Federation, died in Rome Thursday, the Italian Olympic Committee reported Friday, reports AP.

He was 88 and had been suffering from heart problems.

De Stefani, a member of the Italian Davis Cup team in the 1930s, had presided over the tennis federation for 10 years.

He was elected a member of the International Olympic Committee in 1951 and had strongly supported inclusion of tennis in the Games.

### Swimmers between 13 to 14 years of age start their 50m freestyle race at the Dhanmandi Women's Complex pool yesterday.



Swimmers between 13 to 14 years of age start their 50m freestyle race at the Dhanmandi Women's Complex pool yesterday.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### NHL stars may compete in Winter Olympics

**CHICAGO, Oct 23:** National Hockey League players are a step closer to participating in the 1994 Winter Olympics now that USA Hockey officials have backed the idea, NHL president Gil Stein said, reports AP.

"USA Hockey is very anxious to go ahead," Stein said after meeting with officials of the national governing body for amateur hockey in Chicago on Thursday. "They think it would be wonderful."

So does Stein. He sees the Olympics as a way to broaden the league's exposure says a three-week break in the 1993-94 schedule would not be a problem.

"I think it will enhance our season because for those three weeks, the fans will be focused on the Olympics, and then our players will come back," Stein said. "I think it will be the best hockey tournament we've ever seen."

The NHL's Board of governors consider the idea at a meeting in Palm Beach, Fla, on Dec 10-12.

The NHL has considered the idea since observing all the media attention that surround the National Basketball Association's "Dream Team" at the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain, in August.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.

### Japanese team fails to scale Mt Dhaulagiri

**KATHMANDU, Oct 23:** A Japanese expedition has failed to climb the 8,167 metre (26,791 feet) mount Dhaulagiri main peak via the avalanche-prone northeast ridge route, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry announced Thursday, reports AFP.