

Navana cricket resumes today

Sports Reporter
The Navana Premier Division cricket league resumes today with Kalabagan Krira Chakra taking on Uditu Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The league programme remained suspended since January 4 ostensibly for inclement weather. However, the actual hold up was caused by the tussle between the BCCB and the BFF over the use of the Dhaka Stadium — now hosting the President Cup soccer meet.

Although ten matches have been billed for the period between today, January 9 and Jan 18, the top two teams defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and title aspirants Abahant Krira Chakra have no fixtures in this period.

The Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club will play Bangladesh Public Works Department in tomorrow's match at the same venue.

Meanwhile, the Second Division league also resumes today after a day's break at two different city venues.

Orient Sports Club meet Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Azad Boys Club will play DOHS Club at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

In another development it has been learnt that the Milars First Division super league and relegation league will begin simultaneously later this week.

The five top teams of the first leg — which concluded on Thursday last — will play in the super league while the relegation league will feature the bottom four teams.

The teams which have qualified for the super league are Wari Club, City Club, Dhanmondi Club, Agrani Bank and Lalmaatia Club. The top two finishers will earn promotion to the Navana Premier Division next season.

The four teams which will play in the relegation play-off series are Sacharan Bima, Evergreen Club, Bangladesh Railway and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha. The last team of the relegation league will move down to the Second Division league next season.

Unpatriotic game!
NEW DELHI, Jan 8: In an unprecedented step, Doordarshan is going to pay RS 1.1 crore to a foreign network for telecasting the forthcoming India-England Test and one day cricket matches to be played on Indian soil, reports PTI.

Doordarshan has got the terrestrial rights for the satellite telecast of the matches from the London based sports production company Trans World International (TWI) under an agreement signed here today.

The agreement was signed between senior Doordarshan officials and Sindhich, a top official of the TWI.

TWI has already got the coverage rights from the Board of Cricket Control of India (BCCI) for a sum of over 200,000 US dollars (RS 60 lakh).

According to official sources, the Doordarshan will make the payment for the buy-back rights in Indian rupees.

The TWI is bringing its own sophisticated equipment and crew to shoot the Test and one-dayers.

The coverage rights given to the foreign network had generated a controversy with the Information and Broadcasting Minister, Jit Panja accusing the cricket board of being unpatriotic in ignoring the rights of the national network.

A top board official, IS Bindra had rejected the charge as unfounded saying it was an attempt to cover up Doordarshan's own non-professional and non-imaginative attitude in the handling and production of such important events.

B Bank meet held

The annual sports meet of the Bangladesh Bank was held yesterday at the Notre Dame College playground, reports BSS.

Shamsur Rahman Mukul won the men's individual championship while Hosne Ara Begum won the women's individual championship.

As many as 264 athletes took part in the meet.

Governor of Bangladesh Bank Khorshed Alam was the chief guest and distributed the prizes among the winners.

BSJA trophy

The Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) will give a best player of the tournament trophy for the seventh President Gold Cup international football tournament, reports BSS.

The selection of the best player will be made on the concluding day and the trophy will be handed over at the concluding ceremony of the tournament on January 16.

Greens begin the Reds way

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Greens emulated their seniors in the red jerseys by losing their first match of the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the second of the day's two matches, the Greens were beaten by a solitary goal by FC Tatra Presov of Czechoslovakia. Earlier, FC Ploiesti of Romania maintained a clean slate for the Europeans in this eight-team tournament by outplaying the Housing Bank team of South Korea 2-0.

In a scenario reminiscent of the inaugural match of the 11-day meet last Wednesday when the senior national selection Bangladesh Reds lost by a similar margin against Polonia Warszawa, the second string local squad, donned in green and white, failed to seize several scoring chances that came their way. On the other hand a solitary goal, again thanks to a fumble by the local custodian, sufficed to give their opponents the full points from their robin league engagement.

Yet, from the partisan local fan's point of view, the Greens needn't have lost last night. They succeeded in creating several good moves and managed to win possession of the ball for a major portion of the 90-minute encounter. But as is our footballers' bane, when it came to translating the opportunities into goals, our forwards were lacking.

However, in all fairness, the Czechs too muffed up a few good chances themselves.

After some tentative prob-

ings by the forwards on either side it appeared as though the teams would go into the breather on an even, scoreless keel. But just then Jozef Danko gave Tatra Presov the goal that mattered by putting the ball in the Greens net with two minutes to go for the short whistle.

Kanan, the Greens captain under the bar, had done well to block a power-packed blast from close, almost near the

penalty spot, from Vladislav Zura but the sting in the shot didn't let Kanan grip it. The ball rebounded to Danko looming nearby and the latter wasted on time in putting it where it belonged (1-0).

Ten minutes into the second half the crowd sighed in disbelief when the Greens right-back Shamim's long range drive returned to play off the Czech goalie Peter Jakudech's body.

However, it was a loud sigh of relief when Kanan effected a brave, brilliant save by diving at the feet of an advancing Lubomir Puhak who had successfully beaten an offside trap in the 71st minute.

Nothing much happened after this and the final scoreline read 1-0 in the Czechs' favour.

Two local players — Shamim and Rehan — earned yellow card cautions from South Korean referee Choi Changoun.

The Czechs will next meet FC Ploiesti tomorrow, Jan 10 at 4:00 pm while the Greens face the South Koreans two hours later the same day.

FC TATRA PRESOV (Czech): Peter Jakubec, Lubomir Bajtos, Peter Cmljansky, Villam Vioumeky, Jozef Dzubara, Jaroslav Kentoa, Richard Ho-



Bangladesh Greens skipper goalkeeper Syed Hassan Kanan dives in vain to thwart a Tatra Presov forward in yesterday's match of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium. The Czechs won by a solitary goal. — Star photo

Romania maintained a clean slate for the Europeans in this eight-team tournament by outplaying the Housing Bank team of South Korea 2-0.

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United's chance to catch Norwich

LONDON, Jan 8: Manchester United, piped for the English title by Leeds last season, will go to the top of the premier league if they beat Tottenham at home on Saturday, reports Reuter.

United, who boast the best defence in the league, would join leaders Norwich on 41 points and go above them with a vastly superior goal difference.

However, their stay at the top could be short-lived as Norwich visit Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday.

United showed their strength in depth when they beat Bury 2-0 in an FA Cup third round tie on Tuesday, their second goal coming from 18-year-old debutant Keith Gillespie, already being favourably compared with former United star George Best.

But Gillespie will step aside as Ryan Giggs, Paul Ince and Andrei Kanchelskis, who all missed the Cup game through injury, are likely to return.

Veteran skipper Bryan Robson, who came on as a substitute against Bury, could also be in contention.

United beat Spurs at home last season in former England

captain Gary Lincker's last match for the London club.

Victory on Saturday would extend their unbeaten run to nine matches. They have won six of their last eight.

Fourth-placed Blackburn, a point behind United and Aston Villa, hope to field England striker Alan Shearer and could give new signing Patrik Andersson, a Swedish defender, his debut at home against lowly Wimbledon.

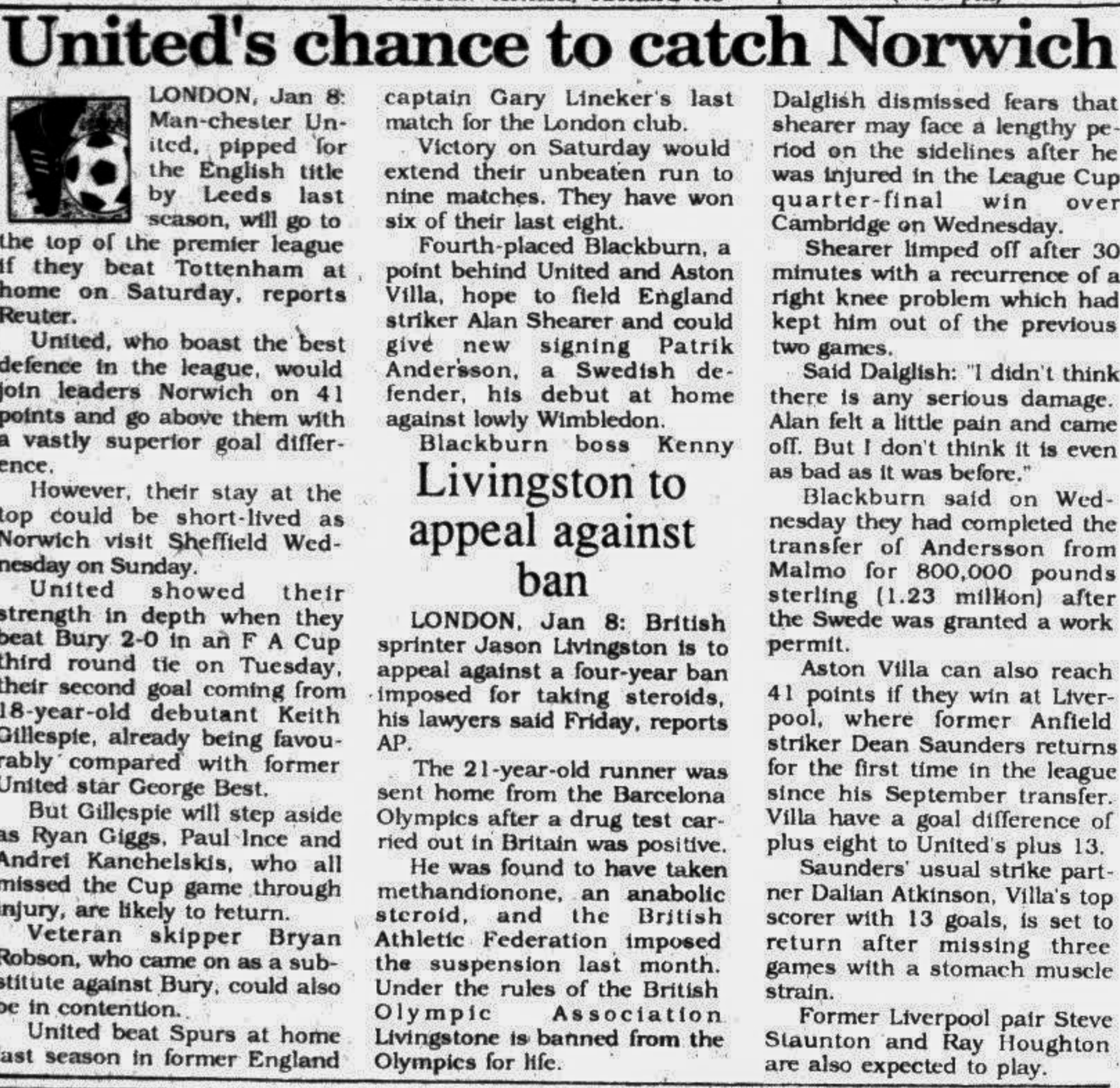
Blackburn boss Kenny Livingston to appeal against ban

LONDON, Jan 8: British sprinter Jason Livingston is to appeal against a four-year ban imposed for taking steroids, his lawyers said Friday, reports AP.

The 21-year-old runner was sent home from the Barcelona Olympics after a drug test carried out in Britain was positive.

He was found to have taken methandione, an anabolic steroid, and the British Athletic Federation imposed the suspension last month. Under the rules of the British Olympic Association Livingston is banned from the Olympics for life.

Former Liverpool pair Steve Staunton and Ray Houghton are also expected to play.



South Korea's Housing Bank Club goalkeeper Kim Hee-Ho attempts to block a Romanian FC Ploiesti forward during yesterday afternoon's match of the 7th President Gold Cup at the Dhaka Stadium. The Romanians romped to a comfortable 2-0 win. — Star photo

MSC badminton

Sports Reporter
Moshed and Zia of the Chittagong Char Chugtal School won the boys' doubles title in the 1993 Mohammedan Peoples Insurance schools badminton tournament at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Moshed and Zia beat Rajon and Mokhles of Motijheel Model School 15-2, 15-0 in the final yesterday.

Earlier on Thursday Noori and Ruma of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) clinched the girls' doubles title by beating Momo and Cynthia of Ananda School.

Momo qualified for the girls' singles final beating Asheda 11-5, 11-1 in the semifinals yesterday.

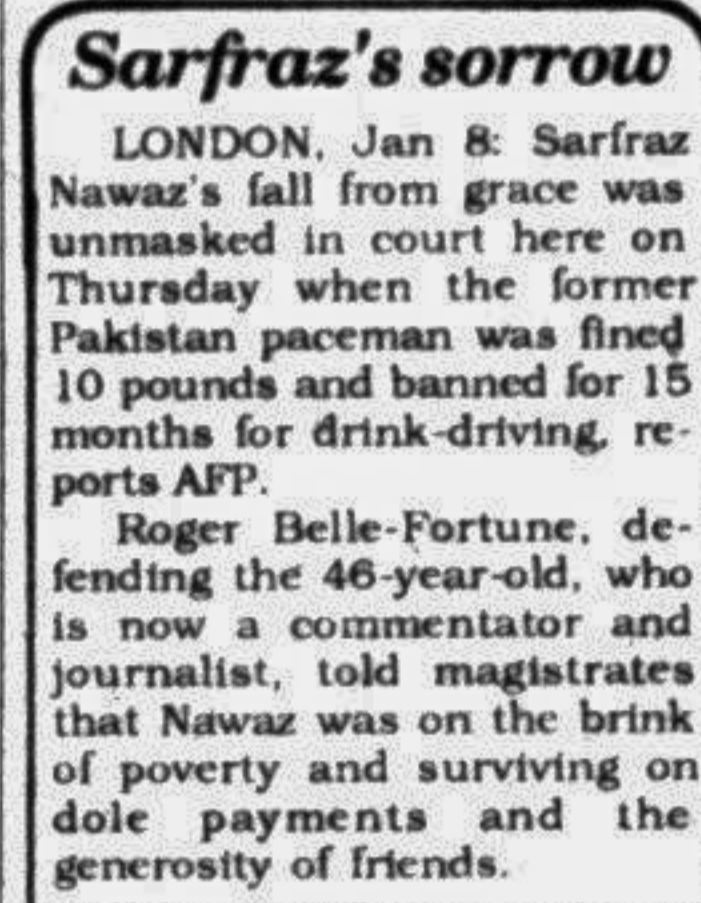
Momo will take on Noori in the final scheduled to be held this afternoon.

The eight-day tourney will conclude tomorrow with Agriculture Minister Maj Gen (ret'd) Majid-ul-Huq distributing the prizes as chief guest.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka and State Minister for Textiles and chairman of the governing body of Mohammedan Sporting Club Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan will be present as special guests.

Sarfrac's sorrow
LONDON, Jan 8: Sarfrac Nawaz's fall from grace was unmasked in court here on Thursday when the former Pakistan paceman was fined 10 pounds and banned for 15 months for drink-driving, reports AFP.

Roger Belle-Fortune, defending the 46-year-old, who is now a commentator and journalist, told magistrates that Nawaz was on the brink of poverty and surviving on dole payments and the generosity of friends.



SARFRAC NAWAZ

"My client has fallen on hard times and that is why he is receiving 42 pounds a week income support," said Belle-Fortune.

Nawaz, who retired from first-class cricket in 1984, was pulled over by police in west London last August and failed a breath test.

He had been drinking with friends after attending a Test match at Headingley and admitted driving with excess alcohol.

After the hearing Nawaz claimed his drinks had been spiked.

"The friends are now in Pakistan and couldn't come to court today to say what happened," he claimed.

BUET sports

By BUET Correspondent
Sher-e-Bangla Hall with 86 points emerged as champions in the 1993 annual sports meet of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) with Golam Rasul Chaman with six gold medals finishing as the best athlete at the university playground yesterday.

Sher-e-Bangla Hall secured eight golds, two silvers and as many bronzes while MA Rashid Hall finished as runners-up with four golds, as many silvers and six bronze medals. Titumir Hall got the third position.

Chaman, a student of Sher-e-Bangla Hall, became the fastest man of the BUET by winning the 100m sprint in 11.74 seconds.

Afrin Khandaker became the fastest woman of the meet clocking 16.2 seconds in the women's 100m.

Eighty-four athletes representing eight halls of the university participated in the day-long meet which was inaugurated by the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain in the morning.

Vice Chancellor of the BUET Prof M Shahjahan gave away the prizes in the afternoon.

Juvenile soccer

Sports Reporter
Badda Samaj Kallayan Sangsad and Anwesha Tarun Sangha shared points in a goalless draw in the only match of the Jadukar Samad memorial juvenile soccer tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Both teams displayed attacking football making the match a keenly-contested affair.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka FCC vs Amligola KS (2:00 pm)
Nirman Shilpi vs Nabin BC (3:15 pm)

Barcelona brace for tough tie

LONDON, Jan 8: European champions Barcelona are steeling themselves for a potentially volatile clash with a Seville side led by their former star Diego Maradona this weekend, reports Reuter.

Sevilla have the worst disciplinary record in the Spanish First Division this season with eight sendings-off and more than 50 bookings.

Maradona and teammate



HRISTO STOICHKOV

Marcos De La Fuente were shown the red card last Sunday when Sevilla crashed 3-0 in an ill-tempered match in Tenerife and slipped to eighth.

The former Argentine captain avoided suspension and says he will be going all out to beat second-placed Barcelona, his first European club before he joined Italy's Napoli in 1984.

Barcelona have their own disciplinary problems, with star Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov not only the league's top scorer with 15 goals but also its worst-behaved player with three red cards and several disciplinary problems.

Leaders Deportivo Coruna need to overcome an awful record at Cadiz as they look to bounce back from an ignominious defeat to Second Division Merida in the Spanish Cup on

Wednesday.

Deportivo have lost on their last 10 visits but will pin their hopes on the fact that Cadiz are the only team who have not won at home in the league this season.

Real Madrid, three points adrift of Deportivo, play Real Sociedad in San Sebastian. Despite winning 3-0 at home to Osasuna last weekend, the Madrid side looked unconvincing and uninspired.

Real will hope their Spanish international midfielder Michel Gonzalez, who on Sunday will be playing his 300th match for the club, can rediscover some of his lost form.

Their neighbours Atletico Madrid, who are going through a dreadful patch, will be relieved to have back their German midfielder Bernd Schuster, out through injury for almost two and a half months, and Portuguese striker Paulo Futre, who missed last weekend's match with a pulled leg muscle.

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Italian champions AC Milan, looking to extend their record unbeaten league run to 50 matches, could be without two of their three Dutch stars for Sunday's home game against Cagliari.

Frank Rijkaard is struggling to overcome an ankle injury that could sideline him along with European footballer-of-the-year Marco van Basten, still recovering from ankle surgery.

Ruud Gullit plays, while Croatia Zvonimir Boban is on Saturday to replace Rijkaard and Van Basten's place will be filled by Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin.

Juventus and Italy striker Gianluca Vialli returns to Genoa to face his old club Sampdoria for the first time since his record transfer to the Turin side in the close season.

Vialli's former strike partner, Roberto Mancini, Sampdoria's captain, jokingly said: "I hope he gets so nostalgic that he's overcome with emotion and can't play."

Juventus will again be without injured Englishman David Platt and Brazilian Julio Cesar, while Sampdoria field England

FRENCH SCENE

The French league resumes this weekend with its first full programme after a brief end-of-year break. Champions Marseille are at home to Toulon after squandering a chance to go to the top of the table on Wednesday when they lost 2-0 in Lille in a match which had been postponed.

Most Dutch clubs will still be on their winter break this weekend but there are two first Division games on Sunday—Volendam against Ajax Amsterdam and RKC Waalwijk versus FC Utrecht, which were postponed earlier in the season.

Elimination contest to find Kasparov's challenger

coming clash is being described by chess fans in apocalyptic terms.

"I think it will be terrible," said English Grandmaster Jonathan Speelman. Dominic Lawson, a chess expert and friend of Short, agreed it would be "bloody." Nigel Short describes chess as "mental boxing."

Timman, at 41, is an experienced and highly motivated underdog. After losing to Karpov, he declared: "Next time I get to the final, I will win."

Short, at 27 Britain's best ever chess player, shrugged off his former "too nice" image when he crushed Anatoly Karpov, commenting sardonically, "I like to torture the other guy slowly. Slowly is important."

Short and Timman are playing for highstakes: The right to challenge Kasparov for the world chess crown, and a generous amount of prize money from different sources.

From the official prize fund of 300,000 Swiss francs (200,000 dollar), the winner will receive 187,500 francs (125,000 dollar) and the loser 112,500 francs (75,000 dollar). Both players have also been guaranteed cash awards from private sponsors.

The winner of the candidates' final is also guaranteed at least the loser's share of the World Championship match purse estimate at 1.5m dollar.

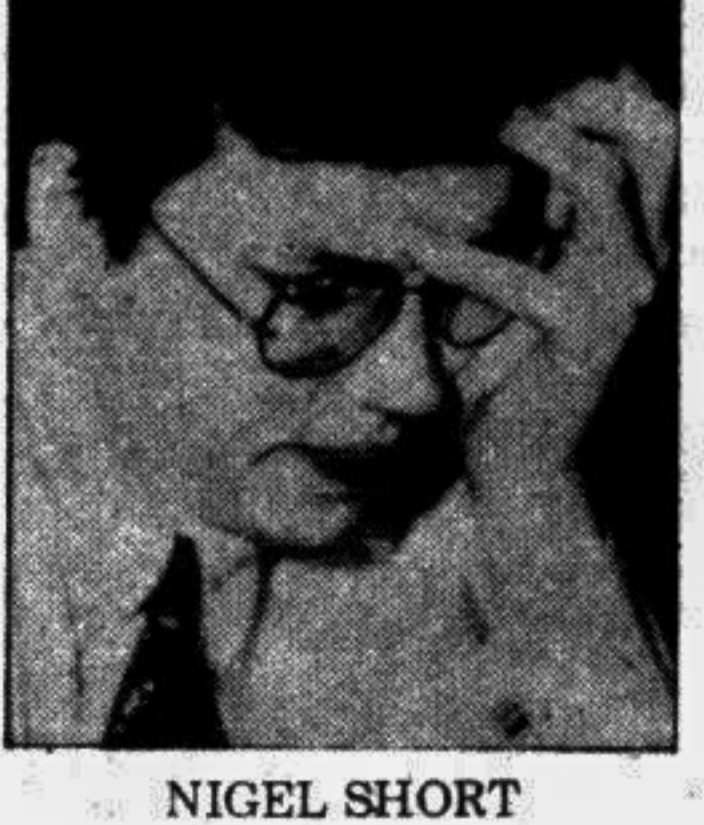
Five games per week are scheduled, play commencing at 3 pm local time. Two days per week are allocated for unfinished games, and the players are allowed two "rest days" each.

The short ceremony to determine who will play white in Sunday's opening game will be

Short, Timman draw lots today

SAN LORENZO DE ESCORAL, Spain, Jan 8: Britain's Nigel Short and Dutchman Jan Timman draw lots on Saturday in the first stage of a gruelling 14-game battle for the right to challenge Russia's Garry Kasparov for his world chess title, reports Reuter.

The final World Championship eliminator contest in a sport long dominated by Russians will produce the first western title challenger for 20 years.



NIGEL SHORT

Russia's Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov have held sway since eccentric American Bobby Fischer lost the World Championship by default in 1975.

On paper, Short is favourite to win. He is younger, higher in the international computer rankings, and the only player other than Kasparov to defeat Karpov. Karpov crushed Timman at their last match encounter.

Despite previous form, the gentlemanly demeanour of both men and the sedentary nature of their sport, their

held at the playing venue, the Coliseo Real Del Rey Charles III — a modest but tasteful 18th century theatre with a pink colonnaded facade.

The 14-game series will be won by the first player to score seven and a half points, and could last well into February. Both men have been working for months to get physically and mentally fit for the encounter in El Escorial.

The town is a quiet mountain retreat, about 40 kms west of Madrid, famed for the austere but magnificent



JAN TIMMAN

monastery of El Escorial, built by Philip II of Spain to commemorate his victory over the French at San Quentin in 1567.

Nigel Short, a child chess prodigy, was awarded the title of International Master at 14, and became a Grandmaster at 19.

Timman is taking his third shot at the world title, having qualified as a candidate twice before. The most successful Dutch player since world champion Max Euwe in the 1930s, he lives in Amsterdam and edits his own magazine, "New In Chess."

Agenor moves up in KL Open

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8: Ronald Agenor of Haiti fought a marathon match to stop South African giant killer Christo van Rensburg 6-2, 1-6, 7-6, 7-4 in the Malaysian Open tennis championship Thursday, reports AFP.

The 28-year-old Agenor took over two hours to subdue 30-year-old Rensburg who blasted top seed Henrik Holm of Sweden out of the tournament Tuesday with a 6-2, 7-5 score.

Agenor took the first set from Rensburg in 34 minutes when he broke his service twice to win 6-2.

But the South African turned the tables on Agenor in the second set by breaking

service twice within 30 minutes to win 6-1.

Both players became defensive in the rubber set, each holding serve until 6-6 to take the set to a tie-break.

Rensburg threw away his chance to take the decider when he failed to capitalise on his two break points in the 11th game.

He bungled his serve in the tie-break and Agenor took advantage of the mistake to wrap up the set at 7-6 (7-4) to qualify for the singles quarter-final today.

A gloomy Rensburg said later: "It could have been anyone's match. It was just a matter of one or two points here or there. It was a pity to lose like that."

Agenor plays in the quarter-final against Richey Reneberg of

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Div II handball

Sports Reporter
Nawabpur Sporting Club swept aside Badda Samaj Kallayan Sangsad by 35 goals to 15 in the only match of the Sunball Second Division handball league at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

The winners led 14-7 at half time.

Dulal with 21 goals was the leading scorer for Nawabpur Sporting while Uttam scored seven goals.

Jasim netted six goals and Kajal, Sohrab and Elias got two each for Badda Samaj Kallayan Sangsad.