**Sports Reporter** 

The 1992 First Division football league runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club have confirmed the services of the former Soviet Union's youth team coach Nikolai Smirnov for the forth-coming Premier Division league and other engagements, Anwarul Helal, a senior Mohammedan official, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Smirnov, around 50, will arrive in the city sometime next month and will stay here as long as the local soccer programmes continue, Helal said. Helal - a former joint sec-

retary of the Bangladesh Football Federation - met Smirnov during his recent visit to Russia and reportedly reached an agreement with him "in black and white."

Talking to this correspondent Helal said that Smirnov had served the Soviet youth team for more than a decade and held that position until the disintegration of the USSR in

After the split Smirnov went to the United Arab Emirates and trained the renowned Al-Jazira Club foot ballers last year," Helal said.

The Russian coach has suggested a young and energetic squad for Mohammedans for the upcoming league. Helal

As regards Mohammedans local and foreign recruits, Helal said that the club was yet to decide the issue but would definitely respect the coach's suggestions. Meanwhile, Mohammedans

arch-rivals league champions Abahani Krira Chakra have reportedly signed up four Russian players for the coming

However, Abahani officials declined to disclose the names of their signings at this stage.

But sources close to Abahani informed The Daily Star that Sergei Zhukov who played for them last year may be the only player familiar to local fans, the other three being new

Apart from Zhukov, two other Russians Alexi Arificv and Alexander Polynkov played for the league champions last

### Latin, European champs clash on Feb 25 COPENHAGEN, Jan 9:

Denmark will play Argentina in Buenos Aires next month in the first official game between the European and South American soccer champions, reports Reuter.

The Danish Soccer sederation announced on Friday if had accepted the February 24 date proposed by the Argentine Football Association for the clash

## Local hopes laid to rest



tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The Russians beat the se nior outfit of the hosts 2-0 in an interrupted incident pa cked, mal gout encounter to mark the completion of Group A engagements. With this win Krylia Sovetov rolled them-

selves among the last four as the Group A runners-up. Almost out of contention even before they had entered the field the Bangladesh Reds yesterday failed to unwind themselves as a valedictory gesture to the annoyed partisan crowd and added insult to injury when defender Monem Munna unnecessarily incurred the wreath of the Malaysian

The Reds were without their star midfield winger Rumman bin-Wali Shabbir and out-of-form Sheikh Aslam.

referee to be chastised with

the fourth red card of the

eight-team meet.

who perhaps as a part of their game plan allowed the home players to run around their citadel gave any room for shooting.

With goalkeepers of both the sides remaining inactive the first noteworthy incident took place in the 40th minute, five minutes before the short whistle. Monem Munna, who was playing in his unwonted position of a midfielder following the return of stopper-back Jewel Rana who had to be carried off the field earlier in the tournament opener, pounced on Krylia medio Harlatchev from behind and the Malaysian referee Jameel Zakaria promptly flashed the red card to oust the offender. The supporters, demoralised by the joint misadventure of the two local teams - the Bangladesh Greens and Reds - poured their phials of wrath on linesman Chui Chang-Seon of South Korea doing his duty on the western side of the field. Stones were pelted and the Malaysian referee had to hold

utes into the second half when Dimitri Ivanov slotted a rebounder home after a first time attempt by Diner Saiarpov upon a cross from the right was partially saved by Bang ladesh custodian and skipper Mohsin playing in trousers (2-

Referee Jameel Zakaria had to stop match in the 77th minute as the crowd grew restless on the western gal leries Same of the unruly youths tried to force their way into the press gallery. Intimi dated by the tense atmosphere Zakaria blew the long whistle after eight minutes but the BFF officials cajoled the referee to take the match to a logical conclusion. The last few minutes of the match were played under insufficient lights as the floodlights started mal functioning to heighten the accruing disappointment.

KRYLIA SOVETOV: Victor Gaous, A Tsygankov, S Makey ev, S Gribov, V Toumakine, S Marsoushko (i Semine), V Filippov, D Saiarflov (R Fakroodinov), D Ivanov, E Harlatchev



Referee Jamil Zakaria of Malaysia (L) leaving the field along with the linesmen when a section of the restive crowd started pelting stones in the field. Jamil was however persuaded by the BFF officials to complete the match. Bangladesh Reds lost the match 0-2 to Krylia Sovetov of Russia at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. - Star photo

the match against the Malaysian Olympic football team while Aslam's exclusion was a logical step in view of his unfailing failures.

As usual Bangladesh started enterprisingly with Rumi Rizvi Karim and Golam Gaus upfront displaying a positive approach for the first half an hour or so as Satyajit Das Rupu and Zakir supplied them some useful balls. However, the Russians

north-western corner came to Vyatchslav Fomine from-Sergei Maroushko's head and the stocky midfielder rifled the ball into the net with a perfeetly timed first-timer in the 44th minute (1-0).

Krylia established full control in the second half as the Reds, reduced to ten men. were just going through the motions. The Russians sealed the fate of the match 32 minZakir, Golam Gaus (Shabbir) and Rumi.

**STANDINGS** Group A standings after yesterday's match between Krylia Sovetov of Russia and the Bangladesh Reds:

Address (Advisors Beganning Street St							
CANADA CONTRACTOR DE CONTRACTO	M	W	D	L	P GF	GAP	
Polonia Warszawa	3	2	1	0	8	2	
Krylia Sovetov	3	2	1	0	5	.5	
Bangladesh Reds	3	0	19	2	1	4	
Olympic team of		innes			541		
Malaysia	3	a	4	2	3	9	

# AC Milan complete half-century



LONDON, Jan 11: Star-studded leaders AC Milan completed 50 league matches without defeat

this weekend and fended off accusations that their dominance of Italian football was bad for the game, reports Reuter.

They scored their half century with a 1-0 home win over Cagliari.

"Sooner or later, we'll lose and end the chorus of critics who are trying to find ways of stopping us," Milan president Silvio Berlusconi said.

"People say that we've killed off the championship but when we lose two consecutive games, they'll say that we are at the end of our winning cycle," he added.

Sparkle in the Milan side, which dominated Sunday's match, was provided by Italian international Roberto Donadoni, one of many famous Milan names used only part time because of the plethora of talent at the club. Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin scored the

only goal from a penalty. Milan continue to lead the championship by eight points from second-placed Internazionale who descated Foggia



JEAN PIERRE- PAPIN went down with influenza,

coach Dino Zoff replied: remains an important player." dissatisfaction at Gascoigne's fitness following the Christmas

In Spain, unlikely top dogs Deportivo Coruna extended Sevilla.

manding 3-0 win over Cadiz,

The Sevilla-Barcelona confrontation, billed as the match of the century in last week's press, produced none of the expected fireworks from

The ex-Argentine captain lavished praise on his old club: "You have to be very alert with this Barcelona side. Their forwards are impressive, always moving, and can upset anyone."

yff returned the compliment: played well. The marking of Stoichkov was very solid and he had no chances."

Third-placed Real Madrid put away five goals at Real Sociedad. "It's a triumph and

Reneberg - who partnered

compatriot Jim Grabb to the

1992 US Open doubles title

and reached the doubles finals

in Wimbledon last year -

served a total of five aces past

Delaitre to take the match his

nament with 27 aces, strug-

gled to find his powerful

serves as he lost service four

When you are tired, you cannot

concentrate too much," said

the dejected Frenchman, who

blamed his defeat on the tough

matches he played throughout

The doubles final, in con-

trast, was a hotly contested

match, with each pair breaking

the other's serve twice from

the third until the sixth game.

the week to reach the final.

"Nothing went right for me.

Delaitre, who led the tour-

gives us much greater confidence for the future " coach Benito Floro said.

It was German night in the French league on Saturday with Juergen Klinsmann and Rudi Voeller scoring seven goals between them.

Klinsmann, in his first season in France, scored all four goals against Auxerre as he led Monaco to the top of the standings for the first time this season. But the former Internazionale player was not completely satisfied.

"I did not break my record remember a match with Stuttgart against Dusseldorf a few years ago in which scored five goals," he said.

Voeller only scored three for Marseille in their 5-2 thrashing of Toulon, but it was enough to silence critics who considered him too old at 32 to replace Papin.

"The Rudi of old is back, a born marksman who is also very useful in collective play," said coach Raymond Goethals.

Klinsmann's four goals allowed Monaco to overtake Nantes at the top of the standings thanks to a better goal difference. Voeller's hat trick raised Marseille to third one point behind.

#### Reneberg richer by \$39,600 Both sides then played cautiously and held serve until the 12th game when Eltingh and

third title following wins in Guaruja, Brazil, and Schene

Abedi Pele's feat ABIDJAN, Jan 11: Ghana's

striker Abedi Pele, who plays for French champions Marseille, was named Africa's 'footballer-of-the-year' here Sunday, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old received the award at the half-time of the African Super Cup final receiving a cup from African Football Confederation president Issa Ayatou.



putting the Russian side Krylia Sovetov ahead in yesterday's President Gold Cup Group A match at the Dhaka Stadium. - Star photo

Polonia Warszawa

of Poland played

themselves under

the limelight as

gest bidders for

one of the stron-

the seventh President Gold

PIOTR ROWLCKI ...

they steamrolled Malaysian

Olympic football team 6-1 in

one of the two Group A mat-

ches played at the Dhaka

the top of the points table

along with Krylia Sovetov of

Russia, edged past their Euro-

pean neighbours in the race

for the slot of group cham-

pions by virtue of goal

difference. The Poles who had

to suffer because of some over-

enthusiastic supervision by

Bangladeshi referee Rafiqul

Islam, gave ample demonstra-

tion of their prowess in a goal

feast where they proved to be

rather ungracious hosts, allow-

ing their opponents only once

to have the taste of a goal.

Referee Rafiqul Islam had a

busy day yesterday giving

marching orders to three play-

ers and flashing the yellow

card six times but the plunder-

ing Poles took an unassatlable

3-0 lead by the first half.

Warszawa, who finished at

sent off

Stadium yesterday.

Cup football tournament as

## of pro snooker

BANGKOK, Jan 11: Seventeen-year-old Ronie O'Sullivan became the youngest winner of a professional snooker tournament when he took the Bangkok Challenge on Sunday.

The English youngster lost 5 3 to former world champion John Parrott in his final match in the round-robin tournament. But the three frames he won clinched first place ahead of Scotland's Alan McManus.

Current world champion Stephen Hendry was the previous youngest winner when he took the 1987 Rothmans Grand Prix at the age of 18.

Parrott, who lost his two other matches in the fourplayer Bangkok Challenge, htt breaks of 98, 79 and 43 on his way to beating O'Sullivan whose best was a 76.

#### Three contenders for Jesse Owens Trophy

NEW WORK, Jan 11: The list of finalists for the 1993 Jesse Owens International Trophy award has been narrowed to three - Jackie Joyner-Kersee and Kevin Young of the United States and gymnast Vitaly Scherbo of Byelorus, reports Reuter.

The trophy, to be awarded on February 9, is presented to the athlete who best personifies excellence in athletic performance and promotes cooperation and understanding among peoples of all nations. The winner is selected by an international panel of electors.

Joyner-Kersee, considered the world's greatest female athlete, successfully defended her Olympic heptathlon title, scoring in excess of 7,000 points for the sixth time.

Young was undefeated in 400 metre hurdles last year. He won the Olympic gold medal and broke Edwin Moses's nine-year-old world record in 1992.

Scherbo won a record six Olympic gold medals in Barcelona.

He captured gold in parallel bars, vault, rings, pommel house and won the individual allaround gold and as a member of the winning CIS squad, formerly the Soviet Union.

The Jesse Ownes award which was founded in 1980. last year went to American long jumper Mike Powell following his world record performance at the World Championships.

Other previous winners include cyclist Greg Lemond, track stars Carl Lewis, Florence Griffeth-Joyner, Mosses and Sebastian Coe, and diver Greg Louganis.

#### 32 kabaddi players called to camp

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation has made a preliminary selection of 32 players for the forthcoming third Asian kabaddi championship and the sixth SAF Games to be held in the city next February and December respectively. Following are the players:

Hafizur Rahman, Rabiul Alam, Abu Bakr Siddique and Younus Ali of Bangladesh Fire Service; Abdul Rouf, Tariqul Islam, Amjad Hossain, Mir Julhas and Abul Kasem o Bangladesh Rifles; Azma Hossain, Nazir Ahmed, Abdul Alim and Md Shahjahan of Bangladesh Ansars; Moshiur Rahman, Faruk Talukder, Zahurul Huq, Ashraf Hossain Taibur Rahman and Abdus Sobhan of Bangladesh Police: Kamruzzaman, Abdul Jalil and Saiful Islam of Dinajpur; Asghar Ali, Saiful Islam and Jasimuddin of Tangail; Abdus Satter and Babul of Comilla and Mukundu Chandra Sarker, Umed Ali, Alamgir Hossain and Abul Kalam of Khulna.

Amir Hossain Patoari has that is by letting independent been made the manager while drug testers into China." Hamidur Rahman and Jahangir Alam Chowdhury is the coach and assistant coach respec-

## Youngest winner Prolific Poles top Group A

Sports Reporter

A fatal error in judgement by Asbullah Mohammad Matsum, the Malaysian custodian. allowed a cross from the right to bounce over him and Pawel Kowalewski found an inviting open net in the 10th minute of the match [1-0].

Polonia Warszawa domi nated the proceedings with controlled football marked with neat passes and a general plan of involving as many men possible in attack. Eight minutes later Asbullah let slip a free kick from the top of the box by Tereszczynski Bogdan and Pietr Rowlcki, now a familiar and popular guy with the local crowd for his long flowing hair, toed the ball in from close (2-0).

Dariusz Dzwigaza, the Polish marshall on the field, squeezed a free kick through the Malaysian wall and Asbullah watched the ball hopelessly go in (3-0).

Polonia Warszawa scored the fourth goal two minutes after the resumption when Zbigniew Tietz netted the ball from a melee (4-0). Substitute Pawel Krzeminsky converted a penalty to widen the margin in favour of the Poles in the 32nd minute [5-0].

Shortly before this Faizul of Malaysia and Piotr Rowlcki were given marching orders by referee Rafiqul Islam when the Malaysian defender made a cynical charge against Rowlcki. Much to the dismay of the

sentient crowd, referee Rafigul Islam ordered Rowleki, the victim, to leave the field along with the offender - a decision which perhaps stemmed from the innate tendency of the local referees to 'balance' things! Azaruddin Mohammed Aziz

ensured some consolation of the empty-handed Malaysians when he scored a goal against the run of play in the 34th minute with a placing shot that gave no chance to the advancing Polish custodian Rutkowski Referee Rafigul Islam awar-

ded second penalty of the match to the Poles in the 38th minute of the second half when Paul Raj of Malaysta fouled Gawa Mariusz inside the

box. The upshot of the incident was a successful conversion by Pawel Dziceol and the ouster of Paul Raj, the third red card of the match. Six players - four from Malaysia and two from Warszawa were shown yellow cards.



PAUL RAJ of Malaysia ... red card

POLONIA WARSZAWA (Poland): Wieskaw Rutkuwski, Filaber Wkuozimierz, Zbigniew Tictz, Jan Karas (Mriusz Gawa), Arkaufusz Gmur, Ryszard Stromecki, Bogdan Tereszczynski, Pawel Kowalewski Dariusz Dzwigaza (Pawel Krzemin skil, Piotr Rowlcki and Pawel

MALAYSIAN OLYMPIC TEAM: Abdullah Mohamad Matsum, Mohd Faizul, Lee Thean-Ewe, Thinagaran, Hanizal Hassan, Rosdee Sulong (Ghazali Ismail), Azaruddin Mohd Aziz, Yap Wailoon, Paul Raj. Effendi B. Julaihi (Sanbagamaran) and Fanzuan Che

Dzieciul.

Hamid.

Referce: Refigul Islam (Bangladesh).

#### TODAY'S MATCHES

Housing Bank (ROK) vs FC Tatran Presov [3:00 pm] 13 Greens vs FC Ploesti (5:00pm)

### Drug deja vu and Chinese natants



BEIJING, Jan 11: Accusations of drug and steroid use that have dogged Chinese swimmers since

the 1991 World Championships surfaced again here Sunday at the World Cup swimming series held in China, reports AFP. "There is a certain deja vu

here," doping control officer David Gerrard said. "You only have to go back 20 years and look at the East Germans to see the similarity. I would hate it if we have to

wait another 20 years to prove

about the whole situation

that the Chinese were using drugs," he said. Gerrard, a physician from New Zealand, is a member of the medical committee of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) and is serving as the doping control offi-

Chinese swimmers have tested negative at every major international competition and Beijing sports officials consistently say they oppose the use of drugs by athletes.

cer at the World Cup meets

But most foreign experts believe that the Chinese gold medal wins at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics were manulactured in a bottle. llong Kong coach Bill

Sweetenham has been moni-

toring the progress of Chinese swimmers for the past 10 "The suspicion is so strong hat the Chinese have to clear up this issue," Sweetenham said. "The only way they'll do

"At the Olympics the Chinese women had 14 personal best performances. The men had none - are you going

to say that their training only

works for women?" he asked.

LIN LI That is too much like the old East German sports pro-

The Chinese first burst on to the world swimming scene in the mid- 1980s, just after the arrival in China of Klaus Rudolph, the coach of the powerful East German women swimmers.

grammes.

Their success in swimming is a mirror image of the drugladen East German system.

The most immediate effect of using steroids and Human Growth Hormone (HGH) are seen in women's power and sprint events.

Qian Hong won the 100metre butterfly at the Barcelona Games. Yang Wenyi is the world record holder and Olympic champion in the 50metre freestyle. And Lin Li re-

turned from Barcelona with three gold medals in butterfly and the grueling individual medleys.

"These days it's relatively

easy to arrive at a competition clean," Gerrard said. "I see too many indications that the Chinese women are using something. The telltale signs of steroid and Human Growth Hormone are there to see." The side effects of HGH and

stéroids include severe acne, a jutting jawline and increased muscle mass, particularly in the upper thighs.

"Take a look at Lin Li," Gerrard said. "Her body is so different from the Chinese population at large. As a doctor I feel for these girls, but if they are not using drugs China has to prove it to the rest of the

think that they have drugs in training, but not competition," German coach Manfred Theismann said. "By the time they arrive at any meets they are clean. The only way to stop them is unan nounced, out of competition

"You can't catch them under the rules now. We need blood

testing," he said. Blood testing is the only way to detect HGH and Erythropoitein, a drug that boosts red blood cell produc-

The International Olympic Committee is currently reviewing blood testing in the face of strong opposition against the practice on religious and human rights grounds.

World Cup meet draw the battle lines over the drug and steroid issues, the athletes remain uninterested.
"I don't believe that it's the

While the coaches at the

girls' fault. They probably have no choice. You should blame their system, not the athletes."

### Timman misses a chance to nail Nigel Short

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL, Spain, Jan 11 Dutchman Jan Timman missed a chance to unnerve favourite Nigel Short in the opening game of their 200,000 dollar world chess championship eliminator match on Sunday when he let his British opponent escape with a draw on the 46th move, reports Reuter. Timman, playing white,

opened with the unpretentious

Tartakower variation of the

Queens Gambit. Both players

repeated moves from and en-

counter between Short and

former world champion **Anatoly Karpov until Timman** varied on the 14th move.

Short made a dubious pawn sacrifice on his 23rd move. "He went berserk," said

In Rome, third placed Lazio continued a good run with a 2-0 victory over Brescia, both goals coming from the league's leading goalscorer, Giuseppe



Paul Gascoigne, who was a last minute selection only because. German Karl-Heinz Riedle

"Clearly Gascoigne is not currently at his best, but even in his present condition he Last week Zoff expressed

> KUALA LUMPUR, include victories over John Jan 11: American McEnroe and Pete Sampras.

Richey Reneberg whipped Olivier Delaitre of France 6-3, 6-1 to win the singles of the Malaysian

Open tennis championship on Sunday, reports AFP. The 27-year-old Texasbased player served up a classy game to subdued the hard-hitting Frenchman in 64 minutes

and take the winner's purse of 39,600 dollars. The doubles title, meanwhile, went to Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, who edged Henrik Holm of Sweden and Bent-Ove Pedersen of Norway 7-5, 6-3.

"I played perfect tennis today. I swerved really well and played about as well as I could," said an elated Grandmaster Raymond Keene. | Reneberg, whose past glories

break

their lead to two points, taking advantage of second-placed Barcelona's 0-0 draw with Deportivo enjoyed a com-

with two goals from Brazil's Bebeto which made him the league's top goal scorer, two clear of Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov.

Sevilla's Diego Maradona against his former club.

Barcelona coach Johan Cru-"Sevilla worked hard and

Haaruis managed to break their opponent to take the set at 7-5.

It was Eltingh and Haarhuis ctady, New York, last year.

The coaching camp will be gin soon.

tively.