

Schools b'ball

Sports Reporter

St Nicholas, B N School, Nabakumar Institute and BAF Shaheen College and School emerged victors in their respective matches in the National King Fahd schools basketball championship at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

St Nicholas beat K L Jubilee School 70-14; BN School beat Rifles Public High School 24-18; Nabakumar Institute beat Mohammadpur High School 30-10 and BAF Shaheen beat St Joseph School 47-42.

Faisal wins in SAF prep tennis

Faisal Syed Huq beat Syed Wajidullah Jhelan 6-2, 6-3 in the second leg of the SAF Games tennis training tournament at the National Tennis Complex here Saturday, reports BSS.

Faisal, who defeated Shamim Ahsan Rani and Shovon Jamali in the leg, earned six full points from three matches.

In the other match of the day, Hira Lal beat Rani 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

The fourth day matches will be held at 3 pm today.

List matters least for a Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 18:

Argentine soccer directors said on Friday that they had not discarded the possibility of calling up Diego Maradona for their World Cup qualifying matches against Australia, reports Reuter.

Maradona was left out of a 22 man squad named Friday by coach Alfio Basile, but Argentine Football Association president Julio Grondona said the list was not final.

"Maradona doesn't have to be in any list. Everything depends on him," said Grondona, adding: "I hope we can count on him."

"We are waiting for Diego to play a few games and to see what happens with the business of Newell's and Sevilla. We hope it will be resolved quickly."

Maradona has begun training with his new club Newell's Old Boys and is expected to make his debut in the Argentine championship on October 7.

But Spanish club Sevilla, where he played last season after completing a 15-month world ban for drug abuse, said Tuesday they were blocking his transfer to Newell's.

Sevilla said they had informed the Spanish federation of the decision and they expect the matter to be relayed to FIFA, world soccer's governing body.

Argentina have been forced to play off against Australia for a place at the 1994 World Cup finals after finishing runners-up to Colombia in South America Group A. Their last match was a humiliating 5-0 defeat at home to the Colombians.

Fullback Ricardo Altamirano, midfielder Jose Luis Villareal and forwards Claudio Garcia and Julio Zamora were dropped from the squad which played the South American qualifiers.

Newcomers included Boca Juniors' defender Carlos Macallister and Velez Sarsfield's Victor Hugo Sotomayor.

The first leg is due to be played in Sydney on October 31 with the return in Buenos Aires on November 16 or 17.

Bribery charges against Tapie

ZURICH, Switzerland, Sept 18: An official of soccer's European ruling body has alleged that Olympique Marseille owner Bernard Tapie was paid to drop the lawsuit that got his team temporarily reinstated in the European Cup, reports AP.

Union of European Football Association general secretary Gerhard Aigner made the allegations in an interview published Saturday in the *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* newspaper.

"He likely received huge sums, certainly much more than if he had taken part in the European Cup," Aigner said.

Asked who might have paid off Tapie, Aigner said: "... it appears Tapie also took his case to the French government."

Tapie had no immediate comment on the allegations.

Aigner said UEFA's headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, were fire-bombed and the organization has received threats since it barred Marseille in Sept. 6 from defending their European Champions Cup title because of alleged match-rigging.

Tapie obtained a Swiss court ruling against UEFA that temporarily lifted the ban Sept 9.

But he dropped the lawsuit the next day under heavy pressure from FIFA, which has given the French federation until Thursday to act on the scandal or face suspension of all its teams from international soccer.

Reported threats by FIFA, soccer's world governing body, to strip France of the right to host the 1998 World Cup forced the French Football Federation to put pressure on Tapie, Aigner told the newspaper.

Abahani ensure second slot

Sports Reporter



Abahani Kirta Chakra exacted a sweet revenge and confirmed at least the runners-up position in this year's Star Premier Division football league



Neither Abahani skipper Rumi nor Brothers defender Parvez seems to be aware of the fact that the ball has already crossed the goal line during yesterday's Star Premier Division encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani won the big match 2-0. — Star photo

when they recorded a comfortable 2-0 victory against Brothers' Union at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The reigning champions, who need a heady mixture of luck and form to retain their title, led the first half one-nil.

Yesterday's win leaves Abahani with 27 points from 17 matches and a place behind league leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club who are almost certain to win the title after a lapse of two years.

Abahani's arch-rivals Mohammedans have so far managed 28 points from 16 matches and have two more matches including one against lowly PWD today.

Unless Mohammedans lose today, followed by another debacle on September 23 against themselves, the sky-blues' title-hopes are as good as gone. Even if Mohammedans draw with PWD and lose to Abahani, they will have collected 29 points from the full quota of 18 matches leading to a dead-lock and a rematch to settle the title.

To return to the mutton, Abahani yesterday played with aplomb and thoroughly dominated their first-round victors.

Had their strikers, particularly skipper Rumi Rizvi Karim been a little less prodigal, they could have walked away with a 4-0 win.

Brothers' Union, who registered a thrilling 3-2 win against Abahani in the first-round en-

counter, never looked incisive enough to force a win. A win last night could have given Brothers the runners-up slot ahead of Abahani.

Abahani's win was never in doubt with in-form Mamun Joarder working in tandem with

pan), Georgi, Masud Rana, Dozmarov, Sudarikov, Rumi, Mamun Joarder and Gaus (Zakir) (Shakil).

BROTHERS' UNION: Ponir, Moon, Parvez, Pijush, Debashish, Ata, Rupu, Manik (Dulal), Vassilini (Mizan) (Jilani), Rakib and Uttam.

RAHMATGANJ WIN

A struggling Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society recorded another win in the other Star Premier Division encounter, played earlier at the same venue yesterday.

They beat Wari Club by a lone goal with Lokman netting the match winner with a header 14 minutes into the second half.

Rahmatganj now have 11 points from 17 matches but still remain at the bottom of the points table.

Wari Club, who are not very far ahead of Rahmatganj, stay at 13 from 17 matches.

POINTS SHARED
Farashganj Sporting Club and Wanderers' Club shared points in day's only match of Star First Division football league played at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In an apparently-fixed match, Farashganj took a ridiculously quick two-nil lead early in the second half. Shimul scored in the sixth minute and Shimul doubled the margin three minutes later.

Sohel of Wanderers restored parity with goals in 10th and 15th minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Arambagh vs Muktfjodha (4:30)
Mohammedans vs PWD (6:30)

Defeats sober Bolivians

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Sept 18: Bolivians were jubilant when their national soccer team won the first five World Cup qualifying games, reports AP.

But after two defeats at the hands of Brazil and Uruguay, Bolivians are less euphoric as Sunday's crucial qualifying game against Ecuador approaches.

"We believe we will win but there are elements to be worried about," said Bolivian Information Minister Herman Antelo.

"The Ecuadorian team is under psychological attack for losing against Venezuela Sunday and they will enter the field like hyenas," Antelo said. "The two teams will behave as if they were famished and will be desperate to win."

Bolivia must win or tie to get a spot in the World Cup finals in the United States next year.

When the qualifying matches for Group B began two months ago, Bolivia was not considered a likely candidate for the World Cup. But after five straight victories, including a 2-0 victory against Brazil, Bolivia were considered invincible and sure to win a berth at the finals.

There were celebrations throughout the country and team players were media stars, surrounded by autograph seekers and reporters. Team players were offered lucrative contracts with Latin American

clubs.

But the celebrations were short-lived. Bolivia were defeated by Brazil 1-0 in their first match.

They then drew 1-1 with Uruguay in their second match.

On Sunday they will face Ecuador in their third match.

On La Paz streets, tens of thousands of leaflets and posters have been placed on vehicles and on walls, calling for a victory Sunday.

"A better opportunity... to go to the World Cup will never come again and we will take advantage of the situation," said center-half defender Luis Cristaldo.

Like Bolivia, Brazil need only a draw to qualify, while Uruguay need a victory, or a draw and a Bolivian loss, to get to the World Cup. Brazil and Uruguay face off in Rio de Janeiro.

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Radford rattles Middlesex

LONDON, Sept 18: County champions Middlesex were thrashed by an innings and 36 runs, by Worcestershire on Friday, sliding to their first defeat of the season in a two-day humiliation, reports Reuter.

Worcestershire moved into second place in the championship table after registering a fifth consecutive victory in their best run since 1988.

The final positions will depend on the results of games involving Glamorgan and Northamptonshire.

Paceman Neal Radford spearheaded the victory charge on the day that Yorkshire's England fast bowler Paul Jarvis arrived to consider Worcestershire's overtures for next season.

When Middlesex began their second innings 184 behind, Radford claimed the first four wickets in his opening spell and finished with six for 49.

Dismissed for 68 on the first morning, Middlesex reached 148 at the second attempt, John Carr top-scoring with 67.

At Canterbury, a superb exhibition of stroke play by West Indian test star Carl Hooper (187 not out) and Trevor Ward (137) helped Kent dominate the Glamorgan attack as they piled up 395 for three off 88 overs.

The pair put on 229 in 50 overs for the third wicket — Kent's best partnership of the season.

Essex off-spinner Peter Such emerged from a barren spell to help spearhead a Hampshire collapse at Chelmsford.

The 29-year-old took five for 89 from 48 overs as the visitors slumped from 287 for three to 347 all out.

Such's victims included England reject David Gower, stumped for 134 after resuming at 95 overnight.

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Impressive win for BCCB XI

Sports Reporter



Enterprising batting by Mahbubur Rahman Selim batted up by tight bowling helped Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) XI record an impressive 63 run win against P J Hindu Gymkhana in a friendly match at the Brabourne Stadium, Bombay, according to faxed message received at the BCCB office last night.

Selim, the young Biman batsman, batted at one drop position to compile a positive 51 off 69 balls with the help of three fours as stand in BCCB XI skipper Enamul Huq Moni decided to bat first after winning the toss.

Moni led the side in absence of regular captain Minhazul Abedin Nannu, who hurt his little finger in the side's previous match.

BCCB XI batted through their quota of 45 overs to raise a healthy total of 191 for five after Athar Ali and Jahangir Alam put on an opening partnership of 57.

Athar was rather slow, scoring 31 off 88 balls, but Jahangir did reasonably good job for his 36 off 57 balls.

However, the later batsmen made up for the early slow scoring rate with some lusty hitting.

Akram made a breezy 20 and Dulu, promoted in the batting order whacked a sixer in his 12. But the real thrust was provided by skipper Moni, who remained unbeaten on 20 with two sixes, and young Habibul Bashar Suman, who too hit two overboundaries in his unbeaten 19.

Sawant bowled well for the hosts, taking two for 21 off nine overs.

BCCB XI bowlers maintained a vice like grip on the Gymkhana batsmen right from the word go. None of the batsmen got going with Walawalker topscoring with 25. Jadav with 21 was the other notable scorer. Gymkhana, finally, managed 128 for nine wickets.

Dulu was the most successful BCCB bowler with figures of three for 18.

Moni, Prince and Babul bowled splendidly among others.

SCOREBOARD

BCCB ELEVEN:

Jahangir c Korgaokar
b Sawant 36
Athar Ali c Korgaokar
b Sawant 31
Selim run out 51
Akram Khan c A Karnik
b Gautam 20
Dulu b L Shah 12
Moni not out 20

Sumon not out 19
(Did not bat — Pial, Nasu, Prince and Babul)
Extras: 2
Total: (for five wickets in 45 overs) 191
Fall of wickets: 1/57; 2/78; 3/130; 4/140; 5-152
Bowling: O M R W
Gautam 7 0 44 1
Sawant 9 0 21 2
Shah 2 0 7 1

HINDU GYMKHANA
Thakre lbw b Prince 11
Karnik c Dulu b Pial 4
Javeri c Athar b Dulu 13
Jadav c b Babul 21
Sawant run out 0
Korgaokar c Athar b Dulu 11
Walawalker c Babul b Moni 25
Shah lbw b Akram 7
Gautam c Athar b Dulu 15
Ravi Thakur not out 1
S.Desai not out 0
Extras: 19
Total: (for 9 wks in 45 overs) 128

Fall of wickets: 1/12; 2/24; 3/42; 4/44; 5/67; 6/72; 7/104; 8/126 and 9/128
Result: BCCB Eleven won by 63 runs.

Unique family feat afoot



JOHANNESBURG, Sept 18: Michelle Martin looks set to make her family the only one ever to contain two World Open

squash champions here next week, reports AFP.

The top seeded Australian hopes to achieve in the women's event which starts here on Tuesday what her elder brother Rodney Martin managed in the men's World Open in Adelaide in 1991.

Michelle, who won the British Open without dropping a game in April, has been the outstanding player on the women's circuit since taking over as world number one earlier this year.

If she follows it by taking the World Open as well, it will be a unique family success.

Although Roshan Khan, father of six-time world champion Jahangir Khan, was once world number one in the 1950's, he achieved this before the World Open had begun.

Another Pakistani, Mohib-ullah Khan, the elder brother of

the current world champion Jansher Khan, won the world masters at Wembley in the 1980s but lost in the final of the World Open to Australia's Geoff Hunt.

Similarly, Michelle's eldest brother Brett Martin has twice been a member of Australian world team title winning squads (once with Rodney) but has yet to reach the final of the world open.

If Michelle were to need an omen — and she probably doesn't — Brett supplied it last month when he won his first major tour title, the Hong Kong Open.

His sister is clear about the impact which Rodney's World Open triumph has had upon her.

"He beat the world's top three players to do it — and that really showed me what could be done," she says.

Of Brett's great talent, she recently commented: "If I had half of his ability I think I would have won a World Open by now."

Michelle confirmed her pre-eminence last month by win-

ning both the Australian and New Zealand Opens, but there was a hint of warning when in between these successes she was beaten in the Victoria Open in Melbourne by her compatriot Liz Irving.

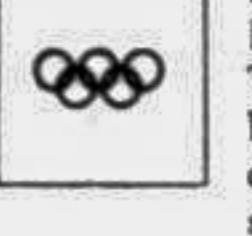
It was Irving who beat her in the final of the Leekes Classic in Cardiff in February, at a time when it seemed a new look slimed down and speeded-up Martin might be too nervous to live up to her top billing.

The Brisbane player is installed as the Sydney-sider's nearest rival at number two seed this week, and Irving will be keen to shake off the image she has with some people of being the sport's most gifted under-achiever.

Irving has taken over as world number two from Cassandra Jackman, the former world junior champion from England, who last year was cited by World Open title holder Susan Devoy as a likely successor.

New Zealander Devoy announced her retirement in Vancouver eleven months ago after winning the World Open a fourth time.

Palestine under IOC wings



MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Sept 18: The IOC executive board on Saturday granted provisional recognition

to the Palestine National Olympic Committee, clearing the way for a Palestinian team to compete at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, reports AP.

International Olympic Committee director general Francois Carrard said the decision was reached after the IOC received confirmation that the Palestinian committee had headquarters in Jericho.

"A number of technicalities must be put in place, but this decision means the athletes of Palestine will be able to participate in all the next Olympic Games," Carrard said.

The recognition goes to the full IOC session for approval next week, but that is considered a mere formality.

The move came less than a week after the signing in Washington of a peace accord

between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel. The deal calls for limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Carrard said more than 100 countries already recognized Palestine as a sovereign territory before the accord with Israel.

"The recent agreements between the PLO and Israel are a very substantial addition to this recognition by the international community," he said. "We consider that the territories (which were) internationally sanctioned by the agreements constitute a basis which is sufficient for provisional recognition."

Carrard also noted that the Palestinian Olympic committee had already been affiliated with 10 international sports federations, five more than the number required by the IOC.

Provisional recognition was granted to seven other national Olympic committees from Burundi, Cape Verde, the Comoros Islands, Sao Tome and Principe, Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia.

That brought to 194 the number of national Olympic committees recognized by the IOC.

Sportive China
MONTE CARLO, Sept 18: China gave a clear undertaking on Saturday that it would attend the 1996 Atlanta Olympics regardless of whether Beijing wins Thursday's vote on the 2000 Games, reports Reuter.

China's top Olympic official, He Zhenliang, made the commitment to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), IOC Director-General Francois Carrard told a news conference.

The announcement ended an apparent threat that China might not go to Atlanta if it did not win the 2000 Olympic vote.

He Zhenliang had ruled out a boycott of the 1996 Summer Games on Friday but had refused at a news conference to say that Chinese athletes would actually go to Atlanta.

Zhang Baifa, chief executive of Beijing's bid committee, said on Friday a boycott was possible because of political interference by the US House of Representatives, which passed a resolution in July opposing Beijing on human rights grounds.

Zhang told the official Xinhua news agency on Saturday that he had been misquoted. Beijing is