

Sport

BFF picks 28

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced the names of 28 booters, selected primarily to form the national squad which will represent Bangladesh in the 6th SAF Games to be held in Dhaka December 20-27, reports UNB. The preliminary selection was made by FIFA coach Oldrich Sava, in-charge of the national football team, who may call up more players for the training camp, said a BFF press release.

The selected players are:

Goalkeeper: Pannu (Muktijoddha), Saidur (PWD) and Lalul (Mohammedan).

Defence: Tito, Kaiser Hamid, Jewel and Barun (Mohammedan), Alamgir and Maud Rana (Abahani), Moon (Brothers), Sohel (Victoria) and Rubel (Rahmatgan).

Mid-field: Arman, Shabbir and Roxy (Mohammedan), Munna and Swapnil (Abahani), Joy (PWD) and Rupu (Brothers).

Forward: Aslam and Naqib (Mohammedan), Gaus, Rumi and Maman Joarder (Abahani), Rakib (Brothers), Ranjan (Rahmatgan), Jamal (Farashgan) and Jahangir (Agrant Bank).

All the selected players have been asked to report to the coach at the BFF office on September 25 (Saturday) at 9 am.

PWD avoid relegation

Sports Reporter

PWD needed one point in their last Star Premier Division football league match to stay in the top tier for at least one more year. And they did that yesterday, drawing one all with Agrant Bank at the Hockey Stadium in the afternoon.

Haroon scored for PWD while Ashish netted for the bankers.

Earlier at the same venue, Eskator Sabuj Sangha beat Adamjee Sports Club by two goals to one in a Star First Division league match.

Don got both the goals for the winners while Akram reduced the margin for the Adamjee side.

Italy post win over Estonia

TALLINN, Sept 23: Italy beat Estonia 3-0 (half-time 1-0) in a World Cup European Group One qualifying soccer tie on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Roberto Baggio (20th minute penalty, 73rd), Roberto Mancini (59th).

Dutch destroy San Marino

BOLOGNA, Italy, Sept 23: Netherlands beat San Marino 7-0 (half-time 3-0) in a World Cup European Group Two soccer qualifier on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: John Bosman (1st, 66th and 76th minutes), Wim Jonk (21st, 43rd), Ronald de Boer (51st), Ronald Koeman (79th penalty).

Riggs bows once again to King

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Sept 23: Billy Jean King beat Bobby Riggs once again, reports AP.

King and her partner Elton John defeated Riggs and Martina Navratilova 3-2 in a 15-minute tennis match at the forum Wednesday night to raise money for AIDS education and patient care.

The score was 2-2 when Jimmy Connors came in to relieve Riggs, the 75-year-old former tennis hustler.

"It's great to be on the court," Riggs said. "I had Martina Navratilova, one of the best players of all time as my partner. It was a good match. If we had played a complete set, I predict Riggs and Navratilova would have won. I'd bet a thousand dollar on it."

In a famous battle of the sexes match 20 years ago, King, then 29, beat Riggs, then 55, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

"It was so great to see Bobby and a really fun way to celebrate our 20-year reunion for such a great cause," King said.

The tennis match was part of a two-day event to raise money for the Elton John AIDS Foundation. On Thursday night, the singer will give a benefit concert at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Tyson's appeal goes unheard

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Sept 23: Indiana's Supreme Court on Wednesday voted not to hear former world heavyweight champion boxer Mike Tyson's appeal against his rape conviction, reports Reuter.

Two justices voted to review the case and two voted against reviewing it. A fifth abstained, and Tyson's appeal was denied.

The one-page ruling did not give the court's reasoning.

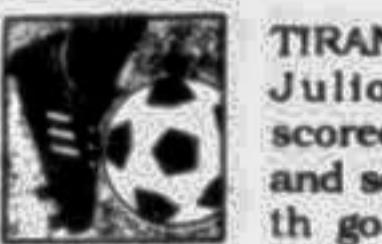
Tyson, 27, is expected to be released from prison in February 1995 after serving roughly three years of a six-year sentence for a 1991 rape of beauty pageant contestant Desirée Washington.



A number of ecstatic Abahani Krira Chakra fans cheer Gaus after the men in the Dhanmondi side edged past their long time foes league champions Mohammedans 3-2 in the last match of the Premier league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

—Star photo

Salinas cheers Spain up



TIRANA, Sept 23: Julio Salinas scored a hat-trick and set up a fourth goal as Spain crushed Albania 5-1 in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday, boosting their chances of a place in the finals, reports Reuter.

Barcelona striker Salinas netted twice in the first half, in the fifth and 31st minutes, with Antonio Munoz adding one in between before Albania reduced the deficit four minutes before half-time.

Salinas hit his third goal in the 61st minute, and 10 minutes later, laid on another for defender Perez Caminero as Spain ensured they would not miss qualification on goal difference.

Spain, third in Group Three, a point behind Denmark and two behind leaders Ireland, have a superior goal difference to the top two sides, who they play in their remaining games.

Salinas was more than a match for his marker Ili Shuklu who, though some five years his junior, was unable to keep pace with the mercurial Spaniard and was booked for

his efforts to stop the striker.

And Albania, who had to call up three Under-21 team players to complete their side after three regular players failed to turn up, could never live

Norway close to qualifying

OSLO, Sept 23: Jostein Flo scored the only goal as Norway beat Poland in a bad-tempered World Cup qualifying match on Wednesday, virtually guaranteeing themselves a place in the 1994 finals, reports Reuter.

"We're very, very close" to qualifying, said Norwegian coach Egil Olsen after his team extended their lead at the top of Group Two. "But it was a bit more like a war than a soccer match."

Both Norwegian goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt of Tottenham and Polish defender Roman Szewczyk were sent off after bone-crushing clashes in the second half.

The defeat virtually sinks Poland's chances of reaching the US finals, but they were unlucky not to claim at least a point after hitting the bar and the post.

With Fernando Ruiz Hierro dominating and coordinating the midfield, the Albaniens were on the defensive for nearly the entire match.

They did, however, shake the Spaniards when Sokol Kushta scored in the 41st minute as Spain let down their guard after taking a 3-0 lead.

Goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, who equalled the Spanish record of 81 caps, was booked for time wasting.

Spanish manager Javier Clemente said he was pleased with his team's high score, but warned that Spain's biggest obstacle to reach the finals was Denmark.

"We must score at least a point against Ireland away, but we must at all costs beat Denmark at home in Seville in the last match of the qualification," Clemente said.

Albania's manager Bejkush Birce blamed his team's chaotic preparations.

"How can you set up a team when you can never be sure who turns up and if all you have is a 40-minute training session before the match?" he complained.

Ice-cool Karpov tames Timman



AMSTERDAM, Sept 23: Russian Grandmaster Anatoly Karpov showed nerves of steel on Wednesday to wriggle out of a desperate time scramble and clinically defeat Dutchman Jan Timman in Game 10 of the FIDE World Chess Championship, reports Reuter.

Karpov's victory put him ahead by six points to four with 14 games left to play and made the Dutch Grandmaster's uphill struggle that much steeper.

After resigning, Timman strode out, grim-faced of the auditorium. His defeat seemed that much harder to bear because Karpov was earlier so close to losing on time, having to make eight moves in two minutes.

Timman is very, very pressed at the moment. He doesn't know why he is losing the killer touch," said American Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan, one of the Dutchman's seconds — expert assistants — who helped him to prepare for the match.

Karpov, with a comfortable two-point margin under his belt, can now force Timman, rated 31 in the world, to take all the risks in the remaining games of the match.

Timman played the Grunfeld Defence, one of his favourites, rather than switch into the Queen's Gambit which has produced two draws and a loss for

him in the match.

But Karpov knows the opening just as well as Timman. "Karpov used this system in his previous match against [disqualified world champion Garry] Kasparov and Kasparov was always struggling to equalise," said Australian Grandmaster Ian Rogers.

A typical Grunfeld strategy emerged in which white has a pawn mass dominating in the centre while black tries to use his pieces from a distance to tempt white to overreach himself.

White is better if his centre

Stoltenberg to set the pace

CHANDIGARH, India, Sept 23: Jason Stoltenberg will open Australia's Davis Cup semifinal bid against India's Leander Paes, according to the draw held Thursday, reports AP.

Wally Masur will play the second singles against Ramesh Krishnan on the opening day Friday.

Paes and Krishnan will team up for the doubles match Saturday against Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, the first-and-second-ranking doubles players in the world.

The weather is quite hot and I wanted fresh players for each tie," said Neale Fraser, the non-playing captain of Australia's team.

They will have fresh players and we will have refreshed players for each tie," countered India's non-playing captain Naresh Kumar.

Game 11 will be played today.

is strong and worse if his centre is not strong," said Dutch International Master Cor van Wijgerden.

On move 11, Timman departed from the moves of a game he lost to Karpov last year in Moscow. On move 12, he thought for a long while, then played b65, a move unknown to chess theory which led to an exchange of queens.

Karpov established a flying wedge of central pawns, but his king remained in the centre. Timman blocked the centre of Karpov's pawn phalanx with a knight, and as Karpov's time pressure mounted, the Dutchman's position seemed stronger.

A tense silence fell over the playing hall as spectators saw that Karpov had just 15 seconds for each of his last eight moves in order to reach a total of 40 moves in two and a half hours.

But in the time scramble that followed, the ice-cool Russian played with devastating accuracy and it was Timman, who had far more time, who has missed chances.

With the time target reached, Karpov relaxed. He worked hard to his central pawn, which with just two advances could blossom into a queen.

Timman defended fiercely, but his king was caged by a bishop and mating threats never seemed far away. He tried to free his own queen's side-pawns, but resigned when it became clear that a stalwart defensive pawn would fall to Karpov's assault.

They will have fresh players and we will have refreshed players for each tie," countered India's non-playing captain Naresh Kumar.

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Samaranch re-elected

MONTE CARLO, Sept 23: Juan Antonio Samaranch, first elected International Olympic Committee (IOC) president in 1980 and re-elected in 1989, began a further four-year term on Wednesday, the IOC announced, reports Reuter.

Samaranch, 73, was re-elected unopposed after announcing at last year's Olympics in his home city of Barcelona that he would stand for a further term.

IOC director-general Francois Carrard told a news conference Samaranch had been re-elected by acclamation by the other 89 members attending the IOC's Monte Carlo session.

Samaranch's new term will expire in 1997 and the members agreed to the former Spanish diplomat's request that the 1997 session should be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, headquarters of the IOC and a city with which he has close ties.

Until last year, there had been speculation that others might challenge him for the presidency, arguably the most powerful position in world sport.

But potential rivals backed off when Samaranch made clear he wanted to remain in office for the Olympic Congress in Paris next year to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the IOC and the centennial Olympics in Atlanta in 1996.

Carrard said Marc Hodler of Switzerland, president of the International Ski Federation, had been elected IOC vice-president to replace the outgoing He Zhenling of China.

Anita DeFranz, who replaced fellow-American Robert Helmick on the executive board when Helmick resigned in 1991 over allegations of ethical misconduct, was re-elected to the board for a further four years.

Koba Mbaye of Senegal was brought on to the board for a one-year term.

Carrard said Hodler, DeFranz and Mbaye had been elected unopposed.

US fails to come up with IOC candidate

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Sept 23: US Olympic officials failed Wednesday to come up with a candidate to fill a two-year-old vacancy on the International Olympic Committee, reports AP.

The United States is entitled to have two members on the IOC. One of the spots has been empty since 1991 when Robert Helmick resigned over conflict-of-interest allegations.

Helmick had been expected to be replaced during the IOC session at last year's Barcelona Olympics, but the decision was put off. There were expectations the member would be named at the current IOC session in Monaco.

Anita DeFranz, the only current American member on the IOC, met with US Olympic Committee president LeRoy Walker in an attempt to formulate a name or short list of names to submit to IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. At least a dozen candidates were being considered.

Major caught up in a whirlwind

MONTE CARLO, Sept 23: John Major almost missed Manchester's day of Olympic destiny on Thursday when a plane carrying the British Prime Minister to Monte Carlo was forced to divert to Marseille by a fierce storm, reports Reuter.

Major, who has been on a trading mission to Malaysia, had to sit at Marseille airport for 90 minutes waiting for the storm to clear. Plans to drive the 2-1/2 hours to Monte Carlo were ditched when it was discovered the motorway was blocked.

The storm, which killed six people in south-east France, eventually passed, allowing Major to land in nice more than two hours late.

He arrived in Monte Carlo as Berlin opened the final bid presentations to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). He is due to end Manchester's 60-minute presentation with a speech.

Manchester is competing against Beijing, Sydney, Berlin and Istanbul. Beijing's bid had been Western criticism of China's human rights record and its ability to stage the Games. Chinese officials have argued that the Olympics will push modernization plans forward and will allow sponsors to tap the vast marketing potential of the world's most populous nation.

"It will be just like the lunar New Year, when everybody stays up and watches special television programmes," said Ao Zhiqiang, a 44-year-old wholesaler.

Beijing workers have been told by edgy Communist authorities, who loathe spontaneous demonstrations they cannot control, not to gather in public after the IOC decision, Chinese sources say.

Security is tighter at Beijing University, the site of an officially sanctioned late-night Olympic pep rally, and other schools have been warning students not to make trouble after the IOC announcement.

"I think it's time we hosted a really large international event like this and I believe Manchester has put in a spectacular good bid."

Major declined to get drawn into politics or the question of Beijing's suitability as an Olympic venue.



International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch, Dick Ebersol, representative for American television network NBC and William Payne, an Atlanta Olympics Organizing Committee official shake hands after the signing of a contract for the 1996 Olympic Games TV rights in Monaco on September 22. Samaranch was re-elected for another four-year term yesterday.

—AFP photo

Paul Keating, among the presenters Thursday, predicted Sydney would win, but Sports Minister Ross Kelly was more cautious.

"There is no doubt that there are certain people who are really putting a lot of pressure on some of the members to vote for Beijing," she said. "It's very, very, very tight."