

### 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 Slav, 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 Lahul (Mohammedan).

Defence: Tito, Kaiser Hamid, Jewel and Barun (Mohammedan), Alamgir and Masud Rana (Abahani), Moon (Brothers), Sobel (Victoria) and Rubel (Rahmatganj).

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

Forward: Aslam and Naqib (Mohammedan), Gaus, Rumi and Mamun Joarder (Abahani), Rakib (Brothers), Ranjan (Rahmatganj), Jamal (Farashganj) and Jahangir (Agrani 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 Agrani Bank at the Hockey Stadium in the afternoon.

Haron 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 dollars 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.

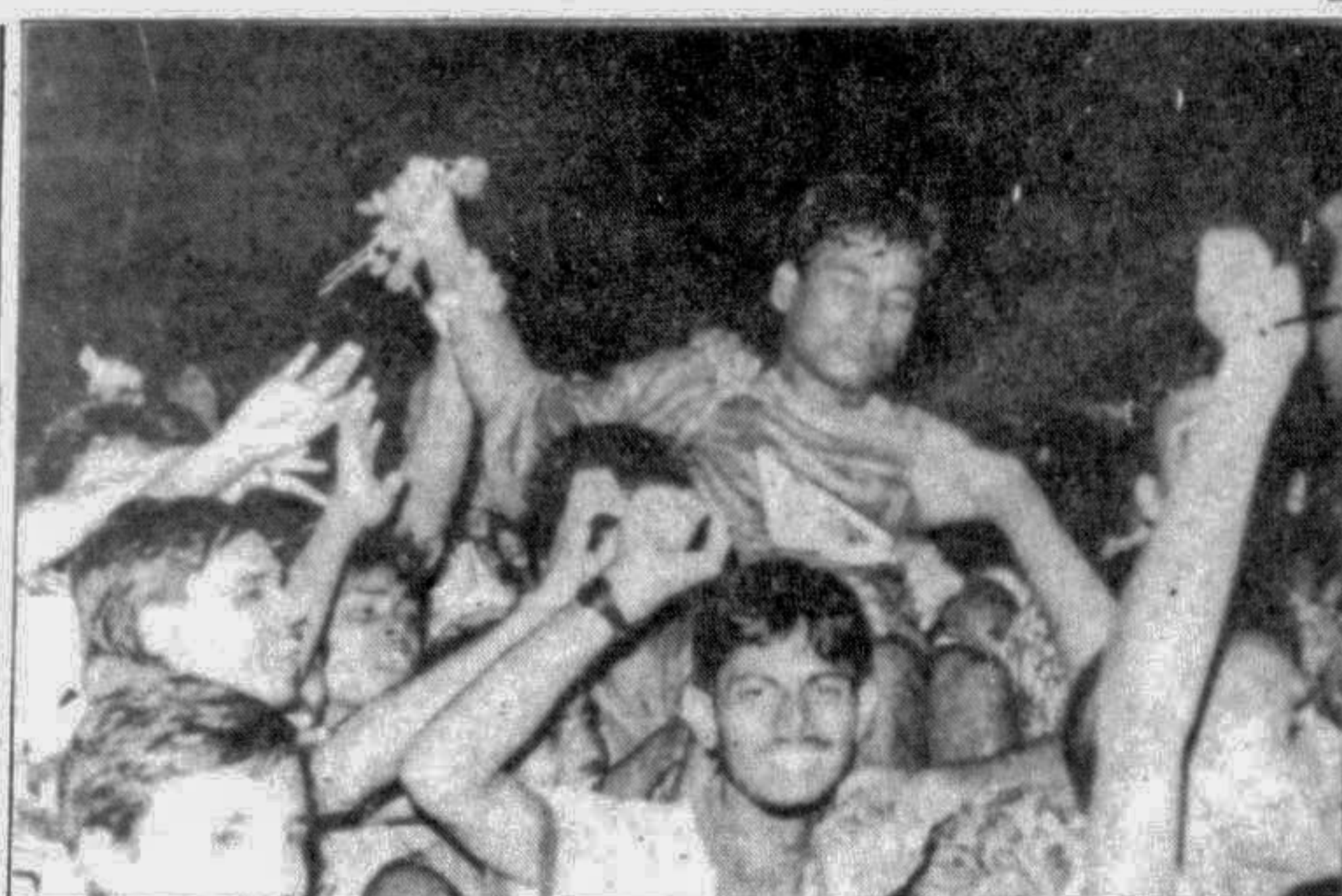
### Tyson's appeal goes unheard

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 Desiree Washington.



A number of ecstatic Abahani Krira Chakra fans cheer Gaus after the men in the Dhanmendi 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 Ilir Shulku 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 with Spain.

With Fernando Ruiz Hierro dominating and coordinating the midfield, the Albanians 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.

### 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.

### 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 Helme resigned over conflict-of-interest allegations.

Helme 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 for the right to stage the 2000 Olympics. IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch will announce the result at 2020 (1820 GMT).

A breakfast at which Major was to talk about Manchester's bid with IOC members had to be cancelled because of his late arrival.

In a radio interview shortly after reaching Monte Carlo, Major said he thought Manchester could provide the best Games ever.

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

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

### 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 Helme on the executive board when Helme resigned in 1991 over allegations of ethical misconduct, was re-elected to the board for a further four years.

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

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

### Beijing's day of reckoning

BEIJING, Sept 23: The authoritarian government believes hosting the Games will boost its prestige and show that China is a full-fledged member of the modern world.

A winning bid "has to be the final seal of approval from the world community," said Pauline Loong, head of China research for Jardine Fleming, a brokerage in Hong Kong.

Other bidding cities are Sydney, Australia; Manchester, England; Berlin; and Istanbul, Turkey. Beijing's bid has weathered Western criticism of China's human rights records 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.

Beijing residents themselves, Beijing residents themselves, China knew nothing about it

BEIJING, Sept 23: China said on Thursday it knew nothing about Amnesty International's request to send a human rights delegation following Beijing's vow of "greater openness" in its bid to host the 2000 Olympics, reports Reuter.

"I have no knowledge of that," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Fan Huijuan told a weekly news conference.

London-based Amnesty International said on Tuesday it would test Beijing's pledge of greater openness by applying to send a human rights investigation team to China in November.

The vote is the climax of a relentless international campaign by Communist China unopposed since senior leader Deng Xiaoping's policy to open to the outside world began 15 years ago.



International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch, Dick Ebersol, representative for American television network NBC and William Payne, an Atlanta Olympics Organising 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

## For whom the bell tolls?



MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Sept 23: A princess, a president and three prime ministers made final appeals Thursday to the International Olympic Committee before it ended a costly, politically volatile contest by choosing a host for the 2000 Summer Games, reports AP.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin, appearing in a video clip to lobby for favoured Beijing, told the IOC members, "The world will never forget the choice you make today."

Hundreds of millions of people worldwide were expected to be watching the live telecast when IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch opens a sealed envelope and announces the winner among the five bidding cities — Beijing, Sydney, Manchester, Berlin and Istanbul.

The competition has been dominated by Beijing's candidacy — an ambitious, controversial attempt to bring the Olympics to the world's most populous nation despite skepticism about China's human rights record.

"The closed China of the past has now opened its doors," said the chairman of Beijing's bid committee, Chen Xitong. "We fervently want to know more about the world and to have more friends in the world know about us. Hosting the 2000 Games will open our door still wider..."

The secret balloting by the IOC's 89 voting members was to follow soon after final, 55-minute presentations by the bidders, who together spent an estimated \$85 million during three years of lobbying.

Istanbul made the last appearance, presenting Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to urge an Olympic role in breaking down a cultural wall between the West and the Islamic world.

Berlin, with a delegation including tennis star and 1988 gold medal winner Steffi Graf, opened the schedule by appealing for support to celebrate the end of its Cold War divisions. It showed footage of John F. Kennedy declaring "I am a Berliner," and then US President Ronald Reagan urging Berlin in 1987 to seek the Olympic Games.

Sydney emphasized its modern infrastructure, its political stability and its intention to provide "the athletes' Games."

"At the end of the day, only the interests of the athletes and the Olympic movement count," said Kevan Gosper, an Australian member of the IOC. "We promise the athletes of the world a superbly organized Games."

Manchester was next, endorsed by British Prime Minister John Major and Princess Anne, an IOC member.

Major noted that Britain's only stints as an Olympic host, in 1908 and 1948, came on short notice when no other host could be found.

"My country has never been awarded the Games, never had a chance to plan for them," Major said. "Now we wish to do so in the year 2000."

Beijing remained the favourite heading into the vote, but Manchester, by several accounts, had slipped ahead of Sydney as the No 2 prospect.

Berlin, hampered by local opposition to its bid, and Istanbul, which sought to be the first Muslim host city, were considered out of the running.

Beijing's presentation closely linked the Olympic bid to China's modernization and economic development plans, but the issue of human rights was not touched directly.

"Thanks to the policy of reform and opening to the outside world, China's economy is booming," said Vice-Premier Li Lanqing. "Our people have never been as well off. Their dream of living in a peaceful, stable, prosperous and harmonious society has become a reality."

"My people are looking to you, the members of the IOC, for a historic decision," he said.

Australian Prime Minister

Paul Keating, among the presenters Thursday, predicted Sydney would win, but Sports Minister Ros 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 tight."

The decision was in the hands of 89 IOC members from 75 countries, most of whom have visited all five cities. An outright majority of 45 votes is needed for victory, and the city receiving the fewest votes will be eliminated after each round in which there is no winner.

In contrast to past elections, the members will be told after each round only which city was eliminated. They will not be told how the other ballots were cast, and thus will be less likely to attempt tactical or sympathy voting.

Only three IOC members responsible for vote-counting will know the final result before the envelope opening by Samaranch. Other members will know only which cities remained in contention at the start of the final ballot.

Although Sydney and Manchester won praise in an official IOC report for their logistical capabilities, the IOC was intrigued by the potential impact of taking the Games to China, whose 1.2 billion people represent one-fifth of the world's population.

While the IOC has kept abreast of the furor over China's human rights record, it really wants to influence a change in the behaviour of China, this is a way to do so," said Dick Pound, an IOC executive board member from Canada. "There's a risk, but the reward is enormous... It's a made-in-heaven opportunity."

Beijing's opponents, including members of the US Congress, argue that China does not deserve the Games because of human rights abuses, such as the brutal suppression of pro-democracy activists in 1989.

many of whom grumbled over inconveniences and coerced contributions when their city staged the 1990 Asian Games, have lived and breathed Olympic propaganda for months. That drive to drum up domestic support has been eerily reminiscent of the intensive political campaigns that have dominated so much of Communist Chinese history.

There have been countless television shows and newspaper articles extolling the Beijing bid — on Thursday the Beijing Daily had eight front page stories related to the bid. There have been English language contests, a beauty contest, rallies, marathons, a fly swatting campaign — you name it, they've had it — in connection with the bid.

While official claims that more than 90 per cent of Beijing residents support the bid seem inflated, it is clear that nationalism and love of sport have many people excited about the prospects of hosting the Olympics.

"It will be like taking a big step forward toward the rest of the world," said Liu Li, a 30-year-old woman who washes cars for a living not far from the walled compound of senior leader Deng Xiaoping, the nation's No 1 sports fan.

Several residents interviewed in recent days said they would be greatly disappointed if Beijing lost the bid. In such a case, it is unclear what the government might do to try and restore its battered prestige.

"My guess is that they will have a lot of propaganda and say a lot of things against those who campaigned against them, while thanking those that helped them," said Father Yves Nalet, a Jesuit priest who edits the China News Analysis from Hong Kong.

London-based Amnesty International said on Tuesday it would test Beijing's pledge of greater openness by applying to send a human rights investigation team to China in November.

The vote is the climax of a relentless international campaign by Communist China unopposed since senior leader Deng Xiaoping's policy to open to the outside world began 15 years ago.



Abul, who hung up his boots yesterday after a long career with Mohammedan Sporting Club, poses for the photographers with his teammates for the last time before the start of the last Star Premier Division league tie at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo