

Sport

Cricketers' transfer begins today

Sports Reporter

The inter-club transfer of cricket players for 1993-94 season will begin today and go on upto September 30.

For the first five days, players will have two hours — from 5 to 7 pm — to retain or change their respective allegiances. The deadline will be stretched till 8 pm on the last day.

Local players, intending to join the transfer market, will have to spend Taka 300 each, including Taka 200 for token and 100 for clearance certificate.

The registration fee for a new foreign player in the Navana Premier league has been fixed at Taka 1000. The fee is the same for old registrations.

Each Premier team will be able to recruit four foreigners, two of whom can be fielded in a match.

Teams in the Milnars First Division league have the provision of recruiting maximum three with only one allowed per match. The rate of new registrations of foreign players has been fixed at Taka 500. Old registrations looking for new homes will have to pay the same fee.

East End give Farashganj a jolt

Sports Reporter

Promotees East End Club beat fancied Farashganj Sporting Club by a solitary goal in one of the two engagements of the Star First Division football league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Substitute Ujjal scored the match-winner two minutes before the short whistle. East End, who won promotion to Senior Division only this year, took their tally to 21 from 17 matches and they have a match in hand. With this win they have boosted their hopes of completing a twin promotion in a year as they are now in with a realistic chance of filling one of the two berths for next year's Star Premier league.

The defeat should jolt Farashganj a bit, who were earlier appeared coasting towards their goal along with chart-toppers Fakiripool. Farashganj are stuck with 20 points from 17 matches.

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangsanga registered a big victory in a fight of no-hoppers enacted at the same venue. The insurance men, who trounced BRTC 4-1, were, however, deadlocked 1-1 in the first half.

BRTC shot into the lead through Faisal in the 39th minute of the match.

Mintu restored parity with a goal five minutes later.

Munna added two more for Bima in the 20th and 35th minutes of the second half. Maung completed the tally for the winners six minutes before the final whistle. Bima now have 19 points from 17 matches while BRTC continue to eddy in their previous collection of 13 from 17 matches.

Brazil top FIFA rankings

ATLANTA, Sept 24: Brazil have taken over the top spot in the FIFA rankings of national teams while Germany have dropped from No 1 for the first time since they won the World Cup in July 1990, reports AP.

Germany's ranking was hurt because they played only exhibition games since as champion they got an automatic World Cup berth.

Brazil qualified for the World Cup on Sunday, the only nation to have appeared in all 15 tournaments.

Italy remained second while Norway, a surprising leader in their World Cup group, moved up six spots from their Aug 8 ranking to third. European champions Denmark moved up six spots to fourth and Germany slipped into a tie for fifth with England, who moved up six places.

France, moving up five spots, were seventh, followed by Russia, who dropped a notch to eighth. Ireland dropped three spots to ninth and Switzerland fell seven places to 10th.

The World Cup host United States were 26th, up two places.

Aussie build-up takes a bump

SEOUL, Sept 24: A last-minute goal by Damian Mori lifted Australia to a one-all draw against South Korea in a tune-up match for his country's preparation for the World Cup soccer, reports AP.

In the first of two warm-up matches at Seoul's Olympic Stadium, South Korea's World Cup squad went ahead 1-0 with a goal by striker Suh Jung-Won 38 minutes into the first half.

Suh, one of the most popular soccer players in South Korea, trapped a centering from the left with his chest, beat an Australian defender and right-booted from close range.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between Sadharan Bima Krira Sangsanga and BRTC at the Hockey Stadium. Bima beat BRTC by four goals to — Star photo

Australia one match away



CHANDIGARH, India, Sept 24: Heavily favoured Australia outclassed India Friday to take a commanding 2-0 lead in Davis Cup semifinals, reports AP.

Fielding one of the world's best doubles partnerships on Saturday, the Australians appeared unstoppable on their way to the final against the winner the Sweden-Germany match, also being held this weekend.

Wally Masur, playing almost flawless tennis, had little trouble from Indian Davis Cup veteran Ramesh Krishnan, winning 6-2, 6-0, 6-4. Earlier, Jason Stoltenberg overpowered Leander Paes 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), 6-

2. "Winning six straight sets — I'm very happy," said Australia's non-playing captain Neale Fraser.

Sweating in muggy sunshine, Masur avenged his loss to Krishnan the last time they met in a Davis Cup encounter in 1987.

Krishnan, who is 32 and has played few matches on the ATP circuit this year, showed a brief spark of life in the third set when he won seven out of eight points to break Masur and even the set at 2-2. But Masur broke Krishnan's serve, for a second time in the seventh game.

"When you're out there, it

never seems so easy. It wasn't as easy as the score suggested," Masur said.

Krishnan, he said, was "one step slower" than he was six years ago. "He's not playing day in and day out the way he was then."

In the first match, Stoltenberg buried Paes with his snapping backhand service returns and steader net play.

His only crisis came in the second set. Down 0-3 and facing a pumped up opponent, Stoltenberg saved five break points to hold his serve and stop Paes' steamroller.

Stoltenberg broke Paes in the fifth game, but lost his own serve at love in the sixth game. Then he broke Paes again with a blistering backhand into the corner and a double-fault from Paes.

"I was lucky to get out of that game," Stoltenberg said later. "It was a ridiculous set, really. It wasn't grass court tennis."

Paes agreed the game could have been a turning point. "He kept holding. I was going for a little too much instead of playing the safe shots. That was a big game. It helped him a lot," he said.

Leander displayed masterly chips angling across the net and pinpoint corner shots, but couldn't win the important points. In the second set tiebreak, he missed two volleys.

India had hoped that a first match victory would give it a psychological edge in the semi-final, which it would need to overcome an Australian team ranked far higher.

Stoltenberg said the team was "on a high" after hearing that Sydney had won the bid to host the 2000 Olympics.

But he said it was one of his worst serving games, with only three aces and five double-faults. The Indian-made balls were heavy and bounced lower than other balls, which dragged some of his shots into the net.

The 6,000-seat red-brick stadium was less than full and ringed by security. A small army camp was set up outside Center Court, and troops with metal detectors screened the crowd at Pioneer park, reports AP.

Chandigarh is the capital of the northern Indian state of Punjab, where Sikhs separatists have fought a decade-old terrorist campaign for independence which began to wane last year.

The winner of the five-match series will meet the winner of Sweden and Germany playing this weekend in Borlange, Sweden.

On Saturday, Paes and Krishnan play Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, the reigning Wimbledon champions who are ranked 1 and 2 respectively in doubles in the world rankings.

Ranatunga retains captaincy

COLOMBO, Sept 24: Sri Lanka has retained Arjuna Ranatunga as captain for the one-off Test against the West Indies and separate limited over tournaments in Sharjah and India this year, it was announced here Friday, reports AFP.

The Sri Lankan selectors appointed Ranatunga for the Sharjah Champions Trophy from October 28 to November 5 and for the six-nation contest in India from November 7 to November 27, the cricket board said in a brief statement.

The dashing left-hand batsman will also lead Sri Lanka when the West Indies tour the Island from November 29 to December 19.

The itinerary for the West Indies tour has not been finalised but it is expected to include one Test and three one-day internationals. This will be the first West Indies tour of Sri Lanka since the Island won Test status in 1981.

Ranatunga, 29, keeps the top job despite demoralising defeats to India and South Africa in successive home series from July. However, he has led Sri Lanka to their first wins over England and New Zealand in the past year.

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Antonitsch, ranked 81st in the world, breezed by 37th ranked New Zealander Brett Steven 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

Skoff had a much tougher task but won a five-set marathon against veteran Kelly Evernden 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 6-4.

Skoff is ranked 59th to Evernden's 334th, but the New Zealander put up a tough fight, leading two sets to one before Skoff fought back impressively.

"I was very happy to get through that match," Skoff said.

"I expected it to be very hard because Kelly is a very experienced player even though he hasn't played much on the ATP tour lately."

Evernden felt he had control of the match after winning the third set, but came back on to the court cold after the break and served a bad game which gave Skoff an advantage he never relinquished.

One break of serve in each of the final two sets clinched the match for Skoff, who is the Australian No 1 in the absence of the unavailable Thomas Muster.

"When you lose in five sets it's always tough," Evernden said.

The New Zealanders now must win Saturday's doubles to keep alive their hopes of regaining a World Group place.

Captain Jeff Simpson confirmed he would retain Steven and Evernden as his doubles pairing, but Australian captain Gunter Bresnik said he was undecided on his combination.

Azeri-born Kasparov, asked about the situation in Russia, said: "I don't think there is a crisis in my country. The country is quiet now and the President did what he had to do. I think we will have elections in December and the remnants of Soviet power will be dissolved."

Game Nine is scheduled for Saturday with Kasparov having the advantage of the white pieces and first move.

The official FIDE World Championship in Amsterdam on Thursday featured a brief draw, with Russian Anatoly Kasparov maintaining his two point lead over Dutchman Jan Timman, now by a score of 6-2 to 4-2 and shortounding the result.

Kasparov explained that his precarious position on Thursday was due to his vow to deliver fighting and exciting chess.

"Anything can happen. I'm not hiding behind a wall. I'm trying to score too," Kasparov added.

Kasparov denied that there was

anything wrong with him for missing a winning continuation, but was further pressed to explain the champion's huge lead.

"I'm playing a very strong opponent. I was a bit unlucky in the first game. I feel I'm playing better, I'm just missing a little something," Short said.

Short, 28, set the stage for what experts agreed was one of the most exciting title games in memory by sacrificing two rooks — one of the strongest pieces on the board — in order to smoke out and hunt the champion's king.

Even Kasparov was enthusiastic about the daring and imagination of Short's sacrificial attack.

"It was great, it was absolutely great," Kasparov told a press conference after the game, obviously pleased by the intensity of the game.

Short found all the right sacrifices and suddenly I understood I was lost. I thought it was going to be an immortal game, with me on the wrong side of the table," Kasparov added.

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The Times of London newspaper is the sponsor of the breakaway match, having raised a purse of 1.7 million pounds (2.6 million dollars), 62.5 per cent going to the winner.

The match score is now 6 1/2 to 4 1/2.

After Saturday's 12th game in Amsterdam, the match is supposed to switch to the Oman capital of Muscat for games 13 to 24.

But the president of the world chess governing body FIDE would neither confirm nor deny persistent rumours that the government of Oman was backing away from a commitment to provide a prize fund of two million Swiss francs (dollar 1.4 million).

FIDE said in August its

match would have a purse of four million Swiss francs (dollar 2.75 million) with half donated by the Sultan of Oman who was said to be a keen chess player.

This exceeded the 1.7 million pounds (dollar 2.6 million) prize fund provided by The Times of London newspaper for the rival Kasparov-Short match.

But FIDE has already had to scale back its plans. The Dutch

sponsors failed to reach their

two million franc target, raising

only enough to cover expenses

until Amsterdam City Council

made a late donation said to

be around dollar 100,000.

Sanchez-Vicario in last four

Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 in the second round match Thursday.

Sanchez-Vicario said, "My condition is very good. I had nice groundstrokes and played well at the net. I was very aggressive. I am happy with the way I played today," said AP.

Also advancing into the semifinals were third-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan, fourth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and eighth-seeded Julie Haldor of France.

Davenport kept the first game of the first set at love and broke the next game.

But Date, No. 13 in the world and the quarter-finalist in the US Open early September, won the rest of the first games of the first set.

In the second set, Davenport fired her third ace and kept the first game at love. Date broke the fifth and ninth games while Davenport, the 1992 US Open junior singles and doubles champion, broke back the eighth game.

Werdel upset second-seeded

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