

Boys join the race

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys joined the fray as the competition for one of the two berths in next year's Premier league picks up momentum following their newcomers' important victory against traditional Wanderers at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Wanderers, now a ghostly paradigm of their past glorious self, however, led the first half with a 39th minute goal from Sohel.

Perhaps, egged on by the heart-warming example of fellow-promotees East End, who, now, jointly lead the points table, Boys turned in a virtuous performance in the second half and produced two goals.

Bayezid restored parity with a goal in the 39th minute and Mintu dealt Wanderers the death blow with another goal only a minute before the long whistle.

Although Bangladesh Boys shot up to the top of the points table with 21 from 17 matches, but their not-so-impressive disciplinary record suffered another jolt as their Bhutto received marching order for attacking the referee.

Meanwhile, the relegation play-off match between Rahmatganj MPS and Wari Club will be played today at the Hockey Stadium. Losers of the match will play in the Star First Division league next year alongwith already axed Victor Sporting Club.

National King Fan b'ball Semis today

Both the semifinals of the National King Fan school basketball tournament will be held today at the wooden floor gymnasium of the National Sports Council, reports UNB.

Group A champions Saint Nicholas School will take on Group B runners-up Nabaj Kumar Institution in the first semifinal at 4 pm while Group B champions Kurmitola Shaheen School face Group A runners-up Tejgoan Shaheen School in the other semis at 5.30 pm.

The final will be held on Monday at 3 pm at the same venue.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will be the chief guest in the final match while Managing Director of the sponsor, National King Electrical Industries, Habibullah (Abul) will be present as special guest.

In the day's first match, Tejgoan Shaheen School outplayed Bangladesh Navy School 50-24 after leading the first half.

Fahmid edged 14 and Asif 11 points for the winners while Faisal scored 10 and Mazharul 8 for the losers.

In the other match, Saint Gregory's School defeated Rifles Public School 61-35, with the first 26-20.

Atau contributed 22 and Fuzala 16 for the Gregorian while Javed made 15 and Molin 8 for the Rifles school.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation yesterday selected 17 cagers in the second phase to form the national squad for the 17th Asian Basketball Championship to be held November 12-20 in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia.

Seventeen cagers have been chosen after the 10-day first phase trial participated by 29 players who were called up initially.

The second phase selections are Sifatul Islam, Nurul Huda, Mift Faruq Ahmed, Nazrul Islam, PK Goswami, Wasif Ali, Ayub Ali, Sudeep Barua, Lt Cmdr Sohel Farooq, Shafiqul Islam, Nurul Amin, Khairul Islam, Abdur Rahim, Ayub Hossain, Jahangir Alam, Firoz Alam and Sushanto Anthony Gomes.

The players are requested to report to coach AK Sarkar at the wooden floor gymnasium today at 8 am.

Sixteen players submit tokens on Day 1

Jahangirs catch flight

Sports Reporter

Two of the more celebrated Jahangirs — opening batsman Jahangir Alam and pacer Jahangir Talukdar Dulu, joined Bangladesh Biman, the cricket team of the

having done careful homework on their options and resources. For the second consecutive year, it was an undramatic opening of the transfer market with the ether of the stuffy BCCB room reeking tobacco and a stifling sense of indecision and helplessness on the part of cricketers.

Jahangir Talukdar alias Dulu was the only cricketer, who, among other stars like Minhal Abedin Nannu, Athar Ali Khan, Nurul Abedin Nobel and Zahid Razzak Masum, appeared to be in his sprightly, jovial self. He had reasons to feel happy as the southpaw returned to the glamour and incentives of his old side after a one-year stint with Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC).

Jahangir Alam, who was undermined by the awesome presence of Shri Lankan Athula Samarasekara, had decided to part with Navana Premier league champions Abahani long ago. For the young explosive right-handed opener, it was only a welcome return of the native after being subject to unavoidable apathy and uncommunicable agony.

With Mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers still in slumbers, Biman recruiters, under the astute guidance of BCCB vice-president Raisuddin Ahmed, who is also a highly placed official in the administration of the national airlines, held the stage on the inaugural day. They reconfirmed the services of five regular members of last year's team. Solid middle order bats — Zakaria Imliaz, Shah Nawaz Shahid Sharuw, wicketkeeper Debashish Barua,

JAHANGIR

national airlines as sixteen of the total nineteen token takers submitted their respective tokens on the first day of cricketers' inter-club transfer for the forthcoming 1993-94 cricket season.

The two national players, who recently toured India with the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) XI as a part of Bangladesh's preparation for the ICC trophy to be held in Kenya February next year, submitted their tokens at the BCCB office yesterday.

It was a foregone conclusion as far as these two players were concerned, since Biman officials, who like the previous year, stormed the market ahead of their counterparts,

Marseille in new imbroglio

PARIS, Sept 25: Marseille soccer team officials blasted the referee Saturday after disputed

calls angered fans, who flooded the field and clashed with police. Nineteen people were injured and the game was suspended, reports AP.

The incident Friday night, which could result in new penalties for Olympique Marseille, was the latest blow to a team stripped of their championship title for a payoff scandal. Barred from international competition, it is also in financial straits.

Metre was winning 3-0 when the game was halted three minutes before the end, when Marseille fans threw projectiles and ran on the field after the referee threw two of their team's players out of the match. One of them was the team's top star, Basile Bolt.

The clashes around Marseille's stadium injured 11 police and eight fans, officials said. Four people were arrested.

Tariep has not been charged but has been questioned by investigators.

On Saturday afternoon, Tiep withdrew the threat he made earlier in the day to quit

a port city hit hard by recession.

Bernard Tapie, owner of Olympic Marseille and a leftist member of Parliament, "rejected any theory of a conspiracy by the club" to cause the violence and blamed the unrest on "a group of troublemakers."

Acting under pressure from the world soccer federation, the French soccer federation on Wednesday stripped Marseille of their 1993 national championship title.

The players are completely disgusted. They are victims of a holdup," said Jean-Louis Levraud, team vice-president.

What happened Friday, added to what has happened around the club for the past three months, puts it in an even more difficult situation," Tiep told reporters.

The team's former general manager and a player are charged with trying to pay off members of the Valenciennes team in May to go easy in a pre-championship game. Marseille won 1-0, then clinched the European Champions Cup six days later against AC Milan by the same score.

But they said the French ruling will likely keep Marseille out of international matches.

Tariep has not been charged but has been questioned by investigators.

On Saturday afternoon, Tiep withdrew the threat he made earlier in the day to quit

as team president, as a result of the payoff scandal.

"If I listened to my personal feelings I would leave," he told reporters, but said he would not "resign from my functions in the overriding interest of the club."

Acting under pressure from the world soccer federation, the French soccer federation on Wednesday stripped Marseille of their 1993 national championship title.

It barred former general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes and ex-player Jean-Jacques Eydier from the sport as well as Valenciennes players Christophe Robert and Jorge Burruaga, charged with receiving the payoff.

World soccer officials withdrew their threat of banning France from competition, leaving it in the running for the World Cup games in the United States next year.

But they said the French ruling will likely keep Marseille out of international matches.

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On Sept 6, the European federation UEFA stunned France by barring Marseille from the European Cup to "protect the regularity of European competition."

Oman leaves FIDE in lurch

MUSCAT, Oman, Sept 25: Oman confirmed Saturday that the final round of the FIDE World Chess Championship match will not take place here in October as planned, reports AP.

The Sultanate also said in a separate statement that it had promised to provide facilities, but no prize-money.

Muscat's statements followed the announcement Friday in Amsterdam by Florencio Campomanes, president of the international chess federation, cancelling the final half of the championship between Russian Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman.

The 12th game of the Timman-Karpov world title con-

test was to be played in Amsterdam on Saturday. Karpov leads by 6 1/2 points to 4 1/2.

The match was then scheduled to move to Oman on Oct 3 for the concluding 12 games.

"In the current climate of recession it proved impossible to organise sponsorship," Campomanes said.

Ibrahim bin Hamoud al-Subhi, president of Oman's General Organisation of Sport and Cultural Activities for Youth, said the decision "was taken following serious dialogue among all the parties concerned."

A separate statement denied reports that the two million Swiss francs (drs 1.4 million) in prize-money was to come from Oman.

"It was clear from the start... that the Sultanate will not extend financial allocations and that the organising company, in cooperation with FIDE, will provide all the requirements of the championship including the prize-money," the statement said.

The federation had been saying that the Sultanate was providing the prize-money for the match.

The Dutch organizing committee said it was ready to organize the remainder of the maximum 24-game match, but the sponsorship and prize-money remain in question.

Long-time world champion Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short

Air Force hockey

The annual inter-base hockey championship of the Bangladesh Air Force got underway at the BAF Base Matur Rahman yesterday, reports BSS.

In the inaugural match, the host BAF Base Matur Rahman defeated the BAF Base Pahar Kanchanpur by a solitary goal.

New Zealand stay on course

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Sept 25: Brett Steven and Kelly Evernden combined for a doubles victory Saturday that kept alive New Zealand's hopes of winning their Davis Cup qualifying match against Austria, reports AP.

Steven and Evernden, both of whom lost singles matches on Friday, combined to down Alex Antonitsch and Thomas Buchmayer 7-5, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-2.

The New Zealand pair kept the Austrians pinned on the baseline and forced them into numerous errors.

Both served effectively. Steven found his touch at the net with decisive angled volleys, while Evernden dominated from the baseline with some thunderous ground strokes.

Austria, however, still leads the best-of-five contest 2-1.

New Zealand needs to win both of Sunday's reverse singles to gain promotion to the World Group in 1994, while Austria needs only one victory to keep their spot.

In Friday's singles, Antonitsch downed Steven 7-5, 6-4, 6-4, while Horst Skoff beat Kelly Evernden 3-6, 7-6 (7-2) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Skoff, who has been troubled by a foot injury, is set to play Steven on Sunday with Antonitsch facing Evernden.

"I have to win," said Steven. "If I don't win the team loses, so it's important to get off to a good start. There's nowhere else to go."

The Austrians complained the large crowd made noises at inappropriate times during the doubles and called on match referee Bill Gilmour of Australia.

Gilmour, however, said the crowd was well-behaved and took no action.

Austria lost to France in their World Group match earlier this year, while New Zealand beat Japan to gain their chance of promotion.

The contest is being played on an indoor Supreme surface at the Pioneer Park stadium.

Basile hopes a dramatic return of Maradona

Buenos Aires, Sept 25: Argentine coach Alfonso Basile, back on speaking terms with Diego Maradona, hinted that the former captain could make a dramatic return in the World Cup qualifiers against Australia.

Maradona and Basile, mentioned fences during a radio show on Thursday, saying they had never seriously been at odds.

"We're just hotheads," Basile said, dismissing the barbs they swapped earlier this year when Maradona, who was not summoned for the group qualifiers, said the coach's 33-match unbeaten run had gone to his head.

During their radio conversation, Maradona told Basile he was training hard for his debut with Newell's Old Boys on October 7.

The coach welcomed the news, saying that if Maradona recovered his shape, it would give him a boost "for October 31."

The two World Cup matches against Australia are in Sydney on October 31 and in Buenos Aires on November 17.

Maradona said he needed to prove himself first with Newell's and should not be seen as the national side's saviour.

Formidable doubles pairing Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won the doubles on Saturday to give Australia a decisive 3-0.

Now they will have to wait to see if Germany, inspired by Michael Stich and Marc Goellner, can kill off Sweden after the visitors took a 2-0 advantage on Friday.

Australia had made a flying start when the 23-year-old Jason Stoltenberg, playing his first cup tie since 1989, ran over Leander Paes in the opening singles 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3.

US Open semifinalist Wally Masur then saw off veteran Ramesh Krishnan 6-2, 6-0, 6-4 at the Chandigarh Lawn Tennis Association (CLTA) courts.

That all but killed off India's hopes of reaching November's final, with the Woodbridge-Woodforde combination, ranked two in the world, recognised by both sides as all but unbeatable.

The Australian pair duly beat Ramesh Krishnan and Leander Paes 6-2, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1.

Germany looked in similarly irrepressible form in Sweden, where world number six Stich was at his best while dismissing Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

That result, however, was soon overshadowed by Goellner's 22 aces and his shock victory over Stefan Edberg.

Goellner won 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), leaving Sweden needing to win the final three matches to reach the final.

In other Davis Cup action, Spain took an unbeatable 3-0



Kumiko Date of Japan follows the ball in the semifinal match against Julie Heldar of France at the Nichirei women's tennis tournament yesterday in Tokyo. Date defeated Heldar by 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) and will meet South Africa's Amanda Coetzer in the final.

— AFP photo

Cool Coetzer peaks in time

Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, ranked second in the world and the winner of the seven previous matches with Coetzer, said the match was the worst she has played this year. "I made too many errors. She played consistently and better than me."

In the 10th game of the second set, after a pair of deuces, Sanchez-Vicario netted a forehand then hit a lob long to end the match after one hour 32 minutes.

"It was the second major upset in the tournament. Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina made a quick exit, losing American Marianne Werdel 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 in the second round Wednesday.

Date, seeded third, won her final slot by defeating Julie Heldar of France, the 8th seed.

"I was not good, but not bad today," said Date.

Coetzer said she doesn't feel any pressure for her final with Date. "I'll just try my best," she said.

The singles winner earns drs 75,00