

BHF president resigns

Sports Reporter

Alamgir Mohammed Adel, president of Bangladesh Hockey Federation, resigned yesterday as mark of protest against procrastination in the proposed laying of a synthetic turf at the Hockey Stadium.

In a letter directed to the chairman of the National Sports Council, Sadek Hossain, who is also the State Minister for Youth and Sports, Adel expressed his inability to carry on in the capacity of the federation president as he found the present situation not at all encouraging for Bangladesh's prospects in 1994 Asian Games. It has been a year since Finance Minister Saifur Rahman sanctioned the budget, earmarked for a synthetic turf, deemed essential to help our players cope with the pace and power, marked in international hockey.

TT coaches' course begins

The Olympic solidarity table tennis coaches course, organised by the Bangladesh Olympic Association in association with the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, began at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain inaugurated the two-week course, chief guest.

President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Gias Kamal Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation Syed Yousuf Hossain, secretary general of BOA Bashir Ahmed and course director Tony Tef, a British national, spoke on the occasion.

Twenty-five local table tennis coaches are taking part in the course, funded by the International Olympic Committee.

Pioneer clinch title

Sports Reporter

Pioneer Eleven won the Selection football championship, organised by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), when they beat Khulna Division in tie-breaker at the Dhaka University Stadium yesterday.

After a barren ninety minutes and session of extra time, the match inevitably crawled to spot-kick. All five shooters of Pioneer converted while one of Khulna failed to let his team down to the runners-up slot.

Two more records in inter-service swimming

Two more national records were set on the third day of the inter-services swimming championship at the naval headquarters complex swimming pool at Banani yesterday, reports BSS.

Hav. Harunur Rashid of Bangladesh Army bettered previous national record in 100m free-style clocking 56.84 secs. The previous record in the event was 57.34 secs.

In 1500 m free-style M Elias Hussain PO (S) of Bangladesh Navy set the other national record with a time of 18 min 17.10 secs. The old record was 18 m in 22.15 secs.

Meanwhile, in the medal tally Bangladesh Navy continued their domination with one gold, one silver and one bronze medals. Bangladesh Army followed them with three golds three silvers and eight bronzes.

In water polo, Bangladesh Army moved into the final defeating Bangladesh Air Force 13-2. Bangladesh Army will meet Bangladesh Navy in the final today.

Army v'ball

COMILLA, Sept 28: Four more matches of the Bangladesh Army annual volleyball championship were held at the Comilla cantonment today, reports BSS.

Savar Area trounced Bogra Area 15-6, 15-5 and 15-7 while Dhaka Signals beat Dhaka Infantry of 15-5, 4-15, 15-7 and 15-7.

Earlier on Monday afternoon, Savar Area beat Log Area 15-11, 13-15, 15-3 and 15-5. In another match of the day, Mymensingh Area defeated Anti-Aircraft Artillery 8-15, 15-5, 13-15, 15-10 and 15-13.

Sherpur Div I soccer on

SHERPUR, Sept 28: Sherpur Senior Division football league was inaugurated at the Shahid Darug Ali Paurashava playground by Deputy Commissioner Alaur Rahman Majumder recently, reports BSS.

Bandhan Sporting Club beat Nabinbaran Sangha by three goals to nil in the opening match.

Eight teams are taking part in league. The teams are: Uttara Sporting Club, Shatadal Sporting Club, Pranbania Khelaghar Ashar, Naburan Sangha, Anupam Sangha and S. S. Club.

Peregrine touch on Day Four

Sports Reporter



Raman Lamba, the Indian Test discard turned soldier of fortune, added a peregrine touch, but made no news as the cricketers' inter-club transfers underwent a

undramatic fourth day at the BCCB office yesterday. The Delhi batsman, who has never failed to interest newshounds and cricket fans for his devotion to the cult of Mamon since his arrival two years ago to participate in local

league, yesterday submitted his token in favour of Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC), for whom he played last year.

It was a whimpering end of a campaign that promised to cause a big bang because Lamba, intensely committed to the cause of self promotion, arrived on Monday to mark his price up. His obvious targets were desertion-hit Mohammedans and Biman. In the end, neither showed any interest, or perhaps both deemed Lamba's asked price too high forcing the wandering Indian to opt for his old side.

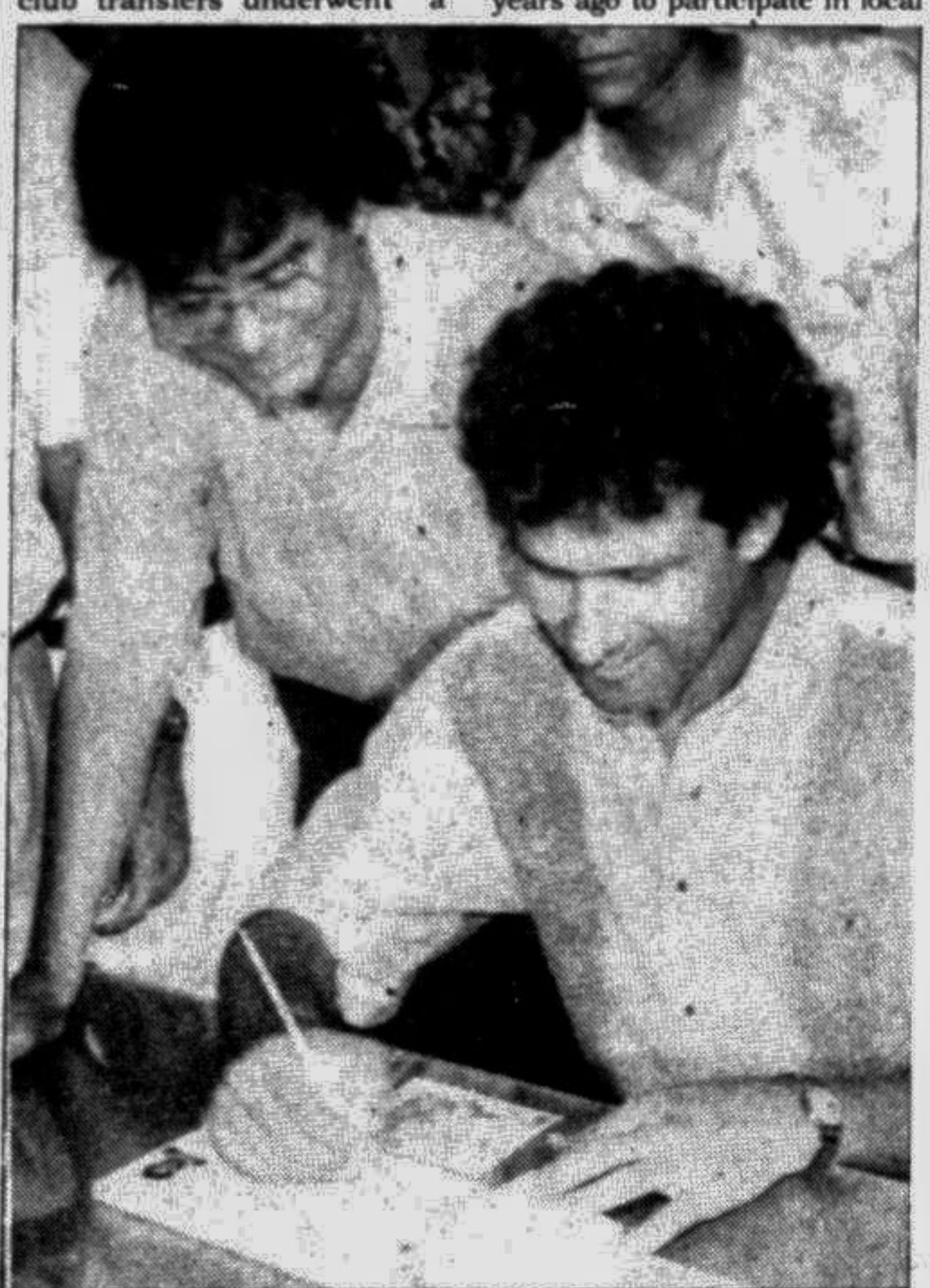
The rest of day's proceedings followed the course adumbrated in previous days' speculations. Athar Ali Khan, the tall all-rounder, who played for Brothers Union, joined Mohammedan Sporting Club for a reported fee of Taka 4 lakhs, highest in this year's bourse a longwith teammate Sheikh Salahuddin, a promising off-spinner.

The sleazy Brothers officials, so far in slumbers, finally woke up yesterday signing up some upcoming cricketers, like Al Shahriar Rokan and Ruhul Niamur Rashid Rahul, both from Uddity.

Veteran Jahangir Shah, decided to push himself for another year as the former national pacesman parted with Victoria to join Dhanmondi.

Notable among others who changed teams last evening was Abu Hamid Pyal, the young Mohammedan all-rounder, who, according to prediction, joined Gulshan Youth.

Number of token-takers proliferated to 44, three more than third day's 41, yesterday, the fourth day of cricketers' inter-club transfers.



Indian Test discard Raman Lamba decided to stay with the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) for one more year. — Star photo

BCCI at the end of its tether



NEW DELHI, Sept 28: India's cricket authorities have acted to stop top players taking part in exhibition matches that clash with official games, reports Reuter.

A general meeting of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in Gwalior on Wednesday is to be asked to approve a mandatory registration scheme, a board spokesman said on Monday.

Cricketers would not be allowed to play exhibition matches without the approval of the BCCI, he said. Any player ignoring that ruling would be suspended.

Test stars have been running

their own exhibition games often skip domestic fixtures to play in them for high fees.

The Indian cricket board has been embarrassed by the growing number of unofficial India-Pakistan matches, mostly in the Middle East where the games are well attended by sub-continental expatriates.

With political ties between the two countries as tense as ever, some cricket officials are wondering whether a scheduled Pakistan tour of India will take place later this year.

The Indian cricket authorities, reportedly under pressure from the government, recently persuaded some leading players not to play a series of exhibition matches against an unofficial Pakistani team in the Gulf.

The authorities, have been under fire from sports officials for giving the cricketers an approving nod for such matches in the past, while the BCCI expressed its helplessness in stopping them from signing contracts to playing exhibition games.

Test cricketers largely ignored the authorities since the Indian Supreme Court in 1989 struck down a ban on six test players for taking part in an unauthorised exhibition match in New York on their way back from a tour of the West Indies.

The Supreme Court said the contracts offered by the BCCI to members of the national team which banned them from playing unapproved matches were illegal.

BCCP wants tight security



ISLAMABAD, Sept 28: Pakistan will not send its team to an international cricket tournament in India in November unless the safety of its players is assured, the Board of Cricket Control in Pakistan (BCCP) chairman said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"Keeping in view the threats by Hindu militants, it will be very difficult for us to send any team unless we are quite certain that players will not be under any pressure," BCCP chairman Nasim Hasan Shah said in a telephone interview from Lahore.

Hindu militants in India threatened on Sunday to disrupt the six-team limited overs tournament which celebrates the centenary of the Bengal Cricket Association.

The anti-Muslim Shiv Sena group said it would take action to prevent Pakistan from playing.

"I have contacted Shiv Sainiks of Bombay, Delhi and other stations and told them not to allow the Pakistani team (into) India," the group's leader Bal Thackeray said in India on Monday.

"It will be very difficult to send any team unless we are

absolutely sure of the safety of our players and that the matches will proceed according to the schedule," Shah said.

Pakistan cancelled a similar tour last year after Shiv Sena activists dug up the pitch at Bombay's Wankheda Stadium.

The group also claimed responsibility for the demolition of a 16th century mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya late last year that triggered Hindu-Muslim riots in which more than 2,000 people died.

Pakistan are due to play their first match of the tournament against Zimbabwe in Madras on November 8.

They are scheduled to play Sri Lanka in Goa, South Africa in Cuttack, West Indies in Vijayawada and India in either Chandigarh or Jalandhar in the Punjab.

Match-rigging matters much for Marseille

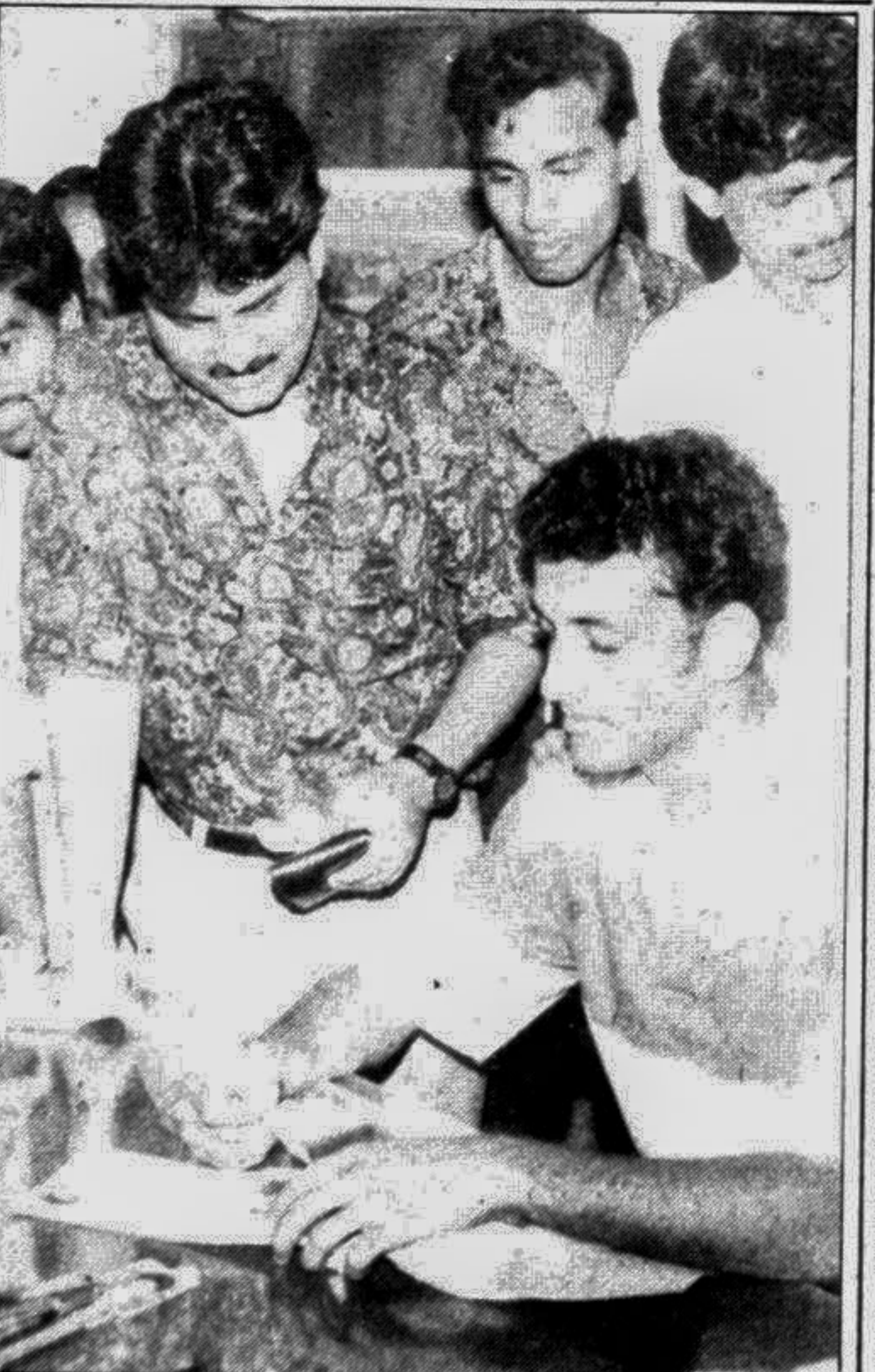
ZURICH, Sept 28: Olympic Marseille will not take part in the World Club Championship and European Super Cup because of the Valenciennes match-rigging affair, FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter said here Monday, reports AFP.

International and European governing bodies, FIFA and UEFA, took the decision during a meeting here.

Blatter also said suspensions ordered by the French Football Federation against former Marseille general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes and player Jean-Jacques Eydelie, and Valenciennes players Christophe Robert and Jorge Burruchaga were extended to an international level.

The Super Cup, between the European Champions Cup and Cup Winners' Cup holders, would have pitted them against Parma of Italy. The Intercontinental Cup, the unofficial World Club Championship, would have been against Sao Paulo of Brazil.

French police are still investigating claims that Bernes and Eydelie tried to bribe three Valenciennes players to throw a May 20 league match. Marseille have been stopped from defending the European Champions Cup and been stripped of the French Championship.



Athar Ali Khan, the tall all-rounder, who has been named the vice-captain of the national squad a few days back, signed for Mohammedan Sporting Club on the fourth day of the inter-club cricketers' transfers. — Star photo

Lankans confirm participation

Sports Reporter

Sri Lanka, which hosted the 5th SAF Games in 1991, will send a 275-member contingent to the seven-nation 6th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, the biggest sports extravaganza of the region, to be held in Dhaka December 20-27 reports UNB.

The team comprising 218 sportsmen, including 60 women and 57 officials, will compete in all eleven events in the games.

The Lankan squad has 78 athletes including 32 women, 20 shooters including seven women, nine paddlers including four women, 10 lawn tennis players including five women, 15 swimmers, 12 men and 12 women spikers, 20 boxers, 12 boxers, 12 kabaddi players, 10 wrestlers and eight judokas.

Earlier, the Maldives, Bhutan, India and Pakistan have sent their entries for the meet.

Nepal, the other SAARC nation, is yet to confirm their participation.

Kabaddi league

Sports Reporter

Dilkusha and Azad formed the eight-team quarter final line-up with wins in their respective matches in the 1993 Kabaddi league yesterday.

At the Outer Stadium kabaddi court, Azad beat Bangladesh Bank Club 13-7, including a lone.

Dilkusha had three lonas in their huge 36-13 win against Faruk Smriti Sangsad.

Inter-thana soccer

FAIRFUR, Sept 28: The final round of the Primary and Mass Education Gold Cup inter-thana football competition began yesterday afternoon at the local stadium, reports BSS.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder inaugurated the meet.

In the inaugural match Faridpur Sadar beat Alfadang by four goals to nil.

Polish coach resigns

WARSAW, Sept 28: Polish national football coach Andrzej Strelau resigned on Monday as a result of the country's disappointing campaign for the World Cup finals, reports AFP.

The Polish Football Federation said an executive meeting had accepted Strelau's resignation.

Poland were beaten by qualifying Group Two leaders Norway 1-0 last week. That practically ruled out any chance of going to America for next year's finals.

"After we were beaten by the English at Wembley I promised that if I did not get at least one point from the Norway game, I would give up," said Strelau, who had been in charge for four years.

His assistants—Leslaw Cmielkiewicz and Jozef Mlynarczyk—will take over team matters until a permanent choice is made.

Bucharest visit Iraq

BAGHDAD, Sept 28: Romanian First Division soccer team Progressul Bucharest were playing a friendly in Baghdad on Tuesday, becoming the first foreign side to visit Iraq since a ban was imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, reports Reuter.

The International Football Association (FIFA) last month lifted the ban to allow foreign teams to play friendly matches in Iraq.

Progressul were given a red-carpet reception when they arrived on Monday ahead of the match at Baghdad's Main Sha'ab Stadium. They were transported by helicopter from the Jordanian border to their hotel.

Iraq's national team staged a training camp in Romania during the summer to help the prepare for the second round of the World Cup Asian qualifying matches in Qatar in October.

FIFA hqs closed to the press

ZURICH, Switzerland, Sept 28: FIFA's headquarters were closed to the press on Tuesday following threats to world football's ruling body, reliable sources said here, reports AFP.

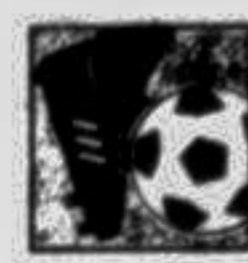
News of the threats, which were not specified, came a day after European champions Olympique Marseille were banned from playing the Intercontinental and European Super Cup matches, and hours before a working group was due to meet to discuss possible rule changes.

Marseille's latest sanction was handed out by FIFA and its European arm UEFA on Monday in the wake of match-rigging allegations made about last season's league game against Valenciennes.

The rule changes to be discussed by the Task Force 2000, which includes playing stars such as Dutchman Ruud Gullit, are designed to make the game more attractive by the end of the century.

East End Club move to top

Sports Reporter



Former national striker Mahmudul Hoque Liton struck twice to lead East End Club to a 2-1 victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Hockey Stadium yesterday and

a win to cling to their promotion hopes. In the case of their victory, the matter will have to be resolved through a play-off.

In the day's encounter, the winners, who were locked at one all, shot into the lead in the 30th minute when Liton drove

Shawkat of East End and Rafique of Eskaton were cautioned with the yellow card for unsportsmanlike conduct.

East End Club: Dilip, Shawkat, Sentu, Shahadat, Mohsin, Maruf, Sumon, Mamun Babu, Ujjal, Babu and Liton.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between East End and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Hockey stadium. East End scraped home with a 2-1 triumph. — Star photo

to the top of the Star First Division football league. East End, who finished their league engagements yesterday, now share the top slot with Fakirpool Youngmen's Club having topped their collection to 23 points. However, the Fakirpool have a game in hand and play their last match against Farashganj Sporting Club tomorrow. A draw in that match would ensure Fakirpool YC the league championship and a place in next year's Star Premier Division.

On the other hand, East End have to wait till the end of Bangladesh Boys' last match of the league. The Boys, who have 21 points from 17 outings, need

home Maruf cross (1-0). Narayan restored parity for the Eskaton outfit when he slammed the ball into the net after having been set inside the penalty box with enough space three minutes away from the short whistle (1-1).

Liton sealed the fate of the match two minutes into the second half. The powerful Brothers Union striker, who finished atop the individual scorers' list with a haul of 14 goals, dodged past one Eskaton defender before placing the ball into the net (2-1).

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha remained at 17 points on completion of their league engagements.

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha: Raju (Nizam), Ruhul, Dabloo (Masud), Rafique, Mizan, Archi, Litu, Swapan, Narayan, Dipu and Asad (Rinku).

Referee: Jamaluddin Ahmed. In the other match at the same venue, BRTC SC outplayed Adamjee SCC 3-0.

Faisal, Mizan and Anwar netted once each for the winners in the second half.

Both BRTC and Adamjee have already been relegated to the Second Division, after finishing at the foot of the points table with 15 and three points respectively.

Dhaka Wanderers Club take on Sadharan Bijna KS today at the Hockey Stadium.

Not enough athletes around

VICTORIA, Canada, Sept 28: So-uth African athletes may be competing in next year's Commonwealth Games, although it is unlikely there will be a complete South African team, a senior Games official said Monday, reports AFP.

David Dixon, secretary of the Commonwealth Games Federation, told journalists he had been informed by the Commonwealth Secretariat that South Africa could be readmitted to the Commonwealth as early as next May.

While this would be a prerequisite for South Africa's reintegration into the Commonwealth Games, to be held here

next August, it will be too late for South Africa to field a full team.

Under Commonwealth Games rules, all countries must give six months notice of their plans to participate in the Games.

So the deadline for an application to field a full South African team would be next February 18.

But Dixon pointed out: "The likelihood is that South Africa will have general elections in April and will re-join the Commonwealth in May afterwards."

If that happened, he said, organisers of the Victoria Commonwealth Games would ensure "a South African presence."

He was unable to define that presence, but suggested some top South African athletes would be able to compete in a handful of events.

Anticipating south African re-entry into the Commonwealth, Dixon said, the Commonwealth Games Federation had been "in close touch" with South Africa's sporting authorities.

"If South Africa has re-entered the Commonwealth in time," said Dixon, "There will be a South African presence. It's only a question of how big a team."

Pakistan is the only country to have left and then re-joined

the Commonwealth to date.

The newest team in the Commonwealth Games will be Namibia, which — as South-West Africa — was until recently administered by South Africa.

Sixty-six nations are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation which includes both current and former British colonies while the United Kingdom has four members (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) and territories such as Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, each qualify as member-nations in their own right.

C'wealth Games '98 to feature more team sports

VICTORIA, Canada, Sept 28: Malaysia, host of the 1998 Commonwealth Games, is leading what appears to be a successful drive to open up the Games to more team sports, reports AFP.

Already, Malaysia has received the okay for netball to be included in the 1998 Games and delegates of the Commonwealth Games Federation meeting here this week are expected to give approval for the inclusion of a second team sport in Kuala Lumpur.

Latest bee in Aussie bonnet



SYDNEY, Sept 28: The head of Australia's Olympic Committee wants his country to fly a new flag without the British Union Jack at the 2000 Summer Games here, reports AP.

Committee president John Coates, who was part of Sydney's successful bid team for the Games, said Monday Australia needs its own national symbol.

"I would prefer to see something that's more identi-

fably Australian," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Australia's flag features the Southern Cross star constellation on a dark blue background and the Union Jack in its top left-hand corner.

Sydney was awarded the Games by the International Olympic Committee last Thursday ahead of Beijing, Manchester, Berlin and Istanbul.

Coates sits on a committee to judge new flag designs, which are being sought in a nationwide competition arranged by a private group, Ausflag.

He also supports a suggestion made by Prime Minister Paul Keating on Sunday that a republic should be declared before the Games so that they can be declared open by an Australian president rather than Queen Elizabeth II.

Monarchists and some opposition politicians have criticized Keating for linking his republican push with the Olympics.

The 2000 Games will be held three months before Australia celebrates the centenary of the federation of its six states into one nation.

"I would hope that, after 100 years, that we have enough maturity now to have as our presidential head an Australia... It's symbolic of our really having achieved nationhood," said Coates.

Though it is an indepen-

dent country, Australia retains the British monarch as titular head of state, as do some other former British colonies including Canada and New Zealand.

Meanwhile, a telephone opinion poll of 300 Sydney residents found 43 per cent want the Games declared open by a republican president. Only 29 per cent wanted the queen to officiate.

The AGB McNair survey found 73 per cent thought Sydney will benefit economically from the Games.

Australia's other hopes

SYDNEY, Sept 28: Australian Swimming, buoyed by last week's Sydney 2000 Olympics decision, is seeking to stage the World Short Course Championships here in 1995, reports AFP.

Construction is well advanced on a 12,000 capacity aquatic complex at Sydney Olympic Park, to the west of the city, which is expected to be completed ahead of its March 1994 schedule.

Swimming Australia executive director Simon Allatson told AFP from Canberra on Tuesday that Australia would submit a bid for short course titles by world body FINA's December 1 cut-off date.