

Bima, Wanderers split points

Sadharan Bima Kira Sangha and Dhaka Wanderers Club finished their Star First Division football league engagements with a 2-2 draw at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The insurance men led the first half 1-0.

Mintu put Sadharan Bima ahead when he neatly converted a spot-kick in the 28th minute of the first half (1-0). Bima got the penalty-kick when one of their forwards was pulled down in the danger zone by Wanderers' defender Tuhin.

Mustakim levelled the margin 13 minutes after the breather (1-1).

Wanderers got the third goal of the match in the 26th minute of the second half when Liton found the net from a goalmouth scramble (2-1).

Jahangir of Bima scored the equaliser three minutes before the final whistle, clipped the ball over advancing Wanderers' goal (2-2).

Kazi Jasim of Bima announced his retirement from football yesterday after playing for Bima for 19 long years.

Sadharan Bima secured 19 points and Wanderers Club collected 18 on completion of their all 18 league encounters.

Bhutto, Tuhin and Liton of Wanderers Club, and Blawajit of Bima received the yellow card during the match.

TEAMS
Sadharan Bima KS: Zia Haroon, Ayub, Motaleb, Rubel, Munna, Butai (Tuhin), Jasim (Blawajit), Sakawat, Abul (Jahangir) and Mintu.

Wanderers Club: Narayan, Yousuf, Bhutto, Tuhin, Kamal (Ujjal), Moin Arman (Moinir), Nurul Islam, Zahir (Liton), Sohail and Mustakim.

Referee: Subash Roy
Dhannondit Club take on Bangladesh Boys Club while Fakirpool Youngmen's Club face Farashganj SC today the last day of the First Division league at the Hockey Stadium.

Sadiq earns best player's award

Sports Reporter

Sadiq Quddus, a promising juvenile cager, caught the eyes of the local fans in the recently concluded National King Fan basketball competition.

Sadiq spearheaded the Tejgaon BAF Shaheen School march into the final with some brilliant performances upfront.

Unfortunately for the Tejgaon school, the 13-year-old was marked out in the



SADIQ QUDDUS
final which they lost. Nevertheless, his inspiring performances earned him the best player's award.

Kabaddi results

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Mirpur Juba Sangha and runners-up Sonali Bank Club moved into the semifinals of the '93 kabaddi league with contrasting victories at the Outer Stadium court yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Mirpur Juba Sangha outclassed Surya Kamal Club 54-11. The victors led the first-half 32-5.

In the other match of the day, Sonali Bank Club edged past Daudkandi Bora Gooli Samaj Kalyan Juba Sangha 7-5 in a keenly-contested encounter.

Ghosh wins again

Sports Reporter

Reigning champion Narayan Chandra Gosh of Narayanganj



N C GHOSH
Club retained Dhaka Club President's Cup snooker championship when he beat last year's runner-up Adrian Gonzalez of Chittagong Catholic Club in 7-5 frames in the final held yesterday.

Thirty two participants took part in the knockout meet that started on September 26. Both the champion and the runner-up of the meet are expected to take part in the World Cup Snooker Championship to be held in Pakistan next December.

Nebbish penultimate day

Sports Reporter



Cricketers' inter-club transfers went through a banal colourless penultimate day as 46 players took tokens with just a day to go for transfers for the forthcoming 1993-94 domestic cricket season.

Nothing like anything happened on the fifth day but Mohammedan Sporting Club took a few more steps towards consolidation.

Mohammedans, rocked by a minuscule exodus on the first two days, bagged their midling butts yesterday. They confirmed the services of 'pool' player Selim Shahed, the young all-rounder who played for Victoria Sporting Club last year. Also joined Mohammedans were Morshedul Alam Chowdhury, the veteran left arm medium pacer of Brothers Union, and Niaz Hasan Majhee, the upcoming Surja Tarun seamer.

But Rafiqul Alam, the veteran allrounder and a former national player, quit Mohammedans according to speculations. Gulshan Youth will be his new home. Rafiq's name sake Rafiqul Islam, who reaped rich for Kalabagan last year with his accurate medium pace, also submitted his token in favour of Gulshan.

Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC), who roped in promising left arm spinner and pool member Sharfuddinul ibne Sharif Saikat on Tuesday, managed hard hitting middle order batsman Imran Hamid Partho. The dark left hander played for Victoria last year.

Samirul Rahman, another former national player, was one of the notable players who changed teams yesterday. The stuggy allrounder, once known for his excellent control and swing not to belittle his ability to whack the ball with bat, swapped allegiance for Lalmitia Club from Dhannondit.

Two cricketers showed a nostomantic tendency yesterday. They were Shahidur Rahman and Fazole Rabbi Khan Rubel. Both these players signed for Railway, the team which gave breaks to these unheralded cricketers from Chittagong. Shahid, the ungainly right hander, became a member of the national team for a brief period but never had the focus on him for long like his fellow Chittagongians Minhazul Abedin Nannu and Zahid Razzak Masum. Shahid played for Kalabagan last year.

Rubel, the low profile off spinner who like Shahid played for Mohammedans once, played for last year's star-studded Victoria.

There was another veteran who entered the mutation fray. Mujtaba Nurul Hadi, the tall hard hitting almost inseparable from Surja Tarun severed ties with the Dhannondit club yesterday to play for Kalabagan next season.

Notable among others who sought for new identity yesterday was Halim Shah, the young Brothers batsman and nephew of former national cricketer Jahangir Shah Badshah, who signed for Wari Club.

Talha, another youngster who handled the new ball well for Surja Tarun last year, signed for Agrani Bank.



Selim Shahed, the young allrounder who played for Victoria Sporting Club, returned to Mohammedans yesterday, the penultimate day of cricketers inter-club transfers for the forthcoming 1993-94 domestic cricket season. —Star photo



Rafiqul Alam, the former national cricketer parted with Mohammedans yesterday to play for Gulshan Youth next season. The six-day long transfers close today despite an appeal by Mohammedan Sporting Club to extend the date by a day or two. —Star photo

Six-a-side heads for Down Under

SYDNEY, Sept 29: Six-a-side cricket, a truncated version of the limited overs game, should be included on Australia's fixture list next year alongside Test matches, former Test batsman David Hookes said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Hookes, speaking before a World Sixes cricket competition in Hong Kong, said: "Six-a-side is a lot of fun and I think it's a game which, if played under lights, would attract a full-house without too many problems."

The former middle-order batsman, who said he had put his idea to Australian Cricket Board officials, added that crowds found the game highly entertaining as players swung the bat at every ball bowled in five overs-a-side matches.

Test wicketkeeper Ian Healy left Australia on Wednesday to lead a team including Mark Waugh, Damien Martyn, Matt-hew Hayden, Tony Dodemaide and Jamie Siddons to Hong Kong.

They will face opposition from England, West Indies, New Zealand, India, and defending champions Pakistan.

Each players, except the wicketkeeper, bowls one over on a reduced-size pitch patrolled by four fielders.

A batsman must retire once he reaches 30 runs but he can return to the middle before the end of the innings if all his teammates have been dismissed.

Khelgamuwa replaces Mendis

COLOMBO, Sept 29: Sri Lanka has named national selector Tikiri Banda Kelhgamuwa as the new cricket manager in place of former Test captain Duleep Mendis, officials here said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Sports Minister Nanda Malthew on Tuesday approved Kelhgamuwa's appointment for Sri Lanka's forthcoming tours to Sharjah and India, officials said.

Chairman of selectors Anuruddha Polonowita will accompany the team as manager.

Sri Lanka, West Indies and Pakistan will play in a limited over tournament in Sharjah from October 28 to November 5. From November 7 to November 27, the Sri Lankans will be in India for a six-nation one-day series.

The state-run daily news said that the decision to change Mendis after a 18-month stint as cricket manager may have been influenced by Sri Lanka's recent Test defeats at home to India and South Africa.

It said that Mendis was expected to have held the job — which entails specific tasks such as coaching and conducting practice sessions — till the end of the year.

During Mendis' term, Sri Lanka scored their first wins over England and New Zealand and also remained unbeaten in one-day series at home against Australia, England, India, New Zealand and South Africa.

The Sri Lankan cricket board, however, announced last week that it was retaining skipper Arjuna Ranatunga as captain for the two overseas limited over tournaments despite the recent home losses.

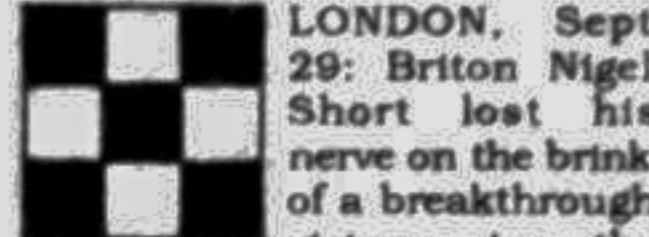
The Daily News observed that Kelhgamuwa's appointment as cricket manager was only for the tours to Sharjah and India and that he could be replaced for the historic West Indies tour of Sri Lanka from November 29.

Khulna Div 1 soccer

KHULNA, Sept 29: Central Club of Khulna trounced Bankers Club by four goals to one in the Star First Division football league '93 played at the Khulna Stadium yesterday, reports BSS.

The winners led by three goals to nil in the first half. Farooq of Central Club scored a hat-trick in the first half. After the change over it was again Central Club who scored a goal through Enamul. Bankers Club reduced the margin through Rezaul.

Short lets Kasparov off hook



LONDON, Sept 29: Briton Nigel Short lost his nerve on the brink of a breakthrough victory in the world title chess challenge on Tuesday, allowing holder Garry Kasparov to state a miraculous escape and draw the 10th Game, reports Reuter.

Experts believe Short, who threw caution to the wind by sacrificing his queen early on, missed several golden chances and may never get such another strong opportunity at victory. Kasparov now leads the 24-game series 7-1/2 to 2-1/2 and needs only a tie to retain his title.

Short, 28, playing white against the Sicilian Defence, gained the upper hand thanks to his sacrifice of the most powerful piece on the board on the 16th move in what Grandmasters judged to be inspired desperation.

This sacrifice allowed him to steadily improve his position until his advantage was potentially match-winning.

Experts unanimously assessed Kasparov's position as lost and claimed to have found at least two moments where Short could have forced his first win of the match.

But Kasparov, 30, defended

an apparently hopeless position with great invention, creating confusing complications.

This inspired defence and Short's nerves, as time grew short, kept victory just out of the Briton's grasp.

Short managed to reach the time control on Move 40 with four seconds to spare. But by then the damage had been done and Kasparov had erected a defensive set-up that allowed him to force a draw by repetition of position.

After a sloppy finish, Kasparov's queen broke through to force the repetition and a draw was agreed.

Speaking to a press conference after the game, Short seemed to take the latest disappointment in his stride, saying he (Kasparov) is a very slippery guy.

Kasparov felt that his allowing the queen sacrifice was an error which turned an advantageous position into one that was objectively lost.

Grandmasters, following the drama at London's Savoy Theatre, were amazed by Short's failure to capitalise on his excellent sacrifice, and could not imagine him getting a better chance to beat Kasparov.

"This was ridiculous. If you can't win positions like this, then you have no business playing in a World Cham-

ionship match," British Grandmaster James Paisekett said.

Kasparov, an Armenian Jew born in Azerbaijan and playing for Russia, needs only five points from the next 14 to capture the 5/8 winner's share of the 1.7 million pound (2.56 million dollar) purse raised by The Times of London newspaper.

The official world title match, sanctioned by world chess body FIDE in the Netherlands, has been suspended for a week in search of a sponsor after the unexpected withdrawal of second-half hosts Oman.

Former world champion Anatoly Kasparov of Russia leads Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman 7-5 at the half-way mark, in a match that was already marred by the inability of Dutch organisers to raise any money towards the prize fund.

FIDE disqualified Kasparov, the champion, and Short, who eliminated both Karpov and Timman to become the challenger, after a dispute over match conditions. Kasparov and Short founded the Professional Chess Association which agreed to stage the breakaway match in London.

The London event resumes on Thursday with Kasparov having the advantage of the white pieces and first move in Game 11.

Bizarre backdrop for WBC bout



CARDIFF, Sept 29: The spiritual home of Welsh Rugby Union will supply an appropriately bizarre backdrop on Saturday morning as two British heavyweights scrap for a belt discarded in a rubbish bin by the previous holder, reports Reuter.

About 30,000 die-hard fight fans will shiver in the early hours of the morning (2400 GMT) in Cardiff Arms Park as Lennox Lewis and Frank Bruno contest the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight belt relinquished by American Riddick Bowe.

Bowe dumped the WBC belt in a trash can in a melodramatic refusal to make an immediate defence of his title against Lewis, the number one challenger.

He is still recognized as world champion by the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation, and in most people's eyes, despite the ludicrous proliferation of titles, Bowe is the true world champion.

Lewis, who inherited Bowe's WBC crown, needs a swift, stylish win over Bruno to attract American interest and generate enough potential prize-money for a big-money fight with Bowe next year.

For various reasons, Lewis, despite his undoubted prowess, has yet to capture the public imagination.

Although born in London's working class East End, Lewis was brought up in Canada and won the Olympic heavyweight title while fighting for his

adopted country.

He speaks with a soft North American accent and some vently question whether his decision to return to Britain was due to pragmatism rather than patriotism.

Undoubtedly the decision to join a British management company was successful as Lewis systematically won every title available and pushed himself into the world rankings.

Although he did everything asked of him in a series of undemanding bouts, it was Lewis's upset defeat of the formidable Razor Ruddock last year which showed Britain, at last, had a heavyweight, capable of becoming undisputed world champion.

Lewis is quick, strong and, as Ruddock discovered, possesses a lethal right hand.

He also exhibits a quiet, understated intelligence, and, at 28, is in his physical prime.

"This is really important for me, because it's the first time in

history that two British-born boxers are actually going to meet for the world title," Lewis said in a pre-fight interview.

"I'm very focused and confident and I can't wait."

Anything less than a stoppage by Lewis in fairly quick time will be seen as failure by the hard-nosed American fight writers and promoters who maintain a healthy cynicism when confronted by British heavyweights.

It is not being unkind to Bruno to say that he is precisely the type of fighter who fosters this attitude — undeniably strong, undoubtedly courageous and ultimately a loser.

Bruno, 32, has been around for the past 15 years, winning 36 fights against carefully hand-picked opponents, but looking hopelessly outclassed in his three fights against genuine world class opponents.

The likeable Londoner has sculptured himself an awesome physique and he has undeniable punching power, as Mike Tyson found early in their world title fight.

But in essence, Bruno is purely a manufactured fighter, without fluency or rhythm, hardly deserving of a third shot at a world title.

He has at least learned to talk a good fight, maintaining, "I can beat Lewis because I have the experience, the powers, the better jab, more stamina, the tools, the ammunition, more confidence, the determination and I'm twice as fit as him."

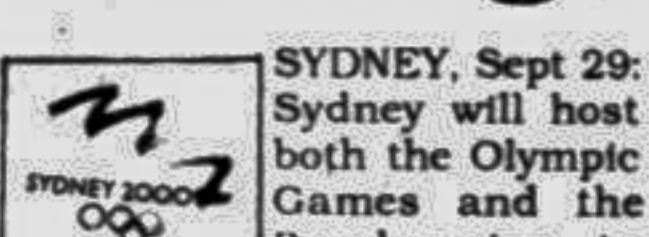
His supporters say Bruno can floor Lewis if he lands one proper punch: The form book says Lewis should win in six.

Holmes better his record

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss, Sept 29: Larry Holmes, making the most of a strong right hand against a clumsy opponent, scored a unanimous decision Tuesday night over journeyman Jose Ribalta, reports AP.

The 43-year-old former heavyweight champion, bidding for another shot at the title, ran his record to 59-4 in the 10-round bout. Ribalta, a 30-year-old Cuban who fights out of Miami, lost his sixth straight bout in dropping to 32-10-1.

Who is going to pay the piper?



SYDNEY, Sept 29: Sydney will host both the Olympic Games and the Paralympics in 2000, but no one seems to know who is going to pay the costs of staging the Paralympics, reports AP.

The International Paralympic Committee on Tuesday issued a statement from Edmonton, Canada, awarding the Paralympics to Sydney and saying the Australian federal and New South Wales state government had agreed to meet the estimated U.S. \$57.7 million costs of staging the Paralympics down under.

New South Wales State Premier John Fahey, however, said the only funds committed to the event were U.S. \$11 million from the Sydney Olympic Bid Committee.

The confusion should be cleared up immediately and Australia's disabled athletes

given a fair deal, state opposition leader Bob Carr said Wednesday.

"It's very important they (the disabled athletes) not be regarded as second-class citizens," Carr said.

IPC president Dr Robert Steadward said in his statement that he had reached agreement on funding with Australian politicians.

"Premier Fahey has honoured his commitment to me by reviewing the needs of the Paralympics and, as you would say, 'Come up with the goods,'" Steadward said.

Australian Paralympic Federation president Ron Finneran said the money had been pledged.

"Just three weeks ago in Berlin at the International Paralympic Congress, the general manager of the Sydney 2000 Bid company stated categorically that the shortfall in the Paralympic Games would be met by an agreement between the state government and the federal government," Finneran said.

Sydney bid general manager Bob Elphinstone, however, said his comments had been misunderstood.

"The statement that I made at the International Paralympic Congress was that negotiations were proceeding between the state and federal governments to finance the shortfall for the staging of the Paralympic Games, and that the current position is that a proposal has been put to the prime minister," Elphinstone said.

Australian Paralympic Federation media director Paul Griffiths said the row over funding had dampened celebrations among disabled athletes. "It's been debilitating to those of us who wanted to celebrate wildly," Griffiths said. "It had a flattening factor."

The 2000 Paralympics, which are expected to be contested by disabled athletes from over 100 countries, will be held in October 2000, two weeks after the conclusion of the Olympic Games.

Four more divisional soccer assocs

Four more metropolis football associations, like the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA), will be formed soon in four divisional headquarters of Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has entrusted three of its vice-presidents with the responsibility to form the new metropolis football associations to organise local league tournaments.

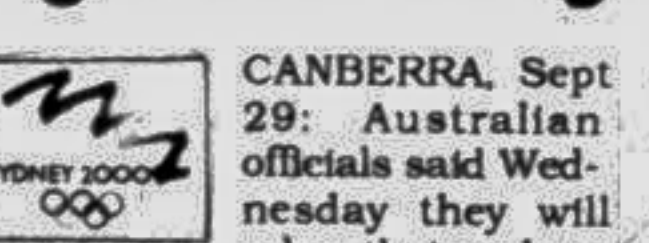
M Azizul Hoque will look after the formation of committee in Chittagong division, A H Mofazzel Karim in Rajshahi division and Salman F Rahman in Khulna and Barisal divisions. BFF general secretary Sheikh Akmal Hossain told newsmen yesterday.

The BFF general secretary said they are also trying to arrange four foreign coaches under technical assistance programme to train booters in the four divisions.

The BFF is already in communication with Norway, Sweden and Germany through National Sports Council (NSC) and the External Resources Division of the Finance Ministry.

He disclosed that a week-long "FIFA Coca-Cola Go For Go" training programme for the trainers, to be conducted by FIFA coach, will be held in the capital from January 16. Some 30 trainers from different schools of the country will be involved for the programme.

Quantity is key for Aussies



CANBERRA, Sept 29: Australian officials said Wednesday they will relax their selection criteria and send a larger team to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta than originally had been planned, reports AP.

Australian Olympic Committee executive-director Parry Crosswhite said the decision would enable a number of young athletes to gain Olympic experience in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Games.

"I would say we would be looking at a more flexible approach to the selection so younger athletes who may be on the borderline of selection would be given the benefit of

the doubt," Crosswhite said Wednesday.

"Quality control will still be an issue," he said. "In track and field, for example, we won't be having anyone out there who shouldn't be there."

Australia's team for the 1996 Games is likely to comprise around 400 competitors and 200 officials — a big increase in the 1992 Barcelona team of 290 athletes and 150 officials.

Juvenile soccer

Sports Reporter

Ek Jhank Paik Kishore Sangha and Rakanpur Youth Club moved into the quarter-finals of Shah Sports juvenile soccer tournament with wins in their respective encounters yesterday.

At the Outer Stadium ground, adjacent to the RAJUK, Ek Jhank Paik had comfortable 4-1 win over Kaliganj Palli Unnayan Samity. Anwar and Swapan scored twice for the winners.

In the day's second match, Rakanpur beat Maghbazar Sun Star Club 2-0. Shaju and Masum scored for the winners.

A S M Ali Kabir, the secretary of National Sports Council was introduced to the players prior to the match.

Marinos trounce Padang

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Sept 29: Brazilian striker Everton and Rikizo Matsubashi each scored three goals, powering the Yokohama Marinos to a 11-0 victory over Semen Padang of Indonesia Wednesday night in the quarter-finals of the 4th Asian Cup Winners Soccer Championship, reports AP.

Final numbers will depend on how many Australians in team sports qualify for Atlanta.

Although the International Olympic Committee has decided to impose quotas on competitors to limit the total number of athletes to about 10,000, Australia has room to expand its team because it has consistently failed to fill its quota in some sports.

Those likely to benefit from the looser criteria will be competitors in rowing, canoeing, shooting, archery, badminton, wrestling and judo.

"Previously, we've only taken those we believe capable of making the finals."



An interesting scene from yesterday's Star First Division football league encounter between Bima and Wanderers at the Hockey Stadium. —Star photo