Sports Reporter

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club elinched the Star First Division football league title as well as the promotion to next year's Premier Division when they ended their last league encounter against Farashgan Sporting Club in a three-all draw at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The eventual champions, who finished their league engagements with 24 points from 18 outings, led the first half by two goals to one.

Mehdi Masud scored twice and Asif Yousuf once foe the Fakirerpool outfit while Shimul, Artf and Ratan netted once each for Farashgani

Meanwhile, the fight for the other promotion berth intensified when Bangladesh Boys Clubs edged Dhanmondi Club by four goals to three to stay on a par with fellow-promotees East End Club.

Both Bangladesh Boys and East End have 23 points and will have to battle it out in a play-off encounter to decide which of the two goes through to next year's Premier Division. The match is likely to be held on October 5.

Sanna found the net twice and Shuvra once for the winners while Tuhin. Halim and Mintu scored for the vanquished.

### Kabaddi results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Bank Club and Azad Sporting Club moved into the semifinals of '93 kabaddi league with wins in their respective quarterfinal matches at the Outer Stadium court yesterday. In the first encounter of the

day, Bangladesh Bank Club outplayed Jurain Janata Club 26-11. The winners led the first half 13-5.

In the other match, Azad Sporting Club trounced Maniknagar Unnayan Samity by 39 points to 11 after leading the first half 21-4.

In today's semifinal matches reigning champions Mirpur Jubo Sangha take on last year's runners-up Sonali Bank Club at 4 pm while Bangladesh Bank Club meet Azad Sporting at 5

#### Nazrul, Swapan off to Rangoon

Two football coaches, Nazrul Islam Ledu of Faktrerpool YC and Swapan Kumar Das of PWD SC, left for Rangoon yesterday to take first in the Olympic Solidarity coaches course, reports UNB.

The course will be held in the Burmese capital from October 1 to 14.

#### Bruguera claws his way back

PALERMO, Sicily, Sept 30: Top-seeded Sergi Bruguera fought back from a first-set deficit to down Jordi Arrese in all-Spanish first-round matches Wednesday at the dlrs 300,000 Sicilian Open ATP tournament, reports AP.

Meanwhile, fourth-seeded Carlos Costa defeated Tomas Carbonell in straight sets, 6-2,

Bruguera lost a first-set tiebreak 3-7 before sailing to a 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 victory.

In the second round of the Sicilian tournament on clay, Bruguera takes on Haitian Ronald Agenor. Agenor defeated Mark Koevermans of the Netherlands 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Koevermans was a last-minute substitute for injured Austrian Horst Skoff.

Costa plays Paolo Cane, the veteran Italian Davis Cup player who breezed past Australian Gilbert Schaller in a late match Tuesday night.

Several matches were rained out Monday and Tuesday and Italian organisers had to arrange a crowded programme on Wednesday.

In other first-round action, seventh-seeded Luis Mattar of Brazil needed three sets to down Argentine Horacio de la Pena 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. Italy's Renzo Furlan defeated Brazilian Jaime Oncins 6-4, 7-5.

#### McGrath makes Zvereva sweat

LEIPZIG, Germany, Sept 30: Belarus' Natalia Zvereva struggled past Meredith McGrath of the United States 2-6, 6-2, 7-6(7-2) on Wednesday, but the other seeded players breezed into the quarter-finals of the Volkswagen Card Cup, reports

Steffi Graf, seeking a fourth straight title at the event, needed just 44 minutes to oust Nicole Muns-Jagerman of the Netherlands, 6-1, 6-1.

Third-seeded Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic beat Germany's Christina Singer, 6-2. 6-4, while Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva posted a 6-4, 6-2 triumph over American Kimberly Po.

#### Cricketers' inter-club transfers close with

## Mohammedans' ripping finis

Traditional titleaspirants Moha mmedan Sporting Club provided the coup de grace of the cricketers inter-club transfers for the forthcoming 1993-94 domestic cricket season when they signed Shri Lankan duo - Athula Samarasekara and Ashoka de

Silva - yesterday. The two Shri Lankans came to the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office last night much to the delight of the waiting Mohammedan fans and sewered their relationship with league champions Abahani

Krira Chakra. Athula Samarasekara, the tali Shri Lankan batsman, was the main architect of Abahani's resounding success last year. None suffered more than the Test discard's new team. It was Samarasekara's murderous batsmanship which actually helped a relatively weaker team like Abahani to trump over fan-

cted Mohammedans last year. No less important was the unassuming Ashoka de Silva in Abahani's challenge to the other teams last year. A difficult bowler to get away with for his nagging accuracy, the smiling fastish leg spinner, another Shri Lankan Test discard, is an asset for any captain.

Silva played two seasons for Abahani while Athula Samarasekara, who had earlier participated for Mohammedans in a Damal Summer tourney, parted with Abahani just after a glorious season with the Dhanmondi team. The rather dramatic switch, which came as an overdue rarified punch in this year's transfer drama, was possible, according to a source, because of a sense of complacency on the part of the Abahani officials.

Of the 56 token-takers of the last day notable were Belim brothers - Javed Omar alias Golla and Asif Omar Belim.

Sports Reporter Javed, the former national youth player, quit Surja Tarun for Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club(GMCC) while his brother Asif Omar Belim, the left arm spinner, took token only to submit in favour of Gulshan

Youth for another year.

Two hundred nineteen cricketers changed teams in this year's six-day long cricketers' transfers and as always Mohammedans, Abahani and to some extent Bangladesh Biman emerged heavyweight of local



Shri Lankan Test discard Athula Samarasekara signed for Mohammedan Sporting Club after playing for Abahani Krira Chakra for one season. - Star photo

# Rangers roam in wilderness



PARIS, Sept 30: Barcelona pulled off an amazing escape to leave Glasgow Rangers

as the only bigname casualty in the fist round of the European Champions Cup on Wednesday, reports

A thrilling 4-1 victory in the Nou Camp stadium enabled Johan Cruyff's side to overturn a 3-1 first leg deficit to Dynamo Kiev and take their place in the second round of Europe's premier competition.

But for Rangers, who came within one match of the final last year and had not been beaten in their last 11 games in the competition, it was a night of agony as an injury-time goal saw them go out to Levski

Elsewhere, the programme of Champions Cup, European Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup matches saw signs that English clubs, who dominated Europe in the seventies and early eighties, may be ready to rejoice once more. All four representatives -Manchester United, Arsenal Norwich and Aston Villa overcome potentially tricky first round hurdles.

Rangers were seconds away from beating Levski 4-3 on aggregate when Nikolai Todarov unleased one last disparing shot at goal from 25 yards.

It flew straight to the top corner of the net to make it 2-1 on the night and leave the tie at 4-4 on aggregate. Two sloppy goals conceded in the first leg in Glasgow meant Rangers lost out on the away goals rule.

Levski captain Nasko Sirakov had levelled the aggregate score with a powerful low shot past Ally Maxwell in the 36th minute, but when Ian Durrant equalised before half-time with a header from a Gary Stevens cross, Rangers looked set to close out the match.

Everything was going to plan until Todarov unleashed his rocket six seconds after the 90 minutes had been completed. Maxwell, who had kept Rangers in it with a string of fine saves, had no chance.

"I thought we played well enough in the first half and had weathered the second-half pressure," the Scot coach Walter Smith said. "But you always know that away goals can kill you in Europe.

Levski coach Georgi Vassilev admitted his side's good fortune: "We were lucky that the goal came when it did as Rangers could not come back but that's football."

There was nothing lucky about Barcelona's Houdini act. The Catalan club - led by Brazilian striker Romario in brilliant form - produced some inspired attacking football against the Ukrainians.

A 25-yard free-kick from Dutch sweeper Ronald Koeman in the 57th minute clinched Barcelona's second-round place after goals from Denmark's Michael Laudrup (9) and Spanish international Jose

Maria Bakero (17, 47).

Barcelona, the 1991 champions who were upset in the second round by CSKA Moscow last year, were joined in Friday's draw by an unconvincing AC

The Italian champions, runners-up last year to Olympique Marsetlle, were whistled off the field after a drab 0-0 home draw enabled them to scrape past Aarau of Switzerland 1-0 on aggregate. Manchester United, seen as

possible successors to Milan as the most powerful force in Europe, were equally uncon-

Captain Steve Bruce scored a second-half double for a 2-1 win on the night and a 5-3 aggregate triumph.

But United will have to do

#### Progressul draw with Iraq

BAGHDAD, Sept 30: Iraq, warming up for next month's World Cup qualifying football tournament in Qatar, drew 1-1 with Romanian club Progressul here on Wednesday, reports

Saad Kaies gave Iraq a 25th minute lead but Dimitri equalised from a 60th minute

better to overcome the likes of Russian champions Spartak Moscow, who completed a 9-0 aggregate mauling of Skonto Riga of Latvia with a 4-0 win in Moscow, in the second round.

Portuguese champions FC Porto settled for a goalless draw in Malta, having already beaten Floriana 2-0 at home.

Belgian international Luc Nilis grabbed a first-half hattrick as Anderlecht breezed past HJK Helsinki 3-0, and 6-0 on aggregate. Fevensoord of the Netherlands beat Iceland's Akranes FC by the same scoreline to reverse a shock 1-0 deficit from the first leg.

Germany's Werder Bremen, leading 5-2 from the first leg, drew 1-1 with Dynamo Minsk to ease through. A double from Czech international striker Horst Siegel allowed Sparta Prague to overcome a 1-0 deficit from the first leg against AlK Stockholm in the Champions Cup.

Monaco, drafted into the Champions Cup after UEFA's exclusion of Marseille in the wake of the French bribe scandal, brought some cheer to the country's beleaguered football world with a 1-1 draw to beat AEK Ethens 2-1 on aggregate.

Ajax Amsterdam scored six to end Hadjuk Split's hopes of defending a 1-0 first-leg lead.



Former Shri Lankan Test player Ashoka de Silva also

### BCCI president, secretary

GWALJOR, Sept 30: Inderjit Singh Bindra of Punjab and Jagmohan Dalmiya of Bengal were elected the president and secretary respectively of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) here yesterday, re-

In the board annual general meeting, which went on for six hours here yesterday, Bindra defeated Dyaneshwar Agashe of Maharashtra by 17 votes to 12 while Dalmiya was elected unanimously.

# it's long overdue

exposure-starved Indian woman cricketers will have a lot of international competitions in the run-up to the next World Cup at home in 1997, reports PTI.

India will participate in the three-nation tournament at Sharjah in December next which will be preceded by a tour by the West Indies in October 1994, according to joint secretary of the Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI) and organiging secretary of the Chandigarh Women's Cricket Association (CWCA), D P Singhal.

England and Australia will visit India in October and December 1995 respectively while the Indian team would leave for a twin tour of New Zealand and Australia in the following year.

#### Chang finds touch in time

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30: Second seed Michael Chang of the United States squeezed into the second round of the Malaysian Open tennis championship Wednesday by edging Japan's Yasufumi Yamamoto 7-5, 6-2, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old American. ranked world number eight. stared out shakily and missed many shots but regained strength to finish off the hardfighting Japanese with five service breaks.

start. He was not nervous. I was lucky to stay in the match," Chang said.

the world, took the fight to Chang in the first set by breaking serve in the fourth

The American retaliated by breaking back the 22-year-old Japanese in the seventh and eleventh games to win the set. Chang went on to break the first and third games in the second set but the gutsy Japanese countered by taking the sixth game.

Chang, however, served brilliantly to break the next game and clinch the winner.

"I still have lot to improve on for the next few matches. One cannot underestimate unseeded players," Chang said.

dogs at the air-cooled National Tennis Centre, north of here. Fourth seed Henrik Holm of

ing round when he lost in straight sets to unheralded Dutchman Paul Haarhuis. world, double-faulted six times

on his service and missed a string of easy shots to go down 6-4. 6-4 against Haarhuis, who is ranked 55th.

fell by the wayside Tuesday after losing to Jaime Yzaga of Peru and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden, respectively. Australia advanced to the sec-

ond round after battling toothand-nail with American new comer Steve Bryan. Masur, pivotal in Australia's 5-0 drubbing of India at the

weekend Davis Cup in Chandigarh, was forced to stage a 90 minute baseline battle with the hard-fighting American who finally bowed out at 6-4, 6-4. Sixth seed Brett Steven of

stormy challenge from Carl Chang - brother of Michael Chang.

# cup of tea

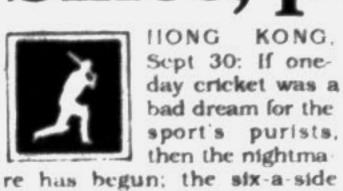
NEUSS, Germany, Sept 30: German tennis star Boris Becker confirmed Thursday he won't play in the Davis Cup final in December against Australia, reports AP.

for our team," Becker said in a statement, adding he was sure Germany would win. Becker, who led Germany to

back-to-back Davis Cup titles in 1988-89, said in January he didn't want to play in the event this year.

Michael Stich, routed Sweden 5-0 in the semifinals last week. The final will be held Dec 3-5

# Sixes, purists' nightmare



game looks as if it is here to stay, reports AFP The second Hong Kong Sixes will gather cricket's elite from all Test playing nations barring Zimbabwe - for the annual event to be held October

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram set the tone for the twoday tournament when he said: This time we are going to take this very seriously.

Brian Catton, the executive director of tournament promoters' Cricket World International, added: "In only its second year, the Sixes is definitely the biggest cricket tournament in the world after the World Cup."

Both Wasim and Catton. player and promoter, are helping to loft Sixes to an international level of recognition.

Pace ace Wastm's pledge came after Pakistan - the reigning world one-day champions - was beaten last year by Hong Kong's part-time players in the preliminary round. Although Pakistan came

back to win the cup final. Wasim is still rankled by the ignominy of defeat to a bunch of weekend cricketers.

llong Kong and everyone else better watch out. We are here to defend our title," said Wastm, who is accompanied by his Test teammates Wagar Younis, Javed Miandad, Inzamamul Haq, Mushtaq Ahmed and Bastt Alt.

West Indian great Viv Richards has been predicting a rosy future for this "instant"

The 41-year-old Antiguan batsman, back at the tournament for the second time, said. This is a very enjoyable game and could be played properly. I could be coming back here to play till I'm 50."

Richards joins a starstudded Caribbean line-up including West Indian skipper Richic Richardson, Desmond Haynes, Courtney Walsh, Keith Athurton and Anderson Cu-

The Pakistanis and the West Indians, seeded first and second respectively, are strong favourites for the title.

But they will have to look out for strong challenges from Australia (third seed) and India Australia, whose hodgepodge

selection last year was relegated to the plate competition, will be represented by lan Healy (captain). Mark Waugh, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Tony Dodemaide and Jamie Siddons.

india have packed in a powerful team comprising skipper Mohammed Azharuddin, Sachin Tendulkar, Vinod Kambli, Manoj Prabhakar, Antl Kumble, Javagal Srinath and Ravi Shastri.

New Zealand (five) captained by Ken Rutherford, will have hard-hitting bat Rod Latham

and all-rounder Chris Cairns in their side. Exciting batting duo. Aravinda de Silva and Arjuna Ranatunga will lead Shri Lanka's (six) challenge while

England (seven). All-rounder Clive Rice leads South Africa (eight), making their debut here, while hosts Hong Kong bring up the rear.

veteran Graham Gooch skippers

The nine teams are divided into three groups and after a preliminary round-robin competition, the top team in each group will progress to the cup semi-finals.

The second placed teams in each group will play in another round-robin group, with the winners joining the other semifinalists.

The three bottom placed sides will play for the plate.

An enthusiastic Rice, also gave his whole hearted support to the Sixes. 'It is a game where players have to perform from the first ball they face, or bowl This makes for exciting stuff."

Red Group: Pakistan, Shri Lanka, Hong Kong. Green Group: England,

Australia, India Blue Group: West Indies, New Zealand, South Africa.

#### Short undaunted by setbacks tie to retain the crown.



30: Briton Nigel Short, undaunted by repeated setbacks in his world chess challenge against Garri Kasparov, remains hopeful about his title prospects, reports Reuter.

Sources close to the challenger said on Wednesday that Short was encouraged by the many winning chances he had created against the champion. Even if his task may be impossible in the current London match, Short is convinced he can use this experience to achieve a successful rematch in 1995, they added.

In Tuesday's 10th Game Short built up his strongest position of the match, and only a miraculous escape allowed Kasparov to remain unbeaten in the 24-game contest.

strength of five wins and five

draws; he needs only a 12-12

source close to the Kasparov Kasparov, 30, leads the series 7-1/2 to 2-1/2 on the

Short, 28, who impressed exports with a profound sacrifice of his queen- the strongest piece in the game - missed several clear winning moves

against Kasparov on Tuesday.

Although Grandmasters conceded that Kasparov had defended with tenacity and imagination, his position should have been hopeless and they said time pressure was not a sufficient excuse for Short's failure to finish Kasparov off.

this, then you have no business playing in a World Championship match," English Grandmaster James Plaskett said. Surprisingly, an encouraging note for Short came from a

If you can't positions like

"Kasparov is getting into trouble because he is very tired. He is extremely exhausted .... the Games have been very in-

tense," an insider told Reuters.

"Short could have a chance to get back in the match now, but he just doesn't seem capable of taking it," the source

The rival official World Ch

ampionship in the Netherlands,

sanctioned by international

chess body FIDE, remains suspended while a search for a sponsor is underway. That 24-game contest is led by Russian Anatoly Karpov, 7-5 over Dutchman Jan Timman.

FIDE disqualified champion Kaspara and official challenger Short after a dispute over match conditions early this

the breakaway Professional Chess Association to stage the match, which has a prize fund of 1.7 million founds (2.6 million dollar).

Kasparov and Short formed

The eleventh Game, with Kasparov having the advantage of the white pieces and first move, is scheduled today.

## Time for Martina to move on



NEW YORK, Sept 30: Martina Navratilova, the winningest player in professional tennis history, said 1994 will be her final year,

reports AP. "It's time for me to move on," she said at a news conference

Wednesday. "I fell good about my decision.

She said her schedule next year will include a return to the French Open, a Grand Slam tournament she has not played since 1988.

Currently ranked third in the world, Navratilova has won 165 singles titles, including four this year. But she has not won a Grand Slam singles crown since

Navratilova was in New York to promote the Virginia Slims

Czech-born American Martina Navratilova listens to a

newsman's query in a press conference in New York on Sept

29, where she announced that 1994 would be her final

playing year in singles. She also said that her 1994 schedule

would include a return to the French Open, a tournament in

- AFP photo

which she has not played since 1988.

championships, to be played Nov. 15-21 at Madison Square

Navratilova has won at least

one singles title every year since 1973. Since 1975, she has won at least two tournaments for 19 consecutive years. Her 1,394 match victories are the most of any pro player,

earned more than 19 million dollars in her career. Navratilova's announcement was not really new.

man or woman, and she has

"Chances are next year will be my last year playing singles fulltime," she said after losing the Virginia Slims championships final to Monica Seles last November. "I still will play

some matches here and there. "I don't want to make a farewell tour or anything like that, but I do want to give the

fans a chance to come out and

see me because that may be the last year." Now she has pushed back her timetable by a year.

"Last year, I wasn't very sure," Navratilova said on Wednesday. "This time, I have no qualms, no regrets."

A decade ago, Navratilova changed women's tennis with her attention to fitness and diet. She dominated the sport in 1983, losing only one match that in the fourth round of the French Open, a loss that kept her from winning all four Grand Slam singles titles in a calendar

But at age 36, Navratilova realizes there will never be another 1983 for her, or

another 165 tournament titles. "It's just really hard for me to keep everything together on a top level at this age," she said year ago. "You know, everything

has to be just right." Navratilova has qualified for this year's season-ending Slims championships, which features the top 16 singles players and eight doubles teams. Others who have qualified include topranked Steffi Graf and No 2 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario

#### Edberg, Stich advance to second round

BASEL, Switzerland, Sept 30: Top seed Stefan Edberg and No 2. Michael Stich of Germany advanced in straight sets Wednesday to the second round of the dirs 800,000 Swiss Indoors tournament, reports

Edberg, the world's fifthranked player and a record three-time champion at Basel, defeated fellow Swede Christian Bergstrom, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) in the first round. He next meets German qualifier Joern Renzenbrink.

Edberg last won the Swiss indoors in 1988 and is seeking his second ATP tour singles title this year.

Stich, who has reached this year's Davis Cup final with the German team, downed France's Fabrice Santoro 7-5, 6-2 in a first-round match. The world No. 6 faces French qualifier Rodolphe Gilbert in the second round.

New German Davis Cup hero Marc-Kevin Goellner, seeded eighth, ousted Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek, 7-5, 6-3 in the day's most hotly contested match.



followed compatriot Samarasekera's tracks to the Moha-— Star photo mmedan tent.

elected

ports PTI.

# For Indian eves,

CHANDIGARH, Sept 30: The

\*Yamamoto got off to a good

Yamamoto, ranked 340 in

It was a day for the under-

Sweden became the third top player to crash out in the openllolm, ranked 23rd in the

Fifth seed Brad Gilbert of the United States and eighth seed Jason Stoltenberg of Australia

Third seed Wally Masur of

New Zealand faced an equally

## Davis Cup is not Becker's

"I'll keep my fingers crossed

There had been speculation he might change his mind after the German team, led by

in Germany. The venue has not yet been announced.