Mirpur Juba Sangha clinch kabaddi title

Sports Reporter

Mirpur Juba Sangha clinched the Metropolis kabaddi league title for the third time on a trot when they beat Azad Sporting Club by a hefty margin of 44 points to nine 'in a lopsided final at the Outer Stadium court yesterday.

The Mirpur outfit. who earned as many as four lonas, dominated the proceedings right from the word go and raced away to a unassailable 20-2 lead at the end of the first half.

Having compiled a huge edge, the eventual winners didn't let up the pressure and the second session yielded four points more than the first for the victors.

Bangladesh Olympic Association Secretary General Bashir Ahmed witnessed the final as chief guest and later gave away the prizes.

Umed Ali of the Mirpur side won the player-of-the-meet award while Maniknagar Unnavan Samity went home with the most disciplined squad.

Sixteen teams took part in the meet organised by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federa-

ROLL OF HONOUR Champions

Sonali Bank Ahmed Bawany Tex "e Mirpur Juba Sangi Mirpur Juba Sangha (not held) Mirpur Juba Sangha

BFF to make list of trained soccer coaches

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to compile an inventory of trained soccer coaches, according to a federation press release issued on October 2.

Working on a suggestion extended by the Asian Football Confederation, the BFF would include those trainers in the list who have had training in and outside the country, with or without the BFF assistance.

All the trained football coaches have been requested to report at the federation office with necessary papers by October 15 at the latest.

BHF picks 17

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has named 17 players for preliminary trials to hone out a second string national squad for the upcoming 10th Surajit Singh memorial hockey tournament, scheduled to be held in the Indian city of Jamshedpur in November this

The selected players are: Osman Ghani, Shafiqul Islam, Humayun Kabir, Moksedul Haq (Bangladesh Army); Hassan Rony, Rubel (Mohammedans); Siam-e-Noor, Jamil Parvez Lulu (Abahani); Kamrul Islam Kismat, Sadek Khan (Usha); Al Imran, Taleb Reza, Enamul Huda (Wari): Malek Chunnu (Bima), Khwaja Rezwan Arjoo (Ajax), Tutul Kumar Nag (Azad) and Bapen (Ansars).

The players have been asked to join the trials on Tuesday at the Hockey Stadium.

Meanwhile, the national at Leeds, who climbed from fifth number one squad is training at to third after the most emphatic the BKSP for the Asian Cup win of the day in the Premier hockey championship, scheduled to be held at the Japanese city of Hiroshima in November. bottom-placed Swindon are still looking for their first win after

Real relieved

MADRID, Oct 3: Real Madrid broke a three-game losing streak when they played a 0-0 draw away to city neighbours Atletico Madrid on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Under pressure for much of the game, Real nevertheless came closest to scoring in the final stages of a typically tense and frenetic local derby.

Their best chance came five minutes from time when new signing from Slovan Bratislava, Peter Dubovsky, hit a crashing left foot shot towards the corner of the net, ringing a superb diving save from Atletico goalkeeper Diego Diaz.

A few minutes earlier Diego had shown perfect positioning to parry a shot form Real central defender Fernando Heirro, put through by a pass from midfield.

Perversely Real showed much their best form when midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez was sent off after collecting his second yellow card in

the 48th minute. The draw brought at least some relief to beleaguered Real coach Benito Floro after three successive league defeats followed a win in their opening match, the club's worst start to

a season in 40 years. But it may not do much to lift last year's championship runners-up out of their present lowly position in the league.



The players and an official of Mirpur Juba Sangha who won the Metropolis kabaddi league title for the third time in a row beating Azad Sporting Club in the final at the Outer Stadium - Star photo court yesterday.

Afro-Asian Nations Cup final today

Japan take on Ivory Coast



TOKYO, Oct 3: and sometimes mechanical erging continents, Asia and Africa. face off here Mon-

day as Japan and the Ivory Coast play for the Afro-Asian Nations Cup, reports

The 65,000 seats at the Tokyo National Stadium sold out in August, and such is the interest that two national TV networks will be carrying the match live. After winning the Asian Cup

last year, football, has taken Japan by storm with the launch of the professional J-League in May. Soccer's popularity has buried long time favourite baseball under an avalanche of slick marketing and expensive bigname soccer signings.

For Japan's newly-converted who pack the J-League stadiums to watch the likes of former England captain Gary Lineker, Brazilian star Zico and Germany's Pierre Littbarski. this match is the first home tie for the national team since the league's launch.

of deeply contrasting styles. Japan's Asian Cup victory was thanks to the purposeful

Saturday when they won 3-2 at

Sheffield Wednesday while none

of their nearest challengers

managed a victory, reports

from Mark Hughes and one

from his Welsh international

teammate Ryan Giggs to go five

points clear of second-placed

Arsenal, who were held to a 0-0

draw at Anfield by Liverpool,

who have now gone 500 min-

day third, crashed 2-0 at home

to Newcastle, who clocked up

their first away win of the sea-

son with goals from Malcolm

Allen from a penalty and Andy

day in fourth place, crashed 4-0

Wimbledon, who started the

At the other end of the table

losing 3-1 at home to Blackburn, whose first goal

The goal from the 23-year-

old striker, starting his first

match after five games as sub-

stitute following a long injury

lay-off, boosted his chances of

earning a recall to the England

team for the crucial World Cup

Hughes was the architect of

qualifier against the Nether-

United's win over Wednesday,

scoring twice and also creating

Giggs' goal midway through the

Chris Bart-Williams had put

the home side in front in the

47th minute to the delight of a

34,548 all-ticket sell-out crowd,

but Hughes levelled just three

66th minute after Eric Cantona

attacked Wednesday down their

right flank before slipping the

ball to Hughes just inside the

area. The Weishman controlled

with his first touch and then

despatched the ball with his

second for his fifth goal of the

put Giggs in the clear, allowing

the exciting teenager to finish

Arsenal produced a goalless

draw at Anfield in a match

Fowler had a hattrick of

chances to beat the Londoners.

but the 18-year-old England

youth star, making his home

league debut, wasted all of

Liverpool should have won.

off the move nonchalantly.

Five minutes later, Hughes

In contrast, Liverpool and

Teenage striker Robbie

United went ahead in the

lands on October 13.

second half.

minutes later.

season.

came from Alan Shearer.

Cole, his 11th in 11 games.

Aston Villa, who began the

utes without a goal.

What fans will see is a match

LONDON, Oct 3:

Manchester Uni-

ted strengthened

their grip on the

English Premier

League title on

Football's two em- skills drummed into the team by national coach, Dutchman Hans Marius Ooft. What the team lacked in flair, they found in spirit particularly in defence.

For the Africans, even without several key figures currently playing with European sides. the Ivory Coast promises attacking football that will ooze with the confidence born of skills that seem an African birthright. The Ivorians threaten to make a mockery of Japan's rigid, programmed style.

But the Japanese do hold several key advantages. Firstly, the Africans have declined to host a second, return leg, meaning the intercontinental champions will be decided in front of a boisterous Tokyo crowd, important considering Japan's poor playing

team morale. Last week, the Ivory Coast, reigning African Nations, Cup champions, were dumped out of contention for World Cup '94 with a dismal 4-1 away loss to Nigeria.

record away from home. Japan

is also better placed in terms of

Just prior to the match Frenchman Phillippe Troussier was sacked as national coach

M United outstride rivals

He sent a close range header

straight at England goalkeeper

David Seaman soon after half-

time and in the space of three

minutes he twice failed to beat

Seaman after slipping past full-

on target until the 70th minute

when Paul Merson fired lamely

first 0-0 draw between the two

teams at Anfield in 27 meetings

Taylor was at Swindon to watch

fit-again Shearer put Blackburn

ahead after 15 minutes and

show that his match fitness and

stamina are improving by

adding his second and Blac-

kburn's third in the last mi-

when Paul Warhurst was car-

leg in the first half after a colli-

ried off with a suspected broken

sion with Swindon's Terry

pleased by Shearer's progress,

he must be equally concerned

that Les Ferdinand, England's

outstanding player in their

World Cup win over Poland last

month, was left out of Queen's

Park Rangers side for the match

against Ipswich with a ham-

were too powerful for Ipswich,

who had Stuart Slater, their

new 750,000 pound (1.12 mil-

lion dollar), signing from Celtic,

football

Sports Reporter

Tejkunipara Rafiq Smriti Sang-

sad march into the round of

the Tejkunipara side scored a 2-

13th minute of the second ses-

sion. Yousuf reduced the mar-

Chandnighat Tarun Sangha.

After a barren first-half, the

winners got all their goals in the

second half through Sohel;

Mahbub and Hasib in the 11th,

17th and 22nd minute respec-

spot-kick.

juvenile football tournament.

Apu scored twice to lead the

Even without him, QPR

While Taylor must have been

But their win was soured

England manager Graham

Arsenal did not have a shot

back Lee Dixon.

since 1967.

Fenwick.

string strain.

making his debut.

United won with two goals at Bruce Grobbleaar. It was the

and on the team's return from Nigeria the president of the local FA reportedly ordered the squad

While the Ivory Coast has nothing to show for its World Cup efforts, this match comes at just the right time for Japan which is focussing on the second round of the Asian World Cup qualifiers, which are held in Qatar October 15-28.

Ooft led his team on a tour of Spain last month and came away with three straight losses against second division sides. Undaunted, Ooft did ask for "more aggressive play" from his team but blamed injuries as the main reason for the disappointing results.

Since then the World Cup campaign has been buffeted by unsporting allegations reported in the Japanese press about rival teams spying and conspiring to steal Japan's soccer secrets.

Nikkan sports paper reported Sunday Ooft had banned all reporters from training areas and the team hotel after a South Korean paper discovered that star striker Takuya Takagi was suffering from corns.

South Korea is one of the five other teams Japan faces in the final round.

QPR won 3-0 with Devon

White scoring twice and Simon

Barker adding the other in an

eight-minute spell midway

Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem out

of the UEFA Cup in their first-

ever European tie in mid-week,

moved into fourth place with a

1-0 win over Coventry thanks to

a goal on the stroke of halftime

The highest-scoring match

was on the South Coast where

Southampton, with only one

win in their opening nine

matches, led 20 and then 3-1

before being held to a 3-3 draw

sent off early in the second half

for a second bookable offence,

but salvaged a point with two

goals in the last nine minutes

by Norwegian striker Jostein

Peter Reid, the former Man-

chester City player-manager,

made his debut for the Saints

who remain just a point above

Swindon in 21st place.

United had David Tuttle

by 10-man Sheffield United.

Norwich, who knocked

through the second half.

from Ruel Fox.

India reject invitation to go to Sharjah

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: India have turned down a request from the Sharjah-based Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series (CBFS) to play in the Champions Cup tourmament later this month, reports AFP.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, newlyelected secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said Sunday India will not be going for the limited overs tournament that also features the West Indies. Pakistan and Shri Lanka.

Dalmiya said he had conveyed BCCI's decision to CBFS coordinator Asif lobal, who made a last-minute plea on telephone to seek India's participation in the tournament that runs October 28-November 5.

India have not played in Sharjah since 1991, citing pro-Pakistani bias in the conduct of tournaments in the desert venue where India-Pakistan matches are the main attraction for expatriates of the two na-

Dalmiya said India may play in Sharjah next year after receiving assurances from the CBFS that the tournaments will be conducted 'impartially.'

Chang wins Malaysian Open title

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3 American Michael Chang beat Swede Jonas Svensson 6-0, 6-4 to win the 300,000 US dollars Malaysian Open Sunday, reports AFP.

Chang broke the Swede twice in the first set and three times in the second to take the match in 96 minutes and collect 39,000 dollars in prize money.

Novotna has a score to square with Graf

LEIPZIG, Germa-ny, Oct 3: Steffi Graf and Jana Novotan will clash for the first time since their memorable Wimbledon title show-down in today's final of the Leipzig women's tournament, reports AFP.

Novotna, who squandered a 4-1 final set lead against Graf at Wimbledon in July, earned another short at the German with a straight forward 6-1, 6-1 victory over Spaniard Conchita Martinez in Saturday's semifi-

Graf, the top seed and defending champion, came back from one set down to overcome battling Austrian Judith Wiesner 6-7, 6-2, 6-6. Novotna, who blew the biggest moment of her career in the intense pressure of Wimbledon's Centre Court, was quick to play down the clash as a revenge match.

"Many months have gone by and it is a different surface," the Czech said. "I will just play my best and see what happens.

"It wasn't that I lost my concentration or that I was afraid of winning (at Wimbledon). just gave Steffi a chance and. like the great champion she is, she took it."

Novotna, the third seed, celebrated her 25th birthday with a solid display of her strong serve-and-volley game in her 61-minute win over second seed Martinez.

Novotna's crisp volleying was too much for the Spanish baseliner. She ran away with the first set in 28 minutes and then broke serve to lead 3-1 in the

Short still short of a win held the champion even with ship match, between Russian

American Michael Chang poses with the Malaysian Open tennis trophy after beating Jonas

Svensson 6-0, 6-4 in the final at the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur yesterday



champion Garri Kasparov ended the first half of their 24-game chess match on Saturday pleased to have shared honours in a hardfought draw in the 12th games.

reports Reuter. Kasparov leads 8-1/2 to 3-1/2 after five wins and seven draws. He needs only a 12-12 tie to retain the crown and 12-1/2 points will secure the 5/8 winner's share of the 1.7 million pound (2.5 million dollar) prize sponsored by the Times of

London newspaper. In Saturday's games, Kasparov continued his strategy of risky and ambitious play when defending with the black pieces and sacrificed a bishop early in the game to gain an armada of dangerous passed

Experts found it difficult to assess the delicately balanced endgame that eventually arose. with Short having an extra bishop to battle against the champion's dangerous phalanx of three pawns.

Kasparov seemed to have slightly more winning chances, but Short's accurate play kept the game roughly in balance.

Short managed to neutralise the champion's threats and was in no danger when the players

agreed to split the point ... The draw completes Short's best week of the event, having three complex and hard-fought But the challenger's biggest

hurdle remains as the match has now reached the half way point with Kasparov still unde-At a post-game news confer-

ence the players agreed that Kasparov's bold sacrifice neutralised Short's advantage of the first move and hinted that Kasparov had even gained the upper hand. Kasparov said his decision to

play an endgame with a mass of powerful pawns against a bishop had been misjudged. and that he then had to steer for equality.

"It was a good game, both sides played well," Short said. "So, have we reached perfection now?" Kasparov asked.

Kasparov, who has seemed fatigued in recent games, appeared to have regained most of his energy. Andrew Page, Kasparov's

manager, told Reuters that the champion had been busy with non-chess matters recently, but was now regaining his strength. "It's a long, hard match and

there (are) ways some down periods, but he's back now. think Garri is going to be very, very dangerous next week," Page said. The coming week's play is a

"black week" for Short, who must defend against Kasparov's often lethal assault with the white pieces in two of the three

The official World Champion-

Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman, sanctioned by the world chess body FIDE, has been suspended for a week. At the half-way point in that 24game series. Karpov leads Timman 7-5.

- AFP photo

FIDE is still in emergency negotiations after the withdrawal of second - half sponsors

Besides supplying a venue and operating costs, an emergency sponsor must also provide the FIDE minimum of one million Swiss francs (697,300 dollars) for a title match after the organisers in the Netherlands failed to raise any money towards the advertised prize fund of 1.8 million pounds

(2.7 million dollars). FIDE sources indicate the match is unlikely to resume today in Oman and a delay until October 16 is probable if the match is to be salvaged at all.

Both Timman and Karpov have told reporters that they intend to take legal action against FIDE if the match is not revived and the minimum prize fund not met.

FIDE disqualified Kasparov and Short after a dispute over the conditions of their title match. Short and Kasparov responded by founding the Professional Chess Association, which is the organisation represented at the London match

The 13th game of the London match is scheduled for Tuesday with Kasparov having the advantage of the white

Marseille back in the hunt



PARIS, Oct 3: A late winner against Lille on Saturday put Olympique Marseille firmly back in the hunt to regain the champion-

ship they were stripped off after bribery allegations, reports Lille, right on France's nor-

thern border with Belgium, is a notoriously difficult place to come away from with two points and the match looked to be heading for a 1-1 draw before Rui Barros capitalised on a defensive error two minutes from time.

Lille's Danish defender Per Frandsen carelessly lost possession to Jean-Christophe Thomas who quickly Fed Barros. The Portuguese international finished superbly to give Marseille the points that lifted them from eighth to fifth place.

Cox's Bazar

soccer From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 3: A second-minute goal in the second half from Kashem enabled Friends Union Club to etch a victory over Rashid Club in the Cox's Bazar football league at the local stadium today.

Ramu Brothers Union take on Olympic Sporting Club today in the day's only match.

Barros' compatriot Paolo Futre had given the visitors a 27th minute lead, slotting home after Lille 'keeper Jean-Laude Nadon had failed to hold a shot from Daniel Dutul. Eric Assadourian headed an

equaliser five minutes from the break and the well-balanced match seemed destined for a draw until Frandsen's concentration slip.

Marseille remain two points off the pace as Bordeaux came away with a 2-0 victory from Strasbourg, thanks to a double from Philippe Vercruysee — his fifth and sixth goals of the sea-

front alone as Cannes and Paris Saint-Germain both drew. Cannes were involved in a dour 0-0 draw at Metz while

The win put them out in

PSG and Martiques separated at 1-1.

Newly-promoted Martigues shocked the league leaders when Philippe Anziani fired home after only six minutes.

But two minutes later PSG were level, Brazilian midfielder Rai finding himself completely unmarked to meet a centre from David Ginola. Didier Tholot hit the bar for

Martigues in the 30th minute and George Weah completely missed the target after being put clear by Rai four minutes after the break. But those were the only clear chances either of

team created and the match petered out into a tame draw.

Monaco, who head Marseille on goal difference, had to rely on a piece of luck to snatch victory at Caen.

The Normandy club had squandered at least four clear chances before Nigerian victory Ikpeba, who had been on the field less than a quarter of an hour, skidded onto a ball that had stuck in the waterlogged goalmouth nine minutes from

STANDINGS

Standings after this weekend's games in the French First Division soccer league: G W D LGF GA Pts

	11227	1000	-			
11	7	2	2	17	7	16
11	6	3	2	17	8	15
11	5	5	1	16	12	15
11	6	2	3	15	8	14
11	5	4	2	12	9	14
11	4	5	2	12	7	13
10	4	5	1	8	4	13
11	5	3	3	14	11	13
11	4	4	3	12	9	12
11	2	8	1	12	10	12
11	2	6	3	12	12	10
		2	4	11	12	10
11	4	2	5	8	13	10
11	2	5	4	8	11	-
11	2	4	5	7	9	Æ
10	3	2	5	10	13	
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Le Havre 11 0 6 5 5 13 6

Toulouse 10 0 5 5 4 17 5

11 2 4 5 10 18

11 0 5 6 8 15 5

Shah Sports Cup eight in the Shah Sports Cup In one of the two matches of the meet at the Outer Stadium, 1 victory over Nabarun Kishore Sangha after leading the first Apu scored the first goal four minutes into the first half and then added another one in the gin when he neatly converted a The other match of the day was a one-sided affair with Dhaka Football Coaching Centre racing away a comfortable three-nil winners over

Action from yesterday's Shah Sports Cup juvenile soccer tournament match between Dhaka Football Coaching Centre and Chandnighat Tarun Sangha at the Outer Stadium. Dhaka Football Coaching Centre won the match by three goals to nil. - Star photo