



Players of the 19-member Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) squad, scheduled to leave Dhaka today for India to play a number of friendly matches as a part of prep campaign for the ICC trophy to be held in Kenya early next year. —Star photo

Cricketers fly again

Sports Reporter



A 19-member Bangladesh cricket squad, led by Golan Nawsher Prince, leaves Dhaka today for India to take part in some exhibition matches in the South Indian states as a part of its preparatory campaign for the ICC Trophy, scheduled to be held in Kenya February next year.

Iqbal Bachchu, another name of the year's veterans, will be the associate manager. Former Indian Test player Mahinder Amarnath, who has been given the job to hone out a squad for the ICC tournament, will also be on the tour.

From Andhra Pradesh, the squad moves on to Hyderabad to play the next two matches against the Hyderabad Cricket Association President's Eleven and the Hyderabad State Eleven. The ties, scheduled for October 10 and 11 respectively, will be played at Secunderabad.

East End take on Bangladesh Boys Club today

Sports Reporter

East End Club take on first low-promotees Bangladesh Boys Club in play-off match at the Hockey Stadium today to decide who get the second place in the Star First Division football league and join Fakirpool Youngmen's Club in next year's Premier Division.

The 90-minute affair, which kicks off at three in the afternoon, will be extended to a 20-minute extra period in case of a deadlock in the regulation time.

Shah Sports Cup

Sports Reporter

Ek Jhank Paira and Rokanpur Youth Club moved into the semifinals of the Shah Sports juvenile football with wins in their respective quarterfinal matches held at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Swapan and Anwar scored once each in the first half to lead Ek Jhank Paira to a 2-1 victory over the Golden Sporting Club.

Masud pulled one back for the losers. With goals from Sajju and Iqbal Rokanpur Youth Club posted a 2-0 victory over Badda Samajkalyan Sangsad in the second match of the day.

In today's quarter-final matches, Antaranga Sporting Club take on Tejkunipara Rafiq Smriti Sangsad while Basabo Boys Club face Dhaka Football Training Centre. Both the matches will be played at the Outer Stadium.

Cox's Bazar

Soccer

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Oct 4: Olympic Sporting Club beat Ramu Brothers Union 3-1 in the Cox's Bazar football league tournament '93 here at the local stadium today.

Sahi and Khaleed scored once each to help the winners lead the first half 2-0.

Sahi netted his second in the second half. Tuhin of Ramu Brothers pulled one back few minutes before the final whistle.

Mohammedan Sporting Club will be up against Rashid Ahmed Club at the same venue tomorrow.

Savar, Comilla in Army v'ball final

COMILLA, Oct 4: Savar and Comilla Areas moved into final of the Bangladesh Army volleyball championship, reports BSS.

Savar Area qualified for final defeating Rangpur Area 12-15, 15-10, 15-10, 14-16, 15-8 in the semifinal at the Comilla cantonment yesterday. In the other semifinal, Comilla Area beat Jessore Area 15-13, 15-13 and 15-9, an ISPR press release said today.

Death condoled

The National Sports Council yesterday condoled the death of sports organiser and referee Mukhlisur Rahman, reports BSS.

Rahman, who was a member of the Mymensingh District Sports Association and a first class football referee, was killed by lightning on October 1 at Mymensingh.

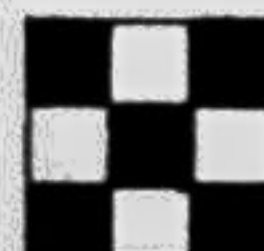
The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association and Bangladesh Football Referees' Association also condoled the death of Rahman.

C'nawabganj soccer

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 4: Cosmos SC beat Dhumketu JK 2-0 in the First Division football league played at the local stadium on Sunday, reports UNB.

Hadi of the Cosmos SC scored both the goals in the 30th and 34th minute in the second half.

FIDE would go all the way



AMSTERDAM, Oct 4: The world chess body FIDE said on Sunday its World Chess Championship between Anatoly Karpov and Jan Timman would resume on October 16, but it is still unclear where the money to host the event will come from, reports Reuter.

FIDE said in a statement that four venues were being considered and that a decision on which one was to be used would be announced on Wednesday.

The board resolved that FIDE raises and guarantees the minimum prize fund of one million Swiss francs (700,000 dollars) in accordance with FIDE regulations, FIDE said in a statement.

The first half of the match — 12 games — has already taken place in three Dutch cities, with the Russian ex-world champion Karpov leading the Dutch Grandmaster by seven points to five.

The second half was expected to take place in the Gulf State of Oman, starting on October 3, with the first player to reach 12 points winning the title.

But 10 days ago, FIDE chairman Florencio Campomanes confirmed rumours that the Sultan of Oman was not putting up the two million Swiss francs (1.39 million dollars) prize-money expected.

The Omani venue was cancelled, and FIDE plunged into its biggest crisis since it took over organising the World Championship in 1946.

FIDE is already under unprecedented threat because of the breakaway World Championship taking place in London between Garri Kasparov of Russia and Britain's Nigel Short.

Kasparov and official challenger Short broke away from FIDE to form the Professional Chess Association and arranged their own championship with the Times of London.

Campomanes in August proclaimed FIDE had four million Swiss francs (2.8 million dollars) in prize-money ready for an official championship between losing semifinalists Karpov and Timman.

But the Dutch organisers, with little time and lacking the draw of the world's best player, have failed to raise their half of the prize fund. Sponsorship barely covered overheads, so FIDE planned to rely on the prize-money promised by Oman.

There are a number of possible new venues. Belfort in France had expressed a strong interest, and Amsterdam, Moscow, Kuwait and Budapest were also rumoured to be willing hosts.

But with sponsorship hard to find at such short notice, cash remains the biggest problem. FIDE is thought to have only 500,000 dollars of its own and there will be other expenses beyond prize-money to cover.

Nevertheless, Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman was pleased the second half is definitely going ahead.

"I have full confidence (in FIDE). It was, from the beginning, a difficult undertaking. But I can live with this compromise," he told news agency AFP.

Swimming squad for SAF Games announced

Sports Reporter

Some veteran swimmers were left in the cold as Bangladesh Swimming Federation announced the 15-man squad for the second round of trial camp for the forthcoming SAF Games to be held in Dhaka from December 20 to 27.

Bazlur Rahman, a gold medal winner in the 1987 SAF Game in Calcutta, Mizanur Rahman, Mominul Islam, Golam Kibria and Mahbubur Rahman — all from Navy — were winnowed out of the 21 member preliminary selection along with Abdul Mannan and Osman Ghani of Army.

Age, according to a Federation official, has played havoc with disfavoured swimmers' ambition of representing the country.

The full squad comprises Shafiqul Islam Swapan, Ilyas Hossain, Nazmul Kabir, Kawsar Ahmed, Mokhlisur Rahman, Selim Miah and Deen Amin (Navy), Harunur Rashid, Shamul Islam, Yasin Ali, Abdus Salam, Asaduzzaman, Mokhlisur Rahman (Army), Karar Mizanur Rahman.

The training of the swimming squad has already got underway under a Chinese coach, at Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Pratisthan.

Papin sued

LYON, France, Oct 4: A soccer referee has filed a defamation suit against star forward Jean-Pierre Papin, captain of France's national team, for questioning his honesty in a disputed French league match, reports AP.

The referee, Patrick Anton, was criticized by Papin for his calls in a Sept 24 game in which Metz beat Papin's former club, Marseille, 3-0. Two Marseille players were expelled from the match, which was stopped five minutes early when Marseille fans stormed onto the field in protest.

Papin, who now plays for AC Milan, was quoted in the French sports daily L'Equipe as Anton's calls were 'dishonest'.

"Further, if I choose this word, I am being polite," Papin was quoted as saying.

Anton disallowed a goal by Marseille striker Rudi Voeller and also failed to call a penalty against Metz which incited the crowd. But the referee defended both calls.

"In his capacity as captain of the French team, Jean-Pierre Papin is obliged to be restrained, Anton said. "It's easy to make such statements when you're abroad and don't risk any punishment."

Last week, French soccer officials disciplined Marseille for the fan rowdiness during the Metz match, suspending two of the players for one game and ordering the team to play one of its home games in another city.

Patriot Capobianco

MELBOURNE, Oct 4: Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco, a World Championship finalist, has rejected a six-figure offer to become an Italian citizen and run for Italy, a local newspaper reported today, reports Reuter.

Capobianco, whose parents were born in Italy, said he turned down the deal — which included Australian 300,000 dollars (US 195,000 dollars), a house, travel expenses and a salary for his coach — because he wanted to run for Australia, Melbourne's the Age newspaper reported.

"It is my dream to win the Olympic double — the 100 and 200 metres in front of a home crowd in Sydney in 2000," he was quoted as saying.

Morale booster for Japan

TOKYO, Oct 4: Japan snatched an extra-time win over Ivory Coast to take the Afro-Asian Nations Cup in a gritty battle which should give heart to this young soccer nation's quest for its first World Cup berth, reports AFP.

But it took Japan 116 minutes to turn their overwhelming territorial possession into a goal scored by J-League sensation Kazuyoshi Miura.

The Ivory Coast, who qualified for this biennial tournament as African Nations Cup champions, never looked in the match. They played with only seven of their regular first team, which lost away to Nigeria last week 4-1 so ending their own World Cup quest.

For Japan the journey to USA '94 is only just beginning with the final round of the Asian World Cup qualifiers being played in Qatar October 15-28. Japan play North and South Korea, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, from whom, two will travel to the World Cup.

Monday's game was Japan's first home tie since the epoch-making launch of the country's professional J-League soccer competition in mid-May.

Japan's 4-4-2 game plan won them control for most of the match and with both sides

Real avoid real trouble

PARIS, Oct 4: Real Madrid avoided their fourth consecutive defeat despite being reduced to ten men for most of the second half of a goalless Spanish capital Derby with Atletico, reports AFP.

Police lined the streets in anticipation of crowd trouble in reaction to Real's disastrous start to the season, but all the fireworks were on the pitch.

Five players were booked and Real's international midfielder Rafael Martin Vasquez was given his marching orders two minutes after the break.

Atletico took control of the match then, but it was Real languishing just above the relegation zone with only one win in their first four matches, who went closest to winning — Fernando Hierro and Jerez Alfonso both forcing good saves from Garido Diego late in the match.

Valencia's 1-1 draw away to Lerida allowed Athletic Bilbao, 2-1 winners over Real Zaragoza, to take over at the top of the table, but Barcelona's first-half performance against Osasuna Pamplona will have left few doubting that they are headed for a fourth consecutive title.

The Catalans, irresistible against Dynamo Kiev in the European Cup last week, fielded four strikers as they overran Pamplona in the first 45 minutes before running out 3-2 winners.

Two goals from Brazilian striker Romario put John Cruyff's side in control at the break and although they slackened off in the second period were never in any danger.

Merino pulled one back for the home side in the 65th minute, but Hristo Stoichkov, whose appearances have been

limited by the arrival of Romario, scored his first goal of the season two minutes from time to make the points secure.

Poland's Jozek Zolber scored right on the final whistle for Pamplona, but the scoreline flattered the home side.

In Germany, Bayern Munich bared their teeth by crushing on-form Hamburg 4-0 in front of 63,000 supporters in the Olympic Stadium.

Thomas Helmer opened the scoring just before half-time and as Hamburg pushed forward for the equaliser, Markus Schupp, Alfonso Valencia and Mehmet Scholl exploited the gaps left at the back to add second-half goals.

Hamburg, who were lying second two weeks ago, have now slipped to fifth, just ahead of Bayern.

Leaders Eintracht Frankfurt, deprived of top scorer Anthony Yeboah who had a knee operation on Thursday, extended their lead to three points by beating 1991-92 champions VfB Stuttgart 2-0.

Maurizio Gaudino, the former Stuttgart midfielder, set Eintracht on the road to victory with a 20-year drive on 70 minutes. Then, six minutes from the end, a free-kick from Jwe Bein made sure of a win that leaves Stuttgart struggling in tenth place, nine points off the pace and already out of the championship race.

Defending champions Werder Bremen could only manage a 1-1 draw at Schalke to concede a little more ground to Frankfurt.

Schalke defender Jurgen Luginger seemed to have ensured a win when he scored with a quarter-hour to go, but Bremen's Bernd Hobsch snatched a point three minutes from the end.

Real avoid real trouble

Bayer Leverkusen moved into third place following an emphatic victory against Nuremberg. Two goals from Brazilian Paulo Sergio, one from summer signing Bernd Schuster and a Kurz Marco own goal brought them the points.

In France, a late winner put Olympique Marseille firmly back in the hunt to regain the championship they were stripped of after bribery allegations.

Their match at Lille looked to be heading for a 1-1 draw before the home side's Danish defender Per Frandsen carelessly lost possession two minutes from the end. Jean-Christophe Thomas quickly fed Rui Barros who finished superbly to lift Marseille from eighth to fifth place.

Barros' Portugal teammate Paolo Futre had given the visitors a 27th minute lead, slotting home the rebound from a Daniel Dutuel shot. Eric Assadourian headed Lille's equaliser five minutes from the break.

Marseille captain Didier Deschamps said the Club's loss of the title and its exclusion from international competitions had served to strengthen team spirit.

"We are taking our revenge with every match at the moment," he said after a win achieved without three key regulars — goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, Basile Boli and Rude Voeller.

"I have never known such a strong spirit in a team," said defender William Prunier. "We want that title back."

Marseille remain two points off the pace as Bordeaux came away with a 2-0 victory from Strassbourg, thanks to double from Philippe Vercauteren.

That put them out in front alone as Cannes and Paris Saint-Germain both drew.

Gullit, now AC's bete noire

ROME, Oct 4: Ruud Gullit, who inspired AC Milan to European Cup triumphs in 1989 and 1990, has emerged as a major threat to his former club's aspirations of retaining the Italian league title, says weeks after being discarded by them, reports Reuter.

The 31-year-old veteran has been instrumental in Sampdoria's bright start to the season and a 4-1 win at Atalanta on Sunday, with Gullit scoring twice, has put the 1991 champions just one point behind leaders Milan after seven games.

Gullit, however, remained cautious about Sampdoria's title prospects after the match in which he took his tally for the season to four goals.

He said: "We're doing well because we're willing to work hard. I wouldn't say that we're playing the best soccer in the championship at the moment, rather we've been able to read our games pretty well so far."

"Still, I can see that we need to improve."

Sampdoria have dropped three points in a 1-1 draw at home to Parma, joint second and ahead of them only on goal difference, and a 3-1 loss away to Juventus.

Sampdoria's Swedish coach Sven Eriksson said recently that Gullit had not played so well for at least five seasons.

Gullit's move to the Genoan club has given him a new lease of life.

Unlike at AC Milan, Gullit is guaranteed his first team place rather than finding himself in constant rivalry with other talented foreign stars.

Also, at Sampdoria, Gullit has a free role, alternating central midfield with a roving forward role and even turning up at times in the sweeper position. Under the strict tactical discipline of Arrigo Sacchi and later Fabio Capello at Milan, he was usually constrained to playing on the right side of attack.

And Gullit has been enjoying his football as he sets about

Schwarz sets cycling record

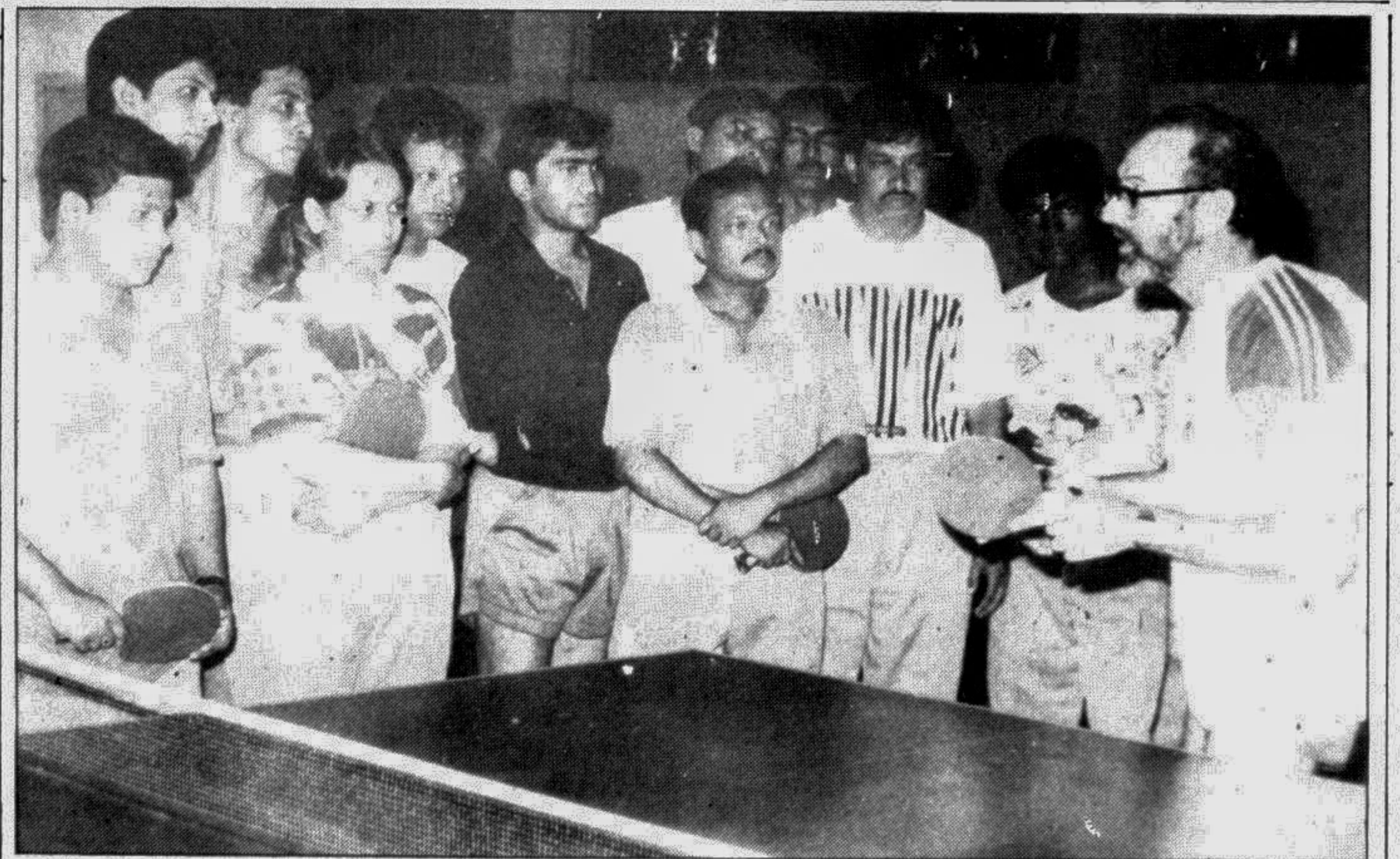
SYDNEY, Oct 4: A 38-year-old German shrieked in delight before crashing to the ground in exhaustion on Monday after setting a record for cycling around Australia, reports Reuter.

Hubert Schwarz, from Roth in Bavaria, took just 42 days and 8-1/2 hours to travel anti-clockwise around the continent — a distance of 14,195 km (8,800 miles).

He beat the previous record by about 3 hours.

The trip, which began in Sydney on August 23 and ended in a harbour-side park near the Sydney Opera House, raised the equivalent of about US 120,000 dollar for a German cancer charity.

"I have felt a lot of pain along the way, but in the last few days everything has come together," Schwarz told supporters.



The aspiring table tennis coaches are all ears to the visiting British table tennis coach (bearded man in specs with a professional look), who is in the city in connection with Olympic solidarity course on TT coaches' training yesterday. —Star photo