

Asia Cup hockey squad announced

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) Wednesday announced a 16-member national team for the 4th Asia Cup hockey championship to be held in the Japanese city of Hiroshima on November 5-14 this year, reports UNB.

Mahboob Haroon, skipper of the defending league champions Abahani KC, named national captain while Mohammed Sadek of league runners up Mohammedans SC made his deputy.

Earlier, Bangladesh have been placed in Group B along with India, South Korea, Kazakhstan and hosts Japan while Pakistan, Malaysia, China and Thailand have been placed in Group A.

Bangladesh will take on Japan in the inaugural match on November 5, Kazakhstan on November 7, India on November 8 and meet South Korea on November 10.

Nine leading teams from Asia, divided in two groups, are competing in the meet following the withdrawal of Oman and Uzbekistan in the last moment.

The players of national squad are: Rahmat Ali Asir, Jahangir Alam, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Mamunur Rashid, Irteza Kader Guddu, Mahfuz Alam Nixon, Abdullah Piru, Zahurul Islam Mitul, Khurshid Alam, Mahboob Haroon (captain), Mohammed Sadek (Vice-captain), Haider Alam, Zahid Hassan Raju, Alamgir Alam, Zahid Biswas and Rafiqul Islam Kamal.

Div II hockey results

Combined Sporting and East End Green Club won their respective matches in the Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

East End Green defeated Mukta Bihanga by a solitary goal scored by Ratan in the 59th minute of the match.

Combined SC registered an easy 3-0 victory over Bornok Samaj in the day's other schedule. The first half score was 2-0.

Mahmood put the winners ahead in the second minute. Anwar Kabir doubled the margin in the 20th minute and Riaz Ali sounded the board adding one more in the last minute.

Udity Club will face Shantinagar SC while Dhaka Young Stars will meet Diluksha SC today.

Dulahazara draw with Tarun

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Oct 13: Dulahazara Krira Sangad drew 1-1 with Tarun Muslim Club in the Cox's Bazar football league '93 at the local stadium today.

Jasim of Dulahazara scored the goal in the 37th minute of the first half while Shankar Pal of Tarun Muslim Club levelled the margin in the sixth minute of the second half.

Mohammedan Sporting Club will be up against Olympic Sporting Club tomorrow.

Shatadal lift title

From Our Correspondent GAZIPUR, Oct 13: Shatadal Krira Chakra beat Chaurangi Eleven 2-1 in the final of the Data Enterprise Kishore football tournament '87 at the Gazipur Stadium today.

Masum of Shatadal was on target twice while Hasmat pulled one back for the losers.

Spain beat Ireland

DROGHEDA, Ireland, Oct 13: Spain beat Ireland 2-0 (half-time 1-0) in their European under-21 soccer championship Group Three qualifier on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Guerrero (38th), Oscar (63rd).

Calling class for a crunch



BUENOS AIRES, Oct 13: Diego Maradona was called to Argentina's soccer team for a decisive World Cup qualifier tie against Australia, Argentine coach Alfio Basile said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"I spoke with Diego last night," Basile told reporters after a practice. "He's summoned for the Australian tie and now it's up to his club to decide whether he will go or not."

Maradona plays for Argentine First Division club Newell's Old Boys. Until his debut with his new team on October 7, the former Argentina captain, who will turn 33 on the eve of the October 31 match in Sydney, spent four months off the pitch.

In Rosario, Newell's home city, Maradona told a television interviewer that he was sure his new employers would be agreeable to Basile's request.

"They know that the national side has priority over everything else," a lean, serious looking Maradona said.

Basile said he had been impressed by the midfielder's performance in the two matches he has played with Newell's — a friendly against Ecuador's Emelec and league match against Independiente of Buenos Aires.

Maradona, who claims to have shed 12 kilos (25 pounds) he has gained during his furlough, scored the winning goal against Emelec and made the pass that led to Newell's sole goal in a 1-3 defeat to Independiente on Sunday.

"I thought it would take him a little longer, but I looked really good. He's still not in tip top shape but he has one more league match before travelling to Australia and that should be enough," Basile said.

Australia's ambassador to Argentina, however, knocked down the news report saying that visas were never refused before applications were made.

"From what I've heard of his case, I don't think he will have any trouble," Ambassador Richard Wyndham told a television interviewer.

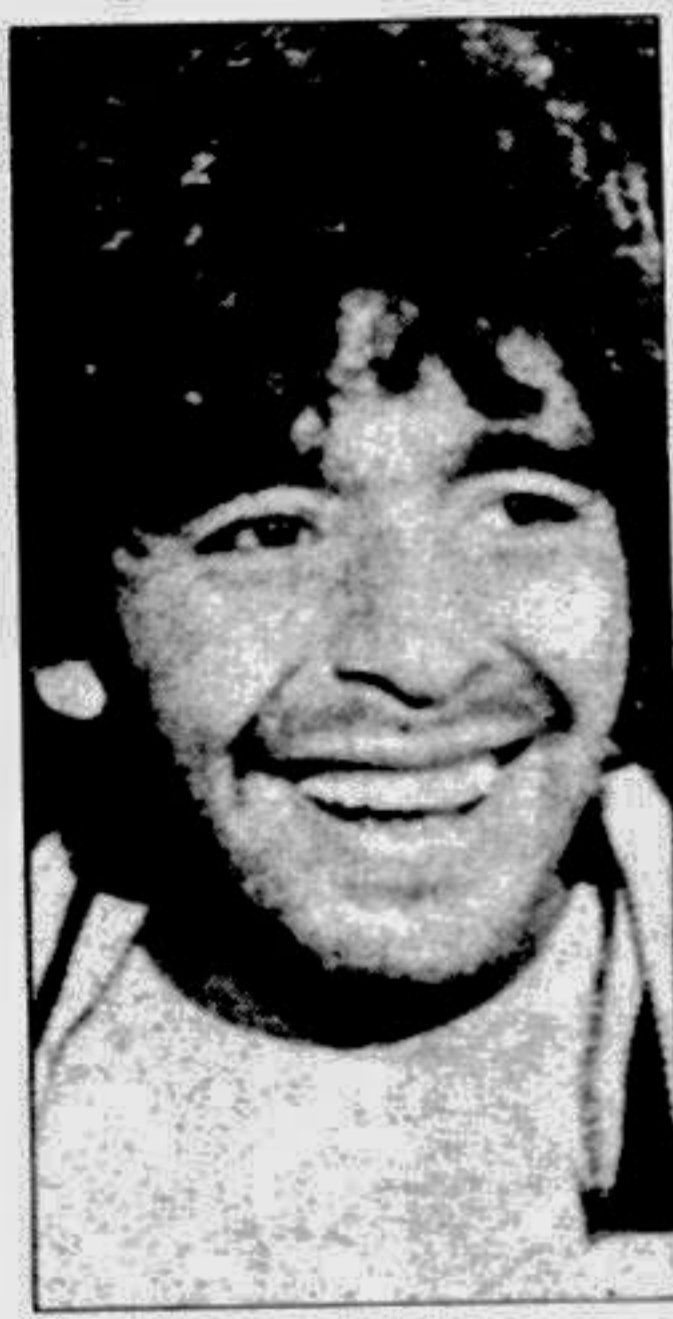
Maradona warned that if he was refused a visa he would take his revenge on the November 17 return leg: "If they don't let me go, I'll run rings round them here in the second leg."

The stocky player first joined the national side in 1979. He led the team to victory in the 1986 World Cup and lost the 1990 play off's final match to Germany.

The mercurial Maradona had been at loggerheads with Basile after the coach left him out of August's qualifiers. They later patched up their differences, acknowledging that they were a couple of hot heads.

Basile, whose streak of 33 unbeaten matches was broken by dark horse Colombia in the qualifiers, was under pressure to summon Maradona for the tie against Australia.

Fans at Buenos Aires River Plate Stadium were chanting "Maradona, Maradona" before the end of last month's shock 0-5 defeat to the Colombians.



MARADONA

Both the coach and the former star were confident that another hitch will be overcome — the visa Maradona needs to play in Australia.

A Spanish news agency caused an uproar in Argentina when it reported that Australia could turn down Maradona's

request for a visa due to his past troubles with drugs.

Maradona's cocaine habit got him banned from professional soccer for 15 months and arrested for drug possession in Buenos Aires in 1991.

Australia's ambassador to Argentina, however, knocked down the news report saying that visas were never refused before applications were made.

"From what I've heard of his case, I don't think he will have any trouble," Ambassador Richard Wyndham told a television interviewer.

Maradona warned that if he was refused a visa he would take his revenge on the November 17 return leg: "If they don't let me go, I'll run rings round them here in the second leg."

The stocky player first joined the national side in 1979. He led the team to victory in the 1986 World Cup and lost the 1990 play off's final match to Germany.

The mercurial Maradona had been at loggerheads with Basile after the coach left him out of August's qualifiers. They later patched up their differences, acknowledging that they were a couple of hot heads.

Basile, whose streak of 33 unbeaten matches was broken by dark horse Colombia in the qualifiers, was under pressure to summon Maradona for the tie against Australia.

Fans at Buenos Aires River Plate Stadium were chanting "Maradona, Maradona" before the end of last month's shock 0-5 defeat to the Colombians.

Murky past haunts Maradona

SYDNEY, Oct 13: Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona will know on Thursday whether he will be allowed into Australia to play a World Cup qualifier despite a conviction for a drugs offence, immigration officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Under Australian immigration laws, Maradona could be barred entry following his conviction for cocaine possession in an Italian court two years ago.

Immigration officials said Maradona applied on Tuesday for a visitor's visa to play in a first leg tie in Sydney on October 31.

Forty-five visa applications were made to our Embassy in Argentina and Diego Maradona's name was included on that list," Immigration Department spokeswoman Jenny Hoskin said.

"Each application will be made on its merits and we expect a decision will be made within the next 24 hours," she said.

The second leg of the tie is in Buenos Aires on November 17. The winner will qualify for next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

Maradona was given a 14 months suspension sentence for cocaine possession in a Naples court in September 1991.

The same year, the stocky play-maker was banned from soccer for 15 months after testing positive for cocaine while with Italian club Napoli.



Artist Peter Max stands by the official poster he divined for the World Cup USA 1994 competition after unveiling it in his studio in New York on October 12. Max, in a press briefing, said soccer was his sport of choice. — AFP photo

A spacy, dynamic World Cup poster

NEW YORK, Oct 13: Artist Peter Max put a football player in space, with an American flag as a backdrop, in his official poster for the 1994 World Cup, reports AFP.

The poster, unveiled at Max's studio here Tuesday, was one of several Max submitted to World Cup organisers.

"All of them had the flag," he said. "The heart is in the flag to identify Americans as the people they pride. I put the player in outer space because we are on the verge of the year 2000 and so I wanted to make it spacy."

The player's overhead scissor kick was Max's attempt to show the dynamism of the Game.

"I wanted a jump that shows him jumping into outer space, and I wanted a kick that was soccer. The bicycle kick looked like soccer," Max said.

The artist's version of the flag is planted in a quarter section of the globe, part of a colourful collage that form the backdrop to the player.

Brian McGrath, president of international sports and leisure, the marketing arm of FIFA, said Max was given a free-hand in the design.

"There really is no tradition when it comes to the World Cup poster," McGrath said. "What we tried to do when it comes to the World Cup poster, McGrath said, "What we tried to do when we asked Peter was to select an artist who embodied the spirit of American art and Americana."

Max came to prominence in the 1960s, and has done other work with a sports theme. He has designed posters for the national football league super bowl and did a portrait of Pele when he played for the Cosmos in the 1970s.

Playing soccer for revenge

DOHA, Oct 13: Iraq's soccer team is thinking of America and the chance to avenge Baghdad's Gulf War humiliation as it prepares for the World Cup's final Asian qualifying round, reports AP.

"There is only one thought in our mind now. I fact, this thought is in the mind of every Iraqi back home — we must qualify and go to America," said Iraqi coach Adnan Dirjal, once the top defender and captain of the national team.

The two top teams in the round advance to the finals next June and July in the United States, though there is no guarantee the teams will play the US squad.

"If we qualify, we know it will be the biggest slap the monster America will get," said Dirjal. "And then we will show the Americans that playing soccer is different from bombing Baghdad from the air."

The US-led coalition in Jan and Feb 1991 mauled Iraq's forces during a 43-day war waged to oust Iraq's troops from Kuwait.

"Fight to the death and come back to Iraq with a visa for Uncle Sam's country... the Iraqi people will accept nothing less than victory," said the Al-Baath Arriyadhi sports newspaper in Baghdad.

The pressure for vengeance extends also to Saudi Arabia, one of the other five teams at this tournament and the country where the massive US-led multinational force assembled to face down Iraq.

"Our implacable enemy, the Saudis, must be crushed before a television audience of millions around the world," said the Baghdad newspaper.

The other teams between Iraq and his dream are South Korea, Iran, North Korea and Japan.

Soccer is the No 1 sport in Iraq, where there are more than 500 soccer clubs. An estimated 100,000 people play in various tournaments — from the prestigious national league to village events.

Like much of Saddam Hussein's Iraq, the soccer team is made up mostly of soldiers and policemen.

The Iraqi Football Association, headed by Saddam's son Odai, lists eight players from the air force and four from the

police. It says three others are students and seven are civilians.

In Doha, Dirjal has kept the players under strict discipline. No outside phone calls are permitted, perhaps also to check any move to defect. The players are instructed not to talk to anyone and go to bed early.

To train for the chance to reach America, the players in Baghdad ran across sand dunes to increase endurance and swam against river currents to build strength. Legend also says a dip in either the Tigris or the Euphrates brings celestial blessings and strength.

The question also arises: Will the United States let the Iraqis into the country?

Earlier this year, the US State Department turned down an appeal to permit Libyan athletes to participate in the World University Games in Buffalo, NY.

The State Department said it denied the Libyans visas because of the country's links to terrorism.

President Ronald Reagan in 1987 a letter to FIFA, soccer's governing body, promising full cooperation "in the areas of visas, work permits and customs" if the United States was awarded the World Cup.

"So far FIFA is concerned, the US must allow all qualifying countries, period," said Frits Ahlstrom, the FIFA spokesman in Doha.

The 24 qualifying nations for the World Cup will be seeded and placed in six groups of four teams at the World Cup Draw on Dec 19 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

One police officer who was attacked with a broken beer glass was taken to the hospital by ambulance with a serious eye wound, said Seuth. Another policeman received minor injuries. Two fans were hurt.

Between 1 am and 2 am Wednesday, the police asked all city-centre barkeepers to close. About 500 supporters were thrown out of one cafe near the central train station, but the closures did not spark fresh violence.

During the night, police brought the total of arrests to 195 as fans broke windows, shouting slogans and vandalizing cars, said Seuth.

The violence had brought the centre of the capital nearly to a standstill as police chose streets to contain the rampaging supporters.

Rotterdam Tuesday sent 18 English fans back home for causing trouble on the North Sea ferry from England to Holland. The fans were without tickets for the match.

letes to participate in the World University Games in Buffalo, NY.

The State Department said it denied the Libyans visas because of the country's links to terrorism.

President Ronald Reagan in 1987 a letter to FIFA, soccer's governing body, promising full cooperation "in the areas of visas, work permits and customs" if the United States was awarded the World Cup.

"So far FIFA is concerned, the US must allow all qualifying countries, period," said Frits Ahlstrom, the FIFA spokesman in Doha.

The 24 qualifying nations for the World Cup will be seeded and placed in six groups of four teams at the World Cup Draw on Dec 19 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

One police officer who was attacked with a broken beer glass was taken to the hospital by ambulance with a serious eye wound, said Seuth. Another policeman received minor injuries. Two fans were hurt.

Between 1 am and 2 am Wednesday, the police asked all city-centre barkeepers to close. About 500 supporters were thrown out of one cafe near the central train station, but the closures did not spark fresh violence.

During the night, police brought the total of arrests to 195 as fans broke windows, shouting slogans and vandalizing cars, said Seuth.

The violence had brought the centre of the capital nearly to a standstill as police chose streets to contain the rampaging supporters.

Rotterdam Tuesday sent 18 English fans back home for causing trouble on the North Sea ferry from England to Holland. The fans were without tickets for the match.

Games hangover grips Sydney

SYDNEY, Oct 13: After three weeks of euphoria, Sydney is beginning to Olympic hangover.

The International Olympic Committee awarded the 2000 Olympic Games to Sydney on Sept 23, ahead of favoured Beijing. Sydney also beat out Manchester, Berlin and Istanbul.

Now that the celebrations and parades are over, a political row has broken out over the cost of running the Games. There also is fierce infighting for the formation of the organizing committee, reports AP.

Australia will spend more than US \$2 billion hosting the Olympics — almost double the original estimate submitted to the IOC by the Sydney bid team.

John Fahey, the Premier of New South Wales state, has called on the federal government to issue Olympic bonds to raise \$330 million for building Olympic housing and improving infrastructure around the main Games site at Homebush Bay, 20 kilometres (12.4 miles) west of downtown Sydney.

Fahey has suggested the bonds contain a tax incentive for investors and be repaid in 2001. Prime Minister Paul Keating is considering the idea.

The explosion in estimated costs surrounds infrastructure and housing facilities — not the Games facilities themselves.

Fahey, attempting to play down any controversy, points out that \$532 million in infrastructure costs at Homebush Bay would have been spent whether or not Sydney won the games.

He further says that a \$330 million Olympic village is expected to be built by private investors and sold off after the Games.

State opposition leader Bob Carr, sensing the chance to snap up some political capital, says the \$2 billion total is a "huge revelation."

"We need one central, detailed document to allay any fear that the Olympics may not break even," said Carr. "We must ensure Sydney avoids the enormous debt that other Olympic like Barcelona have been saddled with."

An accounting professor at the University of New South Wales, Bob Walker, said he believed the budget for the Games would "blow out" even further.

Walker said Fahey's \$2 billion estimate of the total cost probably did not include interest on the borrowings, which he said could add another \$330 million to the overall price tag.

While the city comes to grips with its budget, Fahey also has to decide who will run the Sydney 2000 logo.

AOC executive director Perry Crosswhite says there "are a lot of people using the logo illegally and making money for themselves."

The AOC has discovered the logo illegally used on sweat-shirts, T-shirts, umbrellas and other items, Crosswhite said, in predicting legal action against offenders.

The logo is sold under licence with proceeds going toward meeting the costs of the 2000 Games and preparing Australian competitors for the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

Olympic Organizing Committee for the next seven years.

Rod McGeoch, the high-profile Sydney lawyer who headed the bid team, is a popular candidate, but has made it clear he will need to be well compensated.

Several past and present politicians, including former State Premier Nick Greiner, also have indicated interest in the position.

A further pre-Olympic problem for the state and city fathers is that environmentalists have expressed concern that the Homebush Bay site was formerly used as a toxic waste dump.

The state government plans to lay a clay seal over the site and build a "complicated drainage system to keep toxic residues from seeping to the surface — a \$4 million cleanup.

Among the pollutants found at the site are asbestos, dioxins, lead, zinc, copper, cadmium, arsenic and mercury.

The Australian Olympic Committee, meanwhile, has launched a campaign to stop "parasites" it says are illegally using the Sydney 2000 logo.

AOC executive director Perry Crosswhite says there "are a lot of people using the logo illegally and making money for themselves."

The AOC has discovered the logo illegally used on sweat-shirts, T-shirts, umbrellas and other items, Crosswhite said, in predicting legal action against offenders.

The logo is sold under licence with proceeds going toward meeting the costs of the 2000 Games and preparing Australian competitors for the 1996 Games in Atlanta.



Players and officials of the Rajshahi Education Board after clinching the title in the age-group swimming championship. Rajshahi Education Board are consecutive three times champions in the event. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1 1970 Jackson 5 song, 4 Mournful cry, 8 Hindu melody, 12 Train component, 13 Yester-day, 14 Hemsley sitcom, 15 Scotch-and-honey liqueur, 17 Ms. Tomlin, 18 Bit parts, 19 Matter-horn, for one, 21 Swallow, 22 Mexican coffee liqueur, 26 Intone, 29 Cowboy nickname, 30 Blackbird, 31 Garret, 32 Mongrel, 33 Insignificant fellow, 34 Little teapot... Solutions include: choice to the Future star, Slants, Anise-flavored liqueur, Actress Dawber, Where (Lat.), Llama's cousin, Sound of dull impact, French apple brandy, Fog, Netman Nastase, Bat wood, Yale students, Photog's, MESS, PHI, AUTO, EMIT, ROC, PREMATURE, EWE, BAMPRE, AIMED, COPY, GUD, KLAN, AIR, ORG, AMY, BLEW, AVE, FREE, MAPLE, PE, AMIGO, SONATA, CEE, PREMINGER, HER, POGO, EALE, ERE, YEGO, LALA. Solution time: 28 mins. Yesterday's answer 3-26

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Solution: DSK SZQILIZN NOXD WUIZD W GWQIZN NDLXEEKL XN W DWOKIGG. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GOSSIP I HEAR IN THE HALLWAYS OF THE PAPER TOWEL FACTORY IS ABSORBING. Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals M. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.