



Iraq's Muman Saad (L) is in hot pursuit of North Korean forward Choe Won-Nam during the World Cup qualifier for the Asian zone played in Doha Qatar on October 15. Iraqis succumbed to a 2-3 lead after being two up. — AFP photo

**Dull day in Div II hockey**

The Metropolitan Green Delta Second Division hockey league passed a dull day yesterday as both the day's encounters ended in goalless draw at the Hockey Stadium, reports UNB.

In the first match, Farashganj Sporting Club shared points with Dhaka Hockey Club in their first appearance.

Farashganj SC dominated the match for most of the proceedings and managed six penalty corners and two long corners, but failed to produce any results.

Shishu Kishore Sangha started their league campaign with a lone point as they held Agrani Bank Club in a goalless draw in the day's other schedule.

Raktim Sangha take on against Mukti Jodha KC at 2.15 while Tejgaon Agragami face Rayer Bazar SC at 3.45 pm today.

**Football referees' training course from Nov 1**

A ten-day long football referees' training course, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation referees board and the Barisal District Sports Association, will begin from November 1 at the Barisal Stadium.

Interested referees from other districts may also take part in the programme at their own expenses. The Barisal DSA will only provide their accommodation.

**Cox's Bazar soccer**

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 16: Tarun Muslim Club blanked Ramu Brothers Union 5-0 in the Cox's Bazar football league at the local stadium here today.

Tarun Muslim led the first half 1-0 with a goal from Badsha. Nannu and Absar scored twice and once each in the second half for the winners while Badsha was once more on target, taking their tally to five.

Ramu Mohammedan Sporting Club will be up against Dulahazara Krira Sangsad tomorrow.

**Delta Life, h'ball results**

Sports Reporter

Eden Girls' College managed to keep a stiff second-half resurgence from Holy Cross College at bay to go home victors along with Viquarunnisa Noon School and College in their respective matches of the first Delta Life inter-college and hall women's handball championship at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex yesterday.

In an exciting encounter, Eden beat Holy Cross 4-3. The winners led the first half 4-0.

Zakia Akhtar scored thrice for the winners while Fahima toted up another to Eden's tally. Sultana, Kazi Farhana and Shamsun Nahar scored once each for Holy Cross.

Viquarunnisa Noon, a representative of women in sports gave another trial of the strength of its handball team basting Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University 8-2.

Rashida netted four goals while Munmun, Ayesha, Masuma and Fatema scored one each for the winners.

Humaira chucked the ball into the net twice for the losers. The third match of the day between Ispahani Women's College and Anwara Begum-Muslim Women's College ended in a two-all draw.

Halina and Rafia were the scorers for Ispahani while Lipi and Shilma delivered the goods for Anwara.

**South Korea stonker Iran**

DOHA, Oct 16: South Korea, Asia's most represented nation in World Cup soccer finals, beat Iran 3-0 on the second day of the final round of Asian qualifying Saturday, reports AP.

The South Koreans kept the Iranians on the defensive for the entire first half. Jung Bae Park, 26, opened the score in the 17th minute with a corner shot, the first half's only goal.

The ball stayed almost entirely in the Iranians' area before the break.

The Iranians began the second half with quick attacks, and came close to scoring at least twice.

In the 53rd minute a powerful shot by Iran's Mehdi Abtahi was superbly saved by South Korean goalkeeper In Young-Choi. Five minutes later, the 31-year-old keeper leaped out again to catch the ball and block Mehdi Fonomi from scoring.

The South Koreans second goal came in the 79th minute when Ju Seok Ha took advantage of an open goalpost to shoot the ball right passed Iranian goalkeeper, Behzad Gholampour, into the net.

South Korea increased their lead three minutes later with a goal by substitute Woon Jeong-Ko in a solo performance from the left flank.

Saturday's encounter was marked by extreme fair play in contrast with Iran's track record of lack of soccer discipline.

It was the seventh clash between the two nations. South Korea have won four times and

Iran three. The Iranian coach criticized his team for being too slow to react during the game.

"Our players kept large areas unguarded and they played very slow football," the coach, Mayeli Kohan, told a news conference.

"We will make drastic changes in the team, if we are to remain in the contention," said glum-faced Kohan.

"It was better physical fitness... this was the most important factor that led to our victory," said Kim-Ho, the chief South Korean coach. "Especially in the second half," this factor became very crucial.

The two teams are among six nations competing for two slots in the 24-nation 1994 World Cup final in the United States.

On Friday, North Korea earned two points by beating Iraq 3-2, and favourite Japan shared points with Saudi Arabia when they drew 0-0.

South Korea, a nation of 43 million people and the only Asian country which has full fledged Senior-Division league for women, qualified for the last two World Cup finals in 1986 in Mexico and 1990 in Italy.

Iran's only qualification was in 1978 in Argentina. "Our emphasis has always been on fair play and good soccer," the South Korean coach said.

He had taken his team to Germany for a two-week stint before the Doha tournament. In an exhibition match they were defeated by the German Olympic team 5-3.

South Korea, who have developed into one of Asia's economic powerhouses, has

pumped millions of dollar into sports. Seoul staged the 1982 Asian Games and the 1986 Olympics.

"I firmly believe that the (Doha) tournament will provide every team with excellent opportunity to learn from each other," said Korea Football Association President Chung Mong Joon, son of the founder of the Hyundai Group of companies.

Mineral-rich Iran, the Middle East's second-largest oil producer with 3 million barrels a day after Saudi Arabia, won the Asia Cup for a record three times in 1968, 1972 and 1976.

But the sport suffered a setback during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Iran has uneasy relations with the United States, the host of the 1994 games. The United States has branded Iran an outlaw state for supporting terrorism.

**TEAMS**

**SOUTH KOREA:** In Young Choi, Jong Son Chung, Pan Keun Kim, Jung Bae Park, Jung Yoon Noh (Jung Won Seo), Hong Gi Shin, Seok Ju Ha, Joo Sung Kim, Sang Bum Gu, Sun Hong Hwang (Woon Jeong Ko), Myung Bo Hong.

**IRAN:** Behzad Gholampour, Javad Zarincheh, Reza Hassan Zadeh, Nader Mohammad Khani, Mehdi Fonomi Zasegan, Haimd Derakhshan, Mehdi Abtahi, Sadam Marfavi, Ali Daei, Karim Bagheri, Majid Namjo Motlach.

Referee: Aron Schmidhuber (Germany)

Linesmen: Klaus Plettenberg (Germany) and Ilie Cot (Romania)

**King to get back his crown**

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 16: Diego Maradona will return as Argentina's captain for the two-leg World Cup play-off against

Australia, team coach Alfio Basile said after announcing his 17-man squad, reports Reuter.

The matches, in Sydney on October 31 and in Buenos Aires on November 17, will determine which of the two sides qualify for next year's finals in the

United States. The Argentina-based players will fly to Sydney on Monday, while the remaining seven, who play in Europe and Japan, will report on October 25. Basile said he may call upon more players in the next few days.

The return of Maradona, to spearhead Argentina's bid for what would be their sixth successive appearance in the finals, comes after he fell out with Basile following his exclusion from the recent qualifying

series. The coach had been under pressure to recall Maradona since September's humiliating 5-0 home defeat by Colombia, a result that almost ended the 1986 World champions' prospects of reaching the US finals.

Maradona has lost 12 kilos over the past month in a bid to recover the form of his glory days.

And after marking his return to the Argentine league with two impressive displays for new club Newell's Old Boys, Maradona won rave reviews from Basile, who said the doors to the national team were open for him.

Basile has made five changes to the squad that played in the qualifiers, calling up defenders Victor Hugo Sotomayor, Carlos Javier MacAllister and Jose Chamot, mid-fielder Hugo Leonardo Perez and striker Abel Balbo.

Balbo was discarded from Basile's plans after Argentina's defeat by Cameroon in the opening match of the 1990 World Cup finals. His return to favour is a reflection of the player's rich scoring vein for Italy's Roma.

The players making way for the newcomers are Nestor Cravliotto, Fabian Dasualdo, Julio Saldana, Roberto Ayala, Nator Gorosito, and Alberto Acosta.

Defender Oscar Ruggieri, who was captain for the qualifiers, and midfielder Diego Simeone, were ruled out by suspension.

**SQUAD:**

**Goalkeepers:** Sergio Goycochea, Luis Islas;

**Defenders:** Fernando Caceres, Jorge Borelli, Victor Hugo Sotomayor, Carlos Javier MacAllister, Jose Chamot, Sergio Vazquez;

**Midfielders:** Diego Maradona, Hugo Leonardo Perez, Jose Dasualdo, Fernando Redondo, Leonardo Rodriguez, Gustavo Zapata;

**Forwards:** Gabriel Batistuta, Abel Balbo, Ramon Ismael.



Action from the first Delta Life inter-college and hall handball competition match between Viquarunnisa Noon School and College and Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday. Viquarunnisa won the match 8-2. — Star photo

**BCCB XI on elements' toast**

Sports Reporter

Elemental wrath once again robbed the touring Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) XI of a vital exposure as their sixth exhibition match of the tour of the Deccan against Tamilnadu Cricket Association President's XI fell through because of heavy rain, according to a faxed message received at the BCCB office last night.

BCCB XI will leave Tamilnadu for Sri Lanka on October 18 to play a series of exhibition matches as a part of Bangladesh's preparation for the ICC trophy scheduled to be held in Kenya next year.

**Sardesai in scandal**

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: Former Indian Test cricketer Dilip Sardesai has been arrested on charges of violating currency regulations involving nearly 7 million dollars, newspapers reported today, reports Reuter.

They said Sardesai, 54, was arrested on Friday in Bombay. A court denied him bail and remanded him in custody for 14 days.

The reports said Sardesai was arrested after income tax authorities raided the home of a businessman, who was also arrested, and seized incriminating documents.

Sardesai told investigators he had signed the receipts but not received any money.

Until recently, Indian Foreign Exchange were extremely tough and the Rupee was not convertible. The regulations spawned a thriving industry in illegal foreign currency transactions.

**Victoria SC runners-up**

GANGTOK, Oct 16: Unfancied Rising Star Club of Cuttack lifted the 15th All-India Victoria's Gold Cup, trouncing Victoria Sporting Club of Bangladesh by a brace of goals at the Palzor Stadium today, reports PTI.

Both the goals were scored at the second half through striker Suroj Das and right out Sanjay Das in the 75th minute and 82nd minute respectively.

The Cuttack boys, playing in this tournament for the first time, outplayed their rivals in all fronts and set themselves for a win from the very first whistle. They made good their initial lack of marksmanship as time ticked on.

**ICF secy gen in Dhaka**

Sports Reporter

Secretary general of the International Carom Federation (ICF) B Bangaru Babu arrived in Bangladesh on Oct 15 on a six-day visit at the invitation of the Bangladesh Carom Association.

He is expected to hold talks with the officials of the Bangladesh Carom Association on how to promote carom as a serious sports during his stay in Dhaka.

Bangaru will also meet the State Minister for Youth and Sports alongwith the other officials.

**NSC AGM held**

Annual General Meeting of National Sports Council (NSC) was held yesterday at its conference room with State Minister for Youth and Sports and NSC Chairman Sadek Hossain in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting took some decisions and reviewed the overall activities of NSC. It also discussed in details the various aspects of the progress of 6th SAF Games to be held in Dhaka December 20-27.

Youth and Sports Secretary M Azizul Haq, IMED Secretary M Nazrul Islam, Social Welfare Secretary Enamul Haq and representatives of 64 district sports associations and five divisional sports associations attended the meeting.

**Five qualify in Press Club chess**

Aminul Islam Shaheen, Abdur Rahman Khan, Abu Taher Khokan, Qazi Rownak Hossain and Akbar Imam yesterday moved into the final rounds of the chess competition, organised by the National Press Club to mark its 39th founding anniversary, reports BSS.

The competition began at the club yesterday and the final rounds will be held today.

Aminul Islam beat Badtul Alam to reach the final round. Alam, earlier, defeated Motmuddin Naser in the first round.

Abdur Rahman Khan qualified for the finals beating Nazimuddin Manik, who eliminated Jahangir in the first round.

Akbar Imam entered the finals outplaying A S M Hasan, who beat Alsari in the first round.

Qazi Rownak Hossain beat Delwar Hossain to move into the final round while Abu Taher got a walk-over.

**Crowe's positive approach**



PERKTH, Australia, Oct 16: New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe today welcomed the scheduling of this summer's three Tests against Australian on grounds noted for producing results, reports AFP.

He said he was enthusiastic that the Tests would be played in Perth (November 12-16), Hobart (November 26-30) and Brisbane (December 3-7), where conditions tend to help bowlers, especially the pacemen.

"It is encouraging that we will be playing (the Tests) on pitches which offer the best chances of a result," he said, speaking after the tourists' first training session following their arrival late on Friday night for their three-month tour.

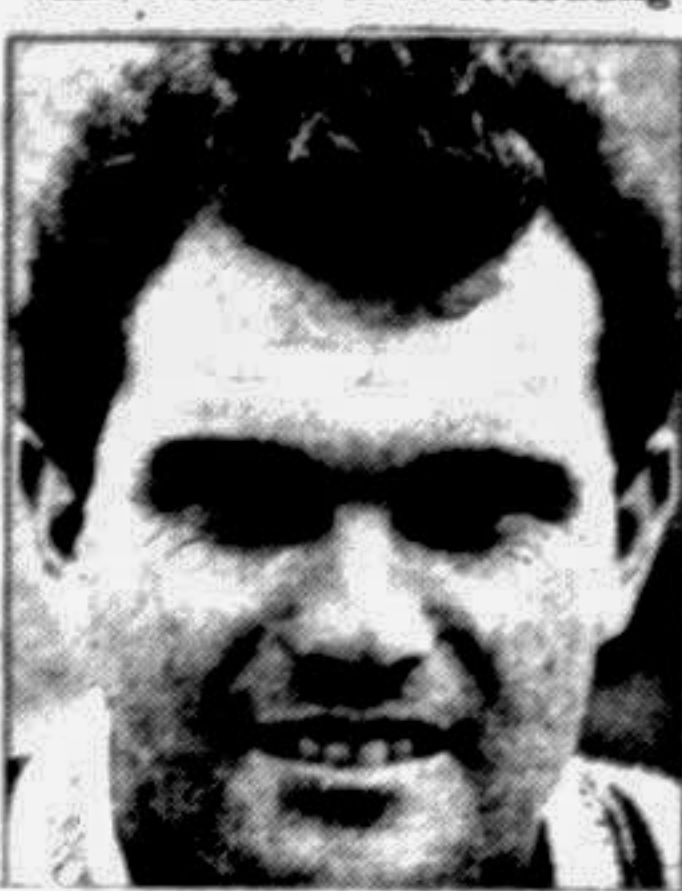
"This is because we want to carry on the work that we did in that third Test last summer," he added referring to New Zealand's defeat of Australia by five wickets in Auckland to square a three Test series at 1-1 and retain the Trans-Tasman Trophy.

"Our big goal is to try to

taste that success again — to try to get into the habit so that it becomes more regular for us.

"Coming over here after that win against the Aussies has given the squad a bit of extra confidence."

"Winning was very significant, because it is something



MARTIN CROWE

we can mentally rehearse and use in terms of building our confidence."

The tourist woke on their first morning in Australia to an

unusual sight for Perth in October — sullen skies and heavy rain.

However, conditions improved quickly and the 14-man squad was able to complete an energetic two-hour work out later in the morning on practice pitches which had been covered.

The tour starts with a festival game at Lilac Hill Park, Caversham, just north of Perth on Tuesday when New Zealand meet an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in a one-day fixture.

The New Zealand batsmen will find themselves confronted by an attack including three of the greatest fast bowlers of all time.

One of their best known compatriots, Sir Richard Hadlee, and Australians Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson have been coaxed out of retirement to give the carnival fixture a special touch.

Hadlee, the greatest Test wicket-taker of all time (431 scalps), Lillee (355) and Thomson (200) top a star cast, which includes eight other players with test experience.

**Japan short of fire power**



DOHA, Oct 16: Japan let down the kimono-clad groupies who followed them on the World Cup trail to Qatar with a drab 0-0 draw against Saudi Arabia on Friday, reports AFP.

More than 1,500 young converts of the new J-League, who treat the national players like pop stars, saw their heroes held on the opening day of the final Asian qualifying tournament in Doha's Al-Khalifa Stadium.

Saudi Arabia brought 6,000 people across the border for the game. But their team were just as uninspired.

The crowd saw more action in the opening match of the double bill when North Korea fought back from two down to beat Iraq 3-2.

"I expected better," said Irie Yoshunori, 20-year-old Tokyo secretary who paid 5,000 dollars for a two-week trip to Doha where alcohol is banned.

Yoshunori and the other Japanese girls who paint their faces with the national flag and beat drums throughout the games expect more from their team in other games.

"I want more goals, more action," added Yoshunori. The match highlighted Japan's lack of scoring power that could handicap their chances of being one of Asia's two sides in next year's World Cup finals in America.

They needed an extra-time goal to beat African champions Ivory Coast in the Afro-Asian

Cup final in Tokyo this month. There is a desperate need for a big striker to lead the attack.

Japan's best chance this time came in the 20th minute when the Brazilian-born Ruy Ramos spotted Masahiro Fukuda unmarked on the left and headed across the goal.

Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed al Deayea brilliantly saved Fukuda's ferocious 10-yard shot.

Saudi Arabia's Saeed Owsairan broke free at the end of the first half. He was

**Twin reactions**

NEW YORK, Oct 16: US World Cup officials expressed both sadness and relief at the prospect of England's likely failure to qualify for next year's World Cup tournament in the United States, reports Reuter.

A 2-0 defeat to the Netherlands in Rotterdam virtually eliminated former World Cup champions England, traditionally an international soccer power.

"England has a long soccer history and sadly it seems unlikely that they'll be in the World Cup," said spokesman John Griffin on Thursday from World Cup USA 1994's New York office.

The absence of England, and their infamous following of hooligan fans, would lighten the security load for the 24-nation tournament. Police detained almost 1,000 English fans arising from ugly incidents ahead of the Dutch match.

Before the sending off, Iraq's domination had been complete. North Korea showed none of the style that saw their predecessors go further than any Asian nation at the World Cup finals when they reached the quarter finals in 1966 in England.



IN A FIX: Martina Navratilova, the evergreen naturalised American tennis player appears to be out of her depths against Natalia Zvereva of Belarus. The former regina in women's tennis never recovered to lose her quarterfinal tie in the Filderstadt Grand Prix tourney 3-6, 6-7 at Filderstadt, Germany on October 15. — AFP photo