

**Nat'l rowing
beings today**

The 18th national rowing championship and the Tourism Month '93 boat race begin today on the Buriganga near Sadarghat terminal in Dhaka, reports UNB.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M A Mannan will inaugurate the programme in the afternoon.

Twenty one men's teams, including defending champions Fire Service, will compete in four events to be held from Farsahganj to Sadarghat terminal while nine women's teams, including holders Ansars and VDP will compete in two events from Lalkuthi to Sadarghat terminal.

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Major General (Retd) M Majidul Haq will grace the closing ceremony as chief guest and give away the prizes.

**Green Delta
Div II hockey**

Sports Reporter

Tejgaon Agragami Club and Raktim Sangha won their respective matches in the Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first encounter, Raktim Sangha beat Mukhtijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra 1-0.

The match decider came from the stick of Khalilur Rahman when he scored a field goal in the very first minute of the game.

Tejgaon Agragami Club registered an easy 3-0 victory over Rayer Bazar in the second match of the day.

Two action goals came from Zahir Sadik respectively in the first half. Selim sounded the board for the winners from a penalty corner in the second half.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Uttara Hockey Club v Combined Sporting Club
Victoria Sporting Club v Shantinagar Club.

Cox's Bazar

Soccer
Sports Reporter

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 17: Dulahazara Krira Sangsad beat Ramu Mohammedan Sporting Club 2-1 in the Cox's Bazar football league at the local stadium here today.

Selim of Mohammedans scored the side's lone goal in the 30th minute of the first half while Ripan of Dulahazara levelled the margin in the 35th minute of the same half and scored another goal one minute before the final whistle to etch a victory over Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Friends Union Club will take on Ramu Brothers Union tomorrow at the same venue.

**Asia has
come of age**

DOHA, Oct 17: FIFA chief Joseph Blatter said today that Asia is almost certain to get a third place at the World Cup finals in 1998, reports AFP.

But the International Football Federation secretary general dismissed South Korean chances of rivalling Japan to stage Asia's first World Cup finals, in an interview with AFP.

In Qatar for the Asian qualifying contest for next year's finals in America, Blatter said the continent's soccer had made "astonishing progress."

He highlighted the spread of professional leagues, like Japan, and added that teams in Qatar "are playing good football, better than what we have seen from Asian sides in past World Cup finals."

He said the performance of Asia's two sides in the United States next year would be "decisive." The share-out for 1998 will be made straight after the US finals. "There is a very good chance that Asia will get the decision," he declared.

Europe or south America will lose a sport, but Blatter would not say which. He said Oceania teams like Australia would probably be added to Asian qualifying groups as part of the third team package.

Blatter said Asia should not assume it has already won the 2002 finals as there could be a bid from South America or Africa. But he dismissed South Korea's bid to compete with Japan.

"Korea can only be a candidate if the North and South are united and I do not think that will happen by 1996 when a decision has to be made."

"Japan have already done a lot of work. If you compare it to a 400 metre race, they are already half way round the track."

Blatter said China would have to "digest the defeat of their Olympic 2,000 bid" before going for the World Cup. "They will have to decide whether it is better to go for the 2002 World Cup or the 2004 Olympics."

Blatter has previously hinted that if China lost the 2000 Olympics, it would be favourably looked on for the World Cup.



South Korean Guu Sang-Bum fights for the control of the ball with Iranian Mango Magid (L) in their World Cup qualifying game at the Khalifa Stadium in Doha on October 16. South Korea had a facile 3-0 victory over Iran. — AFP photo

Sydney puts IOC in the soup

SYDNEY, Oct 17: Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) vice-president Kevin Gosper says doubts over Sydney's ability to meet the cost of hosting the 2,000 Olympics have concerned the IOC, reports AFP.

Gosper, here for a meeting of the Oceania Olympic Committee, told reporters Saturday that he had been forced into damage control and had been fielding calls from concerned IOC members, including president Juan Antonio Samaranch, seeking reassurance on the matter.

Last week any lingering euphoria over Sydney's two-vote victory over Beijing in the IOC vote in Monte Carlo on September 23 was neutralised by reports that the treasury warned the new South Wales Government that new taxes would be needed or public spending should be cut to pay for the Olympics.

It had also cautioned against going ahead with the bid without a thorough risk analysis and apparently contradicted earlier assurances by the government that the Games would be self-funding.

According to the documents released in State Parliament here last Thursday, the cost of staging the turn of the century Games would be 1.7 billion dollars (1.1 billion US).

Yet it was disclosed that the government's Games Finance Commission had not included in its budget the 807 million dollar (528 million US) cost of an accelerated urban renewal programme for the Olympic Park site, or the 500 million dollar (327 million US) cost of the Athletes' and Media Villages.

Premier John Fahey said last week that there had been

no escalation in the projected cost of the 2,000 Olympics and said the figures for staging the Games and building the necessary infra-structure should remain separate.

Gosper said the matter had been blown out of all proportion and he has appealed for calm.

"I've had communications from Europe ... regarding an issue which I think has been blown out of all proportion," he said Saturday.

Gosper said it was common for candidate cities to experience "a downer" after the euphoria of winning an Olympic bid, but he had been taken by surprise by the ferocity of the reaction that greeted him on his arrival here on Friday.

"I can't help but observe that there's been some excitement and dismay," he said.

"We know from experience that after the excitement and euphoria of a win there's always a downer ... a come-down to reality."

"It seems in Sydney it's been a bit sharp and a bit hard on a few issues."

The IOC is entitled to revoke decisions about the host city, but only under specific guidelines set down in a winning city's contract.

However, Gosper said that none of the IOC members considered Sydney to be in any difficulty.

"We see this as an aberration which has come rather quickly and which will sort itself out," he said.

"That is, inference that as-

pects of the budget had been kept secret and ... it looked as if at one stage, Sydney couldn't afford (the Olympics), which is nonsense."

"My main message is there shouldn't be a panic ... My other message is we started being international property for this matter on the 23rd of September and we better respond to that with the responsibility that people would expect."

Gosper called on the state government to very quickly make it very clear that there's a difference between a budget which serves the Olympic Games and a budget which serves the community."

The IOC had not been aware of the treasury report, but Gosper stressed there had been no sleight of hand on the part of the government regarding the information.

He also called for a more responsible reaction to Sydney winning the bid for the 2,000 Olympics, saying, "the debate over the budget had been raised too quickly and over-dramatically for the government to respond in a reassuring way."

"Up until September 23, what Sydney did as a candidate and how they did it was very much a matter for Australia and Sydney," he said.

"From the minute that we were chosen everything that Sydney does now regarding the Olympic Games is of international concern and I don't think the penny's dropped on that."

Ukraine beat US

HIGH POINT, North Carolina, Oct 17: Ukraine, using two first-half goals by Victor Leonenko, defeated the US national team 2-1 in a friendly match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The United States took the lead in the 20th minute of the match when Hugo Perez scored on a 16-yard indirect free-kick.

Leonenko scored in the 41st and 43rd minutes after running onto two crosses from Guennadi Litoutchenko.

US coach Bora Milutinovic made eight changes from his team's starting line up in its 1-1 tie against Mexico on Wednesday.

"I need to let all my players play," he said. "This match provided good experience for some players who haven't played in a while. Although we lost today, some players made great progress."



Action from yesterday's first Delta Life inter-college and-hall women's handball tournament match between Kuwait Maitri Hall of Dhaka University and Sher-e-Bangla Women's College at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. Sher-e-Bangla beat Kuwait Maitri 6-0. — Star photo

**Gower in
dilemma**

LONDON, Oct 17: David Gower has still not made up his mind whether to play on next season, reports AFP.

Speculation about the 36-year-old Hampshire batsman's future has been mounting since he was overlooked for England's winter tour of West Indies.

"Everyone is guessing at the moment, including me," said Gower in response to a Sunday newspaper report that he has decided to retire.

"I have to start making decisions fairly soon, but I'm not quite sure exactly when they will be made."

Gower must decide between seeing out the final year of his contract with Hampshire or taking up an offer from Sky TV to commentate on England's Test series in the Caribbean.

Hampshire want all their players, except those on international duty, back in training by April 1 — three weeks before the end of England's tour — and are not prepared to make exceptions.

**Nat'l gymnastics
championship
begins on Oct 28**

The two-day long 10th National junior gymnastics championship, organised by Chittagong DSA, begins in Chittagong on Oct 28, reports UNB.

Sixty boys and girls from different DSAs and institutions are expected to participate in the competition, being held outside the capital for the second consecutive time after the 9th National Junior meet held in Dinajpur last year.

Participants have been requested to report at the CJKP office at the Chittagong Stadium on October 27.

**Sher-e-Bangla
Cup soccer
from Jan 12**

The first phase of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship will begin at different social grounds from January 12, reports UNB.

The social champions will be entitled to play in the final round along with defending champions Dhaka University and host district of the final round.

All the participating teams and District Sports Associations interested to host the tournament are requested to contact Bangladesh Football Federation office by November 30, said a press release issued yesterday.

**Delta Life
h'ball results**

Sports Reporter

Rifles Public School and College emerged group champions and breezed into semifinals of the Delta Life Inter-college and hall women's handball tournament scrapping past Shamsun Nahar Hall of Dhaka University 8-7 at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Rehana of Rifles scored six goals while Chaiti and Dilwara of the same side netted once each.

Tania of Shamsun Nahar with her six goals counterbalanced opponents' Rehana while Zinnat added another to their tally.

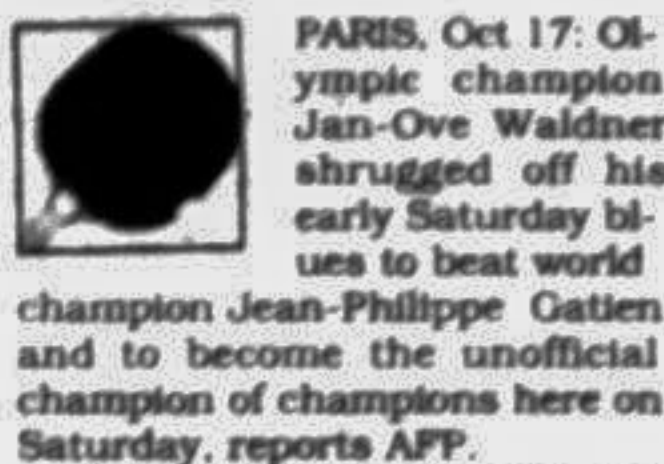
In the day's other match Sher-e-Bangla blanked Kuwait Maitri of Dhaka University 6-0.

Mirana netted thrice for the winners while Sultana, Khairun and Salma added one each.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Viqarunnessa Noon School and College vs Ispahani Women's College (2:30 pm)
Rokeya Hall (DU) vs Holy Cross College (3:30 pm)
Anwara Begum Muslim Women's College vs Eden Girls' College (4:30 pm)

Waldner proves his class



PARIS, Oct 17: Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner shrugged off his early Saturday blues to beat world champion Jean-Philippe Gatien and to become the unofficial champion of champions here on Saturday, reports AFP.

And Waldner is still on course for the 20,000 dollar winner's cheque following his 21-13, 16-21, 21-10, 21-19 victory over birthday boy Gatien in the Paris Grand Prix.

In a rematch of their Olympic final as year ago, Waldner proved he was the best player in the world with a victory over the Frenchman.

Gatien tried hard for Olympic revenge, but Waldner's mixture of powerful forehands, deft drop shots, tricky serves, and good touch left Gatien licking his wounds.

Gatien, in front of a partisan home crowd on his 25th birthday, desperately wanted a win to celebrate in style.

Since their Olympic final, they have met twice — in last year's French Open final, which Waldner won, and at September's European Masters, when Gatien proved the better.

But the Swede was nearly always in control in this third and unofficial decider.

Waldner took the first game 21-13 having led from the start, but Gatien fought back with a series of winners early in the second as he looked to level the match.

Leading 8-4 and 15-10, Gatien's speed and weight of shot had posed the Swede problems and he won the game 21-16 on a service winner.

Waldner had a dream third set — echoes of his Olympic campaign, which he admits was the nearest he has been to perfection — which he won 21-10.

In a close fourth set, Gatien led all the way, but at 19-18 to Gatien, the Swede was the cooler.

A wrong-footing forehand winner and two forehand errors from Gatien, put Waldner into the semifinals where he has the chance to salvage something from a miserable season.

Outside the World Championships and World Cup, neither of which Waldner has won this year, this final of the all-stars world circuit is arguably the most important event in the world.

As world number one, this Paris Grand Prix title would confirm Waldner really does rule world table tennis.

Wang Tao's title aspirations ground to a halt against Germany's Jorg Roskopf, who topped the world number six 3-1 (21-11, 21-14, 19-21, 21-13) in the quarter-finals.

But, in a bizarre mix-up China's world number six thought he had lost the match after he had conceded the first two sets.

A disconsolate Wang went to shake hands with the European champion, but perked up when the umpire told him he still had a chance.

Wang duly won the third set as his blocking game improved against the firepower of his left-handed opponent.

Perhaps buoyed up by the thought of earning at least 2,000 dollars for losing in the quarter-finals, Wang relaxed and started to play the showman, he even swapped hands.

Waldner admitted afterwards: "I wasn't very happy with the way I played, but he was just too strong, when I found myself 9-1 down in the second set, it was nearly all over. But, at least, I'm still in the competition."

And but for a rush of blood to the head of Patrick Chila at match point, Waldner would have been out of the competition.

The powerful forehand of the left-handed Frenchman had sealed the first set 21-17 against Waldner, who could not settle into his rhythm.

The Swede seemed to have the second game wrapped up as he led 20-18, but Chila fought back to claim three points in a row to gain match point at 21-20.

A rushed and netted forehand spotted Chila's glory attempt. But Waldner won the deciding third game to save his blushes.

Gatien had to concede the limelight early on Saturday to compatriot Olivier Marmurek, who soaked up the cheers of the crowd for two memorable victories.

Marmurek shocked Asia's top players, Ma Wenge, to win 21-19, 21-17 and grab the headlines from his more famous teammate.

Marmurek's serves, a strong forehand and a supportive crowd were too much for Ma, the world number four and twice World Cup winner.

Far from just a one-off shock, Marmurek added a 21-16, 17-21, 21-17, win over world number five Kim Taek-soo of South Korea.

In a further upset, Grubba, who at 35 thought his best days were behind him, beat Saive of Belgium 18-21, 21-11, 21-17.

And Gatien's birthday got off to troubled start as he hit his left thumb on the table while going for a forehand in his first match against compatriot Christophe Legout.

But his slight injury did not affect his play.



JAN-OVE WALDNER

from his usual left-handed grip, to execute a perfect forehand topspin followed by a huge grin to the audience.

He won the game 21-19 with a forehand winner, but Roskopf assured himself of at least 6,000 dollars as he clinched the fourth set 21-13 with, again, a ferocious forehand.

Earlier, World Cup runner-up Wang had dispatched Waldner in two straight sets, but could not maintain that form against Roskopf.

Olivier Marmurek's unexpected victory march came to an end at the hands of Belgian Jean-Michel Saive.

Perhaps paying back France for Marseille's bettering of bruise in football's European Cup last season, Saive gained the upper hand in this Francophone rivalry.

A backhand winner doused the hopes of world number 86 Marmurek, who fell, 21-18, 23-21, 21-17.

Defeat for China's Ma Wenge at the hands of evergreen Andrej Grubba meant today's semifinals were an all-Europe affair.

A very, dull, drab deadlock

LONDON, Oct 17: Nigel Short accepted Garri Kasparov's offer of a raw Saturday after just 33 moves of the Professional Chess Association championship, reports AP.

Grandmasters called it the least dramatic game in the 24-game series.

Kasparov, leading 11 1/2 to 6 1/2, needs just one more draw to retain his title and two draws or a win to clinch the winner's purse of 956,250 pounds (dhs 1.434 million).

Short would have to win all of the remaining games to win the championship.

"The match is not over," Short said, "but it has to be admitted that Garri's chances are more favourable at the moment."

Then conceding the inevitable, Short added: "I would like to have another crack at the World Championship. I believe that would mean, I would have to go through some qualifying matches."

As in every previous game with Kasparov playing black, the game opened in the Sicilian defence. Kasparov introduced a new 10th move, varying from what he played in Game 16, which he went on to lose.

Short said he thought he had a slight advantage in the early stages, but was unsure where he lost the edge. He had considered a sacrificial continuation on move 17, but decided it was too risky — a judgement that Kasparov confirmed after the game.

There were no captures between the fourth and 25th moves a long stretch that English Grandmaster Stuart Conquest described as "nervous manoeuvring."

After a series of exchanges, opinions shifted in favour of Kasparov, who had what appeared to be a powerful pawn in the centre.

"The position was visually nice for black but when I came to analyse it, I found it was absolutely equal," Kasparov said, explaining his reason for offering a draw.

"It was a position of dynamic equality," said Short, who projected a long continuation in which both sides would have been reduced to a rook and three pawns each.

In the last nine games, each man has scored 4 1/2 points. Returning to a theme of recent games, Kasparov admitted he had not played well.

"This is inevitable. After nine games, I was five (points) up. It was hard to lose the match. I mentioned before that I have some personal reasons," Kasparov said.

"I have reached my main goal in this match. Short is playing solidly and better. The winner has some baggage on his shoulders."

Short, who had said before the match that he regarded Kasparov as "deeply unpleasant," said that the two men "probably have more respect for each other than before the match."

Kasparov agreed. "Yes, the time we have spent together, e.g. in the TV studio, has helped."

"Of course, there was another player who I spent about 700 hours with, and that didn't help," he said referring to his five championships matches against Anatoly Karpov.

The Times newspaper of London and Teleworld Holdings,

based in Rotterdam, Netherlands, are sponsoring the match, which has a 1.7 million pound (dhs 2.55 million) purse.

The players have pledged 10 per cent of the purse to the Professional Chess Association, which they formed in February to rival FIDE, the international chess federation.

MOVES

Russian Garri Kasparov and Englishman Nigel Short drew the 18th game of their 24-match World Championship here Saturday:

White: Nigel Short
Black: Garri Kasparov
Sicilian Defence
1.e4, c5; 2.nf3, d6; 3.d4, cxd4; 4.nxd4, nfx3; 5.nc3 a6;
Kasparov remains faithful to the Najdorf, 6.bxc4, e6; 7.bb3 b5; 8.0-0, be7; 9.gf3, qc7; 10.gg3, 0-0;

Instead of nc6; played in the 16th game, the only one Short won in that match, 11.bb6, ne8; 12.rad1, bd7; 13.nf3.

Kasparov has already played this position, but on the white side against the Belarussian Boris Gelfand in Linares (Spain) 1993.

13... a5
Kasparov intends to improve on the above mentioned game where Gelfand played 13... b4, 14.a4, b4; 15.ne2, nc6; 16.nf4, bf6;
Strengthens the pawn on g7 as Short was threatening nh5 17.nd3, e5;
Closing the centre, 18.be3, be7;
Played after 35 minutes thought, Short has no more threat on g7 and so Kasparov marshals his pieces in a more natural position, 19.nd2, nfx6; 20.f3, rfe8; 21.kh1, be5;
Kasparov wants to break the centre with d5, 22.re1, rac8; 23.qf2, d5; 24.bb6, qb8; 25.bc5.
White pieces are not so well coordinated and Short forces some exchanges in the centre, 25... bxc5, 26.nxc5, nd4; 27.nxe6, fxe6; 28.exd5, mxb3; 29.nxb3, exd5; 30.nxa5
Kasparov loses instantaneously a pawn, but he gets the control on the centre, 30... qd8; 31.nb3, qxa4;
Getting back his pawn 32.ra1, qc6; 33.re2, d4; 34.qe1, qd6; 35.ra5, d3;
Kasparov offers a draw which Short accepts.