

BCCB XI leave India on a winning note

Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven defeated Tamil Nadu Cricket Association Eleven by better run-rate as the match was abandoned due to rain yesterday in the Indian city of Madras, reports UNB.

The BCCB, who were touring India and playing some exhibition matches as part of their preparation for next ICC trophy to be held in Kenya in February, left for Sri Lanka last evening to play some more warm-up matches there.

In the day's match, the BCCB batted first and scored 84 runs for nine in rain-reduced 25 overs with Moni hitting 27 and Athar Ali 21, according to a message received at the BCCB office last night.

In reply, Tamil Nadu collected 44 runs for 6 in 20 overs before rain forced the match to be called off. Later, BCCB were declared the winners by virtue of better run-rate.

Rahul of BCCB captured three wickets giving away 12 runs.

In Sri Lanka, the BCCB Eleven will play their first match against Puttalam Chiklaw DCA President's Invitation Eleven on October 21.

Amarnath optimistic about Bangladesh's chances

MADRAS, Oct 18: Former Indian Test cricketer Mohinder Amarnath today expressed confidence that his new role as the national coach of Bangladesh would fructify with his team clinching a qualifying berth for the 1995 World Cup, reports PTI.

Mohinder, who is now managing the Bangladesh team which is on a practice tour of India told PTI here that the job at hand, however, was a tough one. "It's easier playing than coaching but it is challenging," he said.

Mohinder, attempting to impart the application and grit which characterised his many Test comebacks to his young wards in his first coaching stint felt that several technical flaws had to be ironed out in time for the ICC trophy qualifying tournament scheduled to be held at Nairobi, Kenya early next year.

"I had to start almost from scratch when I took over three months ago. The players are extremely fit now as we have worked hard on physical training. But the heavy monsoon in Bangladesh had robbed them of vital match practice," he said.

Women's h'ball results

Sports Reporter

Viqarunnisa Noon School and College and Rifles Public School and College topped the points table in Group A and B respectively in the first Delta Life inter-college and hall women's handball competition at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Three matches of Group A were held yesterday. In the less important first match of the day, Viqarunnisa Noon outplayed Ishpani Women's College 10-1.

Nafiza scored six goals while Farzana, Rashida, Ayesha and Kaniz netted once each for Viqarunnisa.

Aasma scored the lone goal for Ishpani Women's College. In day's second match Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University beat Holy Cross College by one goal to nil to ensure their runners-up position in Group A.

Eden Girls' College finished third in Group A when they beat Anwara Begum Muslim Women's College 6-2 in the day's third match.

Jamila and Zakia were on their target thrice each for Eden while Lipi, netting twice, reduced the margin.

Four teams — Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, Rokeya Hall (DU), Rifles Public School and College and Shamsun Nahar Hall (DU) qualified for the semifinals.

Press Club minni-marathon

Abdul Hannan Khan became first in the above-40 group of the mini-marathon, organised by the National Press Club yesterday marking its 39th founding anniversary, reports BSS.

Rafiqul Islam and Monoz Barua finished second and third respectively in the group.

Selim Nazrul Huq got the first position in the under-40 group while Salimullah and Abu Taher Khokon were the second and third respectively.

About 70 journalists took part in the marathon held here from Farmgate to the National Press Club in the early morning. The prizes will be distributed among the winners today.



Edwin Vurens of FC Twente towers over Ajax's Dutch international Frank Rijkaard in an aerial tussle for the ball in Enschede, Holland on October 17. The fancied Dutch club lost to FC Twente 1-2.

Milan manage to stay atop

ROME, Oct 18: Midfielder Zvonimir Boban struck a late equaliser against Foggia on Sunday to keep AC Milan on top of the Italian First Division and maintain an unbeaten away record stretching back well over two years, reports Reuter.

Croat Boban's 82nd minute goal earned a 1-1 draw and left the champions a point clear on a day in which only Juventus of the top four managed a win.

Milan had looked destined for their first away defeat in the league since May 19, 1991 after Russian Striker Igor Kolyvanov put Foggia ahead in the 61st minute. It was the first goal the champions have conceded all season.

Juventus, who meet Milan next Sunday, beat Atlanta 2-1, thanks to a Roberto Baggio penalty and a goal from German Andreas Moeller to move into joint second place.

Juventus are now level with Parma on 12 points, one behind Milan, while Sampdoria are a further point back on 11.

Cup Winners' Cup holders Parma were held 0-0 at promoted Cremonese after having flamboyant Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla sent off for a foul in the first half.

Sampdoria, mourning the death of club president Paolo Mantovani, slumped to their first home defeat of the season when they lost 1-0 to struggling Roma. Argentine striker Abel Balbo scored the decisive goal for the Romans.

Roma's local rivals Lazio beat Piacenza 1-0 as a last-minute penalty by Giuseppe Signori settled a stormy match.

Lazio had central defenders Luca Luzardi and Roberto Cravero sent off while Piacenza sweeper Settimio Lucchi and their coach Luigi Cagni were also both shown the red card.

It took a fine volley from Kolyvanov to finally beat Milan

The match ended in uproar with Inter certain they should have had a penalty two minutes after the when Torino defender Roberto Mussi appeared to handle.

Van Basten to be back soon

MILAN, Italy, Oct 18: Marco Van Basten, the Dutch striker of AC Milan and the Dutch national team who has been sidelined by a bad ankle injury for nearly 11 months, will resume full-time training this week and may return in December, reports AP.

Milan officials reported Monday that latest medical examinations showed a significant improvement of Van Basten's right ankle, which was operated on by a Belgian Professor on June 9.

"He will begin training with the teammates at Milanello this week and will step up his preparation following another medical examination. He may be ready for a comeback between seven to eight weeks," a Milan spokeswoman said.

Van Basten, a three-time best European player-of-the-year, was stopped by a serious ankle injury in December 1992.

Following a first surgery, he briefly returned to action in May, to play the Champions Cup final against Olympique Marseille. But recurring problems with the same ankle required a second operation and another long stop.

The Dutch center forward, considered one of the best world strikers, is the only Dutch star left on AC Milan lineup following the transfer of Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard this season.

While badly missing Van Basten's goals, the defending league champions are undisputed leaders in the current first-division campaign and qualified for the second round of the Champions Cup.

goalkeeper Gebastinao Rossi, who had gone over 690 minutes in the league this season without letting in a goal.

Former Italy captain Dino Zoff holds the all-time record unbeaten run for a goalkeeper in Serie A, keeping a clean sheet for 903 minutes in the 1972-73 season.

Boban, who has taken over Frank Rijkaard's midfield role at Milan, headed off his own goal-line before popping up at the other end with the equaliser.

Captain Baggio put Juventus ahead from the spot in the 56th minute against Atalanta. Moeller converted a Baggio free-kick three minutes later for his sixth goal of the season.

Atalanta's Maurizio Ganz notched a consolation goal 20 minutes from time to join Moeller as the league's leading scorer.

Asprilla's dismissal reduced Parma's potency against Cremonese although the home side also ended the game with 10 men after defender Francesco Colonnese was sent off for his second bookable offence early in the second half.

The Argentine pounced on a rebound after Sampdoria and Italy goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca had touched a Gintsa Mijajlovic free-kick onto the crossbar.

The win lifts Roma out of the bottom four.

Lazio, welcoming back Signori and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne, recorded only their second win of the season but were still booed off the pitch.

Luciano Cravero were sent off for two bookable offences while Luzardi had to go after kicking out at a grounded opponent. Cagni was dismissed apparently for a remark made to the referee.

Internazionale and Torino fought out a disappointing 0-0 draw and remain locked together on 10 points, three behind Milan.

Satellite tennis

A total of 176 players from 38 countries including Bangladesh have sent entries to take part in the Gold Leaf International Tennis Federation (ITF) Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite tennis tournament, reports BSS.

Bangladesh will organise the third leg of the circuit at Rajshahi from November 15 to 21 and the masters' leg in Dhaka from November 22 to 28. The first and second leg of the circuit will be held in Bangkok.

The players are from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Morocco, Mauritius, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Slovakia, Sweden, USA, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia, Thailand and Bangladesh.

Cedric Melof of Belgium has been rated the top seed in the circuit while Daljul Mori of Japan and Scott Stewart of the United States have been made second and third seed respectively.

Vinod Ramachandran is the only player from the regional countries, who has been placed in the seedings (8th).

Bangladesh SAF Games tennis team boys — Faisal Syed Husq, Sheikh Moimuddin Wajidullah Jhelani, Hira Lal, Nawaz Amien Rumon, Shovon Jamaly, and Shameem Ahsan Roni — will take part in the circuit.

The other Bangladeshi players, who sent entries, are Moshir Azad, Zahed Ikramullah, Mahboob Islam, Abdul Wahab Monju, Sarwar Mostafa, Shamsuddoha Siddique, Sukumar Roy, Ujjal.

East Bengal in All India Kalinga Cup final

CUTTACK, Oct 18: East Bengal deposed defending champions Mohammodan Sporting in the sudden death (5-4) to enter the final of the All India Kalinga Cup football tournament here today, reports PTI.

When the match could not be decided in the stipulated time and tie-breaker, sudden death was applied. While East Bengal's Subir Ghosh was successful in his attempt, sportsman's Abid Hossain's shot was brilliantly saved by a diving goalkeeper in the sudden death.

East Bengal, seeking the title on their debut appearance in Kalinga Cup, played a cautious game and their two some attack of Carlton Chapman and Kiron Khongas threatened the sporting defence in the initial stage of the match.

Chapman wasted a golden opportunity to score in the 12th minute when his shot went over the post after a solid effort.

In the 36th minute Chapman once again missed an open chance, hitting well over the bar.

The sporting club got a chance to take the lead when East Bengal's Mastian Ahmed pulled down sporting's right out, Swastik Bhattacharjee, who was clearly in a position to score a goal. The referee promptly pointed towards the spot for a penalty amidst protests from the East Bengal players.

But Murshid Ahmed, who took the penalty, shot wide over the goal post much to the dismay of his teammates.

Bilbao bite the dust

MADRID, Oct 18: Athletic Bilbao, third in the table overnight, tumbled to a 2-1 home defeat to bottom club Osasuna on a weekend of upsets in the Spanish league, reports Reuter.

The top four teams before the seventh round of matches — champions and leaders Barcelona, Bilbao, Valencia and Sevilla — were all beaten.

However, Barcelona stayed top on goal difference from Valencia and third placed Real Sociedad, all three teams having 10 points.

Bilbao slipped to fifth on nine points after providing Osasuna with their first victory of the season.

Miffed by rehearsed novelty

JAKARTA, Oct 18: Anatoly Karpov of Russia surprised Jan Timman of the Netherlands on Monday with a new move early in the 14th game of the official FIDE World Chess Championships, reports Reuter.

Arriving five minutes late for the game, Karpov, playing with the white pieces, thought for only a few seconds before pushing his queen's pawn two squares, as he has done in every game with white throughout the match.

Timman, who trails Karpov by two points, showed his aggressive intentions, from the start, employing the risky Vienna variation of the queen's gambit declined. Timman had tired the Vienna Variation three times before the match, losing disastrously in one game but making easy draws in the other two.

Karpov, 42, appeared pleased with Timman's choice of opening, playing his first 10 moves in only three minutes. He spent a few minutes double-checking his next move, a surprising bishop move which had obviously been prepared by Karpov and his Grandmaster aides before the game.

Karpov's bishop move left Timman a pawn ahead but black's position was under severe pressure.

Normally Karpov's assistants do not attend games, being required to analyse variations in their hotel rooms while Karpov is playing. But on Monday Vladimir Epishin, Karpov's highest rated assistant, could be seen intently watching the game, a clear sign Karpov's team had prepared something special for Timman.

Appearing unfazed by Karpov's new move, Timman, 41, replied quickly, only to spend 15 minutes in worried thought on his next move.

Timman's assistant, Swedish Grandmaster Ulf Andersson, tried to be upbeat. "It's an interesting position but is too early to say who is better. Still, I'll be very glad if the complications don't work out for Karpov."

Karpov, the world's second highest ranked player, leads

Timman by 7.5 points to 5.5 in the best of 24 games series which has a prize fund of 1 million Swiss francs (750,000 dollars).

Karpov and Timman are playing for the official world championship because Gari Kasparov of Russia, the world's top rated player, and Nigel Short, his English challenger, refused to play under the auspices of the World Chess Federation and organised a more lucrative contest in London.

Kasparov was stripped of his world title in April and has since has tried to ridicule the match between Karpov and Timman, calling it a second-class contest which nobody takes seriously.

The World Chess Federation, however, claims almost universal support for the official match from its 150 member nations.

The next game between Timman and Karpov will be played on Wednesday with Timman having the advantage of the white pieces. The winner of the match will be the first player to score 12.5 points.

US face moment of truth

DOHA, Qatar, Oct 18: When the United States won the right to host the 1994 World Cup, soccer's biggest prize, political adversaries like Iraq, Iran and North Korea were not exactly the kind of guests the Americans had in mind, reports AP.

But these countries' national teams could come out on top of the Asian qualifying grand now being held in Qatar, in the southern Persian Gulf, to go through to the 24-nation finals.

South Korea, who qualified for the 1986 and 1990 World Cup finals, are the favourite to win one of the two berths in the Doha qualifiers.

But Iran, Iraq and North Korea are fighting hard to get the other. North Korea beat Iraq 3-2 Friday and head the list with two points, while Iran and Iraq trail with no wins.

"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," Baghdad's state-run Al-Baath Arrtyadhi sports newspaper declared last week when the games started.

Saddam's eldest son Qadaf, head of Iraq's Olympics Committee, has promised Japanese cars to each player if Iraq's squad just makes it to the United States.

"In the past, we've got many, many things. This time it will be special gifts," said Iraqi coach Adnan Dirjal.

Heaping gifts of autos, houses and bonuses on triumphant soccer squads is a

tradition in the Gulf region.

With the exception of Japan, the other five countries represented in the Asian qualifiers here are an explosive mix of long-time political enemies who have fought each other on the battlefield.

Iran and Iraq battled each other to exhaustion from 1980 to 1988, leaving at least one million casualties in this country's longest conventional war.

Saudi Arabia was part of the US-led coalition that liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 1991 and mauled Saddam's army. The Saudis remain one of Saddam's prominent adversaries.

The Saudis have long vied with Iran for domination in the Gulf and for leadership of the Muslim world.

North Korea and South Korea have been at each other's throats for 40 years and still have not signed a peace treaty to formally end their 1950-53 war.

"Never before in the history of any official qualifying Asian Tournament have we had six teams of such diverse political and ideological backgrounds," said Peter Vajzappan, general secretary of the FIFA's Asian Football Confederation.

Iran and Iraq are on the US State Department's list of countries which support terrorism. Washington's long-strained relations with North Korea have been worsened recently by Pyongyang's efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

The United States is sending three officials to Doha next week to assess the security

risks if any of America's foes qualify.

"We don't doubt for a second the US government's assurance that qualifying nations will be allowed in," said Joseph "Sepp" Blatter, general secretary of FIFA, international soccer's ruling body.

But earlier this year, the US State Department refused to allow in Libyan athletes to participate in the Buffalo World University Games, citing Libya's links to terrorism.

Since the matches began here last week, there has been no sign that political hostilities have been carried onto the soccer field or into the streets of Doha.

But the organizers have taken every precaution to make sure trouble does not erupt.

Twenty-two German shepherd and Labrador dogs have been brought in to sniff explosives and all the games at the 40,000-seat Khalifa Stadium, built in the middle of a desert, are heavily patrolled.

Rival fans are kept separated in the stadium, usually by packing thousands of Asian workers who live here between them.

Alcohol is banned in this Muslim country, so security authorities don't have Europe's problems with drunken fans fighting pitched battles in the streets.

The authorities even closed the bars and casino aboard a five-deck luxury cruise ship, the Princess Victoria, brought in to sit offshore as accommodation for wealthy soccer fans.

Iraq call Baba to do it again

DOHA, Oct 18: Iraq have called in the man who guided them to their greatest soccer success to revive attempts to reach the World Cup finals, a team official said here Sunday, reports AFP.

Ahmad Baba, who took Iraq to the Mexico finals for the first time in 1986, was ordered in after the country's 3-2 defeat to North Korea in the opening World Cup Asian qualifying final game, said Iraqi Football Federation vice president

Mayoord Al Badaly.

Baba's arrival could threaten the future of coach Adnan Dirjal who was officially warned by FIFA for breaking a chair and boycotting the press conference after Friday's defeat.

Iraq gave away a two goal lead after having a man sent off. "Baba is being flown in as a consultant," said Al Badaly, who is also an Iraqi television soccer commentator.

"Adnan will still be coach but everyone in Baghdad looked at Friday's match and came to the conclusion that the team could with the experience of a man like Baba," added Al Badaly.

FIFA announced in a communique that Dirjal had been warned about "Unruly behaviour on the bench and for breaking a chair." The coach also breached regulations by missing the press conference.

"These incidents are ungentlemanly and bring disrepute to the game," added FIFA, who warned of "severe disciplinary measures" in case of more incidents.

Iraq pay Japan today and must win to stay in contention for a finals place.

Iraq's official press have de-

Blatter looks into heart of the matter

DOHA, Oct 18: The English soccer authorities should not be blamed for last week's crowd disturbances involving English fans in Holland, FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter said, reports AFP.

According to the International Football Federation leader, governments must now shoulder the responsibility as there was little more football associations can do.

"Football is not there to take care of people who cannot be controlled by society," he told AFP late Sunday just before leaving the Asian World Cup qualifying tournament in Qatar.

Blatter emphasised how troubles, such as the clashes in Rotterdam before the Holland v England World Cup game were now always outside stadiums.

He praised the English authorities for deciding to make stadiums all-seater and taking fencing away after the Hillsborough disaster.

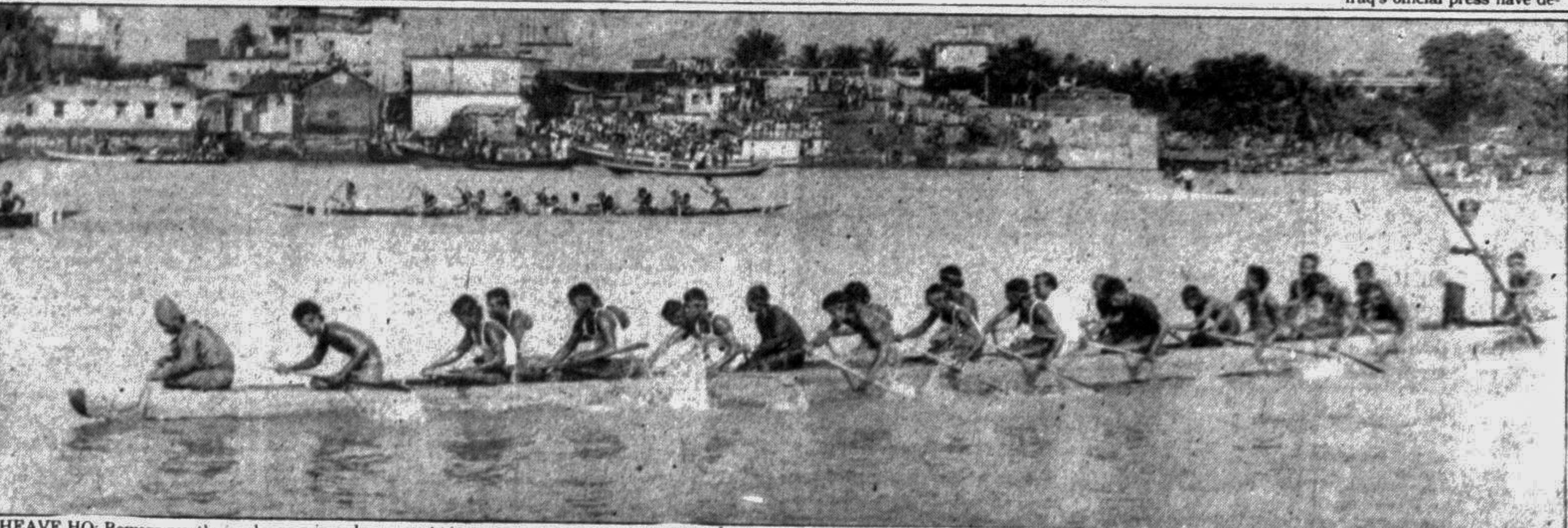
Blatter criticised Belgium and Germany for insisting on keeping standing room at soccer grounds.

"I am not saying that those who stand are just there to be hooligans but it is somewhere there the authorities think they can keep such elements for two hours during the day."

Blatter said he argued with the Belgian interior minister Louis Tobback over crowd control.

The FIFA leader said fencing at stadiums was a recipe for disaster. "If you put people in cages then they start acting like animals. FIFA do not want any more fences around stadiums."

"I would rather see 200 people on the pitch than one more death," he said in reference to soccer disasters such as Heysel and Hillsborough.



HEAVE HO: Rowers rev themselves up in a desperate bid to scramble home in the rowing championship held on Buriganga yesterday.