

Obermann picks Don

Sports Reporter

Mianur Rahman Don, a promising young footballer, has been selected for intensive training at the "Portas Football School," Germany, possibly in July next year.

Don's travelling and lodging expenses will be borne out by the German government.

Don, a striker who played for the First Division club Eskaton Sabuj Sangha last year, hails from Munshigonj and studies at Dhaka College.

Don's selection was made from thirty young footballers of under-16 age group from all over the country.

These promising booters underwent a twenty-day long coaching programme conducted by Holger Obermann, one of the founder instructors of Portas School.

Secretary of Youth and Sports Ministry and vice president of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), M Azizul Hoq distributed certificates among all the young participants at the concluding ceremony at the conference room of National Sports Complex.

Charge d'Affaires of German Embassy in Dhaka, Roland Graffe, General Secretary of BFF, Akmal Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

German coach Obermann, who is visiting Bangladesh for the fourth time in his three years' tenure in this region, expressed optimism that more young footballers will be inspired by Don's imitable instance.

The German coach exchanged some token presentations with the BFF officials and booters at the end of the simple ceremony.

Friends Union Cox's Bazar soccer champs

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 20: Friends Union Club clinched the Cox's Bazar football league title, with a 1-0 win over their rivals Tarun Muslim Club here at the local stadium today.

Friends Union Club remained unbeaten throughout the meet.

Momen scored the decider in the 34th minute of the game.

Dulahazara became the runners-up with nine points.

Tarun Muslim Club captured the third position.

TEAMS

FRIENDS UNION: Zia, Azad, Farid, Ibrahim, Humayun (Munna), Hassan, Momen, Mamun, Kashem, Abul and Atish.

TARUN MC: Mahadu, Khurshed, Debashis, Siddique, Sena Mong, Mongal, Afsar, Titu, Sankar, Nannu and Badsha.

Div II hockey

Barnak Samaj registered their first victory in the Green Delta Second Division hockey beating Dhaka Hockey Club by 2-0 goals at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Sahidur Rahman netted the two goals for the winners, one in each half.

Earlier in their inaugural match, Barnak Samaj suffered a 0-3 goals defeat against Combined Sporting Club.

The day's other match between Shishu Kishore Sangha and East End Green Club ended goalless at the same venue.

Dhaka Young Stars will meet Tejaan Agraami at 2.15 pm while Udit Club take on Rakim Sangha at 3.45 pm today.

Maradona in Australia

SYDNEY, Oct 20: About 2,000 fans greeted Diego Maradona and the Argentine soccer team when they arrived on Tuesday for a vital World Cup qualifier against Australia on October 31, reports Reuter.

Maradona, one of 11 players on the scheduled flight from Buenos Aires, waved to the mass of Argentine supporters at the airport before being whisked away to life team hotel.

Maradona, who inspired Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup, has been recalled to the squads as captain by coach Alfio Basile following last month's humiliating 5-0 defeat by Colombia.

But his involvement in the Australia tie was confirmed only last week when Australian authorities granted him a visa to visit the country.

Under Australia's immigration laws, the former Napoli and Sevilla player could have been barred because of his conviction for cocaine possession two years ago.

Maradona, who now plays for Argentine First Division club Newell's Old Boys, was not searched by customs officials in his arrival.

None of the players, and that includes Maradona, was stopped at customs. Australian soccer federation chief executive Ian Holmes said after greeting the Argentine party.

Zimbabweans due on Nov 1

Sports Reporter



ANDY FLOWER

to New Zealand, wrinkled the BCCB officials including Board

Mont. South Africa has also expressed its intention to send a team to help Bangladesh prepare for the next ICC trophy, the key competition for the associate members of the ICC to be held in Kenya February next.

Meanwhile, the BCCB yesterday announced the rate of tickets for the Gold Leaf one-day series.

VIP No 1-Taka 400, VIP No 2-Taka 250, Gate No 3A-Taka 150, 3B-Taka 100, Gate No 20 and 21 Taka 75, Gate No 11 to 19 Taka 30 and Gate No 4 to 10 Taka 20 each.

Rate of season tickets for different enclosures are as follows: VIP Gate No 1-Taka 700, VIP Gate No 2-Taka 400, Gate No 3A-Taka 250, Gate 3A (club officials)-Taka 200, Gate 3B (club officials)-Taka 125, Gate, 3B-Taka 200, Gate No 20 and 21-Taka 130 and Taka 100.



ANDY FLOWER
general secretary Aminul Haq

England to play 5 Tests Down Under in '94-'95

PERTH, Oct 20: Australia will play five Test matches against England when they defend the Ashes during the 1994-95 cricket season, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) announced Wednesday, reports AP.

Allan Border's Australian team successfully defended the Ashes, traditional symbol of supremacy between the two sides, with a 4-1 victory during the northern summer.

The Australians also will host Zimbabwe during the 1994-95 season with Australia, England and Zimbabwe contesting the triangular World Series tournament.

The England team will arrive in Perth in mid-October and open its tour with the festival match against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill.

After warm-up matches in four states, the first Test will be played in Brisbane from Nov 25-29.

The traditional Christmas, New Year and Australia Day Tests will be played at Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide before the season closes with the final Test in Perth from Feb 3-7, 1995.

ACB chief executive Graham Halbish said the itinerary was released early to enable all parties to begin their preparations for the tour.

The details of Zimbabwe's other four matches will be released later, but the African team is not expected to play a Test match.

Schedule of Australian cricket matches during the 1994-95 season (WS denotes World Series limited-overs match, D/N denotes day/night match):

Oct 25: England v ACB Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill

Oct 27: England v Western Australia at Perth (D/N)

Oct 29-Nov 1: England v Western Australia at Perth

Nov 4: England v South Australia at Adelaide

Nov 5: England v Prime Minister's XI at Canberra

Nov 12-15: England v Australian XI at Hobart

Nov 18-21: England v New South Wales at Sydney

Nov 25-29: 1st Test, Australia v England Brisbane

Dec 2: WS England v Zimbabwe at Perth (D/N)

Dec 4: WS Australia v England at Perth

Dec 6: WS Australia v England at Sydney (D/N)

Dec 8: WS Australia v Zimbabwe at Hobart

Iraq cling to WC lifeline

Sports Reporter

DOHA, Qatar, Oct 20: A late equaliser by Habib Agal earned Iraq a 2-2 draw with South Korea in their Asia final round qualifier on Tuesday to give them a World Cup lifeline, reports Reuter.

With four minutes remaining it looked as if Iraq's dream of playing on American soil was dead but Agal took advantage of a mistake in the South Korean defence to keep the path open.

The draw put South Korea, bidding for a third successive appearance in the World Cup finals, on top of the standings ahead of Saudi Arabia on goal difference.

"The result does give us hope — we still have three matches left," said Iraq coach Ahmed Baba, put in charge of the squad 24 hours before the match.

"I will be making changes — this is not the team I would have picked if I had been in charge from the start."

Previous coach Adnan Dirjal and two of his assistants were sacked following the opening match defeat on the orders of Iraq leader Saddam Hussein's eldest son Qadhi, who is personally supervising from Baghdad the team's push for qualification.

Baba, who guided Iraq to the 1986 World Cup finals, was hurriedly sent to Qatar after

Iraq's 3-2 defeat by North Korea in the first game when Dirjal was criticised for his tactics and censured by FIFA for unruly behaviour on the bench.

The Iraqis played with plenty of spirit in the first half and deservedly took the lead in the 32nd minute. Saad Numan chipped over a ball to the far post and Laith Shihab headed home.

An inspired substitution led to South Korea's equaliser. Coach Kim Ho introduced the influential Noh Jung-Woon, from Japanese J-League side Sanfrecce Hiroshima, in the 37th minute and five minutes later he headed on Kim Joo Sung's cross to Kim Pan-gun whose angled volley ripped into the net.

Noh also played a big part in South Korea's goal from the penalty spot in the 65th minute. He chased a long ball through the middle, watched it bounce over keeper Emaad Hassan and was pushed by Radrir Swadi as he was about to score. Hong Myung-Bo made no mistake from the spot.

In a last desperate push, Iraq put the South Korean defence under pressure. Agal found himself unmarked in front of goal after a failed clearance and he hit the goal that brought cheer to Baghdad.

TEAMS

IRAQ: Emaad Hassan, Samir Hassan, Radrir Swadi, Habib Agal, Naeim Mensehd, Abidal-Hanoun, Ahmad Radhi, Alaa Jebur (Gassam Hameed 44th), Saad Numan (Munther Mushin 75th), Salim Kadhim and Laith Shihab.

SOUTH KOREA: Choi In-Young, Chung Jong-Son, Kim Pan-Keun, Park Jung-Bae, Seo Jung-Won (Noh Jung-Woon 37th), Shin Hong-Gi, Choi Moon-Sook (Ha-Seok-Ju 70th), Kim Joo-Sung, Gu Sang-Bum, Hwang Sun-Hong and Hong Myung-Bo.

STANDINGS

(Tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Saudi Arabia 2 1 1 0 5 2 3
South Korea 2 1 1 0 2 1 3
North Korea 2 1 0 1 4 4 2
Iran 2 1 0 1 2 4 2
Iraq 2 0 1 1 4 5 1
Japan 2 0 1 1 2 1

Note: Top two teams qualify for the finals.
Remaining matches:

Oct 21 — North Korea v Japan

Oct 22 — Iran v Iraq, South Korea v Saudi Arabia

Oct 24 — Iraq v Saudi Arabia

Oct 25 — Japan v South Korea, Iran v North Korea

Oct 28 — South Korea v North Korea, Saudi Arabia v Iran, Iraq v Japan.

Azhar retains captaincy

CALCUTTA, Oct 20: Md Azharuddin has been retained as the skipper of the Indian cricket team which would participate in the CAB diamond Jubilee six nation cricket tournament beginning on November 7, reports PTI.

Announcing this here today Jagmohan Dalmiya, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said that he had received a fax message from G R Viswanath, the chairman of the selection committee yesterday, informing the unanimous decision of the five-member national selection committee to this effect.

All the five selectors including Viswanath are currently in West zone watching the Duleep trophy and Deodhar trophy matches going on there.

Ajit Wadekar has earlier been appointed as the manager of the Indian team while Dr Ali Iran has been appointed as the physiotherapist for the tournament.

Edberg's easy opener

HONG KONG, Oct 20: Top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden beat Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-3, 6-1 in his opening red group match of the \$220,000 Marlboro Hong Kong Championships Tuesday, reports AP.

Edberg, ranked sixth in the world, advanced to play Spain's Carlos Costa on Friday. A win would ensure Edberg a place in the semifinals.

Woodbridge meets Costa on Thursday in the round-robin tournament and must win to retain a chance to qualify for the semifinals.

In other matches, second-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek, ranked 11th, beat Australian Mark Woodford 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in the blue group and is also one match away from reaching the semifinals. He now meets the former world No. 1 seed, John McEnroe of the United States, in his final match on Thursday.

McEnroe, who has not played a single tournament all year, teamed up with Frenchman Henri Leconte to beat Todd Artn and Paul Kilderry 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 in the Scorpio group of the doubles competition.

Edberg, a two-time Wimbledon champion, has played Woodbridge on two previous occasions and won both times.

But even he was surprised by the ease with which he defeated the 103rd ranked Woodbridge, who is better known as a doubles player.

"I played very well, but Todd did not play as well as he can," said Edberg. "I practice with Todd quite often, so I know his game. His serve was not working."

Martin, of the United States, is ranked 14th and seeded third. He leads the silver group ahead of South African Wayne Ferreira and Sweden's Anders Jarryd.

Woodbridge and Woodford, the world doubles champions, beat American brothers Murphy and Luke Jensen in the doubles competition.

Lyon tennis result

LYON, France, Oct 20: Michael Stich of Germany and Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev made shock exits to little known players in the first round of the 600,000 dollar Lyon indoor tennis tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Third seed Stich lost 6-3, 7-1 to Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov after four seed Medvedev had also fallen in straight sets 6-3, 6-4 to German Karsten Braasch.

The 19-year-old qualifier Kafelnikov took the second set to break 7-4 to eliminate the former Wimbledon champion.

Woodbridge and Woodford, the world doubles champions, beat American brothers Murphy and Luke Jensen in the doubles competition.

Tourism Month swimming

A long distance swimming competition from Paglaghat to Fatullah Terminal in river Buriganga was held yesterday in observance of the "Tourism Month '93," reports BSS.

State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan inaugurated the competition as chief guest. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan was also present on the occasion.

Jointly organised by the Bangladesh Parjaton Corporation and Bangladesh Swimming Federation, twelve competitors participated in the three-kilometre long swimming competition.

Golam Kibria of Bangladesh Navy took the top spot. He crossed the distance in 28 minutes 44.34 seconds.

Selim Ahmed of Bangladesh Navy finished second in 29 minutes 9 seconds and Abdul Mannan Khan of Bangladesh Army took the third position.

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Afzalur Rahman distributed the prizes among the winners.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain is giving the trophy to the captain of the Vigarunnisa Noon School and College. Vigarunnisa emerged champions in the first Delta Life women's handball championship beating Rifles Public School and College in the final at the wooden floor gymnasium of the NSC yesterday. Next to the right of the chief guest is Safat Ahmed Choudhuri, managing director of sponsors Delta Life Insurance Company. — Star photo

Vigarunnisa emerge champs

Sports Reporter

On a rather auspicious day for players christened as Rashida, Vigarunnisa benefited most from the presence of one by that name in their ranks. While one Rashida, the more prominent of the two scattered in two sides the more one celebrated her share in the win with the award of the best player of the meet. While the other emerged the second highest scorer with four goals but ended up with the losers.

But Rashida's valiant efforts receded into the background following the superlative effort of the Vigarunnisa trio including her namesake, Rashida, the player of the meet, Naftan and Mumun hailed a quintet each to share the 15 of the 10 goals scored for the winners.

The fitter, stronger and better handballers of one of the biggest girls' school and college controlled the proceedings despite a keen contest underlined by a neck and neck scoreline of 10-9 at first half.

Pre-tournament favourites Vigarunnisa Noon School and College led by the brilliant Rashida, later adjudged as the best player of the tourney won the first Delta Life inter-College and hall handball championship for women beating Rifles Public School and College 19-13 in the final at the wooden floor gymnasium of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

The fitter, stronger and better handballers of one of the biggest girls' school and college controlled the proceedings despite a keen contest underlined by a neck and neck scoreline of 10-9 at first half.

In the third place decider held at the same venue earlier Shamsun Nahar Hall of Dhaka University beat their alma maters from Rokeya Hall 17-4.

Anwara Begum Muslim Women's College received the other award apart from the best player one announced by the Handball Referees Association. They were declared the most disciplined outfit of the 11-team meet held over two weeks.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain gave away the prizes as the chief guest. Managing Director of sponsors Delta Life Insurance alongwith the Bangladesh Handball Federation president were also present as the special guests.

Kasparov retains title

LONDON, Oct 20: World chess champion Garry Kasparov retained the crown he has held since 1985 for another two years after a convincing match against Briton Nigel Short that established the breakaway Professional Chess Association, reports Reuter.

Kasparov, generally recognised as the strongest player of all time, settled for a draw in Tuesday's 19th game to lead the series by 12-7 after six wins, one loss and 12 draws.

Only a miracle, which even Short concedes is impossible, can now stop the Azeri-born champion reaching the 12-1/2 points he needs to take home the lion's share of the 1.7 million pound (dollar 2.5 million) prize fund.

The duel, which continues on Thursday with Short having the advantage of the white pieces and first move in Game 20, created a controversial rift in the chess world.

Short, 28, began the match disastrously, scoring a single draw in the first four games, and falling five points behind by Game Nine despite building up several winning positions.

But Short, the first Briton this century to challenge for the title, impressed experts with his resilience and rapid adaptation to the novel rigours of a world championship fight.

While Kasparov began to show signs of fatigue, Short managed to raise the level of his play, losing only once in Game 16.

Short's renaissance moved Kasparov to tip his opponent as the most likely challenger at the end of the PCA's forthcoming qualifying cycle and a new world title match in 1995.

Karpov burns up Timman

JAKARTA, Oct 20: Russia's Anatoly Karpov destroyed Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the 15th game of the official FIDE World Chess Championship today, reports Reuter.

Playing his best chess of the match so far, Karpov attacked Timman's king in a merciless fashion to win the game in four hours and 34 moves.

Karpov now holds a commanding four-point lead, 9.5-5.5, over Timman in the 24 game series.

Arriving early for the game and controlling the white pieces, Timman tried to put early pressure on Karpov's position.

However, his 10th move, placing a knight on the edge of the board, was soon pinpointed by experts watching the game as a dubious idea.

One move later Timman unwisely refused an opportunity to exchange pieces into an equal ending and his king was spon forced into an exposed position.

Karpov capitalised on Timman's errors with an inspired rook for knight sacrifice which won universal praise from the assembled Grandmaster.

"I think black is simply winning," said Timman's Swedish Assistant Ulf Andersson after the sacrifice. "I don't see anything for Timman."

Timman did his best to hustle Karpov by moving quickly while Karpov was slightly short of time but the Russian handled the pressure well.

Timman resigned six moves before his opponent had reached the time control.

"This was Timman's worst game," said another Timman aide, US Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan. "Jan is not playing well at all."

Timman appeared bemused by the decisive manner of his loss as he hurried to escape the throng of reporters.

"Knight to h3 (the edge of the board) was a normal move," he said, unable to understand why his position had worsened so quickly after the much-criticised knight move.

Karpov is now almost certain to win the match and recapture the official world title he lost to compatriot Garry Kasparov in 1985.

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

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