

BCCB start SL tour with a win

Sports Reporter
 Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) XI made an auspicious opening to their tour of Sri Lanka when they beat Kurunegala District XI on a better run-rate at the Colombo police ground yesterday, according to fax message received at the BCCB office last night.
 BCCB XI who are in the second phase of their package tour of the Deccan and Sri Lanka as a part of Bangladesh's preparation for the ICC trophy in Kenya early next year batted first in the rain-interrupted match.
 Faruq Ahmed top scored with 34. He was closely followed by Akram Khan who made 30. Sri Lanka's Ameer Khan was the other notable scorer as BCCB mustered 149 in 45 overs.
 Ajith Ekanayake, the promising left-arm spinner was the scourge of Bangladeshi batsmen with figures of five for 16.
 Kurunegala managed 74 for four wickets in 29 overs when rain came down.



Argentine soccer legend Diego Maradona takes a fall during a training session in Sydney on Oct 20 ahead of the World Cup qualifying match against Australia. — AFP photo

Maradona views in dry light

SYDNEY, Oct 21: Diego Maradona says he isn't the saviour of Argentine football and cannot be expected to beat Australia by himself in the World Cup qualifier here on Sunday week, reports AFP.
 The incomparable 32-year-old midfielder told Australian Association Press on Thursday that he was in peak condition and was confident Argentina could return home with a lead going into the second leg in Buenos Aires on November 17.
 Maradona, who answered an urgent call by trainer Alfio Basile to join the Argentine squad after a humiliating 5-0 defeat to Colombia in Buenos Aires last month, has led from the front at the sides' three training sessions since arriving here on Tuesday night.
 But when asked whether he was in better condition compared with when he led Argentina to the 1990 World Cup final in Italy, Maradona said: "All comparisons are fruitless, we have to live in the present in the best possible way and look towards the future."

"I'm very well and I'm looking forward to playing on 31st," Maradona, who claims to have shed 12 kilograms (26 pounds) since leaving Spanish club Sevilla in June, believes too much may be expected of him here after the Colombia debacle.
 "To think about the Colombia loss is stupid — that should be forgotten," he said.
 "We have to all try our best. There's no saviour here, the saviours are all the players, nobody can win a game by himself."
 Maradona rates Australia as a good all round side and admits coach Basile and the players still have a lot of homework to do before the first leg.
 "I don't think they have any weakness, we have to study what they do best and beat them in that department," he said.
 "For that reason Basile and the team will get together to study what their strongest points are and be ready to beat them there."
 Basile put the Argentine squad through a 90-minute

session behind closed gates on Thursday morning, then allowed newsmen to watch an afternoon game of five-a-side.
 Maradona later took a swipe at the Australian football media for being big-mouths.
 He said the Australian media had a reputation for being over confident.
 "I know the Australians use a lot of words, but you don't win with words," said Maradona, who turns 33 on the eve of the first qualifier here.
 "On the 31st we will show them what we can do on the pitch."
 Over the past two days here, Basile and Maradona have been working closely together on the sidelines, talking team tactics.
 "We must be in good form to show the world that Argentina is back," Maradona said.
 "We have to work as a team, as cohesively as possible to get to the 31st. I'm confident we'll win here in Sydney."
 The remainder of the Argentine squad, based in Europe and Japan, are due here on Monday.

Tenth Q M Hussain chess meet begins today

Sports Reporter
 The tenth Qazi Motahar Hossain memorial International Masters' chess tournament begins at Purbani Hotel today.
 Eight local players — International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman, IM Rezaul Karim, FIDE Master (FM) Tahmidur Rahman, Ziaul Qader Tuhin, Rafiqul Islam, Kalimullah Khan Kalam, International Women's Master (IWM) Rani Hamid and Niamul Huq Niru and six foreign players are taking part in this meet commemorating the doyen of country's chess.
 The six familiar foreigners are IM Neeraj Mishra, Rahul Sheety, V Sharanvan, Shekhar Chandra Sapru from India, IM Mahmud Lodhi from Pakistan and IM Hameed Qadhi Mansoor of Yemen.
 Like the previous years Beximco Group are playing the role of sponsors providing Tk Three and half lakhs this time.
 Prize money worth 200 US dollars will be up for grab along with the title for the 14 competitors.

Div II hockey

Sports Reporter
 Tejaon Agragami Club beat Dhaka Young Stars by two goals to nil in the Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.
 Peter scored first in the 25th minute of the game. The second goal came from the stick of Jahangir in the 43rd minute.
 Udit Club and Raktim Sangha drew goalless in the other match of the day.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 21: Muktakantha beat Nabajatrik by a solitary goal in the inaugural match of the Ispahani Metropolitan Pioneer football competition at the Dampara Police Lines ground here this afternoon, reports BSS.
 Jahangir Alam of Muktakantha scored the match winner only two minutes before the long whistle.
 Earlier, Osman Ali Khan, Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, inaugurated the competition as chief guest.
 Fifty-four teams are participating in the competition.

Shabbir Yusuf optimistic

Bangladesh will be the best possible team in the fourth Asian Cup hockey tournament beginning in Hiroshima, Japan on November 5, said the manager of the 24-member contingent, reports UNB.
 Shabbir Yusuf, who was also the manager of the Bangladesh hockey team in the Asian Cup in 1985, expressed the optimism that the present squad studded with young stars "will definitely do well."
 He, however, pointed out that Bangladeshi boys faced disadvantages in international tournaments as they are not habituated in playing in astro-turfs.
 Shabbir urged the authorities to arrange astro-turfs for our hockey to prepare the players for the next Asian Games as all the leading hockey nations play in such turfs.
 He also stressed on an extensive government patronisation for improvement of the standard of Bangladesh hockey.
 A former national hockey star, Shabbir was the captain of the national team in 1978-79. Representing erstwhile East Pakistan, he played against Australia and Malaysia in 1965.

Mexico win friendly

SAN DIEGO, Oct 21: Speed and ball-handling made the difference as Mexico defeated the Ukraine 2-1 in an international soccer friendly match on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

A hollow triumph for Karpov

JAKARTA, Oct 21: The official World Chess Championship drawing to a close in Jakarta is the culmination of one of the longest competitions, and arguably the fairest, in any sport, reports Reuters.
 Russia's Anatoly Karpov, who meets Dutchman Jan Timman for the 16th game in Jakarta on Friday, is almost certain to emerge as champion — but will find it harder to win public acclaim as world's best player.
ICF's offer
Sports Reporter
 The International Carom Federation (ICF) will provide all essential supports to promote carom as a serious, competitive game in Bangladesh.
 The secretary general of ICF B Bangaru Babu revealed it in a press conference held at the Teachers' Students' Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University yesterday afternoon.
 Babu arrived Dhaka on October 15 on a six-day visit at the invitation of the Bangladesh Carom Association (BCA).
 The ICF secretary general has already met concerned government officials to discuss the possibility of promoting carom at the national level.
 Efforts, he said, are underway to promote the game internationally.
 The conference was also attended among others by the BCA Convenor Dr Abdus Salam and joint convenor Nurul Amin Akhand.

The World Chess Federation (FIDE) divides the world into 15 zones, which produce zonal champions to compete in a single inter-zonal tournament.
 Players who survive the inter-zonal play knockout matches until only one Grandmaster remains undefeated — and it is that player who is entitled to challenge the reigning world champion.
 The system started over four decades ago and takes almost three years from zonal to world championship match.
 Only twice has the system broken down and on both occasions it was because a finalist refused to accept the match procedure adopted by FIDE. In 1975, the eccentric American Bobby Fischer put a list of demands to the world body and declined to meet his official challenger Karpov when one of his requests was refused.
 Karpov thus became world champion without pushing a pawn.
 For many years, Karpov was seen by experts as a paper champion until numerous tournament successes and Fischer's retirement gained him public acceptance.
 This year, both world champion Garri Kasparov of Russia and his official challenger, England's Nigel Short, refused to play the title match under FIDE.
 They had claimed lack of consultation by the world body in its choice of Manchester as the official venue.
 FIDE invited the next two players in the qualifying system.

Karpov and Timman, to compete for the official title, while Kasparov and Short played a more lucrative contest in London.
 Karpov, 42, with a near decisive four point lead over Timman in the 24-game contest, again seems likely to be the beneficiary of a world title on forfeit.
 This time, however, Karpov is likely to find it harder to win public recognition. Kasparov intends to remain an active player and has demonstrated a clear superiority over Karpov, the world number two, in recent years.
 Karpov's trump card is the well organised FIDE qualifying system, which could produce a worthy challenger in 1995.
 For now, the chess world may have to live with the reality of Karpov as official world champion while Kasparov remains the world's best player.

Seville out of reckoning

VENICE, Italy, Oct 21: The Spanish city of Seville was omitted from the 1994 Grand Prix calendar approved by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) on Wednesday, reports Reuters.
 The event has been downgraded to the status of an ordinary international meeting, an IAAF spokeswoman said.
 The IAAF is considering introducing a "Second Division" series of meetings at which a reduced number of Grand Prix points would be available.



Defending champion Garri Kasparov concentrates on his opening move of Game 19 against Nigel Short of Britain in London on Oct 19. — AFP photo

NZ still in doldrums

PERTH, Oct 21: New Zealand were bowled out for a disappointing 149 on the opening day of their tour match against Western Australia on Thursday, reports Reuter.
 The tourists, who lost by six wickets in their opening tour fixture against a Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill on Tuesday, were sent in to bat and only Andrew Jones offered any significant resistance with 47.
 Fast bowler Jo Angel was the pick of the home attack with five for 32 while Mark Atkinson picked up three wickets.
 By stumps Western Australia had reached 64 for two in reply on a hard and bouncy WACA wicket, trimming the deficit to a mere 85 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the first day of a four-day match between Western Australia and New Zealand on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
 Greatbatch c Julian b Angel 20
 Pocock c Moody b Angel 1
 Jones c Julian b Moody 47
 Crowe c Zoehrer b Atkinson 18
 Rutherford c Martin b Angel 1
 Patel c Zoehrer b Julian 8
 Cairns c McPhee b Atkinson 22
 Blain not out 19
 Doull c Zoehrer b Angel 1
 Su'a c Zoehrer b Atkinson 0
 Morrison c Veletta b Angel 4
 Extras: (lb-3, NB-5) 8
 Total: (all out, 76.1 overs) 149
 Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-24; 3-73; 4-83; 5-99; 6-116; 7-130; 8-141; 9-142.
Bowling:
 Angel 20.1 7 32 5
 Atkinson 18 4 41 3
 Moody 9 5 8 1
 Julian 14 5 38 1
 Stewart 15 5 22 0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
 McPhee c Patel b Doull 7
 Marsh b Cairns 16
 Langer not out 28
 Julian not out 6
 Extras: (lb-3, nb-4) 7
 Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-51
Bowling:
 Morrison 4 0 13 0
 Cairns 5 0 28 1
 Doull 4 1 13 1
 Su'a 2 0 7 0

Ngugi will know his fate soon

LONDON, Oct 21: Former Olympic 5,000 metres champion John Ngugi of Kenya will have his appeal against a four-year drugs ban heard by athletic's governing body in Monte Carlo next month, reports AFP.
 The International Amateur Athletic Federation's arbitration panel will discuss between November 20 and 22 the five-times world cross-country champion's suspension for refusing to give a sample at his home when their drugs squad visited in February.
 On the same dates the panel will also give a final judgement on the case of German's former double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe.
 Krabbe, the 100m and 200m gold medalist at the 1991 World Championships, was suspended for a year and then banned for a further two years in August after she admitted using the banned substance, clenbuterol.
 The second ban was handed out by the IAAF for bringing the sport into disrepute and was subsequently appealed by the German federation.

Plewinski to part with pool

PARIS, Oct 21: French swimmer Catherine Plewinski, five times a European champion, has decided to retire after eight years at the top, the sports daily L'Equipe said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.
 "I had to quit at the right time," Plewinski, 25, said.
 Plewinski, a sprint freestyle and butterfly specialist, was one of the few swimmers in Europe who could seriously compete with the top East German women of her era.
 Plewinski prevented an East German sweep of all the women's titles at the 1989 European Championships in Bonn when she won both the 50 metres freestyle and 100 butterfly.
 She retained the 100 butterfly title and won the 100 freestyle at the 1991 Championships in Athens and collected her fifth European crown and third successive 100 butterfly gold in Sheffield this year when she beat German prodigy Franziska van Almsick.

Ma's army to march in Spain

LONDON, Oct 21: China's two record-breaking women runners, Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, will take part in the World Marathon Cup in San Sebastian, Spain, on October 31, the International Amateur Athletic Federation confirmed on Thursday, reports Reuters.
 Wang and Qu, world champions over 10,000 and 3,000 metres respectively, will be making their first appearances in a major event since setting three world records between them at the Chinese National Games last month.

Bitter rivals meet today

DOHA, Qatar, Oct 21: Bitter rivals Iran and Iraq, who spent most of the 1980s at war, met on Friday in a World Cup qualifier that neither can afford to lose, reports Reuter.
 Victory is essential for both teams if their single-minded mission to reach the finals in America next year is to be realised their governments and people are pinning national honour on success, with Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, personally supervising the Iraqi campaign from Baghdad.
 Media interest for the Asia final round match is sky high with scores of journalists flying in to bolster the already 500-strong press corps.
 Iraq are second bottom of the six-team group with just one point while Iran are fourth, with two. Two teams from Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia will qualify for the finals and the latter two sides are in the best position with three points after two games.
 A crowd of more than 25,000 is expected for the second Iran-Iraq soccer clash since the end

of the war in which a million people died. The two sides drew 0-0 in the Peace Cup in Kuwait in early 1989.
 Although the tournament has been trouble-free until now security will be tightened, an organising committee spokesman said today.
 In view of the peaceful nature of the tournament so far we do not expect any problems but there will be extra security for this match just in case, said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).
 "We are expecting a crowd of more than 25,000. A lot of Iranians live in Qatar and I understand people from the Yemen and some Palestinians will be supporting Iraq. We will be segregating the supporters."
 The Iran and Iraq players have been on their best behaviour during the early games but the increased tension surrounding clashes between the countries has prompted FIFA to issue another cool it warning.
 "All the countries were told at the start to leave their differences at home and arrive with their footballs and boots to play soccer," said Velappan. "Before the game on Friday FIFA will

remind both sides to keep the peace.
 Iraq and Iran made a night-mare beginning to the qualifiers.
 The Iraqis squandered a 2-0 lead and went down 3-2 to North Korea while Iran were hammered 3-0 by South Korea.
 Iraq coach Adnan Dirjal's unruly conduct after the North Korean defeat cost him his job. He reines were passed to country's soccer guru, Ahmed Baba, who took Iraq to the 1986 World Cup finals.
 He saw his charges grab a 2-2 draw with South Korea on Tuesday but has since reversed his decision to make wholesale changes to the team.
 "I cannot change the side because the reserves are not good enough," said Baba. The reserves are not of the same standard as those when I coached the national side last. Also their physical condition is not good.
 Iranian coach Ali Parvin, who captained the national side in the 1978 finals in Argentina when Iran drew 1-1 with Scotland, is likely to keep faith with the players who beat Japan 2-1 in their second match.

Introspective McEnroe

HONG KONG, Oct 21: American legend John McEnroe took his first step Wednesday towards finding out whether he still possesses the style which has seen him labelled a tennis genius, reports AFP.
 The 34-year-old McEnroe, winner of three Wimbledon titles and four US Open crowns, brushed aside Australian Mark Woodforde 7-1 (7-4) 6-1 in his opening group game in the 698,000 dollar Hong Kong championships.
 But the result was just incidental to the temperamental

the court was solely to find out whether he was still capable of playing top class tennis.
 "I liked to see how much I missed playing, and to know at what level I could play. This tournament offered me the best opportunity to try and find out, said McEnroe.
 This tournament, which is not an official ATP sanctioned event, features 12 players split into four groups and competing in a preliminary round robin competition. The winners of each group advance to the semifinals.
 Once known for his on-court tantrums and "bad boy" behaviour, McEnroe seemed to

till McEnroe prevailed in the tiebreak to win the first set.
 An error-prone Woodforde was unable to hold his serve in the second set as McEnroe ran rampant to finish the match in 87 minutes.
 "Mark is a good player, but he is better known for his doubles play. I will play Krajacek tomorrow, and then I can see if I'm upto it," said McEnroe.
 "But even if I win this tournament by some miracle, I feel there is a higher level of tennis that can be played."
 "With all due respect to Ivan (Lendl) and Stefan (Edberg), they are not the top players in the world today ... the Sam-



John McEnroe of the US keeps his eyes on the ball for a backhand return against Australian Mark Woodforde at the Hong Kong Open on Oct 20. McEnroe won the match 7-6 (7-4), 6-1. — AFP photo

American, who was more bothered about how he had played.
 "I would rate my performance today with a seven. I felt pretty good," said McEnroe, who this year has undergone a self-imposed exile from competitive tennis.
 McEnroe said his return to

have mellowed down — berating only himself for poor shots Wednesday.
 But his tennis was still full of fire as he sparkled with a wide repertoire of passing shots, deft drop shots and volleying.
 After trading early service breaks, both players held serve

pras's of today."
 McEnroe will now meet big-serving Dutchman Richard Krajacek today in his final group game, which will decide who will progress to the semifinals.
 World number six Edberg, of Sweden, is the highest ranked player in this tournament while Czech born American Lendl is the defending champion here.
 Diminutive Peruvian Jaime Yzaaga, meanwhile, dumped Frenchman Henri Leconte out of the singles competition.
 The flamboyant Leconte, who went down narrowly to Lendl on Tuesday, was on the receiving end, losing 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 to Yzaaga.
 Yzaaga, ranked 29th in the world, will meet Lendl on Friday to decide who will qualify into the semifinals from this group.
 In the other singles match Wednesday, Swede Anders Jarryd defeated Wayne Ferreira of South Africa 6-3, 7-5. The other player in this group is American Todd Martin.

ENGLAND'S TOUR ITINERARY

LONDON, Oct 21: The hectic schedule facing England's cricketers in the next 14 months was outlined in full detail here on Wednesday with the announcement of the programme for the 1994-95 Ashes Series in Australia, reports AFP.
 They begin a tour to the West Indies early next year, which finishes in late April, just in time for a new domestic season.
 They then set off for Australia in mid-October on a 16-week trip.
 Apart from the five Tests, the tour also includes the now traditional World Series Cup, a triangular one-day tournament, with Zimbabwe the third team involved.
 The Tests have been crammed together to allow for the one-day internationals, with England, Australia and Zimbabwe playing each other four times — a total of 12 matches — to eliminate one country before a best-of-three final on January 15, 17 and 19.
 The second and third Tests are back to back, as are the fourth and fifth, giving injured players virtually no time to recover.
 However, England's request for additional practice before the first Test in Brisbane in November has been granted. They will play four four-day games — one more than usual — in the run-up to the Ashes opener.

ITINERARY

October — 25 v Chairman's XI (Lilac Hill, Perth)
 27 v Western Australia (Perth, day/night)
 29-Nov 1 v Western Australia (Perth)
 November — 4-7 v South Australia (Adelaide)
 9 v PM's XI (Canberra)
 12-15 v Australian XI (Hobart)
 18-21 v New South Wales (Sydney)
25-29 v Australia (1st Test, Brisbane)
 December — 2 v Zimbabwe (Perth, day/night)
 4 v Australia (Perth)
 6 v Australia (Sydney, day/night)
 10 v Zimbabwe (Adelaide)
 13 v Australia (Melbourne, day/night)
 15 v Zimbabwe (Sydney, day/night)
 17-20 v Queensland (Brisbane)
24 - 29 v Australia (2nd Test, Melbourne)
January — 1-5 v Australia (3rd Test, Sydney)
 7 v Zimbabwe (Brisbane)
 8 v Australia (Brisbane)
 10 v AIS/CB Cricket Academy (venue TBA)
 13 v Bradman XI (Borwall)
 21-23 v Victoria
26-30 v Australia (4th Test, Adelaide)
February — 3-7 v Australia (5th Test, Perth)

Becker's early exit
LYON, Oct 21: Second-seeded Boris Becker was ousted from the Lyon Open in the first round on Wednesday, following the No 3 and No 4 seeds out of the competition, reports AP.
 Olivier Delatree of France beat Becker 7-6 (9-7), 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, in a match that lasted nearly three hours. Delatree, ranked 99th in the world, had already beaten Becker last year on clay in a tournament in Stuttgart, Germany.
 Michael Stich of Germany and Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, third and fourth seeds at Lyon, went out in the first round on Tuesday.
 Pete Sampras, the No 1 player in the world and top seed, avoided the upsets to beat Tomas Carbonell of Spain 7-5, 6-3. Sampras has won the last two tournaments here. If he wins a third time he will receive a diamond-studded trophy worth more than 500,000.
 Becker said the jet-lag affected his play.