

Miura again Japan's delight

DOHA, Oct 25: Japanese soccer's most popular star, Kazuyoshi Miura, scored the only goal in a game against South Korea on Monday, keeping Japan's hopes alive of qualifying for the 1994 World Cup finals, reports AP.

The defeat was South Korea's first in this six-nation Asian qualification tournament. An estimated 1,000 Japanese fans, some with faces painted to resemble the rising sun, chanted "Miura, Miura," as the 26-year-old player scored the goal in the 60th minute of play for a 1-0 victory.

The chant then turned to "Nippon, Nippon," for Japan. Japanese players hugged each other, as the South Koreans quietly walked away to the dressing room.

Japan face Iraq in their last match Thursday to decide if Japan, winner of the eight-nation Asian Cup in 1992, will take one of the two Asian slots for the 24-nation World Cup

finals.

The defeat placed South Korea in the same bracket point with Iraq, each having 4 points from four matches.

Japanese goalkeeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga foiled what could have been South Korea's first goal in the 5th minute of the game when he threw himself in front of advancing Mon Jung-yoon.

Six minutes later it was the turn of the Japanese, but Masami Ihara's shot from inside the penalty box hit the bar and bounced away. Ihara had taken a perfect pass from the left flank by Masashi Nakayama.

Japan had three corner kicks in the next 15 minutes but wasted them. Japan had another chance in the 31st minute, but Tsuyoshi Kitazawa's powerful shot found its way into the hands of the Korean goalkeeper Choi In-young.

South Korea are seeking their third straight World Cup appearance.

Since their first World Cup bid in 1954 in Switzerland

ended in humiliating defeats. South Korea have continued their buildup, making them one of Asia's leaders. Confidence increased after South Korea represented Asia in World Cup championships in 1986 and again in 1990.

But since 1990, many Korean fans have turned to professional baseball, making it the nation's most popular sports.

TEAMS

JAPAN: Shigetatsu Matsunaga, Toshinobu Katsuya, Takumi Horike, Tetsuji Hashiratani (Cap), Masami Ihara, Ruy Ramos, Kazuyoshi Miura, Kenta Hasegawa, Tsuyoshi Kitazawa, Mitsunori Yoshida, Masashi Nakayama (Nobuhiro Takeda).

SOUTH KOREA: Choi In Young, Chung Jong Son, Park Jung Bae, Noh Jung Yoon, Shin Hong Gi, Choi Moon Sik, Ha Seok Ju, Ko Jeong Woon, Kim Joo Sung, Gu Sang Bum (Cap), Hong Myung Bo.

Referee: Aron Schmidhuber (Germany).



Iraqi player Bassam Hameed duels with Saudi Arabia's Sami Aljaber during their World Cup qualifying match at the Khalifa Stadium in Doha on Oct 24. The match ended 1-1. —AFP photo

Parma join AC Milan at the top

PARIS, Oct 25: There was no shortage of goals and no pity shown to top clubs hoping for an easy day out in the European leagues this weekend, reports AFP.

Parma went clear on goal difference at the top of the Italian First Division when they scored a 1-0 win over visiting Reggiana. But they had to work hard for the points against a team who have yet to win a match this season.

A goal from Alessandro Melli after 14 minutes sunk lowly Reggiana but the absence of Colombian goal ace Faustino Asprilla made Parma luckless.

They should still have won 2-0 but Gianfranco Zola blasted a second-half penalty against the post.

The match was also marred by incidents after the match when local supporters tried to attack rival fans as they made their way to the station. Five arrests were made.

Twenty-four hours earlier police discovered molotov cocktails and iron bars in a warehouse close to the railway line where Parma hooligans had been planning to attack trains carrying rival fans.

AC Milan were level on 13 points with Parma after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Juventus — Memotri Albertini ensuring them a share of the points with a 74th minute header after Roberto Baggio had scored from the penalty spot for the visitors on the hour.

Milan's French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who has announced he intends to end his international career after the World Cup (or even before) because of a "vendetta" being waged against him by French journalists, had a poor match.

By contrast Dutch superstar Ruud Gullit, adapting well to his new midfield role, inspired Sampdoria to a thrilling

3-2 victory at Torino — scoring two of the goals against the club he nearly joined after leaving AC Milan in June.

Gullit's performances and excellent understanding with England front-runner David Platt have led to the Dutch player scoring six goals in nine matches and Sampdoria have climbed to third spot in the table — just one point behind Parma and AC Milan.

Elsewhere pacesetter clubs had narrow wins.

In France, Paris St Germain snatched a 1-0 win over Cannes to stay two points clear of Bordeaux. Spain's Barcelona snatched an unimpressive 1-0 home win over struggling Oviedo. And in Germany Werder Bremen, chasing Eintracht Frankfurt, crashed to a 2-0 home defeat against Hamburg.

Barcelona's Dutch international defender Ronald Koeman, public enemy number one in England after escaping a sending-off in Holland's crucial 2-0 World Cup qualifying victory over England, was up to his tricks again.

He was shown a yellow card in the first-half after an ugly and dangerous tackle but many thought he should have been sent off.

Koeman did not come out for the second-half. He was replaced by Miguel Angel Nadal.

There were some big scores in France and Germany.

Monaco, with Belgian Enzo Scifo in brilliant form, hammered Martigues 7-0 at home, while Strasbourg defender Franck Leboeuf was a hard man to keep out of the limelight against visiting Caen. Having scored two second-half penalties, he stepped aside to let Pascal Bailis take third with just eight minutes left to play.

Bailis struck the ball firmly to his left but Caen goalkeeper Richard Dutruel dived and pushed the ball clear in a spectacular save. Leboeuf, following up, slotted the ball into the net for a 3-0 win.

In Germany eight matches produced 20 goals.

Five of them were scored by Nuremberg in their one-sided home victory over Leipzig and Borussia Moenchengladbach and Wattenscheid shared a six-goal thriller.

In the top-of-the-table clash, leaders Eintracht Frankfurt were held 2-2 at home by Bayern Munich but they stay three points clear of Werder Bremen.

There were crowd problems in the Netherlands where Feyenoord stayed top after a 2-2 away draw to main rivals Ajax.

Dutch police moved in to arrest some 200 Feyenoord fans who had been assaulting passers by and were hit by a hail of stones and other missiles.

One policeman was slightly injured in the clash, which occurred in a wooded area near Ajax Amsterdam's Olympic Stadium just before kick-off.

The group of fans, most of whom were without a ticket for the game, were eventually herded into Ajax's de Meer training ground to calm things down.

Several will appear in court on public disorder charges.

In Belgium, nine games brought 28 goals.

High-flying Anderlecht stayed four points clear of closest rivals FC Brugge after a Luc Nilis hat-trick sunk home side Standard Liege.

FC Brugge were held to a rare 0-0 draw.

Elsewhere Ekeren thrashed Cercle Brugge 4-1, Charleroi beat Gent 4-2 and Beveren defeated Waregem 3-0.

Mechelen and RC Liege shared a 2-2 draw and so did Genk and Ostende.

In Portugal, Bobby Robson's Sporting Lisbon went two points clear of Boavista when they scored a comfortable 3-0 home win over Vitoria Guimaraes.

Boavista had to be satisfied with a 1-1 draw away to Estrela.

A skipper's clarion call

SYDNEY, Oct 25: Skipper Paul Wade has urged his Australian teammates not to be content just to defend against Argentina for a respectable result in Sunday's World Cup eliminator here, but rather show the football world how far the Australian game has advanced, reports AFP.

Australia, the minnows of the world game and ranked 61st in the latest FIFA world rankings, are gearing for the most important game in their history against the 1990 World Cup finalists.

Argentina, humbled 5-0 by Colombia to lose their South American qualifying group last month, now have a second chance and must beat Australia to take their place in next year's finals in the United States.

"I've been weighing up in my mind the best way to combat Argentina rather than (Diego) Maradona," Wade said here Monday.

"Everyone wants to see whether Maradona has made a successful comeback, but Gabriel Batistuta or Fernando Redondo can just as easily win the game by putting the ball into the back of the net.

"Australia's strength in the

past has been its teamwork, despite the great work by Mehmet Durakovic in blotting out England's Gary Lineker and AC Milan's Jean-Pierre Papin.

"Maybe this is a special occasion, but we now work as a unit, not as individuals with our own style of playing.

"If we revert to one-on-one marking we'll go back 10 years when he just defended. It's our home game with 42,000 at the stadium, millions more watching on television and they deserve to see how far Australia have advanced in world football."

English-born Wade is one of three contenders to mark Diego Maradona.

Durakovic and Borussia Dortmund sweeper Ned Zelic are also being considered, according to coach Eddie Thomson, but he won't decide until he knows which position Maradona will fill.

Meanwhile, FIFA has ap-

pointed Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl for Sunday's match.

Puhl was the match official for a friendly international in Buenos Aires in February in which Argentina beat Denmark 5-4 after the scores were tied 1-1 at half time.

Denmark's Peter Mikkelsen, rated the world's top referee in a European magazine poll in 1991 and No. 3 last year, will handle the return leg in Buenos Aires on November 17.

Mouchak win DC Gold Cup

GAZIPUR, Oct 25: Mouchak Eleven clinched the Deputy Commissioner's Gold Cup football tournament title here at the local stadium today.

Mouchak beat Mohammedan Sporting Club 4-3 in the tie-breaker.

The stipulated time ended in a goalless draw.

During the shootouts Biplab, Rajani, Mamun and Furkan for Mouchak Eleven and Mansur, Kabir and Bakhtiar of MSC converted the spot kicks.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman distributed prizes among the winners. State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan was also present on the occasion as special guest.

Sartor resartus

DOHA, Oct 25: Romanian referee Ion Craciunescu, criticised for sending off two players and booking six others in Friday's Iran-Iraq World Cup clash, has been dropped by FIFA for the rest of the Asian final qualifying round, reports Reuter.

FIFA commissioner Viaslav Koloskov said on Monday he had been disappointed by Craciunescu's handling of the match.

European referees are being used for all games because of the sensitive political nature of the qualifying competition involving Iraq, Iran, South Korea, Japan, North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

The top two teams in the final standings will qualify for next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

S Arabia parts with Brazilian coach

DUBAI, Oct 25: Saudi Arabia said the Brazilian coach of its national football team would be replaced by a Saudi coach for its remaining game of the Asian World Cup qualifiers in Qatar, reports Reuter.

The announcement was made in a statement by deputy chairman of the Saudi Football Association, Prince Sultan bin Fahd bin Abdul-Aziz, and carried by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) on Sunday night.

It said a Saudi National would take over from Brazilian coach, Jose Candido. The statement did not make it clear whether Candido had been sacked or not.

"It has been decided to commission the Saudi coach, Mohammad al-Kharrash and his assistant Mamoud al-Salwa to train the Saudi first team in preparation for the remaining match of the Asian final elimination rounds of the World Cup," SPA quoted the statement as saying.

The statement was issued after Saudi Arabia drew 1-1 in their game against Iraq on Sunday. Saudi Arabia, leading the six-team Asian group by one point, play Iraq on Thursday.

Barisal soccer

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 25: Touch Video Club and Saptarna Sporting Club emerged joint champions in the Ima Overseas First Division football league, organised by the Barisal District Sports Association, at the local stadium here today.

Both the team gathered ten points from six matches.

Uddipan became runners-up with nine points from same number of outings.

Deputy Commissioner Md Muntazuddin gave away the prizes among the winners.

Karpov inches to his goal

JAKARTA, Oct 25: Russia's Anatoly Karpov was only one point away from the world title after drawing with Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the 18th game of the World Chess Championship on Monday, reports Reuter.

A smiling Karpov left the playing hall knowing that he was on the verge of regaining the title he lost to compatriot Garry Kasparov in 1985.

Karpov, 42, now leads the 24 game match by 11.5 points to 6.5, needing 12.5 points to take the world title and the lion's share of the one million Swiss francs (700,000) prize fund.

Contrary to expectations, Karpov did not have an easy task in drawing Monday's game.

Timman, playing with the disadvantage of the black pieces, tried desperately to unbalance an equal position but Karpov deflected precisely and Timman was eventually forced to concede a draw after 38 moves in five hours play.

"Jan played well today," Karpov said. "He offered an interesting queen sacrifice which I could not accept and after that I had nothing. Maybe I should have tried a different 11th move."

Karpov and Timman are playing for the official world championship because Kasparov, the world number 1, and Nigel Short, his English challenger, broke away from the World Chess Federation to organise a more lucrative contest in London.

Kasparov, who won the London match last week, was stripped of his world title in April but still considers himself the legitimate world champion.

'98 Euro Athletics meet in Budapest

VENICE, Italy, Oct 25: The Hungarian capital of Budapest will host the 1998 European Athletics Championships, the European Athletics Association (EAA) announced on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Budapest, which last hosted the championships in 1966, received 25 votes at the EAA annual congress and its closest rival Madrid 15.

Two other candidates, Paris and Athens, both dropped out before the final vote, the EAA said in a statement.

The championships, held every four years were last staged in split, Yugoslavia, in 1990, next year's championships are being staged in Helsinki.

AFC to boost soccer in Asia

DOHA, Oct 25: The Asian Football Confederation will spend \$6.6 million in the next four years to boost soccer in Asia, a continent with 56 per cent of the world's population, but far behind in world soccer talent, reports AP.

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ence in Doha, where the final round of Asian World Cup qualifying is being held.

FIFA and the AFC will dispatch a four-member team to five former Soviet republics located in Asia as part of their programme, Velappan said. The countries are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

"We will enquire the status of football there and then will consider whether to offer them AFC's membership," said Velappan, a Malaysian.

The AFC has been pledged \$10 million over the next four years from AFC Marketing, the trade wing of the soccer body.

AFC Marketing will raise the money from sponsorships and television rights of 10 major Asian soccer events scheduled between 1993-1996.

Most of AFC's \$6.6 million budget will be spent to subsidize Asian club championships, the Asian Cup, pre-Olympic tournaments, the Asian Women Championship and Afro-Asian Cup matches, Velappan said.

"We hope that all our efforts will bear fruit and one day Asian soccer will come into the world limelight," Velappan said.

The AFC will also push Asia's case to increase the its berth in the World Cup Finals from the existing two to three.

"That largely depends on improvement of soccer in Asia and what we can show to the world," Velappan said.

The Asian continent is made up of 42 countries, but poor performances in the World Cup finals and lack of initiative to promote the sport have been stumbling blocks in its underrepresentation, at least in terms of population, in the 24-team world championship.

Japan, which has risen from the rubble of World War II, to become the world's second largest economic power and the world's top donor of international aid, is also coming to the Asia confederation's side.

Japan is asking to host the

Andersen's new lease of life

OSLO, Oct 25: George Andersen, the 1991 world silver medalist in the shot putt, has won an appeal against a life ban for doping, the Norwegian Confederation of Sports said on Monday, reports Reuter.

William Engseth, president of the confederation, said an appeals committee had unanimously freed Andersen, 30, from a ban imposed in July 1993 after he refused to take a surprise dope test at home.

The original ruling said his refusal was tantamount to a positive test — Andersen had already been serving a 21-month suspension for taking Metenolon, a type of anabolic steroid — found in a test the month before the 1991 World Championships.

But the appeal committee agreed with Andersen, who argued he could a refused such a test as long as he agreed a time and place for a new test.

Andersen, who is a policeman, said he turned the controllers away when they came to his home late one night in September 1992.

The new ruling does not affect the original 21-month ban, which cost Andersen his silver medal.

Andersen, who claims he has never taken drugs, said he would resume his event.

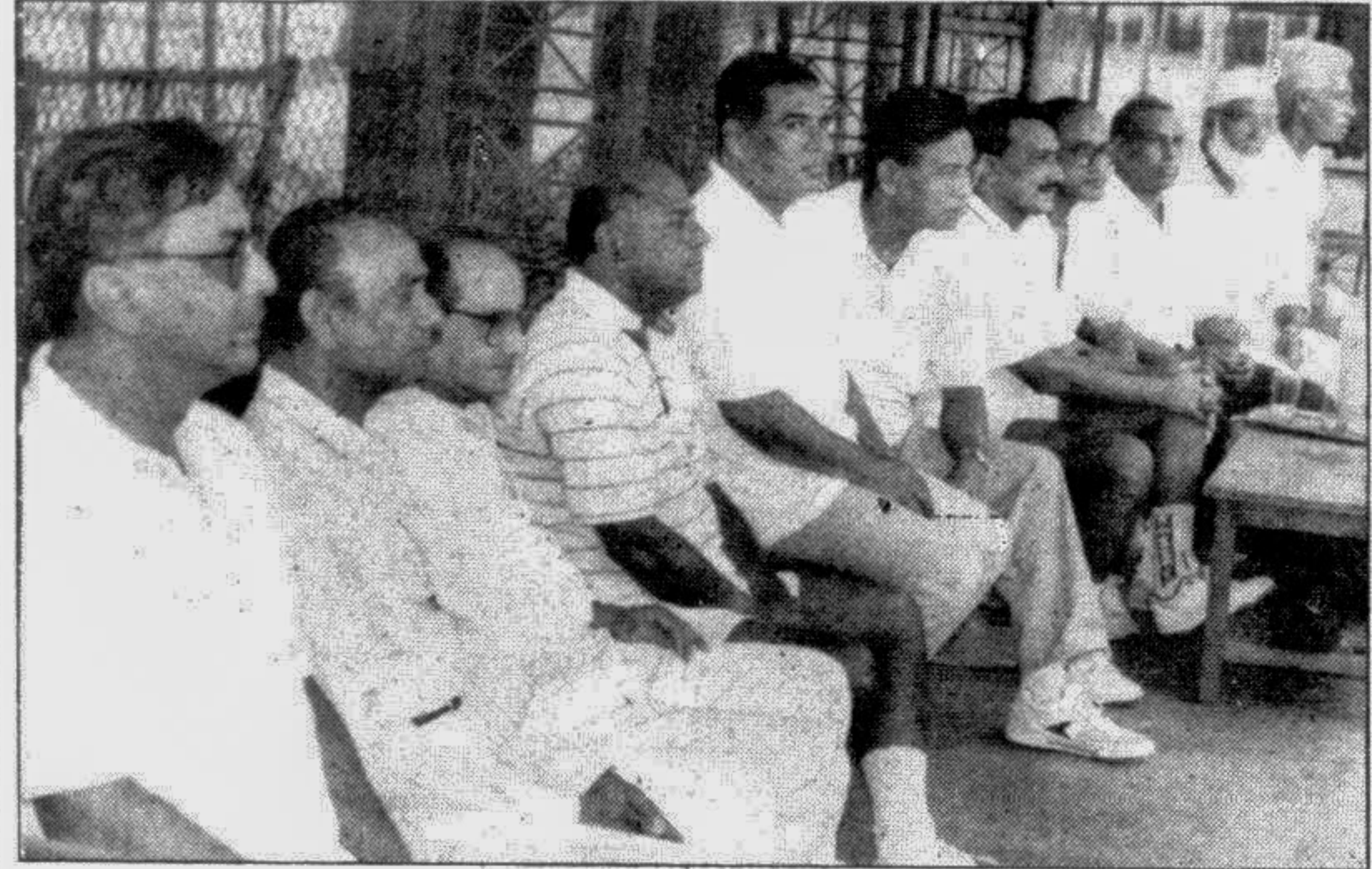
"I haven't touched a shot for almost a year. After the ban I couldn't manage to motivate myself," he said.

Mashuq, Rashid win doubles title

Mashuq and Dr Rashiduddin Ahmed of Dhaka Club won the doubles final of the Nasiruddin memorial tennis championship in straight sets at the Officers' Club tennis court yesterday.

The pair beat Nasim and Azim Chowdhury of Officers' Club 6-2, 6-4, in the inter-club tennis championship for veterans of 50 plus age group.

Mahtabur Rahman will play Rony in the men's single final on Wednesday.



QUIET FLOWS THE ADRENALIN: But these veterans seem prepared enough to watch the action from the sidelines as the other members of the twilight club sweat it out during a veterans' tennis tournament at the Officers' Club yesterday. — Star photo

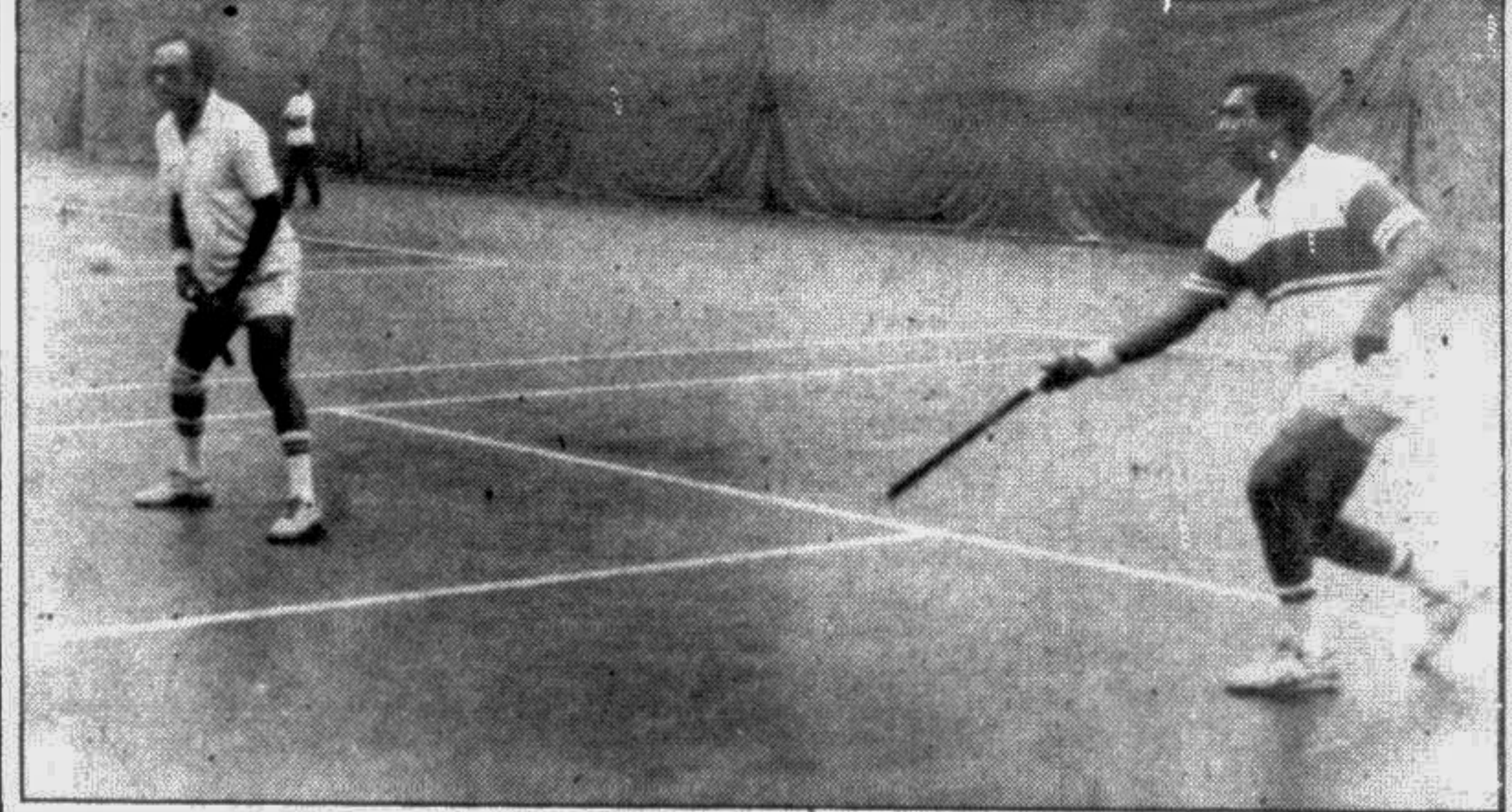
Div II hockey

Sports Reporter

Both Combined Sporting Club and Victoria Sporting Club earned narrow victories in their Green Delta Second Division hockey league matches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Anwar of Combined SC pushed the lone goal in from a penalty corner in the 54th minute in the first match of the day against Dhaka Hockey Club.

In the day's other match Victoria SC beat Raktim Sangha 2-1.



Mashuq (R) makes a forehand return in the doubles final of the Nasiruddin memorial inter-club tennis tournament for veterans at the Officers' Club tennis court yesterday. Waiting for his turn is Dr Rashiduddin. The pair beat Nasim and Azim of Officers' Club to clinch the title. — Star photo

Zia, Reefat lead in QM Hossain chess

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman jointly topped the points table with compatriot and coeval IM Reefat bin Sattar at the end of the third round of the tenth Dr Q M Hossain memorial International Masters' chess tournament at Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Zia beat Ziaul Qader Tuhin in 42 moves to up his collection to two from three matches.

Fide Master (FM) Tahmidur Rahman drew with Shekhar Chandra Sahu of India in another match of the day.

Mahmud Lodhi, the Pakistani IM also drew with Sharvanan of India.

The match involving two locals — Niamul Huq Niru and Rafiqul Islam too ended in a draw after 52 moves.

On a day marked by series of drawn encounters, Indian Rahul Shetty was locked in a stalemate with International Women's Master (IWM) Rani Hamid of Bangladesh.

Of the two unfinished matches of the second round, the one involving Lodhi and Niru could not be pushed to a conclusion even yesterday after eight hours of cerebral struggle that saw 103 moves.

The other 'postponed' match between Tuhin and Kalam ended in a draw.

The third round match between Reefat and Kalimullah Khan was not held yesterday.

At the end of the third round Reefat and Zia led the points table with two points apiece with the latter having played a match more than former's two.

Peeved Papin's tip-off

ROME, Oct 25: French captain Jean-Pierre Papin, locked in a furious row with his country's press, has said he will quit international soccer after the World Cup next year, reports Reuter.

"I will do it after the 1994 finals unless they force me to decide to quit sooner," Papin was quoted as saying in the Corriere Dello sport on Sunday.

Papin is unhappy with his treatment by the press after France's surprise 3-2 home defeat by Israel in a World Cup tie earlier this month.

The upset leaves the French needing a point from their last game with Bulgaria next month to book their place in the finals.

"I have been the target of a vendetta," said the AC Milan striker, who is his country's second highest international scorer of all-time with 29 goals in 48 matches. Only Michel Platini, with 41 goals in 72 internationals, has scored more for France.

"The day after the Israel game some French journalists followed me back to the Milan training ground but I told them I wouldn't discuss the national team again," he added.

"As a result, they have launched an anti-Papin campaign in France which has left me feeling bitter."

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4 M Ziaur Rahman broods over his next move during his third round match against compatriot Ziaul Qader Tuhin. Playing with white pieces the talented player won his third match to jointly claim the top position in the points table with two points. — Star photo