

Sport

**ROK again
Saudi Arabia's
maiden entry
into WC finals**

DOHA, Oct 28: Saudi Arabia and South Korea qualified from Asia for the 1994 World Cup finals in a dramatic finale today that saw Japan lose to a last minute goal against Iraq which denied them a place in the United States, reports Reuter.

Saudi Arabia went through with a 4-3 win over Iran but the other place form the Asian qualifying group was decided in the final seconds.

Japan seemed certain of booking a spot in the finals for the first time but Iraq captain Ahmad Amish rose above the defence in the 90th minute to make the score 2-2.

With all three games being played simultaneously the South Koreans, building for a third straight appearance in the finals, thought they had lost out despite a 3-0 win over North Korea.

But a minute after the final whistle they erupted with joy when news reached the stadium that Iraq had equalised against Japan.

The South Koreans finished level with Japan on six points but progressed to the finals on a better goal difference.

STANDINGS

Final standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Saudi Arabia	5	2	3	0	8	6	7
South Korea	5	2	2	1	9	4	6
Japan	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
Iraq	5	1	3	1	9	5	5
Iran	5	2	0	3	8	11	4
North Korea	5	1	0	4	5	12	2

Saudi Arabia and South Korea qualify.

N'ganj soccer

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 28: Prakash Club take on Sirajuddola Club in the final match of the Haji Jalal Smriti Second Division football league at 3:30 pm at the local Osmani Stadium tomorrow (Friday).

The tournament was organised by the Narayanganj District Sports Association.

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman will be present as chief guest, to give away prizes among winners.

**Tennis team
to leave for
Bangkok**

A five-member Bangladesh tennis team led by Sq Ldr Mohiuddin Ahmed leaves here today for Bangkok to take part in the first two legs of the ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit to be held there from November 1 to 14, reports BSS.

The other members of the team are: Shovon Jamaly, Hira Lal, Shamim Ahsan Roni and Mahtabur Rahman Maruf (coach).

Besides, the three members of the SAF Games tennis team — Faisal S Huq, Sk Moinuddin Jhelani and Nawaz Amin Rumon — will join the team in Bangkok to play in the satellite tennis. The players are now in Hong Kong to take part in the East Asian Junior Tennis Championships.

Div II hockey

Sports Reporter
Raktim Sangha outclassed Shantinagar Club 5-0 in the Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Shafiqul Islam Zahid scored twice for Raktim in the 29th and 52nd minute of the match respectively. Khalilur Rahman, Abdur Rahman, and Mofizul Islam widened the margin in the 7th, 39th and 57th minutes of the game.

In the second match of the day, Farashganj SC beat Combined Sporting Club by a lone goal.

**Maruf lifts
singles title**

Sports Reporter
Mahtabur Rahman Maruf won the men's singles title of the Nasiruddin memorial inter-club tennis tournament at the Officers' Club Tennis Complex in straight sets yesterday.

He beat Ronnie 6-2, 7-6.

M Akmal Hossain and Syed Masudur Rahman came back from behind to book a berth in the doubles semifinal.

They beat the Reazul Islam and Mowla pair 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.

A cakewalk for Windies

SHARJAH, Oct 28: West Indies whipped Sri Lanka by eight wickets to make an impressive start in the tri-n-gular Champions Trophy tournament here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Kenneth Benjamin and Anderson Cummins took three wickets each as Sri Lanka collapsed to 172 all out in 48.5 overs after being put in on the grassless wicket.

West Indies galloped to victory in 46 overs. Opener Phil Simmons cracked 92 and captain Richie Richardson hit an unbeaten 69 during a match-winning stand of 137 for the second-wicket.

Left-handed opener Brian Lara glided as Asanka Gurusinha delivery to gully when on five to encourage the Sri Lankan attack. But Simmons and Richardson took them apart.

Simmons hit seven boundaries before he was bowled by left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya with just two runs needed for victory.

Richardson, who hit the winning run, had six fours and a six over long-on off Aravinda de Silva.

It was an ideal warm-up for the West Indians who take on World Cup champions Pakistan in their second league match Friday. Each team plays the other twice with the top two advancing to the final on November 5.

Sri Lanka found little going their way against the power-packed West Indians.

They were reduced to 29 for four by the 16th over and fought a losing battle despite a stroke-filled unbeaten 83 by skipper Arjuna Ranatunga.

The stocky left-hander slammed three sixes and six boundaries after twice surviving chances before he had reached six. But he found support as eight batsmen failed to reach double figures.

Benjamin sent Sri Lanka

reeling with the wickets of Aravinda de Silva and Hashan Tillekaratne in the space of four balls in his fourth over.

The Worcestershire paceman would have removed Ranatunga for no score in his next over had Brian Lara not spilled a difficult catch at first slip.

The Sri Lankan skipper also saw Keith Arthurton drop a flier at square leg when on five before launching a blistering counter attack.

He flicked Curtley Ambrose over square leg for six and in off-spinner Carl Hooper's last over swung twice over the long-on fence.

Sri Lanka's score was boosted by Ranatunga's two useful stands of 42 for the fifth-wicket with opener Roshan Mahanama and 33 for the ninth

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**West Indies and Sri Lanka
here Thursday:**

SHRI LANKA:
Mahanama c Lara b Cummins 27
Hathurusinghe run out 2
Gurusinha b Cummins 8
De Silva c Lara b Benjamin 1
Tillekaratne c Murray b Benjamin 1
Ranatunga not out 83
Jayasuriya c Ambrose b Benjamin 23
Kaluwithana c Simmons b Hooper 0
Kalpage c Murray b Cummins 7
Ramanayake c Richardson b Ambrose 9
Wickramasinghe c and b Ambrose 0
Extras: (b-1, lb 6, w 3, nb 1) 11

Total: (48.5 overs) 172
Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-24; 3-27; 4-29; 5-71; 6-117; 7-119; 8-138; 9-171.

Bowling: O M R W
Ambrose 7.5 1 20 2
Walsh 7 4 10 0
Benjamin 9 1 34 3
Cummins 10 1 32 3
Simmons 5 0 17 0
Hooper 10 1 52 1

WEST INDIES:
Simmons b Jayasuriya 92
Lara c Ranatunga b Gurusinha 5
Richardson not out 69
Arthurton not out 1
Extras: (w-4, nb-2) 6
Total: (for two wickets, 46 overs) 173
Fall of wickets: 1-34; 2-171
Did not bat: Hooper, Adams, Murray, Ambrose, Walsh, Benjamin, Cummins.

Bowling: O M R W
Wickrama 7 1 27 0
Ramanayake 8 2 22 0
Gurusinha 3 0 14 1
Kalpage 10 0 25 0
Jayasuriya 9 0 41 1
Aravinda de Silva 6 0 34 0
Hathurusinghe 2 0 10 0
Tillekaratne 1 1 0 0

West Indies won by eight wickets.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the first innings in the Champions Trophy one-day international between

PHIL SIMMONS ... 92
with Champaka Ramanayake(nine).

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**BCCB go
down again**

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) XI suffered another defeat in their current tour of Sri Lanka when they lost their fourth exhibition match against Sri Lanka Board President's XI by 30 runs in a truncated match at Colombo yesterday, according to faxed message received at the BCCB office last night.

In a match reduced to 27 overs-a-side contest due to overnight rain, Sri Lanka Board President's XI comprising Test players like Ramesh Ratnayake batted first to make 124 for six wickets. BCCB in their turn were all out for 94 in 26.2 overs.

Nisal Fernando was the top-scorer with 26.

Wickramaratne made 22, followed by experienced Ramesh Ratnayake and Mendis who made 21 and 16 respectively.

Prince bowled well taking two for 12 in five overs. Rokon was a bit expensive with his leg spinners giving away 26 runs off four overs for his two wickets.

Dulu and Salahuddin chipped in with a wicket apiece.

As in their last match, a thriller which the visitors lost by 13 runs, Shahinawaz Shaheed Shanu and Jahangir Talukdar Dulu again emerged topscorers for BCCB XI. Shanu made 21 while paceman Dulu knocked 18.

Nurul Abedin Nobel and Faruq Ahmed barely made it to the double figures.

Ramesh Ratnayake broke the BCCB back bone with a telling opening burst to finish finally with figures of three for 17. Dharmasena also took three giving away 20 runs. Chandana and Wijetunge also captured two each.

**Lodhi surges
ahead**

Sports Reporter

A victory from an adjourned match earned the Pakistani International Master (IM) Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi the top position in the points table on the rest day of the 10th Dr Q M Hossain Memorial International Masters' Chess tournament at Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Lodhi secured four points from a five games.

Yesterday he beat Niamul Huq Niru after 114 moves in a Giaco Piano opening.

The match was adjourned after 103 moves in the second round tie.

National champion Reefat Bin Sattar drew his unfinished third round match with Kalimullah Khan Kalam.

Reefat held the second position with 3½ points along with compatriot Zia and Indian Sharvanan.

Bangladeshi Rafiqul Islam defeated Indian International Master (IM) Shekhar Chandra Sahu in a 5th round incomplete match.

**Courting Seles
from court**

SYDNEY, Oct 28: Organisers of the New South Wales tennis Open on Wednesday said they were trying to woo former number one Monica Seles to play in their January tournament, held one week before the Australian Open, reports reuter.

"We are still in talks with Seles management, who told us to keep some wild cards available, as Monica would be keen to have some match practice before the Australian Open," tournament organiser Rod Read said.

**Cagers leave for
abroad Nov 9**

A 16-member Bangladesh Basketball team led by the Basketball Federation vice president ABM Firoze leaves here for Jakarta on November 9 to take part in the ABC basketball championship, reports BSS.

The tournament will be held in the Indonesian capital from November 12 to 21.

Speaking at a news conference here yesterday president of Bangladesh Basketball Federation Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed said a total of 18 teams would take part in four groups with Bangladesh being in the Group "D".

Chinese Taipei, North Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia and Bangladesh are in the same group.

The other groups:
Group "A" — China, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Thailand.
Group "B" — South Korea, Philippines, Singapore and UAE.
Group "C" — Japan, Iran, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

The members of Bangladesh team are: A B M Firoze (manager), A M Faruque (assistant manager), A K Sarkar (coach), Moinul Ahsan Monju (assistant coach), Abdur Rahim, Anthony Gomez, Ayub Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Shafiqul Alam, M Wasib Ali, Faruq Ahmed, Khairul Islam, Strajul Islam, Sohail Faruque, P K Goshwami and Nurul Huda.



Rafiqul Islam (L) and Indian player Shekhar Chandra Shahu (R) in the middle of their adjourned fifth round match of the 10th QM Hussain Memorial Chess tournament held at Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Basile pretty switched on

Sports Reporter

SYDNEY, Oct 28: Argentina national team coach Alfio Basile acknowledged Thursday that he will be the first casualty if the 1990 World Cup finalists slip up against football minnows Australia in the two-leg elimination series which kicks off here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Argentina are expected to overcome the Australian challenge here and in the Buenos Aires return on November 17 to take their place in next year's World Cup finals in the United States after losing their South American Qualifying group to Colombia at home last month.

At a chaotic press conference here Thursday, Basile admitted that he didn't enjoy the luxury of his Australian counterpart Eddie Thomson, who is contracted through to the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

"For the first week after we were beaten by Colombia I locked myself up and started to think about our next game with Australia and recharge my batteries."

Looking down the table at the Scottish-born Thomson, Basile said: "He knows he

doesn't have to qualify for the finals to keep his job... if Argentina lose I'll be the first one to be kicked out. I accept that."

But Argentina, bolstered by the return of Diego Maradona, the outstanding player of his generation, are hot favourites to take out the committed Australians, who are looking for a lead to take and defend in Buenos Aires.

"We've got to win here," said Thomson, who has assembled a largely foreign-based team to overcome New Zealand and Canada on the road to the US so far.

"Hopefully we can go to Buenos Aires with something to defend... 1-0 would be fine, 2-0 even better. We can't expect to get much in Buenos Aires."

Thomson and two of his European-based players, FC Liege striker Graham Arnold and lens front-runner Robbie Slater were shoved into the background by domestic and Argentine media hungry for contact with Maradona.

In a media scrum, Maradona, wearing a baseball cap and tee-shirt, was escorted in and out of the conference by two uniformed policemen.

"Diego has had all the attention here this past week and that's helping us to concentrate on what we have to do to beat Argentina, the pressure's all on them," said Thomson.

Maradona, who turns 33 on the eve of the Sydney match, was amiable and relaxed at Thursday's conference, even slinging his arm around the shoulders of veteran team physical trainer Ricardo Echevarra.

"I would like to play for two more years for Argentina," he said. "I realise there's not much more time left for me in football and I want to enjoy myself out on the pitch."

Maradona, who broke up the conference when he said his "second goal" against England in the 1986 Mexico World Cup, and not his "hand of God" effort was his all-time best goal said he was enjoying playing for his country again.

Australia will be boosted by Thursday night's arrival of Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, described by his team manager Ron Atkinson as the best goalkeeper in the world.

In 21-year-old Bosnich's last appearance here he made five outstanding saves to keep leading Italian club side, AC Milan, scoreless in a friendly.

**Wins for
Victoria, BU**

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club snatched an exciting 15-13 win against Mariner Young's Club in the Handball Championship '93 at the handball court yesterday.

The winners led the first half 12-4.

Akul hailed eight goals for the winners. Suman and Saiful scored twice each to widen the margin for the victors who could score only thrice after the recess.

For Mariners, Priyotosh and Khokon chucked the ball in three each. Moby, Billy found the target twice apiece for the vanquished who launched a strong rally in the second half that saw them score as many as nine goals.

Brothers Union registered a facile victory against Progoti Boys Club in day's second match.

The Gopibagh Club led the first half 9-2.

Helal was the topscorer for the day scoring nine of his side's 23 goals. Nabuat and Babu with five goals each were the other prominent scorers.

For Progoti Kajal topped the list with four goals. Apu and Rafiq got three each.

**Lalmatia hold
Police**

Sports Reporter

Police and Lalmatia Club drew 1-1 in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Khokon scored first for Police in the 39th minute.

Shahabuddin scored the equalizer in the 55th minute.

**BKSP gymnasts
steal the honours**

CHITTAGONG, Oct 28: BKSP snatched two gold medals and BTMC got one on the opening day of 10th National Junior gymnastics competition at the CJKP gymnasium here today, reports BSS.

Zahidul Islam of BKSP won the gold medal in the boys' long-horse event earning 16.70 points while his team-mates Mamun-Al-Firoj and Akhtar Hossain got silvers securing 16.60 points and Sharifur Rahman of Dinajpur took the bronze with 16.40 points.

In the boys' horizontal-bar, Amir Ali of BKSP got the gold medal earning 16.90 points. Mamun-Al-Firoj of BKSP won silver and Zahidul Islam Rumi of the same team snatched the bronze with 16.0 and 15.70 points respectively.

Sharmin Sultana Sumi of BTMC snatched the gold in the girls' floor-exercise securing 17.60 points while her team-mates Karina Akhtar and Morsheida Akhtar got silver and bronze respectively collecting 14.40 and 13.0 points.

**United made easy work of First
Division promotion hopefuls**

Leicester City, winning their third round tie 5-1 with two goals from central defender Steve Bruce.

England striker Les Ferdinand was on target again with his fifth goal in his last six games as Queens Park Rangers beat First Division Millwall 3-0 to register their fifth successive win.

Police moved in among the Millwall fans at one stage in the second-half after objects were thrown onto the pitch.

Struggling Sheffield Wednesday, reduced to 10 men when Mark Bright was sent off after a 77th minute off-the-ball incident, snatched a 1-1 draw at Middlesbrough with an 88th minute equaliser from Carlton Palmer.

West Ham were the only Premier League side to go down to lower division opponents, losing 2-1 at First Division Nottingham Forest.

Rush, whose last hat-trick was in the League Cup in October 1991 against Crewe, opened the scoring after just 48 seconds as he pounced on a shot from Robbie Fowler which slipped out of Ipswich goalkeeper Craig Forrest's grasp.

His second came in the 16th minute when he caught defender David Linighan in possession.

But six minutes later Ipswich were back in the game thanks to a bizarre goal when goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar

**slammed an overhit backpass
from defender Neil Ruddock
into striker Ian Marshall and
the ball rebounded into the net.**

**RCS beat Cyprus
3-0 in WC qualifier**

LONDON, Oct 28: The team from former Czechoslovakia kept its World Cup hopes alive Wednesday with a 3-0 victory over Cyprus, cancelling plans for an early celebration in Belgium, reports AP.

A draw or a Cypriot victory would have eliminated the representation of Czechs and Slovaks, or RCS, and would have guaranteed Belgium one of the two qualifying spots from Europe's Group Four.

Instead, the stage is set for a dramatic final day of qualifying. Four countries — Belgium, Romania, Wales and RCS — are still in the running, and each has one game remaining November 17.

Belgium host the RCS, with the winner qualifying and the loser staying home. Belgium get the berth in case of a draw.

Romania qualify if they win or draw at Wales, while Wales need a two-goal victory to assure their place.

Thirteen nations have qualified for the 24-team field at next year's finals in the United States. Defending champion Germany get an automatic invitation, while Russia, Greece, Norway and Sweden have also qualified from Europe.

Liverpool Rush forward

LONDON, Oct 28: Ian Rush's first hat-trick for two years earned Liverpool a 3-2 win over Ipswich and sent them into the fourth round of the League Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Champions Manchester

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Champions