

Sport

Niru shocks Reefat

Sports Reporter

National champion Reefat bin Sattar suffered a shock defeat, his second when compatriot Niamul Huq Niru beat the young International Master (IM) in one of the eighth round matches of the Dr. Q M Hossain International Masters' chess tournament at Purbani Hotel yesterday.

Reefat who had earlier lost to arch-rival and Ziaur Rahman, also an IM, in fact the only third from Bangladesh yesterday opened with white pieces but ran into trouble in French defence opening game and accepted defeat after 34 moves.

Undaunted by his coeval's fall from grace Zia recorded a fine win against Indian IM Shekhar Chandra Sahu. The win helped Zia to attain top position in the points table along with Pakistani IM Lodhi and Sharvanan.

Sharvanan, another Indian beat Ziaul Qader Tuhin in 21 moves in another match.

Wins for BJMC, BG Press

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and BG Press won their respective matches in the Metropolitan Sonali Bank Second Division football league yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, BJMC Sporting Club beat Mohakhali Eleven 2-0 at the Outer Stadium in the afternoon.

Azad Hossain put BJMC ahead in the 32nd minute while Resaur Rahman sealed the victory adding one more goal in the 69th minute.

Dhaka WASA lost by a similar margin (2-0) against BG Press at the same venue. Asgar and Mahbub scoring one goal apiece for the winners.

Div II hockey

Cantonian Sporting Club registered a solitary goal victory over Dhaka Young Stars in the Metropolitan Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Faizul Islam netted the crucial goal for the Cantonians from a penalty corner in the 32nd minute.

In the day's other match between Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha and Shishu Kishore Sangha, ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Barnak Samaj will take on Farashganj SC at 2.15 pm while Victoria SC face Uddy Club at 3.45 pm today, the last day of the group matches.

Div III soccer begins today

The Pragati Insurance Third Division football league, organised by Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), begins today at the Outer Stadium, reports UNB.

Maghbazar Kisholay Sangha will take on Sunrise Sporting Club in the opening match at 3.15 pm.

State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan will formally inaugurate the league to be participated by 18 metropolitan teams, initially in two groups.

The participating teams are: Group A — Maghbazar Kisholay Sangha, Matuul Jubo Sangha, Bashabo Tarun Sangha, Kamalata Sangad, East End Boys Club, Little Friends Club, Dikusha SC, Amin Bazar KS and Sunrise SC.

Group B — East Bengal SC, Chalanika KC, Ganderia Famous SC, Purbachal Paraid, Dhaka Sporting Club, Fire Service, Rahmatganj SC, Maghbazar KC and Govt Printing Press.

Japan finish top in Asian v'ball

MIYAKONOJO, Japan, Oct 31: Japan powered past Kazakhstan on the final day here today in finish atop the Asian women's volleyball qualifying tournament and make a berth in the World Championships next year, reports AFP.

The Japanese spikers, the winners over Australia on Saturday, scored a 3-0 (15-2, 15-8, 15-3) win for their second consecutive victory in the three-nation round robin competition at the Miyakonojo Culture Centre, western Japan.

Kazakhstan ended at second with one win against one loss, and Australia third with two defeats.

Hellmann Cup tennis results

SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct 31: Emilio Sanchez Vicario of Spain beat top seeded Jaime Yzaga of Peru 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 7-5 Saturday to make the finals in the Hellmann's Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

In the other semifinal, Argentina's Javier Frana was leading Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 6-4, 1-3 when heavy rain forced a halt in the match.

Two hours later, play remained suspended and it wasn't clear whether it would resume.

Faruque to lead Bangladesh

Sports Reporter



Faruque Ahmed has come of age. Long mooted as a durable captain for the Bangladesh national cricket team, the talented Abahani middle order batsman has finally got the job. It was disclosed yesterday as the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) announced a fourteen-member squad for the Gold Leaf two-match one-day series starting from November 3.

A gutsy performer with a rich repertoire of strokes Faruque who is also an excellent fielder will lead the full-fledged national team for the first time having shouldered the responsibility in outstation matches.

Dogged by inexplicable streak of failure, Faruque emerged the most consistent batsman of an experimental Bangladesh team which returned home from Sri Lanka yesterday after a twin preparatory trip to the Deccan and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh is in the thick of its preparation for next year's ICC trophy in Kenya which will pave the path for three top finishers to compete in the one-day world cricket championship scheduled to be held in the subcontinent a couple of years later.

The man whom Faruque dethroned is Athar Ali Khan who

captained the BCCB XI in the Sri Lanka tour replacing Golam Nowsher Prince, skipper for the earlier Deccan tour. However, Athar is very much there as one of the 14 members. The other players are Sajjad Ahmed Shipon, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Shah Nawaz Shaheed



FARUQUE

Shanu, Akram Khan, Enamul Huq Moni, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Golam Nowsher Prince Saiful Islam, Jahangir Alam Dulu, Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Al Shahrir Rokan and Salahuddin. Ahmed Iqbal Barchhu who accompanied the BCCB team to Sri Lanka retained the job.

Test babes Zimbabwe led by Andy Flower are due in the city on November 1. The newest entrants of Test cricket fraternity will play two one dayers to soup up Bangladesh's preparation for

the ICC trophy. Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, the long serving former Bangladesh captain will be adjudicator for the man-of-the-match award for the first match while Roqibul Hassan, another former national captain will pick the player of the second one-dayer.

Last minute touches are being given to smoothen the outfield, damaged of the Dhaka Stadium, venue for the two matches. Footballers in league with the monsoon rain left the stadium in a pathetic state as country's sports authorities pursued the penny wise pound foolish theory too long.

Season and daily tickets for the Gold Leaf one-day series are on sale, at 14 Agrani Bank branches.

Meanwhile, the march of foreign players to take part in this year's domestic Premier league cricket championship began yesterday. Two players both from Delhi — Bhaskar Pillai and GP Singh came to the BCCB office to confirm their participation. Pillai a dashing middle order batsman will play for Bangladesh Biman alongside Pakistani Wasim Haider.

GP Singh is the other player from Delhi who signed for league champions Abahani. A hard hitting batsman and a useful medium pacer Singh plays for Elworth Cricket Club in Cheshire league, England.

Abahani's quartet?

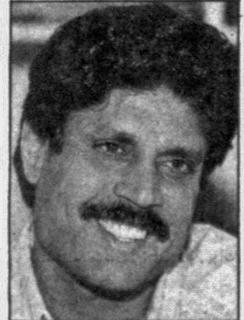
Sports Reporter



Kapil Dev, the star Indian all-rounder, who has been eluding Abahani's clasp for the last couple of years will, according to one club official show up this year, albeit for limited appearances. Abahani officials have finalised

topscorer for England in the 1992 World Cup final against eventual champions Pakistan has reportedly entered into a match-wise contract with Abahani.

Abahani's big signing speculation pushed the recruiting efforts of other teams into oblivion. GMCC who have already



KAPIL DEV

talks with both Kapil and Ravi Shastri, the other Indian all-rounder now languishing outside the national team. Ravi and



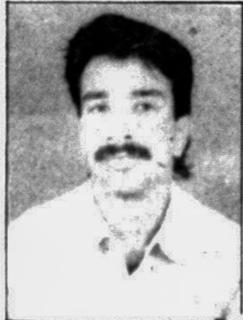
RAVI SHASTRI

confirmed the services of Indian Test discard Raman Lamba are likely to sign up today G P Singh, a medium-pacer who



NEIL FAIRBROTHER

Kapil will play six matches between themselves, said the official. Although it will take some time to find out if the Indian, duo would really come, another anticipated big signing will be confirmed today. English Test player Neil Fairbrother who



G P SINGH

played in a couple of one day internationals for India.

Premier league teams are provisioned to recruit four foreign players each, two of whom will be able to play in one match.

NZ 79 runs away from victory

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Oct 31: New Zealand were 79 runs from their tour victory after the penultimate third day of the first class cricket match against Sheffield Shield champions New South Wales here Sunday, reports AFP.

But the Kiwis have only four wickets in hand in their victory push with their best batsmen back in the pavilion. At the close, New Zealand were 167 for six in their second innings chasing a 246 victory target, with wicketkeeper Tony Blain on five and Murphy Su'a yet to score.

Ken Rutherford made 47, Andrew Jones 44 and Bryan Young 43 while NSW's former Test of spinner Greg Matthews and Test candidate paceman Glenn McGrath took two wickets each.

Earlier, NSW chased from 61 for four overnight to be all out for 109.

New Zealand pace spearhead Danny Morrison captured 6-54 and spinner Dipak Patel 3-35.

NSW skipper and Test opening batsman Mark Taylor top scored with 30.

Handball results

Dhaka Martiner Youngs Club defeated Nawabpur SC by 26-13 goals in the handball tournament at the handball court of the Outer Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 9-6. Priya scored eight goals while Nayan and Nobil netted five each for the Youngs Club. Dhanu hit six and Sudhir three for Nawabpur SC respectively.

Earlier, in the day's first match, Victoria Sporting Club beat Pragati Boys Club by 14-9 goals after dominating the first session 7-6.

Akul contributed eight, Khokon SR three for the winners while Apu netted four goals and Sohail and Kajal two each for the losers respectively.

Brothers Union will meet Bangladesh Rifles in the only match scheduled for today.

Bayern stay on Eintracht's heels

BONN, Oct 31: Bayern Munich crushed Kaiserslautern 4-0 to close in on league leaders Eintracht Frankfurt, who were held to a scoreless draw against lowly Wattenscheid in the German First Division soccer on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The Bavarians, now unbeaten in seven games, moved into second place, three points behind Frankfurt, who lead with 22 points.

The goals were scored by Christian Ziege in the 16th minute, Adolfo Valencia in the 29th and 59th minutes and by Lothar Matthaeus on a penalty in the 68th.

A very stable performance, Bayern vice president Franz Beckenbauer said after the match before a home crowd of 58,000 in Munich's Olympic Stadium.

Midfielder Ziege clearly outshone Kaiserslautern's Andreas Brehme, a former Bayern player, on the left flank.

Brehme, who scored the penalty which clinched the Germans the 1990 World Cup final against Argentina in Rome, opted out of international football after last year's European Championship with 74 caps to his name.

But there are strong rumours that national coach Bert Vogts may want to take advantage of Brehme's experience at the 1994 finals in the United States.

But it was not Kaiserslautern's day in Munich and it took 51 minutes before the visitors had their first and only scoring chance.

"We dominated the match from the first minute and every player was on the move," said Erich Ribbeck, coach of record 12-times champions Bayern, who are bidding for their first title since 1990.

"I am very, very satisfied. I hope we will be able to preserve this from for the return match against Norwich," he added in reference to the UEFA Cup match at Norwich City in five days.

Frankfurt only managed a scoreless draw away against second-from bottom Wattenscheid after failing to capitalise on scoring chances by, above all, Rudi Bommer and Polish international Jan Furtok.

Title defenders Werder Bremen slipped into third place in the standings after being held 2-2 away against seventh-placed Bayer Leverkusen.

Four days before the return match against Sofia, Bulgaria, in the European Cup, Bremen played convincingly and took an early lead through goals by Marco Bode in the sixth and New Zealander Wynton Rufer in the 40th minute.

But Leverkusen hit back in the 43rd minute with a goal by Andres Thom and Ralf Becker hit the equaliser in the 64th.

Big-hitters in Stockholm final

STOCKHOLM, Oct 31: Defending champion Goran Ivanisevic and Michael Stich muscled their way into the final of the Stockholm Open on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Ivanisevic humbled American Maitvai Washington 6-2, 6-1 and Stich overcame Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-4, 7-6 to set up a clash between two of the tour's hardest hitters on the lightning fast surface in the globe arena.

However, the deciding factor in both semi-finals was the versatile game of the in form winners, who outshone their opponents in every facet of play.

"You have to have more than a good serve; the all-court game must be there," said the German after reaching his first final in Stockholm.

"I'm playing very well right now... so naturally I would like to move up to number one in the world," Stich added.

Big-serving Rosset received a code violation when he was on the brink of defeat. He threw down his racket as he changed ends in the tie-breaker and was penalised a point which gave Stich match-point. He won the tiebreak 7-1.

Although Ivanisevic has a nine-match unbeaten run in Stockholm, Stich can take comfort from the fact that the Croat has never managed to make a successful title defence on the ATP Tour.

A stress fracture of the right foot in January ruined much of the 10th ranked Ivanisevic's year, but since mid-September he has resumed his surge towards the top with titles in Bucharest and Vienna.

"With the confidence I have now, I know next year will be very good and important for me," Ivanisevic said.

Against Washington, Ivanisevic even controlled his notoriously fiery temper.

"When I explode on court I don't do it in a negative way anymore," he said, adding, "it comes with age."

Although Washington, conqueror of Boris Becker in the third round, was comprehensively beaten, he recorded the best indoor performance of his career by getting to the semi-finals.



Argentine captain Diego Maradona (R) manoeuvres past Australian captain Paul Wade (L) during the first leg of the World Cup qualifying series in Sydney yesterday. Two-times World Cup champions Argentina drew 1-1 with the Soccerros after Maradona set up a goal from the corner. The second leg will be played in Buenos Aires on Nov 17. — AFP photo

Magnificent Maradona relives magic but Aussies hold Argentines

SYDNEY, Oct 31: Argentina take a crucial away goal back to Buenos Aires for next month's return leg after holding a

Balbo and Batistuta were isolated for the first half and we tried to get the midfield to them more in the second half," said Basile at the post-match press conference.

Maradona, who hobbled through much of the second half after taking knock, played more forward in attack and was content with distributing the ball to his eager midfield colleagues, Fernando Redondo and Hugo Perez.

Basile was satisfied with the overall performance of central defender Sergio Vazquez, whose task was to shadow Australia's lone front-runner, Belgian-based veteran Graham Arnold.

Arnold almost got the better of Chilean-based Vazquez in the 12th minute when left back Jason van Blerk's tantalising cross was just nodded to safety in front of goal.

The plan was for Vazquez to neutralise Arnold, not letting him get possession," said Basile. "He had problems in the first 15 minutes, but he did well in the end."

Basile would not commit himself to making any changes for the second game although he has to check the fitness of midfielder Jose Basualdo who was replaced by Gustavo Zapata in the 70th minute after a heavy tackle.

Maradona became one of five yellow card recipients in the match for showing dissent to Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl. Similar warnings were given to Australian midfielder Robbie Slater and substitute forward David Mitchell as well as Argentina's Carlos McAllister and Perez.

Roared on by a ground record 44,000 home crowd, Australia, fielding seven

European-based team members were good value for the draw, especially in the first half when, spearheaded by pacy French-based midfielder Slater, they threatened Sergio Goycochea's goal.

Arnold had another chance in the 23rd minute when Redondo dithered and was dispossessed 30 metres in front of his goal but Arnold shot tamely wide.

Maradona almost conjured a second goal for his team just nine minutes after halftime when he cheekily chipped the Australian defence from a free-kick for Balbo to back-heel across the goalmouth, but nobody was on hand to apply the finishing touch.

"I'm not very happy with the result, but I'm very happy with the way we played," said Australian coach Eddie Thomson afterwards.

"We played some super stuff in the first half, but except for one mistake for which we were punished, we did really well."

"We've got (suspended) Frank Farina to come back for the Buenos Aires match and we're still got a good chance of going through to the World Cup finals."

English-born Wade celebrated equaling the most number of international caps with 64 by keeping Maradona, the player of his generation, largely quiet.

"It's still one of the toughest jobs in football," said Wade in his marking assignment. "I followed him around for 90 minutes and in a few seconds he can cause so much damage... it just shows they the Argentine public demanded him to be in the national team."

Anfield makes Flowers rue

LONDON, Oct 31: Liverpool strike force Robbie Fowler and Ian Rush punished Southampton's England goalkeeper Tim Flowers on Saturday for turning down a prestige move to Anfield, reports AFP.

Flowers and Rush scored twice each as Liverpool hammered Southampton 4-2.

Eighteen-year-old Fowler beat Flowers with a 15th minute header from a Rob Jones. Twelve minutes later he scored from the edge of the penalty box with a low angled drive.

But struggling Saints, who were unbeaten in their three previous games, hit back just before half-time through Matthew Le Tissier.

Welsh international Rush, who got a League Cup hat-trick in midweek against Fulham, scored after an hour before Le Tissier got his fourth goal in two

games since returning from a five match spell in the Southampton reserves. But Rush put the result beyond dispute five minutes from time.

Premiership leaders Manchester United must thank Eric Cantona and mark Hughes for salvaging their unbeaten record at home to Queens Park Rangers.

United found Les Ferdinand and Bradley Allen too hot to handle in the first half. Ferdinand forced Peter Schmeichel into a superb save after five minutes. In the eighth minute, Allen beat Schmeichel to a Ferdinand cross to head Rangers into the lead.

But United hit back in the second half. Cantona and Hughes scored to make sure United retained their record. And the champions increased their lead at the top of the table to 11 points after nearest chasers Norwich and Arsenal drew 0-0 at Highbury.

The rout started with a Beardsley penalty in the 36th minute. His two second half goals came after an Andy Cole strike to celebrate his return to the side after being dropped for arguing with Manager Kevin Keegan.

China maintains its grip

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, Oct 31: China's running sensation Wang Junxia won the women's World Marathon Cup Sunday, leading a Chinese sweep of the race in this northern Spanish port city with a time of 2 hours, 28 minutes, 16 seconds, reports AP.

"I dedicate this victory to my country," Wang said after her victory. "I expected to win this race. I trained very hard for it. San Sebastian is a beautiful place to run a marathon."

China's Zhang Linli was second in an unofficial 2:29:42, and countrywoman Zhang Lirong was third.

Richard Nerurkar of Britain won the men's race in 2:10:03 with Italy's Severino Bernardini second.

"It was a superb race with great spectators, a great place to win," Nerurkar said. "Everything was fantastic, the lap, the competitors."

The 29-year-old graduate of Oxford and Harvard Universities followed up his marathon debut victory in Hamburg earlier in the year with an astutely-judged run to claim Britain's first major

marathon prize since Ian Thompson won European and Commonwealth golds in 1974. His breakthrough was the first significant move from a leading group of a dozen runners who dominated the race from the beginning.

Bernardini finished nine seconds further back with Ethiopia's Kebede Gemechu third in 2:10:16.

Nerurkar finished 5th in the 10,000m at the 1991 World Championships but missed Stuttgart this year because he had decided to concentrate on the marathon here, which he prepared with three weeks altitude training in the pyrenees.

Four Chinese women stayed at the head throughout most of the race, joined by Olga Michurina of Russia at the halfway point.