

BTF executive committee meeting held

A meeting of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation executive committee was held yesterday at the National Tennis Complex. Ramna with federation president and Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting had a detailed discussion on the preparation of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite circuit tennis tournament third leg to be held at Rajshahi on November 16-21 and the Masters Leg at the National Tennis Complex from November 23 to 28.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Tennis Federation received a cheque of taka nine lakh from Bangladesh Tobacco Company as sponsorship money for the satellite circuit meets.

Marketing manager of Bangladesh Tobacco Company Habib Sattar handed over the cheque to A M Zahiruddin Khan at the latter's office.

Bowe, Holyfield bout on Prime Sports today

STAR TV has secured the exclusive satellite telecast of the WBA (World Boxing Association) and IBF (International Boxing Federation) heavy weight championship between heavy-weight champion, Riddick Bowe and former champion Evander Holyfield at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. Prime Sports' coverage takes place today 11:30am (BST), says a press release.

The brawl is expected to strongly resemble their first championship fight last November, when Bowe took a 12-round decision and the heavyweight title.

An SOS to Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 6: The organisers of an exhibition match between the past two World Cup winners, Germany and Argentina, want Diego Maradona to play in the show-down, reports AFP.

The game is scheduled for December 15 at the Miami Orange Bowl in Florida.

Teofilo Cubillas, who played for Peru in the 1978 and 1982 World Cups, said, Maradona's presence would make the game an extremely important one, top level.

Maradona who guided Argentina to victory in 1986, laid on his teams goal in their 1-1 draw in a first-leg Cup qualifier with Australia last Sunday.

The match against current holders Germany is an appetizer for the 1994 finals being hosted by the United States. Three days later, Germany will play the Americans in an international friendly at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

The draw for the 1994 tournament will be held the following day.

Still no win for India

HIROSHIMA, Nov 6: India, who drew with Kazakhstan in their opening game, were again held to a 1-1 draw by South Korea in the men's Group B competition at the Asia Cup hockey tournament here Saturday, reports AFP.

Sjanjay Bisht opened the scoring for India, the runners-up in the previous 1990 Cup, in the 29th minute on a penalty stroke to end the first half 1-0.

The South Koreans, who had to be satisfied with third place below India in 1990, suffered another set back in the 45th minute when they were reduced to 10 after captain Park Shin-Hum was sent for a foul play.

The Indians, however, failed to capitalize on their advantage as Mukesh Kumar was also sent back in the 52nd minute, giving Kim Young-Kyu the chance to equalize the score with a field goal three minutes later.

In the women's Group A preliminary, South Korea, also the bronze medalists in the previous Cup, whitewashed Singapore 8-0 with Lee Eun-Kyun completing a hat-trick in the 68th minute.

Div II hockey

Victoria Sporting Club recorded a convincing 3-0 victory over East End Green Club in a super league match of the Metropolis Green Delta Second Division hockey which began at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The first half score was 2-0. Abdul Malek put the winners ahead in the very first minute of the match. Sadek Khan doubled the margin in the 28th minute while Wasim Hossain completed the tally in the 47th minutes.

The inaugural match between Tejgaon, Agrabami and Combined SC ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Eight teams are taking part in the league.

Agrani Bank Hockey Club will take on Udity Club while Farashganj SC will face Cantonian SC today.

Facile wins for top three

Sports Reporter



Abahani, Mohammedans and Biman — all three major contenders for the title recorded predictable facile wins in their

openers of this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league at different city venues yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman Babul, the promising medium pacer who recently made it to the national team albeit temporarily, engineered a 47-run win for Bangladesh Biman at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Babul took four wickets for 20 runs to defend his side's modest total of 170 in 45 overs as Kalabagan, batting second, could manage 123 for seven thus falling 47 short of the victory target.

Veteran Nurul Hadi top-scored for Bagan with a positive 53 made with the help of three fours and one sixer while Shri Lankan, Gamagee, the Mohammedan discard, made good use of his reach at the fag end of the match, hitting two huge sixes in a rapidfire 23.

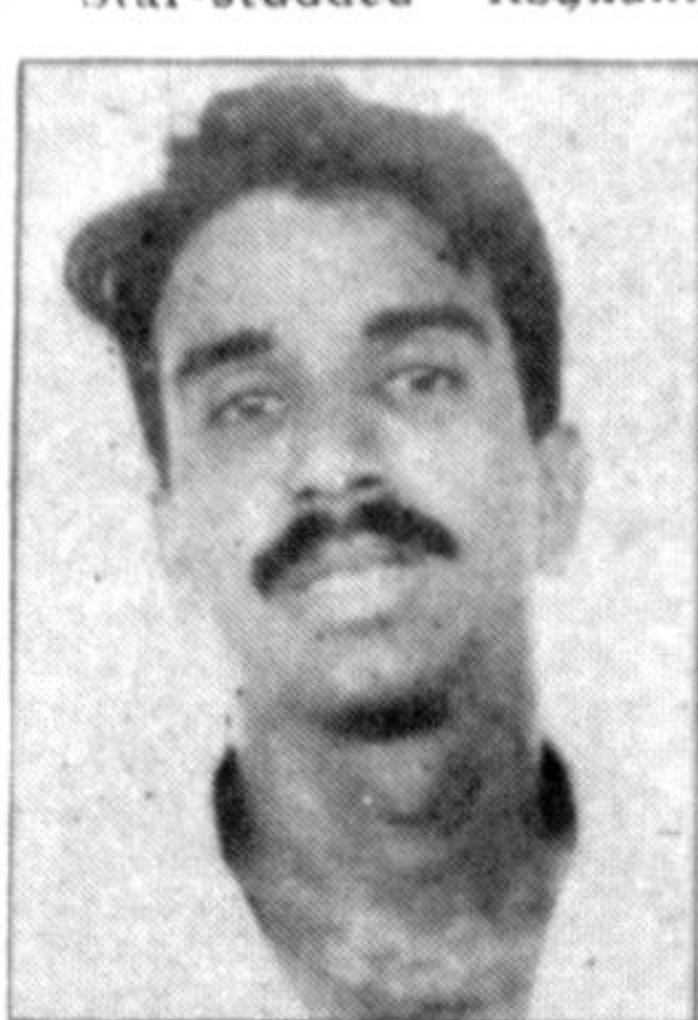
Kalabagan's Pakistani recruit Kaisar Rashid failed with the bat on his debut but picked up three wickets for 22 runs as Biman, guided by a characteristic 59 from opener Jahangir, reached 170 in their quota of 45 overs earlier in the day.

Babul, who shone with the ball, made a brawny 19 as all the Biman batsmen including debutant Indian Bhaskar Pillai struggled on a slow wicket.

Jahangir, who left Abahani to join Biman this year, struck five fours and a sixer while Pillai, the hard hitting Delhi batsman, managed only 14 before holding out in the deep.

Kaisar apart, Gamagee, Montu and Bobby were among the wickets, capturing two

apiece. At the Dhaka Stadium, champions Abahani Krira Chakra outclassed newcomers Dhanmondi nine wickets. Star-studded Abahani



GP Singh 62 n o

chasing Dhanmondi's meagre 109 raced to 110 for one wicket in 31.2 overs with Indian GP Singh hitting a belligerent 62 not out in 91 balls with the help of seven sweetly-timed boundaries.

His opening partner Harunur Rashid Liton, who scored 29, was the only casualty, leaving Faruque with the time and necessity of scoring only ten.

If the morning, Dhanmondi found the going tough against a sharp and accurate attack by Saiful arguably the best pacer-man of the country, GP Singh and England Test discard Richard Illingworth.

GP Singh, who opened the attack with Saiful, took two for 14 while Illingworth, the left-arm spinner, picked up two wickets for 16 runs from his nine overs. Saiful and Efee

bagged one wicket each to re-

strict Dhanmondi to 109 for seven wickets in 45 overs.

Vishal Singh, Dhanmondi's Indian recruit, was the only batsman to have played the Abahani attack with any degree of confidence. He made 36 followed by Billu who made 14.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, last year's runners up, had a comfortable seven-wicket victory against Wari Club at the distant Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground.

MSC skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul, who showed no signs of recovery from his want-wit bad patch with the bat, sent Wari to bat first and was instrumental in confining them to 120 for nine wickets in 45 overs.

Halim Shah, whose monetary wrangle with Brothers prompted him to join Wari, top-scored with an unbeaten 45. Opi and Mukul were the other notable scorers with 17 and 15 respectively.

Bulbul accounted for three Wari batsmen with off spin for 14 runs only. Morshed bagged two for 25 but Shri Lankan Ashoka Silva, who parted with Abahani to play for Mohammedans for the first time, was in his usual miserly self giving away 22 runs for his one victim in nine overs.

Silva's compatriot Athula Samarasekera, who accompanied him to Mohammedans from Abahani, led the victory charge for the winners with a typically powerful innings of 56 off 64 balls including two massive sixes and four boundaries.

Athar who opened with Sajjad Mansur Shipon a la the national team combination against Zimbabwe recently, remained unbeaten on 36.

Both Shipon and Bulbul failed with bat managing three and a blob respectively.

Galatasaray, nobody's fool

GENEVA, Nov 6: Turkish giantkillers Galatasaray, who dumped Manchester United out of the European Cup this week, had their rivals worried when the draw for the Champions' League was made on Friday, reports Reuter.

Galatasaray were drawn in Group A with Barcelona, Monaco and Spartak Moscow and nobody wanted to treat them as underdogs.

Group B looked tougher and more even with favourites AC Milan up against German champions Werder Bremen, Anderlecht of Belgium and Porto.

But the Turks were the focus of attention. They were talking tough, too.

"If you look at the draw we came out in fourth place in our group," said Galatasaray president Alp Yalman. "I don't think it will be like that when the group ends."

"We beat Manchester United so why not Barcelona? We've never considered ourselves to be underdogs."

Barcelona, European Champions in 1992, were taking them seriously enough. Sweeper Ronald Koeman said: "When you beat Manchester United you have to be a very good team."

"...If we want to get to the final, we have to beat them."

Monaco, who stepped in place of banned European champions Marseille, confessed they were worried by a side which beat them in the same competition five years ago.

General manager Henri Biancheri said: "Of course, we're afraid of Galatasaray. Their win over Manchester United shows they deserve to be in the Champions' League."

Teams play each other home and away in a round robin format with the top two in each

moving into the semifinals, introduced into the Champions' League for the first time this season.

AC Milan may be happy Marseille are not around as the French side have twice knocked them out of the European Cup in the past three years.

But Dutch striker Marco van Basten said the task looked far from easy, even if their group included Portugal's Porto, a club they beat twice in last season's competition.

Group matches start on November 24 and close on April 13. The semifinals will be staged on April 27.

The Cup winners' Cup quarter-finals, played on a straight knockout basis, threw up some attractive pairings, none more so than Real Madrid and Paris St Germain.

The two met in the last eight of the UEFA Cup last season when the return at the Parc Des Princes produced a dramatic flurry of late goals before the French side won 4-1.

Defending champions Parma of Italy were drawn against former winners Ajax Amsterdam and England's Arsenal were paired with Italian club Torino.

The quarter-finals take place on March 2 and 6 next year.

In the third round of the UEFA Cup, last season's champions Juventus, a team with few peers as experienced European campaigners, came out against Spain's Tenerife, in Europe for the first time.

Borussia Dortmund, runners-up to Juventus, could hardly be happy to be paired with Denmark's Brondby, a side which has made a habit of beating German opponents in recent years.

England's Norwich City, who put out Bayern Munich this week, play another big-name team in Internazionale Milan.

Matches are scheduled for November 24 and December 8.

Cantona should've known better

GENEVA, Switzerland, Nov 6: Manchester United striker Eric Cantona could face stiff disciplinary action from UEFA over remarks in a newspaper interview suggesting a European Cup referee had been bought, reports Reuter.

Cantona was alleged to have made the comment after United's shock elimination from the European Cup by Galatasaray of Turkey on Wednesday.

If these reports about what Cantona said are true, he is in big trouble with our disciplinary committee. UEFA president Lennart Johansson said after Friday's draw for the European club competitions.

Cantona was shown the red card for angry gestures to referee Kurt Rothlisberger after the match in Turkey. His case will be considered by UEFA's disciplinary body next Thursday.

As a professional player, Cantona should know better than to make remarks about referees, Johansson said. Teams should be prepared to lose as well as win.

The French sport paper L'Equipe quoted Cantona as saying: I am certain that referees have been bought in the European Cup

Tasmania take handsome lead

LAUNCESTON, Australia, Nov 6: Tasmania state built their overall lead to 275 runs at stumps on the third day of the four-day cricket match against New Zealand at the NTCA Ground on Saturday, reports AP.

At the close of play, Tasmania were 184-4 after the teenager Rick Ponting scored an elegant 54 from 94 deliveries.

Ponting seems destined for higher honours and struck four boundaries, mostly with his trademark drives through cover and mid-off. The youngster had the attack at his mercy until he gave a soft catch to mid-wicket from the bowling of Willie Watson.

Danny Buckingham was 43 not out at stumps and vice-captain Rod Tucker will resume Sunday on two. Australian Test batsman David Boon fell for 21.

Mark Haslam was the most successful New Zealand bowler with 48-2 from his 18 overs.

New Zealand concluded their first innings earlier Saturday at 215-7 declared, with Andrew Jones leading the way with 67.

Australia play New Zealand in the first of three Test matches beginning next Friday in Perth.

Scores: Tasmania 1st Innings 306-9 decl. New Zealand 1st Innings 215-7 decl. (Andrew Jones 67, Chris Cairns 48, Chris Matthews 37-2, Steve Herzberg 63-2). Tasmania 2nd Innings 184-4 at stumps (Rick Ponting 54, Danny Buckingham 43 not out; Mark Haslam 48-2).

Bad back won't stop Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 6: Diego Maradona, despite a slight back injury, is set to play for lowly Newell's Old Boys against River Plate on Sunday in an Argentinian league match, reports AFP.

Maradona, 33, who played for Argentina in the recent 1-1 World Cup draw against Australia, said: "I am definitely going to play. I don't want to stay at home when the team is going through such a difficult time."

He added his back shouldn't give him any problems during the match.

Euro paddlers top rankings

ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA, England, Nov 6: Europeans continue to dominate the latest men's world table tennis rankings published here on Friday, reports AFP.

Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner leads Jean-Philippe Gatten of France and Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium at the top of the list.

Below them, Poland's Andrezej Grubba has entered the top 10 in equal 10th position with Jorgen Persson of Sweden.

The latest women's rankings show few changes. Deng Yaping of China maintains her lead, while her compatriot Gao Jun moves from fifth to fourth place and Tang Weiyi moves into 10th from 11th.

International Table Tennis Federation world rankings

- MEN:**
1. Jan-Ove Waldner (Sweden) 2055 points,
 2. Jean-Philippe Gatten (France) 2003,
 3. Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium) 1993,
 4. Wang Tao (China) 1965
 5. Ma Wange (China) 1963
 6. Taek Soo Kim (S.Korea) 1951
 7. Peter Karlsson (Sweden) 1922,
 8. Jorg Roszkopf (Germany) 1909,
 9. Gun Sang Li (N Korea) 1905
 10. Andrezej Grubba (Poland) and Jorgen Persson (Sweden) 1889.

Five-nation CAB tourney begins today
Windies tipped favourites

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: The West Indies are the favourites in the five-nation, one-day cricket tournament that begins Sunday and carries 25,000 dollars in prize money for the winner, reports AP.

After a commendable victory over Pakistan in Sharjah last week, the Caribbeans are expected to win the tourney but they could face a tough challenge from South Africa, playing their second major cricket event after being in sports wilderness for 22 years.

However, cricket experts haven't written off India, the host, or Sri Lanka, who are showing signs of improvement.

The fifth nation of the Nov 7-27 tournament commemorating the diamond jubilee of the Cricket Association of Bengal are underdogs Zimbabwe.

In the first match, India play Sri Lanka in the central Indian city of Kanpur on Sunday.

Although England, Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan are not taking part in the competition, the tournament has triggered the usual cricket mania among Indians, for whom cricket has emerged as the No 1 sport in the country.

"We expect to have a capacity crowd of 80,000 during the final in Calcutta," said Jagmohan Dalmiya, the chief organiser.

The winning team will receive 25,000 dollars and the runners-up 15,000 dollars, the man-of-the-series will receive

5,000 dollars and the man-of-the-match 1,000 dollars.

The organisers reduced the penalty for bowling an over short of the allotted 50 from 1,250 dollars to 600 after the teams complained it was too high compared to the prize money.

Pakistan were scheduled to be in the tournament, but they withdrew, citing the risk of attacks from Hindu militants.

India, which is mostly Hindu, and Pakistan, which is predominantly Muslim, have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947, and the rivalry often spills over into cricket arena.

The Pakistani decision following India's refusal to take part in the Sharjah cricket tournament, which ended Friday, The Indians cited pro-Pakistani bias in a tournament in the Islamic United Arab Emirates. The Sharjah tournament was finally restricted to teams from the West Indies, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The West Indies won the championship after Brian Lara played an innings of his lifetime to score a career-high 153 and beat Pakistan by six wickets.

AFP adds India always a formidable team at home, are meanwhile looking for revenge against the Sri Lankans in Sunday's curtain-raiser.

Skipper Mohammad Azharuddin is still smarting from the inexplicable batting collapse against spin that helped the Sri Lankans wrap up a three-match series 2-1 on home ground in August.

"It was one of the worst moments of my career," Azharuddin said, also remembering that the Green Park is the same venue where the islanders surprised India in 1986.

Ranatunga warned rivals that his team should not be taken lightly despite failing to win a single match in Sharjah.

"Our chances are the same as that of any other team," he said. "We will go flat out."

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- November 7: India v Sri Lanka, Kanpur
- 9: West Indies v Sri Lanka, Wankhede Stadium, Bombay
- 10: South Africa v Zimbabwe, Bangalore
- 12: India v South Africa, Mohali
- 14: West Indies v South Africa, Brabourne Stadium, Bombay
- 15: Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe, Patna
- 16: India v West Indies, Ahmedabad
- 18: India v Zimbabwe, Indore
- 20: South Africa v Sri Lanka, Guwahati
- 21: West Indies v Zimbabwe, Hyderabad
- 24: Semifinal, Calcutta
- 25: Semifinal, Calcutta
- 27: Final, Calcutta
- 28: Reserve Day

Chualos' plight continues

TORONTO, Nov 6: There seems to be no end to the grief endured by George Chualos family.

The former Canadian heavyweight champion 30-year-old son, George Jr, died of a heroin overdose earlier this week, reports AP.

On Thursday, Chualos wife Lynne died of an overdose of sleeping pills. Police said there "are no suspicious circumstances" surrounding the 50-year-old's death.

"She'd been depressed over the death of her son," Det. Randy Hatherly of Toronto police said Friday.

Despite police confirmation that her death was a suicide, an autopsy will be performed, said coroner James Young. It could take two months to complete toxicology tests.

A haggard-looking Chualos said Friday he was devastated by his wife's death.

"I loved her like crazy," he told CBC-TV. "She was cracker-jack smart, she had a great heart, (she was) the best grandmother in the world."

"I'm just coping hour by hour," Chualos, 56, said.

He found his wife body on their bed Thursday afternoon. He spoke to his former manager on Friday.

"He thought she was just sleeping when he checked on her at noon," Irving Ungerman said Friday from Hollywood, Fla. "He knew she was depressed but he had no idea she took something the night before."

The two suicides are the latest in a string of tragedies to hit the Chualos family.

George Jr. and his brother Steven, 32, were released from prison last week after serving time for armed robberies of pharmacies in Toronto. In 1985, Chualos's youngest son, Jesse, killed himself with a gun in the family's home. He was 20.

George and Lynne both came from lower-middle class families in Toronto. They married when she was just 15.

By 16, she had given birth to a son, Mitchell, the first of five children born in seven years.

George Chualos was known as a boxer who took 10 punches to land one and Lynne hated to watch her husband fight. But she said she couldn't

stay at home when he was in the ring.

In 1970, he blamed her for his loss to George Foreman when she ran to the edge of the ring, screaming for the referee to stop the fight as he absorbed a beating.

Chualos was a Canadian heavyweight champion in the 1960s and faced Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and Foreman. He lost to all three, but he was never knocked down in 96 fights.

He retired in 1979 and the family often struggled after that said family friend Mort Greenberg.

Greenberg said he spoke to Lynne before her death and the former hospital technician was worried about losing their heavily mortgaged home, "the one prize that was left."

"She begged me to come to grieve with the family, but I chose not to because I couldn't add anything but extra misery," Greenberg said.

"She was the backbone of that family," said Greenberg, a former CBC cameraman who met the Chualos in 1963. She held everything in place until the effort just overcame her."

Tracing back to ancient times

DUBLIN, Nov 6: National Olympic committees from across Europe on Friday unanimously endorsed a bid to return to the ancient Greek ideal of no warfare during the Games, reports Reuter.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch said he hoped such a truce could be implemented by the Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, which begin on February 12.

"We are trying to implement it by Lillehammer, Samaranch told Reuters during a bi-annual meeting of the Association of European National Olympic Committees (AENOC) in Dublin.

Asked if he was optimistic a truce would be achievable at Lillehammer, he said: "I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic. We have decided to work to make this a reality. We know that it will be very difficult, but we have made our ends up."

The year 1994 marks the centenary of the IOC.

The United Nations General

Assembly on October 25 called for all member states to observe a symbolic Olympic truce, beginning one week before and ending one week after every Games. It also pronounced 1994 a year of sport and Olympic ideal.

"We consider the UN resolutions to be very important historically for the Olympic movement," Samaranch said.

AENOC president Jacques Rogge said backing by the world's main political body had reinforced and lent prestige to the IOC's attempt to resurrect the ancient "Ekecheria" or

"Olympic Truce." During the five days the ancient Games were staged, a truce used to be observed by the various competing peoples.

"It's the first time that the political world is sanctioning... our philosophy on peace," Rogge told the meeting.

"I believe that it is a very important issue."

The IOC says the goal of "Olympics" is to encourage the establishment of a peaceful society by educating youth through sport blended with culture and education.

It wants an Olympic truce dedicated, as is ancient Greece, to a spirit of brotherhood and understanding and urged collective and individual efforts to settle international conflicts through peaceful means.

The appeal, which the IOC took to the United Nations with the support of 184 members, was unanimously endorsed in Dublin where delegates greeted it with applause.

Pan-American Olympic committees will also discuss a truce at a similar meeting on November 18 in Puerto Rico.

The man to run the show

ATLANTA, Georgia, Nov 6: A Hollywood producer whose credits include a Michael Jackson show, will be in charge of the opening and closing ceremonies at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, reports AFP.

Atlanta organizers said on Friday that they had given the job to Don Mischer, who produced Jackson's halftime show at the 1993 Super Bowl and President George Bush's inaugural gala.

Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, said ACOG had budgeted 26.4 million dollars for the ceremonies. Mischer's task is to make them a spectacle that will awe the world.

"These ceremonies will be defining moments in our city's great history," said Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson.

World's most expensive goalie

LONDON, Nov 6: Tim Flowers became the world's most expensive goalkeeper on Friday when he completed his two million pound (2