

Majumder snooker title goes to Gonsalves

Adrian Gonsalves clinched the second F H Majumder memorial snooker title by beating national champion Narayan Chandra Ghosh in the final at the Narayananj Club billiards room yesterday.

For Gonsalves, it was a kind of revenge for his loss to the national champion in the national snooker championship earlier this year.

Gonsalves, who represented the Chittagong Catholic Club, had a somewhat easy access to the title scoring seven frames to Ghosh's two in the best-of-thirteen final.

In the semifinal Wednesday, the eventual champion had beaten Mofazzal Hossain of Gulshan Club while N C Ghosh of the host club triumphed over Frederick Randolph, clubmate Gonsalves.

Thirty-two participants from six invited clubs of the country took part in the six-day meet organised by the Narayananj Club. The meet is sponsored by the Majumder Group of Companies of which late FH Majumder, himself, a keen snooker enthusiast, was the founder.

Nat'l booters win again

Bangladesh national squad beat Rajshahi district eleven 2-1 in an exhibition match held at the Rajshahi Stadium, according to a telephonic message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Raqib and Swapan scored once each for the national team while Shamim reduced the margin for the local team.

Earlier, the national team defeated Rajshahi Football Players' Association by two goals to nil in the first exhibition match Wednesday in their two-match Rajshahi tour to prepare for next month's SAF Games in Dhaka.

Ansars move into h'ball final

Bangladesh Ansars moved into the final of the 1993 handball competition with a victory in their last league match at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Ansars overpowered Victoria Sporting Club 23-4. Khaleq and Enamul top scored with four goals each for the winners.

They will now take on Bangladesh Rifles in the final on Nov 14.

Abahani cricket committee formed

A H M Mustafa Kamal and Ershadul Huq were elected chairman and vice chairman respectively of the 32-member cricket committee of Abahani Limited, according to a club press release issued yesterday.

Tanvir Mazhar Islam Tanna, Syed Ashraf Huq, Ahmed Faizur Rahman and Ali Asghar Loby will act as the advisors in the newly-constituted body.

Jalal Younus was elected the general secretary while G S Hassan Tamim was appointed the coach.

Austria hold Sweden

VIENNA, Nov 11: Austria held European Group Six leaders Sweden to a 1-1 draw in the final World Cup qualifying tie for both teams on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

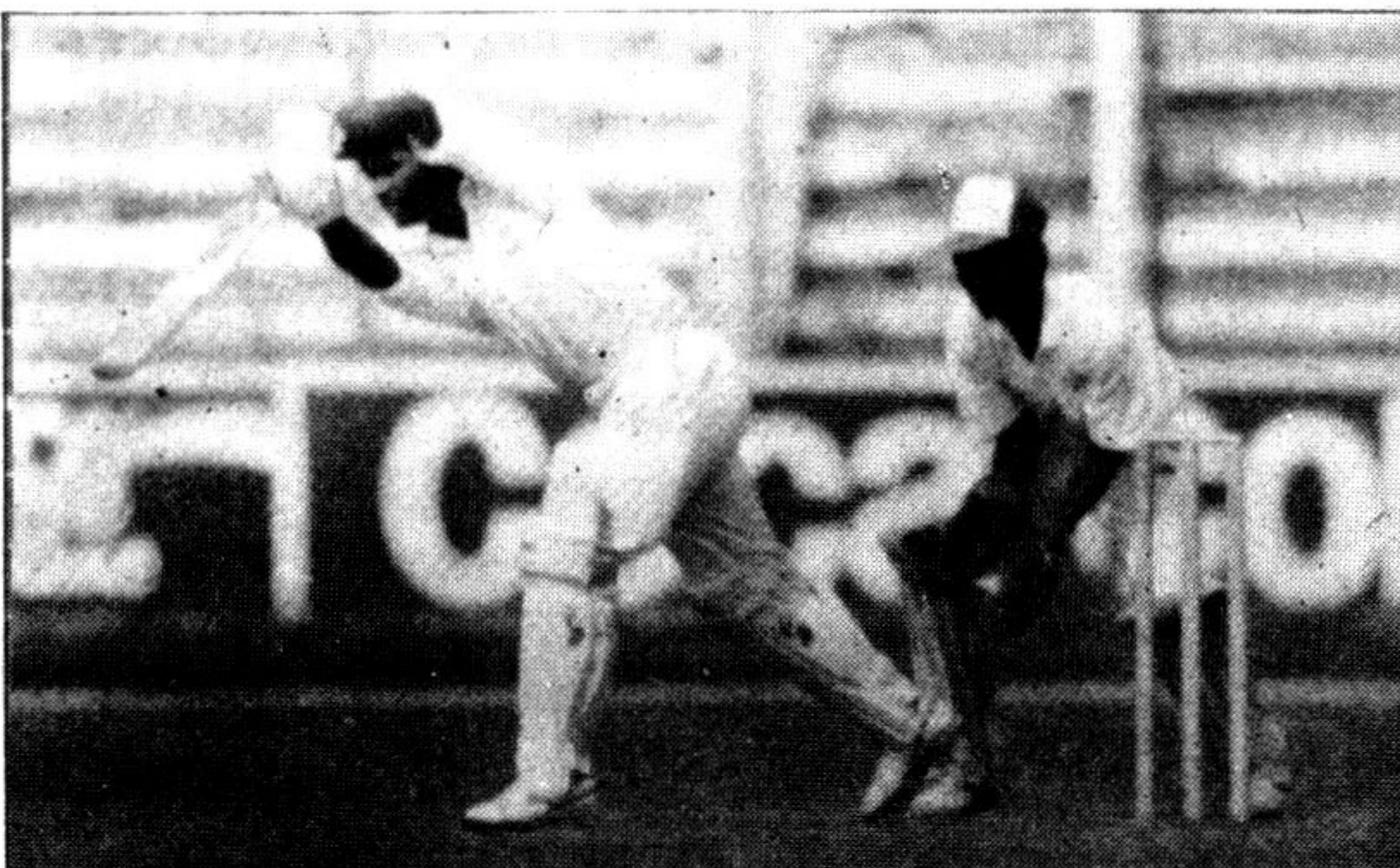
The outcome was largely irrelevant as Sweden had already clinched their place in next year's finals in the United States while Austria's hopes vanished months ago after an uninspired campaign.

USA plan to warm up well

MISSION VIEJO, California. Nov 11: Norway, Russia and Switzerland will all feature in friendly matches against the US side in the run-up to the World Cup finals next year, reports AFP.

Norway and Russia have already qualified for the 1994 finals while the Swiss are still in the running.

The US will host Norway on January 15 at Tempe in Arizona, followed by a clash against the Swiss at Fullerton, South Carolina, a week later.



Mohammedan Sporting Club skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul through with an off-drive during yesterday's Navana Premier Division cricket league match against Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium. Bulbul scored 40 to pave the path for his side's hefty 85-run victory.

Quite predictable cricket

Title-aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their third consecutive win in a predictable, quiet day's cricket of this year's single-league Navana Premier Division at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In one of the three matches billed for the day, Mohammedans battled poorly against the lowly Victoria yet managed a 85-run win.

Bangladesh international Aminul Islam Bulbul who is leading Mohammedan this year, won the toss in the morning and decided to make the first use of the wicket.

Sajjad Mansur Shipon continued to add fuel to posthumous criticism regarding his inclusion in the national squad against the touring Zimbabwe recently when he nicked a ball from hard working Iqbal to Kamu behind the stumps for a duck.

Both Selim Shahed and Shri Lankan Athula Samarasekera appeared rusty and did not stay long, leaving it to the skipper to raise a moderate total.

Far below his fluent best, Bulbul teamed up with Lankan southpaw Ashoka de Silva and set about repairing the damage circumspectly.

The dark, dapper Bulbul topped scored with 40 before being smartly caught and bowled by Iqbal and De Silva fell four short of his skipper's knock, helping himself to four boundaries in his 50-ball venture.

There was little wagging of the tail barring 13 from wicket-keeper Khaled Masud Pilot and paceman Morshedul Alam Chowdhury who remained unbeaten on 10 as the Mohammedan collection stood at 185 for nine from 45 overs.

Iqbal was rewarded well for his perseverance with figures of three for 36.

India, Pakistan in semis

HIROSHIMA, Nov 11: Defending champions Pakistan and runners-up India finished top in their preliminary groups here Thursday, moving a step closer towards a possible final encounter at the Asian Cup hockey tournament, reports AFP.

Pakistan breezed past Malaysia 8-2 to score their third straight win, beating the Malaysians into second place in the four-team men's Group A competition.

China took third below Malaysia with one win against two losses after beating winless Thailand 12-0 earlier in the day.

In the day's last game, India demolished Japan 6-2 for their second win against two draws to finish atop Group B, wresting the host country's seat in the play-offs precipitating them into very bottom among the nine men's teams.

Being determined to finish atop the preliminary to elude Pakistan in the semifinals, Imranul Haq fired a quicksilver field goal in the first minute to give India flying start and then Mukesh Kumar made it 3-0 in the 29th and 32nd minutes.

Japan fought back to stay in contention to end the first half 2-3, but Sanjeev Kumar enlarged the lead in the 38th and 43rd minutes, and Haq hammered the nails into the Japanese coffin to strike home number six in the 52nd.

South Korea, bronze medalists in the previous event, ran out 4-0 winners over Kazakhstan to score the same win loss record as India but were placed second due to a goal differential.

With the results, India will meet Malaysia and Pakistan will fight South Korea in the semifinals Saturday.

Defending women's champions China, top finishers in Group B, will take on India in the semifinals Friday, while South Korea, bronze medalists

last time, will play silver winners Japan in the other semifinals.

Standings after the preliminary round in the Asia Cup hockey tournament here Thursday.

Group A: Pakistan 8 2 0 0 33 2, Malaysia 3 2 1 0 27 8, China 3 1 2 0 12 10, Thailand 3 0 3 0 0 52

Group B: India 4 2 0 2 12 4, South Korea 4 2 0 2 8 3, Bangladesh 4 1 2 1 4 8, Kazakhstan 4 1 2 1 4 8, Japan 4 1 3 0 6 11

Wade may play in Buenos Aires

SANTIAGO, Nov 11: Australian captain Paul Wade is recovering from an ankle injury and should be fit enough to play against Argentina in the second-leg of their World Cup qualifying play-off next week, reports Reuter.

Coach Eddie Thomson said: "He is recovering slowly and will probably re-start his training on Sunday."

Wade, who marked Diego Maradona in the first leg of the qualifier, was detailed to mark the Argentine star again in the second-leg, but that plan was put into doubt after Wade injured his ankle during a practice on Sunday.

Australia and Argentina drew the first leg 1-1 11 days ago. The second-leg is in Buenos Aires next Wednesday.

Despite the positive outlook for Wade, Australia's star player Ned Zelic, who suffered a ligament injury while playing for his German club Borussia Dortmund, will miss the match.

"His leg is in a brace... he will be unable to play for at least six weeks," Thomson said. Australia are due to play a friendly match against Chile's Catolica First Division team today.

Argentina only need to draw 0-0 to qualify on the away goals rule for the World Cup finals in the United States next year.

Borg promises to play Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Nov 11: Tennis superstar Bjorn Borg didn't fare too well in tournament play in his first visit to Moscow, but he won't leave before playing one more set - this one with President Boris Yeltsin.

Borg told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he would stay in Moscow over the weekend to keep a promise to the Russian President, an ardent tennis fan, to play a set with him.

In the meantime, Borg will do some sightseeing around the city with his father, and may play ice hockey on Thursday with several tournament organisers and players against Moscow's Central Army Club veterans.

In his first round of singles play in the dhrs 350,000 Kremlin Cup on Tuesday, Borg lost to Russian Alexander Volkov 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (9-7). On Wednesday, he and Russian Andrei Cherkasov lost in first-round doubles play to Bengt-Ove Pedersen or Norway and Jared Palmer of New York 6-2, 6-2.

Sampras, Stich in ECC qtrs

ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 11: World number one Pete Sampras cruised into the quarter-finals of the European Community championship with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Javier Sanchez on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

In the quarter-finals, Sampras meets Swede Nicklas Kulti who beat Frenchman Guillaume Raoux 2-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Second-seed Michael Stich, the world number three, struggled to overcome Swedish doubles specialist Anders Jarryd 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in a scrappy game.

Stich meets another Swede, Henrik Holm, in the second round.

Former world number one Ivan Lendl fell at the first hurdle of a tournament for the 11th time this year.

Eighth-seed Lendl, at 33 the oldest player in the draw, was beaten 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 by New Zealander Brett Steven in what he said afterwards was his final appearance of the year.

Fire Service win well

Fire Service and CDS C trounced Gandaria Famous Club 3-1 in the Progoti Insurance Third Division football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Refiqui was on target twice in the 25th and 31st minutes of the first half while Sheikh Amzad scored the third for the winners.

Mintu reduced the margin in the 49th minute.

The first match between Chalanika Krira Chakra and Rahmatganj Sporting Club ended in a one-all draw of the same venue.

Chalanika shot into the lead through a 39th minute goal from Mizan while Awlad scored the equaliser in the 58th minute.

In another match of the day, Maghbar Club scored a narrow 1-0 victory over Bangladesh Government Press at the Mahakhali T&T ground.

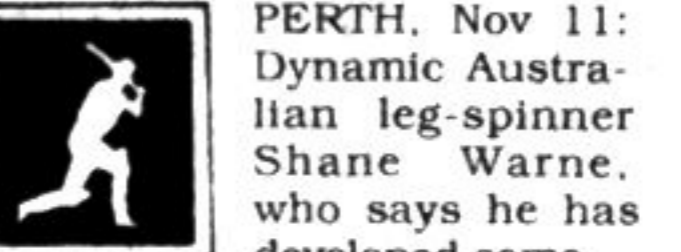
Habib netted the decider in the 69th minute.

China make it

SYDNEY, Nov 11: China qualified alongside Japan for next year's Volleyball World Championships after scoring a convincing win over Australia in a five-nations Asian regional tournament here Thursday, reports Reuter.

Australia-NZ first Test begins today

Warne's warning for Kiwis



PERTH, Nov 11: Dynamic Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne, who says he has developed some new tricks, is emerging as the key player in the first cricket Test against New Zealand starting at the WACA ground on Friday, reports Reuter.

Australian captain Allan Border nominated Warne as a potential match winner, while New Zealand captain Martin Crowe vowed his side would take on the young bowler who almost single-handedly destroyed them in their last encounter.

Warne who also devastated England in the Ashes Test series this year, warned this week he had developed a few "New tricks" which he would deliver in Perth.

"The second time against a country is a lot tougher so you need something up your sleeve," Warne told reporters.

"I've been practising with a couple of new deliveries. One hasn't come out that well but the other one is alright."

Border was confident Warne would be dangerous in Perth despite his poor record in Western Australia. The 24-year-old spinner has failed to take a wicket in three previous first class appearances on the fast, bouncy wicket which traditionally favours a pace attacks.

"I expect Shane to become a very good Perth bowler. Border told reporters on Thursday on

the eve of the opening encounter in the three-Test series between the Trans-Tasman rivals.

"He'll have some footmarks to bowl into and I think he's a potential winner even here in Perth."

Warne grabbed 34 wickets in helping Australia to a 4-1 Ashes Test series win in England earlier this year.

Prior to that, Warne took 17 wickets, at an average of 15, in the 1-1 drawn series against the Kiwis in New Zealand.

Crowe said his batsmen failed to attack the spinner during the New Zealand series and added that Warne's spell had to be broken or he could take this series by the throat.

"Shane's figures show that he was allowed to bowl pretty much what he wanted," Crowe said.

"That's where we have to take the initiative back from him and that means putting away the bad balls," he added.

Both sides have delayed naming their sides.

Australia seem certain to leave out off-spinner Tim May to make way for Test debutante fast bowler Glenn McGrath.

McGrath is likely to share the pace bowling duties with Paul Reiffel and Craig McDermott, who is making his return to Test cricket following surgery for a Twisted bowel in June.

"It looks as though the wicket may turn later in the game but I think we'll have the

three quickies and one spinner, which is probably Warne," Border said.

New Zealand appear set to go into the match with only five specialists batsmen — openers Mark Greatbatch and Blair Pocock, followed by Andrew Jones, Crowe and Ken Rutherford.

Pacemen Simon Doull and Willie Watson appeared locked in a battle for the final fast bowling berth to join Murphy Su'a, Danny Morrison and Chris Carins.

Crowe said his team was motivated at the prospect of renewing battle with their long-time adversaries. "We want to be competitive. The atmosphere and the emotion of playing against Australia will be positive for us," he said.

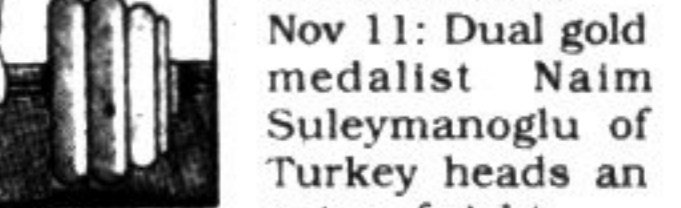
The second Test is in Hobart, Tasmania, from November 26 to 30 and the final Test in Brisbane, Queensland, between December 3-7.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Allan Border (captain), Mark Taylor, David Boon, Ian Healy, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath, Tim May, Paul Reiffel, Michael Slater, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Mark Greatbatch, Blair Pocock, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe (captain), Ken Rutherford, Chris Cairns, Dipak Patel, Tony Blair, MurphySu's Danny Morrison, Willie Watson, Simon Doull.

Championships of century!



MELBOURNE, Nov 11: Dual gold medalist Naim Suleymanoglu of Turkey heads an entry of eight current Olympic champions at the world weightlifting championships, which start Friday at the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings, reports AP.

His closest rival is expected to be Mutlu Halli of Turkey.

The opening event of the women's championship — in the 46-kilogram category — is expected to be dominated by Guang Hong, the 1992 titlist from China.

Many competitors, including Greece's former world champion and current European champion, Maria Christoforidou, believe the Chinese women are virtually unbeatable.

"I hope I can win three medals, but I think I must look at second place," said Christoforidou, who will compete in the 59-kilogram category.

Poland will not be represented at the championships after three of its lifters tested positive to illegal drugs last

uncertainty in his homeland for his absence.

Ivan Ivanov of Bulgaria, who won the European title earlier this year, will be the first of the Olympic champions in action. He will contest the 54-kilogram class on Friday.

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Poland will not be represented at the championships after three of its lifters tested positive to illegal drugs last

month. Russia also had three lifters test positive but has been readmitted to the championship after paying a dhrs 50,000 US fine.

Olympic champions to compete include Ivanov, Chun Byung Kwan of South Korea, Suleymanoglu, Tudor Kasapu of Moldova, Dimas Pyrrhos of Greece, Kakhki Kakiachvili of Georgia, Viktor Tregubov of Russia and Ronny Weller of Germany.

Organizers have announced that all medalists and at least three other competitors in each division will undergo drug testing during the event.

"The international federation has a very strict anti-doping policy," said Tamas Ajan, Hungarian general-secretary of the International Weightlifting Federation.

The Melbourne venue has a long-time link with weightlifting — it was the venue for the weightlifting competition during the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

The championships will follow normal international rules. Competitors must complete two forms of lift, the snatch and the clean-and-jerk. The results are added together to produce a total.

The winner is the lifter with the highest total, but medals also are awarded for the two categories.

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