

## BSWA reception held

### Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) yesterday accorded a reception to the sixteen sportsmen and women of the country who won golds in the recently concluded Sixth SAF Games.

The recipients were: South Asia's fastest man Bimal Chandra Tarafdar, boxer Mozammel Haq, swimmer Mukhlesur Rahman and shooters Ateequr Rahman, Abdus Satter Nini, Ashik Hossain, Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinki, Fazle Rabbi Elahi, Syed A Fazay, Kazi Shahana Parveen, Farzana Hossain Soma, Sabrina Sultan, G M Haider, Nasiruddin Jony and Kamrul Islam.

State Minister for Youth and Sports and chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC) Sadeq Hossain graced the reception as chief guest and distributed prizes among the gold winners at NSC conference room.

President of Bangladesh Olympic Council Gias Kamal Chowdhury and secretary general Bashir Ahmed were present there as special guests.

## Racketeers to stand the racket

ROME, Jan 8: Three ex-cabinet ministers were among 35 businessmen and legislators facing trial as part of a graft probe into work done to upgrade Naples' football stadium for the 1990 World Cup, state television said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Legal and parliamentary authorities are expected to decide in the next few weeks whether to agree to prosecutors' requests that the 16 deputies and 19 businessmen be tried.

All face a range of charges over kickbacks alleged to have been paid to political parties to win a slice of the 750 billion lire (dollar 441 million) worth of contracts to rebuild the San Paolo Stadium and upgrade a tram line in time for the World Cup.

If the case comes to court, the 35 people in the dock will make it the largest graft trial in Italy since the tangentopoli (bribesville) corruption scandal erupted in February 1992.

Magistrates investigating the Naples case alleged former budget minister Paolo Cirino Pomicino received about 400 million lire (dollar 235,000) from entrepreneurs eager for business.

## Rush not in a rush

LIVERPOOL, Jan 8: Liverpool striker Ian Rush, who has been linked with moves to Japan and to Newcastle United, is to stay at Anfield for at least another 18 months, reports AFP.

The Welsh goal ace, who had also said in a newspaper column that he was unhappy at being substituted against Sheffield United on December 26, made a clear commitment to manager Graeme Souness on Thursday.

## Zico would be there

TOKYO, Jan 8: Former Brazilian star Zico is expected to take to the pitch again on Sunday to help Kashima Antlers face favourites Kawasaki Verdy in the first leg of the battle to become Japan's first professional league champions, reports Reuter.

Verdy, who have won the last two meetings between the two teams, boast an inform side which contains the core of Japan's national side, including star forward Kazuyoshi Miura who played for a Rest of the World team in a recent game against AC Milan.

Verdy emerged as the league's strongest team in the second stage which ended in December, winning 16 of their 18 games.

But they lost popularity after a row over moving from their Poyeki Ground in Kawasaki to a Tokyo suburb where the local government had offered to build a new stadium.

The league refused to allow the move, saying it went against the spirit of soccer.

Antlers won the May-to-July first stage of the league and built up a fanatical following in the process.

Zico, now 40, worked closely with their Japanese coach to form a strong team powered mainly by two other Brazilians, Santos and Alcindo, one of the league's top scorers.

But their form slipped in the second stage and they finished in fourth place out of 10.

Last week, without Zico, they had a disastrous Emperor's Cup final, losing 6-2 to Yokohama Flugels after letting in four goals in the space of seven minutes.

Japan's first year of professional soccer saw the game come from nowhere to explode into one of the nation's most popular spectator sports.

The second leg of the final is on January 16.



Gold winners for Bangladesh in the recent Sixth SAF Games held in Dhaka from December 20 to 27 pose after having received the awards of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday. State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadeq Hossain, at the centre among those sitting who attended the function as the chief guest is flanked by the officials of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and the BSWA.

— Star photo

## Eight more teams in Biman Cup zonal semis

### Sports Reporter

Mehedi Hassan and Nadim Ahmad scored hat-tricks as eight teams moved into the zonal semi-finals of the Biman Cup national under-14 football championship at different venues across the country yesterday.

Magura trounced Kushtia 5-0.

Although the match was one-sided and boring but the numerical irregularities regarding the players of both sides provided some interest for the spectators.

Only seven players for Magura and eight for Kushtia played in the match because the other players were disqualified.

Mehedi Hassan scored the hat-trick while Zafar netted the other two goals for Magura.

At Pabna, the hosts Pabna recorded an impressive 3-0 win over Joypurhat to make it to the semi-finals. Nadim struck three-times for Pabna.

Feni defeated Rangamati 2-1 in a Bandarban zone encounter.

Mamun and Manik netted once each for Feni while Abul Hossain reduced the margin for Rangpur.

went to Tokyo to lose to Sao Paulo in the Toyota (Intercontinental) Cup.

"Unfortunately, the pace of our opponents has picked up this year," Capello said. "It's not just Inter now, but a whole crowd of determined, convinced adversaries."

Still, they are chasing a Milan machine not likely to break down:

"Let's just come out and say it," said Brian Laudrup, Milan's Danish midfielder. "Against Lecce we've got a great chance to really take off."

This year is completely different from last year," cautions coach Fabio Capello. "Just take a look at the standings."

Last year at this same time, Milan had 31 points, eight more than their closest pursuer — Inter, 11 more than Atalanta and 12 more than Sampdoria, Juventus and Lazio.

Likewise, Juventus and Roberto Baggio are at Cemone, who are only eight points back.

Parma have the best chance to keep pace with Milan when they host Udinese on Sunday. Coming off a 1-1 tie at Piacenza last week, Parma returned to form Wednesday by routing Foggia 3-0 in their Italian Cup match.

Kaisers gets down to business

MUNICH, Germany, Jan 8: Some 3,000 fans turned out to watch German's former national team coach Franz Beckenbauer take charge of his first training session at Bayern Munich on Friday, reports Reuter.

Bayern are hunting for a new coach for next season and are interested in Monaco trainer Arsene Wenger, although the Frenchman's present contract is not due to end until 1995. Karlsruhe's Winfried Schaefer is also in the running.

Beckenbauer already has

extra time off with other national team players Thomas Helmer and Christian Ziege after their December tour to the US and Mexico.

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Beckenbauer, who has taken over from Erich Ribbeck until the end of the season, gave no long sermons to the team who made a disappointing exit from the UEFA Cup this season after defeat by English Premier League Norwich City.

"I'm only interested in the German Championship," the 1974 World Cup-winning captain told his players. "The UEFA Cup is a competition for the also-rans."

"The speech was short. We were used to longer ones," mid-fielder Mehmet Scholl said.

Germany captain Lothar Matthaeus missed the session because of his marriage to former Miss Switzerland Lolita Morena.

Matthaeus has been given



Participants in the final stages of their respective matches in the national sub-junior chess championship on the sixth day at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

## Sport

### Wessels wants to quit captaincy

SYDNEY, Jan 8: Kepler Wessels has offered to give up the captaincy of South Africa in favour of his deputy Hansie Cronje, reports Reuter.

"Hansie is ready to take over at any time," Wessels, 36, told reporters on Friday.

Cronje took as caretaker captain during South Africa's thrilling five-run victory in the second Test against Australia on Thursday.

He orchestrated his country's first win at the Sydney Cricket Ground, giving the touring team a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series, after Wessels broke his finger while fielding.

"I have no qualms about playing under Hansie as captain, no problem at all," Wessels said.

"I am at the point of my career where, if it has to finish, I feel I would have achieved what I set out to do."

"I am very pleased with the way the team has come together," he added.

Wessels said he would be pleased to concentrate on batting if the selectors chose him for the return, three-Test series against Australia starting in South Africa next month.

### Walker leaves Norwich in the cold

NORWICH, England, Jan 8: Mike Walker made a stormy exit from Norwich City Friday intending to take over as manager of struggling Everton, reports AP.

After Norwich twice refused permission to negotiate with Walker, he quit as manager of the high-riding eastern English club and immediately travelled to the north to have talks with the Merseyside team.

Everton said they would make an announcement later in the day.

Norwich boss Robert Chase

accused Everton of luring Walker away and said he would make an official complaint to the Football Association.

"We'd like to have effectively induced Mike Walker to take this action," Chase said.

Walker had been a major force behind Norwich's rise from the lower reaches of the division. Last season, it finished third in the Premier League and qualified for the UEFA Cup, beating Bayern Munich before tumbling to Inter Milan.

Chris and Shane did a marvellous job for us. They looted the ball into the gaps with great intelligence," said New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford, who admitted the break for rain helped his side's cause.

The defeat was a cruel blow for Kirsten who narrowly missed out on a century less than 48 hours after arriving in Australia.

The veteran batsman was summoned from home to replace Test captain Steve Waugh left the field during a Sheffield Shield match here on Saturday when he received news that his Sydney home was being threatened by bushfires engulfing the city, reports AFP.

Waugh, captaining New South Wales in their Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania, received news that his house in Sydney's beleaguered south was being threatened by fire.

He booked himself on an evening flight to Sydney.

But Waugh later returned to the ground after phoning his wife, Lynette, and learning the fire crisis around their home had subsided.

NSW team manager John Wilson said fire had spread through the perimeters of the Waugh residence, but had not damaged the house.

Parma have the best chance to keep pace with Milan when they host Udinese on Sunday. Coming off a 1-1 tie at Piacenza last week, Parma returned to form Wednesday by routing Foggia 3-0 in their Italian Cup match.

In other matches Sunday, Atlanta play at Cagliari; Roma welcome Genoa; and Piacenza play at Torino.

Rakib dislodged

Sports Reporter

Mahfuzur Rahman Imon displaced favourite Abdul Al Rakib at the top of the points table as the youngster from Magura captured the top slot at the end of the sixth round of the 14th national sub-junior chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council, yesterday.

Imon beat Rakib to up his tally to five and half a points.

Four players with five points each were in the second position. The members of the quartet are Rakib, Hossain Arif, Tipu Sultan and Enamul Hossain Rajeeb.

Debraj Chatterjee and Monowar Noor have collected four and half a points for apiece.

Boon is raring to go

Sports Reporter

BRISBANE, Jan 8: Australian batsman David Boon is eagerly anticipating renewing his partnership with Mark Taylor at the top of the order in Sunday's World Series Cup cricket match against South Africa, reports AP.

The pair opened the Australian batting during last year's World Series, with Boon also having almost 100 one-day internationals partnering former vice-captain Geoff Marsh.

With openers Michael Slater and Matthew Hayden dropped from the Australian one-day side, selectors will choose between Boon and No 4 Mark Waugh as to who will face the new ball.

"I don't mind it," said Boon when asked about the opening

## Cairns checks SA run chase

BRISBANE, Jan 8: All-rounder Chris Cairns made a telling impact with both bat and ball as New Zealand beat South Africa by 10 runs in the World Series Cup today.

After smashing a brilliant 70, Cairns grabbed the vital wicket of Peter Kirsten for 97 as the South African mounted a brave bid to win a game interrupted by rain.

In reply to New Zealand's total of 256 for seven from their 50 overs, South Africa fell tantalisingly short of their revised victory target of 229 off 39 overs.

Needing 14 runs off Chris Pringle's final over, South Africa then lost the wickets of Brian McMillan and Craig Matthews to finish on 219 for eight.

South Africa suffered after torrential rain halted their innings on 19 for no wicket with just five overs bowled.

When play resumed 70 minutes later, they needed to score another 210 runs off the remaining 34 overs.

South African captain Hansie Cronje bemoaned his luck, having sent New Zealand in to bat in perfect batting conditions.

"We certainly didn't need it (the rain interruption) to happen as we desperately needed to win this match," he told reporters afterwards.

The defeat leaves South Africa in last place in the triangular tournament with just three points from five games.

Australia, who head the table with six points from four, take on second-placed New Zealand in Brisbane on Sunday. The Kiwis have five points from five games.

Cairns transformed the game for New Zealand, who were reeling at 86 for five at one stage.

He smashed his highest score in international one-day cricket in a crucial fifth-wicket partnership with Shane Thomson, who made 68.

The pair added 111 runs from just 16 overs to give the New Zealand bowlers a credible target to defend. It was also Thomson's highest one-day score for his country.

"Chris and Shane did a marvellous job for us. They looted the ball into the gaps with great intelligence," said New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford, who admitted the break for rain helped his side's cause.

The defeat was a cruel blow for Kirsten who narrowly missed out on a century less than 48 hours after arriving in Australia.

The veteran batsman was summoned from home to replace Test captain Steve Waugh left the field during a Sheffield Shield match here on Saturday when he received news that his Sydney home was being threatened by bushfires engulfing the city, reports AFP.

Kirsten appeared to pull a muscle in his leg early on and was forced to bat with a runner for most of his stay at the crease.

Despite the defeat, South Africa were encouraged by the return of pace bowler Brian McMillan, who took two wickets after being sidelined for the past four weeks with a knee injury.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World

Boon is raring to go</p