

Kabaddi faces axe

Kabaddi, included in the Hiroshima Asian Games with the pursuance of Indian sub-continental countries, now faces a threat of exclusion from the meet due to inadequate entries, reports UNB.

Three of the seven participating nations — Nepal, Sri Lanka and China — have informed that they might not be able to take part in the event for various reasons.

Kabaddi, which made its debut in the 11th Asian Games in Beijing in 1990, was also included in the Hiroshima 12th Asian Games as one of the 34 disciplines of sporting events with technical support from India and Bangladesh, the champions and runners-up of the last Asian.

If, for any reason, the organisers fail to muster at least four entries for Kabaddi then it will have to be excluded from the prestigious meet.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league encounter between East End Club and Dhanmondi Club at the Dhaka Stadium. The game ended 0-0. — Star photo

Draw, order of the day

Sports Reporter

Draw was the order of yesterday's two Star First Division football league matches but the pattern was diverse with one reportedly being prearranged while the other played fair and square.

The second of the two matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium between Victoria Sporting Club and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha made mockery of organisers the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association's (DMFA) strict regulation regarding arranged affair when they played to a three-all draw under floodlights.

In a farcical and all too obvious display of mutual understanding, every goal from one team was reciprocated by the other at every alternate minute.

Victoria, who rested three regular players — Aman, Angur and Amin Khan — in the match twice came from behind to make it 2-2 through goals from Titas and Shamsuddin before Faisal put them into the lead in the 80th minute by a spectacular free-kick.

However, Eskaton took a double lead with goals from Tulu and Akku, restored parity one minute later when substitute Shaheen was apparently allowed to shoot into an open net.

Victoria, who are trailing league leaders Rahmatganj by one point, with this draw raised their collection to 15 from 11 matches while Eskaton upped their tally to 11 playing as many outings.

The first match of the day between East End Club and Dhanmondi was a legitimate 0-0 draw.

East End's collection now stands at 11 from as many matches while Dhanmondi have nine from eleven matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Bima vs Muslim Institute 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Farashganj SC vs Dhaka Wanderers 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Maradona's new life begins

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 18: Diego Maradona sparred with defenders and goalkeepers Saturday in his first day as assistant to Boca Juniors coach Cesar Menotti, reports AP.

"It's good to be back in the Candy Box," Maradona told reporters after the one-hour training session at Boca Stadium in Buenos Aires, known as the Candy Box because of its square shape.

Maradona led Boca to the 1980 Argentine league title, and then was transferred to Spanish club Barcelona, then Napoli and finishing his club career in Europe with Sevilla.

Both Maradona and Menotti refused to say what Maradona's exact duties as would be as assistant coach.

"It's not fair to say I'm here as advisor to Menotti," the 33-year old former midfielder said. Menotti "has 25 years experience as coach. I'm here to learn," he said.

"My work today consisted of sparring with the defence and shooting at the goalkeepers."

Meanwhile another report says, in Naples, judicial sources said a judge had ordered Maradona to stand trial over child maintenance payments he allegedly owed his Italian former girlfriend.

The Argentine was ordered to pay five million lire (3,200 dollars) a month maintenance when a court ruled two years ago that he was the father of Cristina Sinagra's son.

Ferreira pockets Bordeaux title

BORDEAUX, France, Sept 18: Wayne Ferreira of South Africa completed a busy weekend as he won the Passing Shot tennis tournament Sunday, beating American Jeff Tarango in the final, 6-0, 7-5, reports AP.

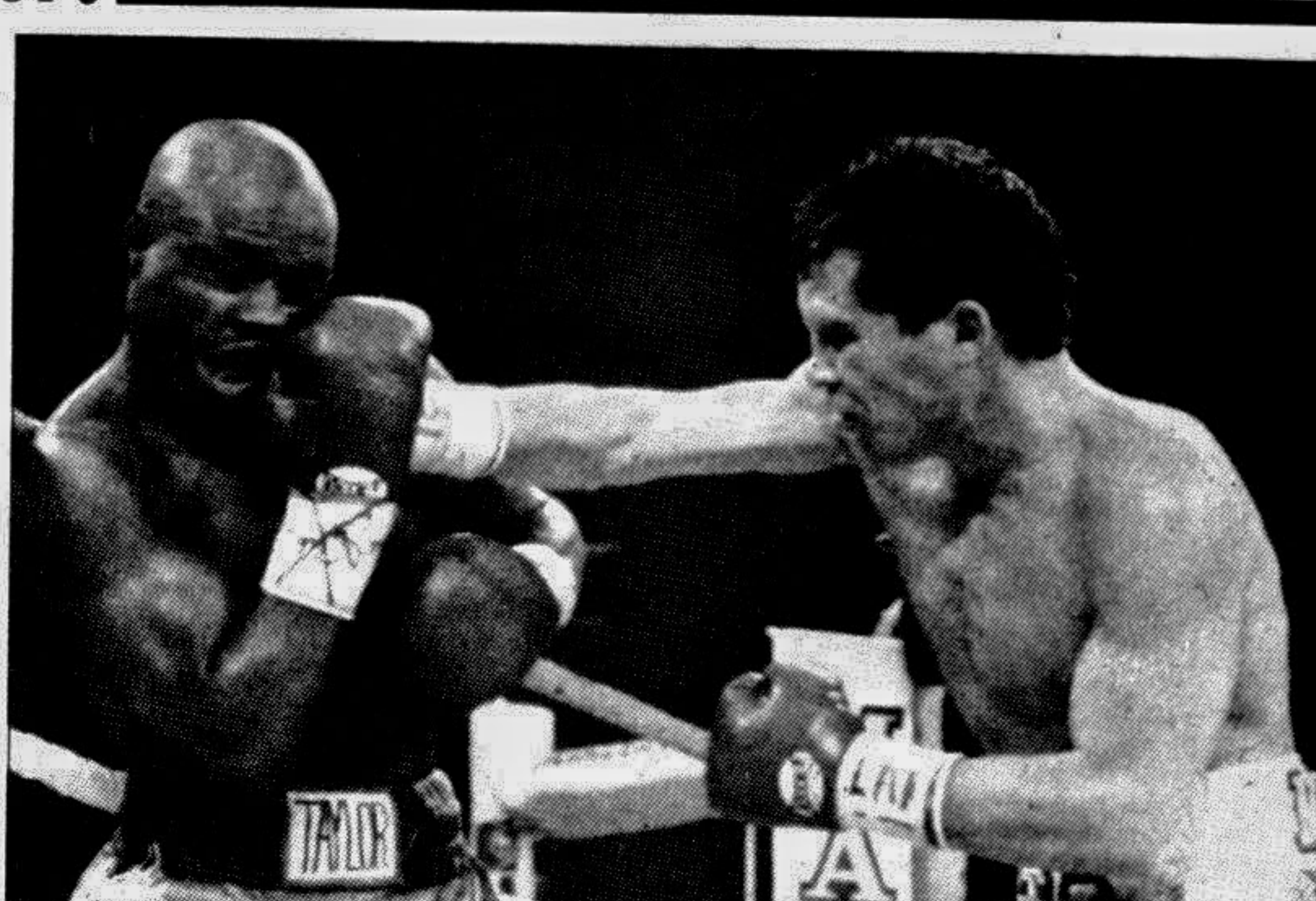
Ferreira had to play four matches within 30 hours as rains plagued the tournament throughout the week.

On Saturday morning the second-seeded Ferreira defeated Mats Wilander in three sets in a second-round match. The South African came back in the afternoon to beat Olivier Delaître of France in two sets in the quarterfinals.

Sunday morning in the semifinals, Ferreira needed two hours to beat another Frenchman, Guy Forget, in three sets. Less than 90 minutes after that victory Ferreira had to return to the court for the final against Tarango.

Tarango played one match on Saturday but returned Sunday morning to beat fourth-seeded Marc Rosset, 6-1, 6-3 in the semifinals.

In the final Ferreira rushed through the first set in 20 minutes. Tarango came back into the match, getting a break against Ferreira in the fifth game of the second set to go up 3-2.



Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez (R) lands a right hook to the head of American Meldrick Taylor during the sixth round of their 12-round WBC super lightweight title bout in Las Vegas on Sept 17. Chavez stopped Taylor in the eighth round to retain his crown. — AFP photo

Julio Chavez has last laugh

LAS VEGAS, Sept 18: Julio Cesar Chavez knocked Meldrick Taylor down with a left hook, then finished him with a flurry of punches in the eighth round of their rematch Saturday night to retain his WBC super lightweight title, reports AP.

Chavez, who stopped Taylor with only two seconds left in their first fight four years ago, needed no such last minute heroics this time around.

Taylor, who had gone down six times earlier, was taking a beating to the head when referee Mills Lane stepped in and stopped the bout at 1:41 of the eighth.

It was the 78th knockout in 93 fights for the Mexican champion, who started slowly but began to dominate in the middle rounds of the scheduled 12-round fight.

Taylor had vowed before the fight to knock Chavez out in the eighth round. But it was Taylor, not Chavez, who was stopped in the promised round.

Chavez was ahead by five points on one ringside scorecard and even on the other two through seven rounds.

But a left hook about a minute into the final round sent Taylor backward across the ring, where he fell to the canvas near the ropes. He was up quickly, but Chavez was back on top of him.

"For me, this is my revenge," Chavez said. "For everyone who said that I was done and that Don King would fall, this is our revenge."

The fight topped a card of six title fights at the MGM Grand hotel-casino, where Chavez had lost for the first time Jan. 29 when Frankie Randall knocked him down and took a decision.

Taylor, a 2-1 underdog, came out strong and appeared to be carrying the fight over the slower Chavez in the earlier rounds.

But by the fifth round, Chavez began finding his mark with more regularity. And, in the sixth, he seemed to wear Taylor down when the two fighters went toe-to-toe almost

the entire round in exchanges that brought the sellout crowd of 15,200 to its feet.

"I knew I would win his fight," Chavez said. "I was so dedicated."

The fight for a time appeared a replay of the Classic first bout, a fight that Taylor was winning until Chavez caught him in the final seconds of the 12th round.

Taylor's career went into a tailspin following that defeat but he appeared reinvigorated in recent fights and had won three straight by knockout going into the fight.

"I felt strong," Taylor said. "Obviously until I got hurt I thought I had him hurt a couple of times. But he's a great champion and I take my hat off to him."

Chavez (91-1-1) took care of one controversial decision, but wants to avenge another.

"I want Randall," he said. Promoter Don King, however, said Randall will first fight Pernell Whitaker before meeting Chavez in a rubber match of their two fights.

Kapil at the end of the road?

NEW DELHI, Sept 18: Is Indian cricket's superstar Kapil Dev really on the verge of retirement?

Yes, if you go by a searching question-answer session involving him and a handful of children at a Doordarshan programme beamed last evening, reports PTI.

When asked by a tiny-tot that what steps the hero of many a cricketing battle was taking to become the captain of the Indian cricket team once again, the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket replied: "No I am preparing to leave everything."

The words to this effect were used at least twice in the informal chat.

In a lively session where cricket crazy kids hurled searching missiles of questions on him, the cricket icon discussed everything ranging from elementary things like how to grip a bat to the glorious days when nothing went wrong.

In reply to a question, Kapil said he was unable to work for long hours, which he did in his youthful days, as his body may not be able to take that much strain.

It came out during the course of the informal barrage of questions that the chairman of selection committee, former batting sensation G. R. Viswanath, who many believe is the person whose faith in Azharuddin has kept Kapil out of captaincy, was his favourite player during his childhood.

Lucky Bremen atop Bundesliga

BONN, Sept 18: Werder Bremen increased their German First Division lead on Saturday with a somewhat fortunate 1-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach, reports Reuter.

A close-range shot by Bremen striker Bernd Hobsch and a clumsily attempted save by Moenchengladbach goalkeeper Uwe Kamps in the 27th minute sealed victory for the home team and took them two points clear at the top of the Bundesliga.

But Moenchengladbach, inspired by some brilliant play by Stefan Effenberg, were unlucky not to equalise when Bremen goalkeeper Oliver Reck pulled off a magnificent save from midfielder Peter Wynnhoff.

Bayern Munich, one of four teams on seven points, two behind the leaders, were held to a 1-1 draw by Hamburg despite the visitors having goalkeeper Uli Stein sent off for deliberate handball outside the area 15 minutes into the second half.

Hamburg took the lead in the 16th minute through newcomer Andre Breitenreiter and Bayern were saved from defeat only by an 84th minute penalty converted by Lothar Matthaus.

Borussia Dortmund, whose flying start to the season came to an abrupt halt with a 4-1 defeat against Eintracht Frankfurt two weeks ago, were held to a 2-2 draw away to Bayer Leverkusen.

PSV climb

AMSTERDAM, Sept 18: The new look PSV Eindhoven went to the top of the Dutch First Division on Saturday with a 4-0 win over Dordrecht, reports Reuter.

Striker Peter Hoekstra opened the scoring in the 37th minute punishing a defensive error with the assistance of PSV's Brazilian teenager Ronaldo.

Marciano Venk, returning to Dutch soccer after a spell with Genoa, put the Eindhoven side further ahead just two minutes later with a well placed header.

After a slow start to the second half veteran defender Jan Wouters, who retired from international soccer after the World Cup, emerged to score a third goal in the 63rd minute.

AB TT on

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman along with other title aspirants made a rollicking start on the opening day of the Metropolis AB Bank table tennis league which got underway at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Paddlers of the airline team came against little resistance from their counterparts of Purbachal Parishad chalking up a 3-0 win.

Armanitola JS, who have two Indians in their ranks — Ganesh Kundu and Arjun Datta, sustained the pattern with another three-love win over Bangladesh Bank.

Three-nil was the victory margin in the match between new entrants Inter Sports and Mariners with the latter emerging victors.

Wari broke the monotonous pattern conceding a set to Cynthia Sports before wrapping it up 3-1.

The month-long single-league meet comprising 16 teams was inaugurated by Ramadanul Siraj, vice president of the sponsors AB Bank.

Jansher, Jahangir at par

BARCELONA, Sept 18: Pakistan's Jansher Khan won his sixth squash World Open crown here on Sunday when he outplayed England's Peter Marshall in the final, reports AFP.

Jansher equalled compatriot Jahangir Khan's record of World Open victories as he defeated Britain's first ever finalist in the men's championship 10-15, 15-11, 15-8, 15-5.

The meeting may have turned into a rout by the end, but Jansher was clearly tense and unable to concentrate at the start.

He conceded four strokes in a first game during which he fought back from 7-10 down to 10-11, only to jar his racket against the side wall like a novice to set Marshall on his way for 10-12.

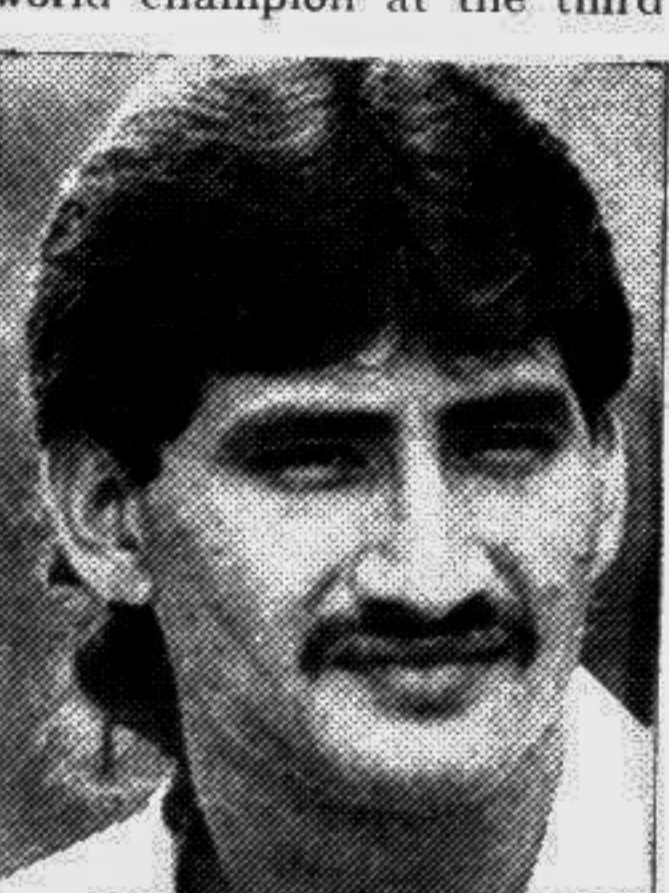
Jansher put the next two balls down as he went for a couple of straightforward drop shots and then, completely mis-hit his return to concede the game.

Significantly, it was the first

game which the Pakistan star had dropped all week, but still he refused to buckle.

He tightened up considerably in the second game, rediscovering his winning touch during the important rallies and giving little or nothing away to the battling Englishman.

Marshall's luck ran out at 8-10, at which point Jansher accelerated away to 14-9 and a magnificent rally which wrapped up the game for the world champion at the third



JANSHER KHAN

Kawasaki lead in J-League

TOKYO, Sept 18: Last year's champions Verdy Kawasaki took top place in the Japanese football league Saturday with a 3-1 win over Urawa Red Diamonds thanks mainly to Brazilians Luiz Carlos Pereira and Antonio Bento Dos Santos, reports AFP.

Pereira scored from a free kick to give his team a 1-0 lead going into the break, and then put them further in the lead with another fine score only two minutes into the second-half.

Rui Ramos produced an immaculate pass for Santos in the 63rd minute to sew up the match.

It was their ninth win against two defeats and gave

the team the sole lead over Yokohama Marinos and Bellmare Hiratsuka, both with 8-3 records.

Marinos, without Argentine stars Ramon Angel Diaz and David Carlos Bisconti due to suspension, crashed to a 0-1 loss as Yokohama Flugels ran away with Brazilian Valber da Silva Costa getting the only goal.

Gilberto Carlos Nascimento of Brazil and Koji Noguchi gave Bellmare their first win over Kashima Antlers as they coasted to a 3-1 victory.

First-stage champions

Inter-school, madrassah meet

MYMENSINGH, Sept 18: Mymensingh PL High School beat Gazipur Chandra High School in the final of the inter-school and madrassah football championship today.

In handball, Bandura Holy Cross High School trounced Mymensingh Zilla School 14-5 to clinch the title while in the girls' event Vidyayarni Noon High School edged out Mymensingh Vidyayarni School 7-6 for the championship.



Manchester United striker Brian McClair (R) is congratulated by teammate Eric Cantona after scoring United's second goal against Liverpool during their English Premier league clash at Old Trafford on Sept 17. United won 2-0. — AFP photo

Record lifts

SALONICA, Greece, Sept 18: Georgia's Evgeni Kakhiasvili set a new record of 185.5 kg for the snatch in the 91 kg class at the weightlifting World Cup here Saturday, reports AFP.

Alexander Kurlovich of Belarus raised the snatch record in the 106 kg category to 202.5 kg and equalled the total record of 450 kg.

Tokyo in diplomatic mess

TOKYO, Sept 18: With only two weeks until the Asian Games open, Japan was still trapped in a diplomatic minefield on Sunday over participation by China and Taiwan, reports Reuter.

The controversy over China's anger and possible boycott of the Games because a Taiwan minister has been invited, overshadowed the formal opening ceremony on Sunday of the Athletics Village in Hiroshima.

After the issue apparently was solved by cancelling a visit by Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui, a fresh diplomatic eruption on the weekend over Japan's decision to allow Taiwan's Deputy Prime Minister Hsu Li-Teh to attend the event.

Japan does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. The decision set off a new round of Chinese warnings that kept alive fears the Asian giant would boycott the Games.

On Saturday the Japanese Olympic Committee received a facsimile letter from the Chinese Olympic Committee asking it not to allow Hsu to visit.

The letter, under the name

of committee president He Zhenliang, said China was against Hsu's visit because it "reeks" of political overtone.

An Asian Games spokesman declined comment saying: "This issue is being handled by the government. So, we have no comment right now."

On Sunday, China's official

panel lobbying for Taiwan's bid to host the Games in 2002.

"No matter what the pretext for his presence, Hsu ... is one of the most senior political figure in Taiwan. If people like Hsu could squeeze into the Hiroshima Asian Games, it would be a deplorable precedent," the Chinese media said.

"If such a ploy succeeds, the Hiroshima Asian Games would suffer, and it would have a grave impact on Sino-Japanese relations," the article added.

In a related move, Kyodo news service reported that China has apparently cancelled a planned visit to the Games by state councillor Li Tieying.

Kyodo, quoting sources close to Games organisers, said China could not allow Li, a top Chinese government official, to visit Hiroshima when it was so opposed to Hsu visit.

A record 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations are due to take part if the October 2 to 16 Games, which are every four years, competing in 337 events in 34 sports.

China, Asian Games champions since 1986, is due to send the largest contingent, with 779 athletes and officials. Taiwan's delegation totals 397.

