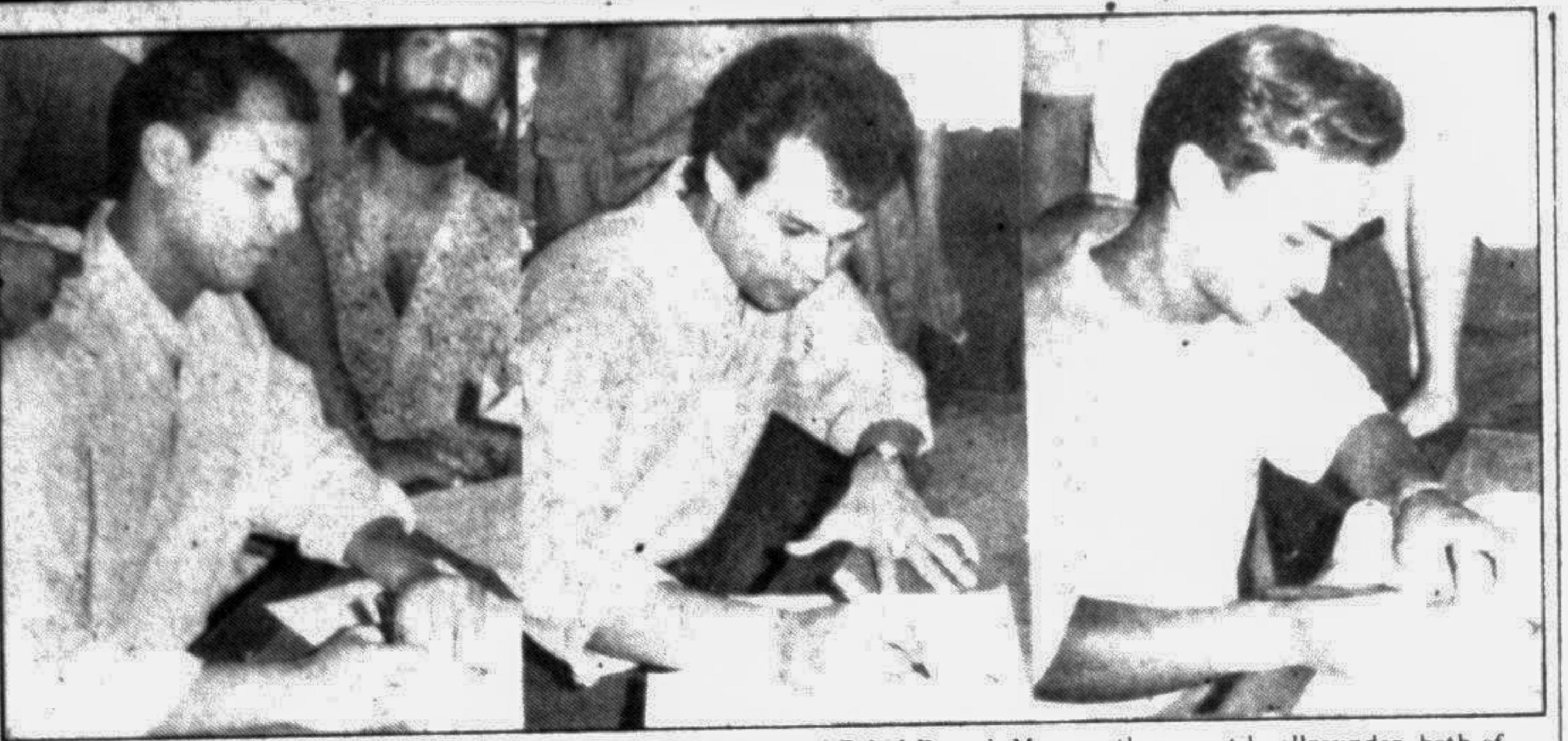


Sport



(Left to right) Nurul Abedin Nobel, the hard hitting opener, and Zahid Razzak Masum, the versatile allrounder, both of whom played for Brothers Union, parted ways with the former opting for Mohammedans and the gangling Masum pledging allegiance for new force Kalabagan. Also changing tent on the second day of inter-club cricketers' transfers was Naimur Rahman Durjoy, the captain of the Bangladesh youth team, who left Mohammedans for Abahani. — Star photo

Nat'l tennis open begins

Sports Reporter

Eleven matches were set on the opening day of the national open tennis championships at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex yesterday.

Twenty-two matches will be held today.

Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports M Azizul Huq, who is also the president of the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA), declared the five-day tournament open in the morning.

Ninety players including 12 women are taking part in the meet, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Bangladesh Biman stayed well on course for a successful title defence in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league when the airline team easily took care of Combined Sporting Club yesterday at the Dhanmondi gymnasium.

Spearheaded by three leading players of the domestic circuit, Nasimul Hassan Kochi, Saidul Huq Sadi and Musaddiqul Huq Rochi, Biman had little trouble in disposing the lowly Combined paddlers en route to their fifth consecutive victory.

Inter Sports Club, engineered by former national champion Kisloo and his disciple former national junior champion Akhlaque, maintained their unbeaten status in the league with a comfortable 3-0 triumph.

The other unconquered outfit in the fray, Armanitola Juba Sangha lost the first match to Ajax but rounded up the next three for their fifth successive victory.

The other winners of the day, Wari Club had a real scare against Swamibagh Boys when the old timers rallied from 1-2 down to scrape through to a 3-2 victory.

Sociedad's first

MADRID, Sept 26: Mexican World Cup forward Luis Garcia was sent off on Sunday as his club Real Sociedad were beaten at by Avenida in the Spanish First Division for the first time in 25 years, reports Reuter.

Garcia was first shown the yellow card in the 25th minute for protesting against the award of a penalty and received his marching orders three minutes later for a foul, his second bookable offence. Valencia won 2-0.

Sociedad's Lorean Juarros conceded the penalty for intercepting the ball with his hand.

Oleg Sallenko, who scored a record five goals in Russia's 6-1 defeat of Cameroon in the World Cup finals in June, netted from the penalty spot.

Pedrag Mijatovic made it 2-0 in the 67th minute to seal Valencia's first victory in San Sebastian since they achieved a 2-1 win there in the 1969/70 season.

It lifted Avenida to fourth in the table with six points, one point behind front-runners Real Madrid who trounced Athletic Bilbao 4-0 at home on Saturday and lead Deportivo Coruna on goal difference.

M A Khan memorial h'ball on

Reports Reporter

The Rear Admiral M A Khan memorial handball tournament got underway with Brothers Union thrashing Christian Youth Club by 39-12 in the opening match at the handball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain inaugurated the meet organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation in memory of the late founder of the federation.

Eight-team split into two groups are taking part in the championship with two teams from each group to fight it out for the title.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain is being introduced to the players on the opening day of the Rear Admiral M A Khan memorial handball tournament which got underway at the handball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Farashganj keep promotion hopes alive

Sports Reporter

Farashganj Sporting Club earned a crucial lone goal victory over Muslim Institute in one of the two Star First Division football league matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Star Premier sides had a day off.

Nayan struck the match decider for the old timers in the 42nd minute, rekindling Farashganj's hopes of promotion into the Star Premier Division football next year.

With this win Farashganj upped their collection to 16 points from 13 matches, three points adrift from league leaders Rahmatganj and one point behind Victoria, who shared points with Dhaka Wanderers in the other match of the day.

But it was yet another blow for the promoted Muslim Institute who suffered their tenth defeat and are doomed to be relegated. The new booters in the circuit have only four points from 13 outings.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka Wanderers once again failed in the hunt for their first victory when they held Victoria SC in a goalless draw.

Dhaka Wanderers, who have earned ten points from 13 matches have drafted in three Nepalese booters in a bid to break the jinx in their remaining matches.

Meanwhile, organisers, the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) have suspended all the matches of the two-tier football leagues for the next two days for what they termed as "unavoidable reasons."

The league will resume on September 29 while the schedules will go through a bodily shift.

Hong Kong sixes tourney from October 1

HONG KONG, Sept 26: England, the West Indies and South Africa have emerged as the top seeds for the Hong Kong international cricket sixes on October 1-2, the organisers said Monday, reports AFP.

England will head up the "Red" Group that includes New Zealand and Hong Kong, while the West Indies will lead the "Blue" Group comprising India and Holland, and South Africa the "Green" Group with Australia and Pakistan.

The seedings are based on last year's performances, the respective sides' experience and their player composition.

India's side, unveiled Monday, will be captained by Mohammed Azharuddin and include batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod Kambla.

The Pakistanis, meanwhile, will mix Test veterans with youngsters Shoaib Akhtar and Mansoor Khan.

Organisers also said the tournament would be held in two stages to enable fans to see all the teams as many times as possible.

Stage One will have all teams playing under a round-robin formula, with the top two teams in each group moving on to stage Two, in which they will be lumped into two groups for more round-robin action.

Stage Two ... will also mean several clashes between the heavyweights in world cricket — and that's what will excite all sixes fans," said Peter Slack, Chairman of the Hong Kong Cricket Association.

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"Who (my opponent) is doesn't matter but I hope it's as soon as possible. I want to fight again in about three months time."

"I was prepared in my mind that a day like this would come," Lewis said in reference to the knockdown. "But I didn't realize it would be like this."

"That's my ultimate goal, you hear," 29-year-old McCall said. "To knock out Tyson, the No. 1 guy, who I helped prepare for nine title defenses."

Lewis' team have lodged a protest with the WBC, saying referee Garcia acted too soon in stopping the fight. More realistically, they believe the best way back for Lewis is through another title, though that could take more time.

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