

Jejun QM Hossain chess from today

Sports Reporter
It seems there will be a very little change in the cast of characters in the 11th Dr Qazi Mottahar Hossain International Masters' chess championship, which formally gets underway at the National Sports Council conference room today. The matches of the 13-round Swiss league meet, however, will start from tomorrow.

For the last few years or so, the Bangladesh Chess Federation, organisers of the once prestigious tournament, has developed a somewhat safe habit of relying on Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi, national champion IM Reefat bin Sattar and his coeval arch-rival IM Ziaur Rahman and, of course, at least one IM from neighbouring India to compete the requisite quorum of four to stage such a meet.

These three IMs apart, the championship has been co-starred by the chess players from across the border like IMs Krishnamurthy Murugan, Lanka Ravi, Shekhar Chandra Sahu, in the place of familiar faces of Dibyendu Barooah, who was, for a time a regular feature of the tourney.

The new face in the 14-man fray will be Ravi Hegde.

The local challenge comprises FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman, Abdullah Al-Rakib, Dewan Maruf Ahmed, Kalimullah Khan, Nahid Mivazid, and Hasibul Hassan besides Reefat and Zia.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will inaugurate the meet today and also draw the lot at the opening ceremony, scheduled to begin at 5-30 in the evening.

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter
Ajax SC, Dhaka Mariners, Bangladesh Bank and Swambagh Boys finished their AB Bank metropolis table tennis league campaign on winning note on the penultimate day of the championship at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman take on Armanitola Juniors in their last match today and the winners will take home the league title.

In yesterday's engagements involving the lowly sides, Ajax SC thrashed Combined Sporting Club 3-0 while Dhaka Mariners, Bangladesh Bank and Swambagh Boys all recorded identical 3-1 wins over Cynthia SC, Purbachal Parishad and Lalmita respectively.

Besides the men's league final, the women's league championship will be decided today when Brothers Union play Armanitola Juniors.

Div II hockey super league begins today

Sports Reporter
The Green Delta Insurance Second Division hockey super league begins today with two matches billed for the Hockey Stadium.

Victoria SC will take on Cantonian SC in the first match of the day at 1:45 pm followed by the one involving Rakim Sangha and Tejaon Agragami, scheduled for a 3:30 pm start.

Only the champions in the eight-team fray will earn promotion to the First Division next year.

Ronaldo bails PSV out

AMSTERDAM, Oct 16: Brazilian Ronaldo laid on the decisive second goal then scored with a penalty in the last eight minutes to help PSV Eindhoven to a 3-1 Dutch league victory over mid-ranking Heerenveen on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Ronaldo crowned a convincing second-half recovery by the Eindhoven side, converting from the spot after being tripped by Heerenveen defender Arnold Gosterveer in the final minute.

Substitute striker Erik Meijer netted PSV's second goal eight minutes from the final whistle from a precision pass by Ronaldo after Belgian International Luc Nills capitalised on a defensive error to equalise.

But PSV's frail defence was exposed early in the first half as Ghanaian striker Prince Pooley, in his first match for Heerenveen on loan from league leaders Twente Enschede, scored only nine minutes into the game.

Dutch international defender Stan Valckx, back from Sporting Lisbon to captain PSV, imposed order in the home side's defence after Heerenveen had the better of the first half and changed ends 1-0 up.

The result left unbeaten PSV in second place on 10 points, one behind Twente, but with a game in hand.

Curtains at Hiroshima

HIROSHIMA, Oct 16: Host Japan delighted the home fans with two track gold medals and a dramatic volleyball victory on the Asian Games final day Sunday, but a dropped baton cost it another likely track triumph, reports AP.

Runaway Games champion China won four more track events, winding up with 137 — or 41 per cent — of the 337 gold medals at stake in the two weeks of competition among nearly 5,000 athletes from 42 nations and territories. These were China's third straight Games as overall gold king.

But Games newcooper Uzbekistan foiled China's efforts to claim Asian soccer supremacy, winning the gold medal game 4-2 in the final event of the Asiad. Uzbekistan earlier knocked out World Cup finalists South Korea in the semifinals.

In the evening, in ceremonies ranging from folk dances to fireworks, Olympic Council of Asia President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah of Kuwait declared the Games closed. Flags were handed over to the 1998 host, Bangkok, the Games flame was extinguished, and a five-gun salute was fired. "See you in Bangkok," the scoreboard flashed at the end, with a "Sawaddee" — Thai for "greetings".

China received the Sheikh Fahad Cup as the Games overall winner, and men's marathon winner Hwang Young-Jo of South Korea, who also is the Olympic champion, was given the Sang-Beck Lee Cup as the Asiad's outstanding athlete.

Games records that had stood for 12 years fell in both the men's and women's 1,500-metre races Sunday, although China's Qu Yunxia didn't come close to her world record in taking the women's gold.

Japan's effort was too little, too late in the chase to seize second place in the gold medal count from archrival South Korea — which ended up winning the dropped baton race, the men's 1,600-metre relay.

South Korea finished the Games with 63 golds to Japan's total of 59. But Japan ended its part in the Games by coming from two sets down in the volleyball final against China before some 6,000 shrieking spectators. The Japanese won 12-15, 13-15, 15-12, 15-10.

Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako missed the drama, leaving after the first game to keep

other appointments. They later attended the closing ceremonies.

The South Koreans took the volleyball bronze, beating Kazakhstan 15-2, 15-8, 15-10.

In total medals, the Chinese had 289 to 207 for Japan and 179 for the Koreans.

Kazakhstan, one of five former Soviet republics making their debut in the Asian Games, had 77 medals, including 25 gold. Uzbekistan, another of the five, had 40 medals, including 10 gold.

Qatar won its fourth gold of the Games Sunday when Olympic bronze medalist Mohamed Ahmed Sulaiman outdueled China's Mu Weiguo in the men's 1,500-metre



THE 12th ASIAN GAMES HIROSHIMA 1994

race. Qatar won in a Games record 3 minutes, 40.00 seconds, breaking a 1982 mark.

Qatar's Talal Mansoor, winner of the 100- and 200-metre sprints, picked up his third individual medal when his team took the bronze in the men's 400-metre relay.

Qu, a member of "Ma's Army" of record-breaking women distance runners, beat the 1982 Games mark of 4:18.40 in winning the 1,500 in 4:12.48. Teammate Yan Wei was .84 second behind. Qu set her world mark of 3:50.46 last year.

With about 25,000 mostly Japanese spectators watching, Japan's Toshinari Takaoka won the men's 5,000 metres in a Games record 13:38.37, with Qatar's Ahmad Ibrahim Warsama second in 13:39.59. Sulaiman had set the old mark of 13:50.22 in 1990.

Then the Japanese outkicked China and won by .08 second in the men's 400-metre relay, 39.37 to 39.45.

But in the 1,600 relay, No 2 runner Seiji Inagaki, just after losing his lead to South Korea's Shon Ju-li, dropped the baton and lost precious seconds running back to pick it up. Japan's next two runners tried gamely to catch up, but the quartet ended forth, just .72 seconds

behind the winning Koreans.

The Koreans won in 3:10.19. Thailand was second in 3:10.33, and Qatar third in 3:10.59.

Besides Qu, China's other winners Sunday — all with Games records — were Zhang Lianbo with an 83.38 metre throw in the javelin, the women's 400-metre relay team in 43.85 seconds and the women's 1,600-metre relay team in 3:29.11.

Uzbekistan's Vladimir Parfenov was second in the javelin with 81.66. Thailand took silver in the 400 relay in 44.46 and India was second in the 1,600 relay in 3:33.84. Indian star P T Usha, who came out of retirement for these Games, led off for both of India's relay teams.

China dominated major sports including track, swimming and gymnastics here, but also added golds in sports ranging from softball to yachting, a sport in which it won three of seven events. The Chinese, led by a 15-for-15 sweep by their women, took 23 of the 31 swimming events. They had 22 of 43 track and field golds, and 13 out of 14 in gymnastics, 11 out of 12 in rowing and all four in diving.

Swimmer Lu Bin, who missed a record in the World Championships in Rome last month, set one here, cutting .08 second off teammate Lin Li's mark in winning the 200-metre individual medley in 2:11.57.

Chinese also swept all nine weight divisions in women's weightlifting, winning six of them with world record totals.

A world record also fell in men's double trap shooting, where Kuwait's Fahad Aldeehani broke 145 of 150 targets.

Winners at the Games ranged from 14-year-old Malaysian Ryan Han Wui Tan in Optimist Class yachting to Chire Koyama, 30, a 1987 world champion who quit China's table tennis team when she wasn't chosen for the 1988 Olympics and then moved to Japan and married. She later returned to the sport, playing for Japan, and beat a number of her former Chinese teammates on her way to the women's singles title here.

The debut of the central Asian nations cut into China's winnings. The Chinese had 183 golds in the 1990 games in Beijing. But South Korea and Japan both improved. The Koreans had 54 golds and Japan 38 in 1990.

ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

HIROSHIMA, Oct 16: Following is the final medals tally at the 12th Asian Games here on Sunday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze and total):

	G	S	B	T
China	137	92	60	289
South Korea	63	53	63	179
Japan	59	68	80	207
Kazakhstan	25	26	26	77
Uzbekistan	10	11	19	40
Iran	9	9	8	26
Taiwan	7	12	24	43
India	4	3	15	22
Malaysia	4	2	13	19
Qatar	4	1	5	10
Indonesia	3	12	17	26
Syria	3	3	1	7
Philippines	3	2	8	13
Kuwait	3	1	5	9
Thailand	1	11	13	25
Saudi Arabia	1	3	5	9
Turkmenistan	1	3	3	7
Mongolia	1	2	6	9
Vietnam	1	2	0	3
Singapore	1	1	5	7
Hong Kong	0	5	7	12
Pakistan	0	4	6	10
Kyrgyzstan	0	4	5	9
Jordan	0	2	2	4
United Arab Emirates	0	1	3	4
Macao	0	1	1	2
Sri Lanka	0	1	1	2
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	2	2
Tajikistan	0	0	2	2
Burma	0	0	2	2

Denial of an economic tragedy

HIROSHIMA, Oct 16: An Uzbek team official angrily denied Sunday that a competitor from the former Soviet republic had sold gold and silver medals he won at the Asian Games here, reports AP.

"You are mistaken. It has nothing to do with our delegation," said the official who declined to be named. "You must find him somewhere else. He may be Japanese."

The sales of the two medals, reported by the Japanese newspaper Asahi on Saturday, has sparked a media hunt for the man, said to be 24 years old and of Russian origin.

The deal has brought him 1,500 dollars with which he planned to move his family to Russia where living conditions are better, the newspaper said.

There were several double-medalists from Central Asia but one Uzbek canoeist matched the age.

An interpreter for the Uzbek team said his delegation had been deluged with inquiries about the canoeist, a sport coach from the Uzbek capital of Tashkent.

Uzbek booters up on the ante

HIROSHIMA, Oct 16: Several players on Uzbekistan's Asian Games-winning soccer team have been offered lucrative contracts by European and Asian club teams, reports AP.

Uzbekistan scored a historic 4-2 victory over China in Sunday's final, taking the Asian Games title in its first major tournament as an independent nation.

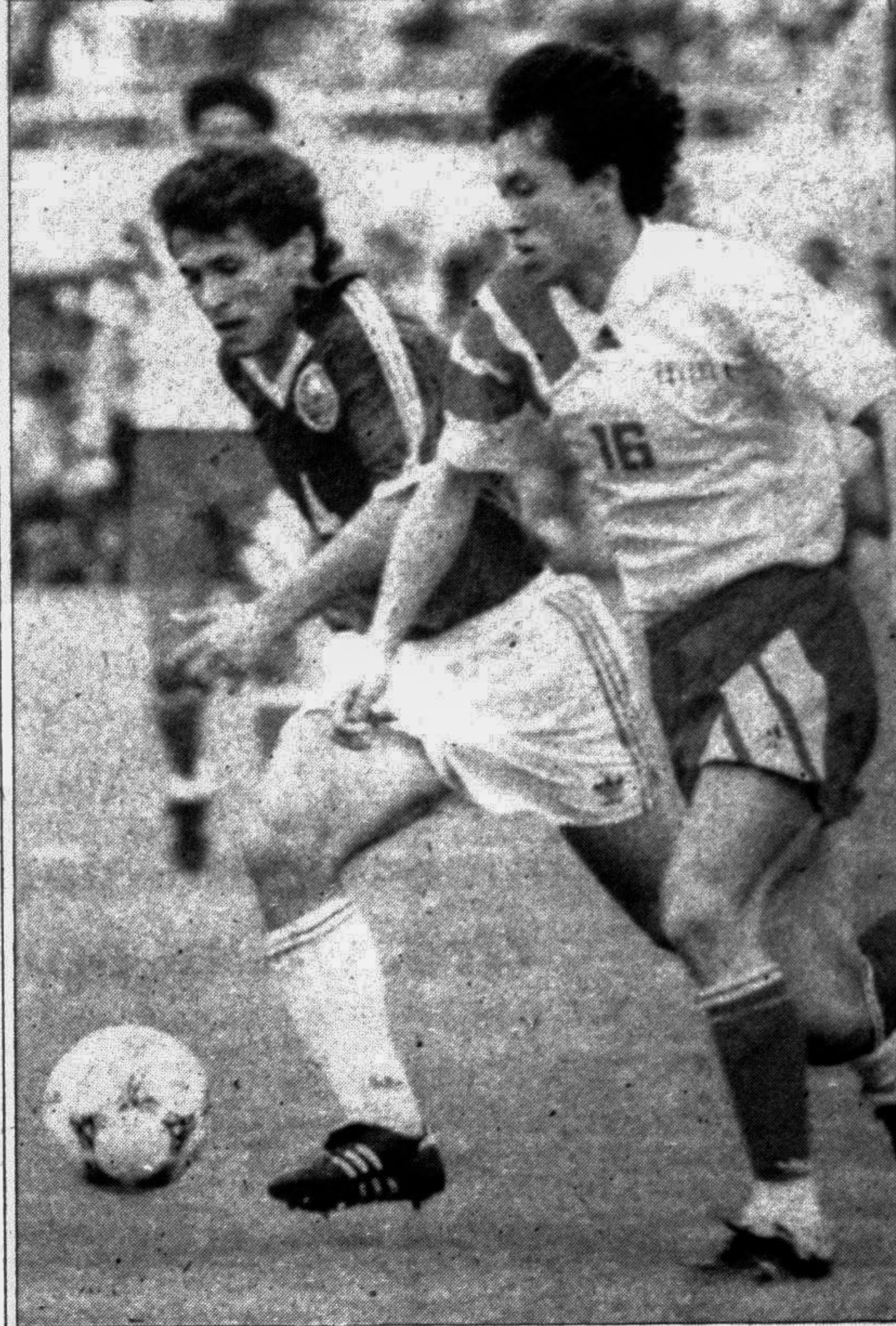
All but three of the Uzbekistan players came from the 16-team Uzbekistan national league.

"I don't think that is a bad thing. It is gratifying that people are paying attention to my players."

Several of the Uzbekistan players are being sought by clubs in Malaysia, where attacking midfielder Azamat Abduraimov already plays for the Pahang club.

The other two overseas-based members of the Uzbekistan squad are playmaker Mirzhalol Kosimov, who plays in Russia for Spartak Vladikavkaz, and striker Igor Shkvyrin, who is in his third season with Israeli club Maccabi Haifa.

Just six minutes later, after Ou had saved a close-range drive from Abduraimov,



Uzbekistan's Mirzhalol Kosimov (L) and China Jin Guangzhu race for the ball during the Asian Games football final at the 'Big Arch' stadium yesterday. The Uzbeks won 4-2.

— AFP photo

Uzbeks, new kings on green

HIROSHIMA, Oct 16: Striker Igor Shkvyrin, who was expected to miss the game with a painful hamstring injury, sparked Uzbekistan to a 4-2 victory over China in Sunday's final of the Asian Games soccer tournament, reports AP.

Shkvyrin, who played with his left thigh strapped, scored a goal and helped create two others as Uzbekistan won the title with a cool, composed display.

The opening goal — after only three minutes — was Shkvyrin's eighth strike in seven games of the 18-team tournament.

The victory was a fitting climax to a superb tournament debut by the former Soviet republic, which won all seven of its games. It was the 10th gold medal of the Games for the Uzbeks overall.

Uzbekistan also got goals from Sergei Lebedev, Azamat Abduraimov, from the penalty spot, and substitute Shukhrat Maksudov, while China's goals came from the industrious Hu Zhijun and bustling striker Li Bing.

The Chinese had barely settled into a pattern when Uzbekistan opened the account.

Fulback Favzi Davletov set up Shkvyrin, who galloped into the danger zone and hit a right-foot shot from an acute angle that flew into the net.

Goalkeeper Ou Chuliang had only a small area to cover on his near post, but was beaten by the ferocity of Shkvyrin's shot.

Just six minutes later, after Ou had saved a close-range drive from Abduraimov,

China, showing great re-

silience, bounced back once again when Li collected a pass from Peng in the 50th minute and slid the ball past Sheikin from close in.

The Chinese had a handful of chances to equalize but Uzbekistan ended the contest with a splendid piece of teamwork in the 83rd minute.

Abdusamat Durmanov and the Israel-based Shkvyrin created the opportunity and substitute Maksudov confidently side-footed the ball home with the defence in disarray. It was his third goal of the tournament.

The margin of victory could have been even wider, but Ou did well to stop an 87th minute shot from the dangerous Maksudov.

Kuwait won the bronze medal Saturday night when they scored a surprising 2-1 victory over World Cup finalists South Korea in the third-place playoff.

The Koreans were bronze medalists four years ago in Beijing, but paid the penalty for poor finishing in their last two matches here.

Teams

CHINA: Ou Chuliang; Wei Kexing, Jiang Feng, Fan Zhiyi, Xu Hong (captain) Li Bing, Wang Dongming, Hu Zhijun, Jin Guangzhu, Peng Weiguo (Gao Feng 61st) Cao Xiandong (Li Ming 25th).

UZBEKISTAN: Yuri Shikin, Favzi Davletov, Andrei Fedorov, Mirzhalol Kosimov, Farkhod Magometov (captain), Sergei Lebedev (Abdulkahor Marafaliev 75th), Azamat Abduraimov, Abdusamat Durmanov, Ulugbek Ruzimov, Igor Shkvyrin, Alexandr Tikhonov (Shukhrat Maksudov 79th).

Referee: Masayoshi Okada, Japan.

BU prolong Abahani wait

Sports Reporter
With the goal that eventually came in the 40th minute, Abahani should have been two up justifiably had an eleventh minute attempt by Iraqi Jassim Mehdi not struck the cross bar.

Abahani apparently tried to lean on their slender lead in the second half and Brothers considerably regained their poise though positive chances were at a premium.

After two Abahani sorties, had come and gone unutilised, Brothers came across a real positive chance in the 67th minute.

Ranjan, the second highest scorer with nine goals, one short of Mohammedan's Russian striker Kazakov, nodded down a cross from substitute Mamun but the ball was tipped over the bar by goalie Dhanu much to the relief of the Abahani fans.

Brothers, however, did get the equaliser in the 73rd minute when dexterous medio Sadequul Islam Uttam dodged a couple of Abahani players before setting up a neat square for Biplal on the top of the box and a sweetly-struck drive robbed Abahani supporters of

their grin.

The men in orange suffered a setback nine minutes from time when Ruhul Amin was ordered off the ground for a nasty tackle from the behind on Abahani's Zakir.

Abahani almost celebrated the reduction of their opponents strength when skipper Munna scudded the resultant freekick awarded by the Malaysian referee from the edge of the box but the fierce shot rammed against the cross piece.

Earlier, traditional club Dhaka Wanderers, still in search of their maiden win settled for their 14th draw in this year's Star First Division league when they shared points with Dhanmondi in a one-all draw.

Wanderers have 14 points from 17 matches while Dhanmondi garnered their 16th point also from 17 outings.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Victoria SC vs Muslim Institute 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)
Mohammedan SC vs Agrani Bank 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)



Brothers Union refused to be Abahani's Krira Chakra's championship toast when they pulled off a late equaliser to force yesterday's vital Star Premier Division football league match to a one-all draw at the Dhaka Stadium.

DMFA Cup champions, who needed two points from the match to regain the title after a year, will now have to wait for their next match against relegation-bound Bangladesh Boys on Wednesday to burst into celebrations. It will be a miracle in the annals of domestic soccer if the sky blues fail to collect the necessary one point from their remaining two matches, particularly on their current form.

With yesterday's one point Abahani, the only unbeaten team in the Premier league so far, raised their haul to 26 from 16 outings. Brothers run behind holders Mohammedans and Federation Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra with 21 points also from 16 encounters.

Looking sharp enough to draw a rather premature conclusion of this year's title race, Abahani last night completely overwhelmed their opponents from Gopibagh in the first 45 minutes of the play.

With their Russian livewire Vladimir in fine fettle, Abahani were never short of incisive intentions and only some resolute defending and alert goal-keeping by Ponir desisted Brothers from letting in more than one goal.

After a spell of sustained pressure the Dhanmondi team, backed up by the large contingent of supporters in festive mood, took the lead five minutes before the hooter.

Zulfikar Mintu got the goal rather fortuitously when his shot, taken from close after the tiny winger had cut in from left, entered the net after being deflected off a Brothers defender.

A minute before conceding the goal, Brothers survived a scare when Ponir flisted away a sudden 30-yarder drive by Vladimir for a corner.

Ctg football
CHITTAGONG, Oct 16: Shatalad Club earned full points in the CJKP First Division football league beating Regency Club 2-1 at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.



Brothers custodian Ponir tries to bring things under control while Abahani's midfielder Zakir lay prostrate during a vital Star Premier Division football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The match ended in a 1-1 draw stretching Abahani's quest for regaining the league title to at least one more match.

Seiko Super Ivanisevic's

TOKYO, Oct 16: Even Goran Ivanisevic didn't expect to play so well in his victory over sixth seed Michael Chang in the finals of the one million dollar Seiko Super tennis tournament Sunday, reports AP.

The top seed, who won 147,000 dollars, blasted forward and backhand winners to both sides to add to his usual supply of aces and service and volley winners for the 6-4, 6-4 triumph.

"I was surprised how good I played, especially from the back," said Ivanisevic, the world's No 2, who said coach Bob Brett suggested bothering Chang with mixed speeds and shots down the line.

"I didn't expect I'm going to be even close to winning this tournament, because I didn't even come close in the US

Open and in Sydney," said the Croatian, who lost in the first round of both the Open and the Australian Indoor last week.

Chang, who won 79,000 dollars, had his own share of brilliant shots, breaking back against Ivanisevic in the fourth game with three service returns which Ivanisevic, the tour's fastest server, said he didn't even see.

But the American baseliner was also his own worst enemy, hitting errors on crucial points from the net — where he went more than he had in previous matches here — and the back of the court.

The world's No 9 player, in his first tournament since losing in the US Open to eventual champion Andre Agassi more than a month ago, double-faulted for 30-40 in the seventh game, then gave it to the Wimbledon finalist by sending

a backhand just long. In the second set, Chang never had a break point but was broken in the third game when he tried to slam a forehand winner down the line but tipped it just wide.

Ivanisevic, who won the coin toss and elected to receive, had 11 aces, including two in the final game. The left-hander took the match on a service winner down the centre that Chang barely chipped.

With the prize money Ivanisevic, 23, went over the million-dollar mark this year. Chang, 22, has won more than 900,000 dollars.

In the doubles final, Grant Connell of Canada and American Patrick Galbraith, the second seeds, defended their title against the third-seeded team of Byron Black of Zimbabwe and Jonathan Stark of the US, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.