

World champs meet SA today

Sports Reporter
World champions Pakistan take on South Africa in the final match of the round robin league of the Willis triangular one day cricket series in Faisalabad today.

South Africa, already out of the tourney, will look forward to at least one facesaving win while hosts Pakistan, irrespective of today's outcome brace for the finale against Australia in Lahore on October 30.

Zardari to head Pak WC committee

ISLAMABAD, Oct 27: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari has been appointed to head a high-powered committee to arrange for the cricket World Cup to be played in Pakistan, officials said today, reports AFP.

Three cricket playing sub-continent countries, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, are to jointly host the World Cup matches in early 1996.

The sources said veteran commentator Omar Kureshi would be the vice chairman while some senior officials of the Sports Ministry and Pakistan cricket board would also join the committee.

Zardari, himself a polo player, was Wednesday named chairman of the committee with responsibility to facilitate the holding of the cricket bonanza event.

Zimbabwe 10 for one

HARARE, Oct 27: Zimbabwe were 10-1 in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings of 402 at the close on the second day of the third and final Test on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Pak cricketer for BU

Sports Reporter
Aamer Wasim, Pakistani cricketer arrived yesterday to play for Brothers Union in the imminent domestic cricket season hopping off with the traditional curtain-raiser Damaal Summer from November 7.

Wasim who plays for Railway at home, is a slow left-arm bowler and middle-order batsman.

Div II hockey

Sports Reporter
Victoria Sporting Club crossed a hurdle in their bid to clinch the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey league title when they beat Combined SC by a solitary goal in one of the two super league matches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half Fazlur Rahman of the winners scored the all important goal in the 40th minute of the proceedings.

In the other match of the day involving the lesser teams, Raktim Sangha also recorded a lone goal victory over Uttara Hockey Club with Arif striking the match decider in the 55th minute.

Jorge Valdano suspended

MADRID, Oct 27: The Spanish Soccer Federation suspended Real Madrid coach Jorge Valdano for one month Wednesday for putting the side's four foreign players on the field at once last Sunday in violation of league rules, reports AP.

The federation's competition committee also voted to fine Valdano 663,000 pesetas (5,346 dollars) for the infraction. It said was committed "without bad faith" during Real Madrid's 1-1 draw against Compostela.

The committee acknowledged Valdano's "Andrew Slovakian forward Petr D'obovsky within minutes of realising his error and attributed it to negligence."

"It is rigorous punishment, but I accept the consequences of this possibly being the biggest lapse I've committed in my life," Valdano told reporters after learning of the ruling.

The sanction comes as Real Madrid trail League-leaders Deportivo de La Coruna by one point after eight weeks of the 38-game First Division schedule.

Competition committee president Alfredo Florez told reporters that "Real Madrid ought to take steps to replace Valdano" during his suspension. But he declined to clarify the exact terms of the suspension.

Deportivo club president Jose Maria Caneda considered the punishment too harsh.

"The only thing I can say is that the rule should be more flexible when it is demonstrated there was no bad faith," Caneda told the Spanish national news agency Efe.

Pool pattern unchanged

Sports Reporter
Abdul Hamid Ripon of Pabna District Sports Association retained his supremacy in the pool on the third day of the 14th national age group swimming championship highlighted by six more new national records at the Mirpur National Swimming Pool yesterday.

Ripon, a swimmer of the 15-17 years age group, captured three of his team's six golds on the day with two new records in the 100-metre butterfly and 50-metre free-style.

Ripon, record-breaker in both the 100 and 200-metre freestyle and 200-metre individual medley on the previous two days of the four-day meet, set a new mark in the 50-metre free-style with a timing of 27.06 seconds. The previous mark in the event was 27.24

Hassan Zulfikar, a natant of the youth group claimed two of the remaining three golds that Pabna earned on the day when he won the 200-metre backstroke and 400-metre individual medley. Alamgir Hossain of the same group captured the other in the 200-metre free-style.

Lipi Akhter of Ansars in the 13-14 years age group, who had won four golds earlier, added two more to her side's six gold haul on the day. She eclipsed the previous mark in the 200-metre free-style with a new timing of 2:55.68 seconds. She also won the gold in the 100-metre butterfly well ahead of Monisha and Chand Sultan who finished second and third respectively.

Rehana, Hasina, Mita Some and Simi Akhter shared the other four Ansars golds on the day.

for Bitman when she finished first in the 100-metre backstroke of the 11-12 years age group.

Monira Rahman Dalia, the pool queen in the women's group, raised her personal tally winning both the golds for BTMC. She set a new national record in the 400-metre individual medley with a timing of 6:29.81 seconds. The previous timing was 6:59.50 seconds.

The BTMC natant also won the 200-metre free-style.

Ashraf Ali of Rajshahi Education Board (REB) was the other record-breaker on the day when he set a new mark in the 200-metre breaststroke for the 13-14 years age group. He clocked 3:00.55 seconds. The old mark was 3:01.66.

However, BKSP took six golds out of 26 decided on the third day with Halim capturing two.



Abdul Halim of BKSP who won two golds in the 10-year-old age group on the third day of the 14th national age group swimming championship yesterday, making a victory sign after finishing first in the 50 metre backstroke. —Star photo

Nat'l jr women's h'ball begins today

The national junior women's handball championship begins at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex today, reports BSS.

Housing and Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia will inaugurate the tournament at 3:30 pm as the chief guest.

Eighteen teams will take part in the meet, organised by the Bangladesh Women Sports Federation.

Div II b'ball

Sports Reporter
Kurmitola Young Star started their campaign with hard earned 59-57 win over Bakshi Bazar Club on the inaugural day of the Second Division basketball league at the National Sports Council woodenfloor gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the breather by 32-28 points.

Taj, who scored the highest 28 points in the match led Kurmitola to a thrilling two point victory while Pintu caged 27 points for the losers.

Cox's Bazar golf

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAR, Oct 27: A two-day golf tournament organised by the Bay-View Link gets underway here tomorrow in the morning.

Nearly one hundred Dhaka golfers will take part.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan Bhuyian will inaugurate the competition.

India-NZ one-dayer today

Sports Reporter
Former world champions India will look forward to their second win in the three-nation one-day cricket tournament when they take on New Zealand at Baroda today.

Hosts India had earlier beaten two time limited overs kings West Indies in the inaugural tie by four wickets.

New Zealand, too, were poised for an upset win in their tournament opener on Wednesday when they had the mighty Caribbeans skittled out for a meagre 123 thanks to some high quality spin bowling by Matthew Hart but rain robbed them of a creditable win.

Healy doubtful

BRISBANE, Oct 27: Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy is in doubt for the first Ashes cricket Test match against England with a broken thumb, reports AFP.

Healy, who had played 64 consecutive Tests before he was forced home from Australia's tour of Pakistan, has been told by a specialist that his broken thumb will keep him out of action for five weeks.

Healy, 30, who arrived home from Pakistan Tuesday, will bank on a second set of X-rays in a fortnight to clear him for the Test, starting here on November 25.

"The big thing is the next set of X-rays," said Healy Wednesday. "If they show it to be healing well, no worries. If it's not healing it could be the test. Without sufficient calcium buildup it could mean a second cast."

"Luckily until now I've only had breaks in places where it hasn't mattered so much," Healy said. "I guess I've had a good run so far."

Healy, the team vice-captain to skipper Mark Taylor has been replaced in the Australian squad by New South Wales wicketkeeper Phil Emery, who will make his Test debut in the third Test against Pakistan in Lahore next week.

Q M Hossain chess results

Sports Reporter
Bangladeshi International Master Reefat bin Sattar stayed atop the points table singularly with seven points at the end of the eighth round of the eleventh Dr Q M Hossain Memorial chess tournament at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

He beat compatriot Nahid Miyazid in 36 moves in one of the matches settled on the day.

IM Lanka Ravi, who along with fellow-Indian Sharavanan, trailed the table leader with six and a half points did not have to rack his brains much to emerge winner against hosts' Taybeer Rahman Suman in 24 moves.

Sharavanan needed 16 more moves to register a win against Bangladesh's Maruf Ahmed.

Holder Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi, who is currently languishing at the third place with six points handed a 38-move defeat to local Hasibul Hassan Hanif, the chap who pulled a major surprise on the opening day of the meet by beating IM Ziaur Rahman, the national champion and runner-up in the last meet.

Two Indians — Ravi Hegde and IM Shekhar Chandra Sahu settled for a draw in another billing of the day after only ten moves.

In an all Bangladeshi affair Abdullah Al-Rakib defeated Tahmidur Rahman, the vastly experienced Fide Master in 24 moves.

The match between Zia and Kalimullah Khan was in progress at the time of filling this report.



Abdul Hamid Ripon exults after winning the 1500 metre freestyle for the 15-17 years age group at the Mirpur national swimming complex yesterday. The natant from Pabna also won two more golds on the day setting up two new records in the 100 metre butterfly and 50 metre freestyle. —Star photo

AC's 'black Wednesday'

ROME, Oct 27: AC Milan completed a "black Wednesday" when they lost 2-1 to local rivals Internazionale in their Italian Cup third round tie to go out of the competition on a 4-2 aggregate, reports Reuter.

Milan had defender Mauro Tassotti sent off for arguing in the dying second.

It was the European champions' sixth defeat in 15 matches in all competitions this season.

Trailing 2-1 from the first game at the San Siro, Milan, nominally the away team, levelled the aggregate scores a minute after halftime with a goal from Roberto Donadoni.

But Inter, without unsettled Dutchmen Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk, replied through Uruguayan Ruben Sosa in the 64th minute and won on the night thanks to a goal from midfielder Pierluigi Orlandini 12 minutes from time.

Some Milan fans in the 59,000 crowd had not learned from the punishment imposed after a bottle hit Salzburg goalkeeper Otto Konrad on the head during a Champions League match last month.

A flare thrown from the same "Curva Sud" (South Terrace) end at which Konrad was hit landed virtually at the feet of Inter goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca on Wednesday.

"It seems some fans think we haven't suffered enough," said Milan coach Fabio Capello.

"The UEFA verdict had nothing to do with this result. We went out to win but gave

away two dreadful goals," he added.

Earlier in the day AC Milan lost their appeal against UEFA's decision to dock them two Champions League points for a bottle-throwing incident in their home win over Salzburg last month.

UEFA's appeals board upheld a ruling by its disciplinary committee that Milan should forfeit the points earned for the victory and that they should play their next two home games in another city.

It also rejected an appeal by Salzburg that the result of the match — 3-0 to Milan — should be reversed. The Austrians' goalkeeper Otto Konrad was forced to leave the pitch after being hit on the head by a plastic water bottle.

Milan general manager Ariedo Braida was furious with the decision.

"Injustice has been done. The sentence is very harsh and we must redouble our efforts if we want to stay in the European Cup," he said.

Milan are left propping up Group D and now face an uphill battle to reach the knockout stage of Europe's Premier club competition.

Milan's next two "home" games — against AEK on November 2 and Ajax three weeks later — will be played in the northeast Italian city of Trieste.

The decision leaves Ajax Amsterdam well ahead in Group D with five points after two wins and a draw. AEK Athens and Salzburg have two points each and Milan just one point from last week's away draw

against the Greeks.

The passage into the last eight of the cup, on the other hand is a boost for Inter who have been struggling in the league and were knocked out of the UEFA Cup by England's Aston Villa.

Cup holders Sampdoria went out of the competition, beaten by Fiorentina 3-2 on aggregate.

Leading 2-1 from the first leg in Florence, Fiorentina went ahead 55th minute, Alessandro Meli pulled back a late penalty for Sampdoria but it was not enough.

The capital has two teams in the last eight but both Roma and Lazio left it late.

Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca struck in the 79th and 86th minutes to carry Roma past Genoa on a 3-2 aggregate at the Olympic Stadium.

Two goals down from the first leg, 18-year-old Roma striker Francesco Totti had put his side back in the hunt with a fine lobbed strike in the 22nd minute.

Lazio, who won their first leg 3-2, found themselves 2-0 down on the night at Piacenza, the only Serie B team left in the tournament.

But Lazio produced one of the second half rallies which are becoming their trademark to snatch a 3-2 victory on the night.

Defenders Roberto Cravero and Paolo Negro and World Cup striker Giuseppe Signori struck three goals in a whirlwind 10-minute spell midway through the half to snuff out hopes of an upset.

All eyes on Spurs, Ardiles

LONDON, Oct 27: While Manchester United face Newcastle United for the second time in four days on Saturday, the major drama in the English Premier league could come at White Hart Lane where Tottenham play West Ham, reports Reuter.

The game of the day will be at Old Trafford where third-placed Manchester United, champions for the past two years, take on leaders Newcastle.

But a defeat at White Hart Lane could spell the end of Ossie Ardiles' reign as Tottenham manager after just 14 months in charge of the club he played for with such success in the 1970s and 1980s.

The crucial Old Trafford clash follows Newcastle's 2-0 win over Manchester United in the League Cup on Wednesday night.

Manchester manager Alex Ferguson played seven young reserves in Wednesday's League Cup tie at St James' Park but will field his full-strength team against Kevin Keegan's side who have lost only twice in their last 31 cup and league matches since February.

There is likely to be another titanic struggle at Nottingham where unbeaten, second-placed Forest take on fourth-placed Blackburn.

Both teams successfully negotiated their third round League Cup ties on Wednesday with Alan Shearer scoring twice in Blackburn's 2-0 win over Coventry and Stuart Pearce scoring twice, including the late winner, as Forest won 3-2 at First Division leaders Wolves.

Forest will be without striker Stan Collymore who limped off after 23 minutes

against Wolves with a hamstring injury.

Resurgent Liverpool, who are fifth, will be looking for their sixth win in seven games against an Ipswich side that have lost nine of their last 10.

They take on Arsenal, who have won eight of their last 10 games, but who will be without injured striker Ian Wright, who has scored 14 goals in his last 10 matches for the Gunners.

Everton may take some heart from Wright's absence, but like Ardiles at Tottenham, Everton manager Mike Walker knows that anything less than victory will increase the demands for his removal.

Tottenham face West Ham at the lowest point of their recently-troubled history following their humiliating 3-0 defeat at Notts County on Wednesday night.

If Tottenham, without a win in their last five matches, lose to a resurgent West Ham side that has won five of its last six matches, Ardiles could be sacked.

WA bring England down to earth

PERTH, Oct 27: Western Australia gave England no quarter as they comprehensively beat them in an experimental one-day night match at the WACA on Thursday, reports Reuter.

In a 50 overs-a-side game divided into quarters with each side batting in turn for 25 overs, Western Australia made 248 for five. England were bowled out for 197 in 45.5 overs.

The touring side were always struggling after mustered only 83 for four in the first half of their innings. Western Australia had made 90 for one from their opening 25 overs.

Set 166 from their final 25 overs, England were unable to lift the tempo sufficiently against some accurate bowling and keen fielding.

Western Australia captain Damien Martyn made the touring team pay for giving him two "lives". He made a sparkling 51 off just 67 balls, putting on 91 for the second

wicket with Mark Lavender.

When Martyn fell in the second over after the innings resumed the tempo was increased as Hogg and Lavender added 83 in 13 overs.

Lavender made 83 off 125 balls with eight fours before he skied Devon Malcolm to Mike Atherton at mid-on. Mike Veltella (35) and Adam Gilchrist (17) then added 31 from the last four overs.

Malcolm and Craig White each took two wickets but England's cause was not helped by their missing give catches of varying degrees of difficulty.

England's task in the final quarter was always going to be an uphill climb after they lost John Crawley (1), Graeme Hick (27), Mike Gatting (7) and Atherton (28) in the first part of their innings.

White and Graham Thorpe, who both made 35, did their best to lift England's spirits but they were clearly chasing a lost cause.



International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar (R) plans his strategy against compatriot Nahid Miyazid in an eighth round match of the QM tournament yesterday. Reefat dismissed his opponent after 36 moves. —Star photo

Time for FIFA's oracles

NEW YORK, Oct 27: FIFA on Thursday will allocate the number of berths, each continent gets for the 1998 World Cup, report agencies.

The presidents of the continental confederations recommended Wednesday that the Confederation of North and Central American and Caribbean Football (CONCACAF) get three spots at the 1998 tournament in France, an increase of one from this year's tournament in the United States. The United States' chances to qualify are expected to improve.

FIFA's executive committee is to make the final decision Thursday during its semi-annual meeting.

Meanwhile, Africa was delighted but Europe was tight-lipped following the meeting of the football confederation presidents with FIFA president Joao Havelange.

A day before the executive committee meeting decides

the continental share-out at the 1998 World Cup, African Football Confederation, (CAF), president Issa Hayatou revealed his pleasure at the closed-doors meeting.

Though no official FIFA news was released, Hayatou said: "I am very satisfied, but don't ask any more, for the moment."

Hayatou on Tuesday said that they would not rule out an African boycott if they did not get two extra places — pushing their presence up from three to five — in the 32-team World Cup in France in four years time.

However, UEFA secretary general Gerhard Aigner would only say: "What's the point of saying anything. The decision will be made on Thursday."

FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter admitted use of inter-continental play-offs to decide one or several final places was discussed.

Havelange also outlined his personal opinion on the breakdown of final places at the meeting.

In his view, Europe should have the three more places, putting their presence up to 16, including hosts France.

South America would have five places, including champions Brazil, which means an extra automatic qualifying spot for them.

Africa would have one extra place putting them up to four. Asia would have three, an increase of one. CONCACAF would also have an increase of one putting them up to three spots too.

Oceania, which currently has no qualifying places, would have one team which automatically qualifies under Havelange's guidelines.

FATE'S BAZAAR
The draw for the groups of the 1998 World Cup finals will take place in Marseille, France. FIFA president Joao Havelange told AFP here on Wednesday.

Havelange said: "The draw for the 32 finalists will be organised in Marseille at the end of 1997. Marseille, a town passionate about football, deserves to have such an event."

"However, the draw for the qualifying groups will take

place at the Grand Louvre on December 12, 1995."

The president of FIFA will visit the 10 World Cup towns and stadiums at the end of November this year.

OH! MARADONA
Besides having to haggle about who gets what for the 1998 World Cup, FIFA also is having deal with Diego Maradona — again.

FIFA banned the mercurial Argentine star from the World Cup in June after a positive drug test for stimulants and then extended the suspension to soccer worldwide for 15 months in August.

But Maradona has taken on a new career as a club coach in Argentina, and that has his case back before FIFA.

"Maradona always poses new problems," joked FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni Wednesday in New York, where FIFA's Executive Committee was holding three days of meetings. "He is very useful to FIFA's legal department."

FIFA has asked Argentine federation president Julio Grondona to present a report on Maradona's new activity on Thursday.

Maradona has never attended a coaching school and therefore is unlicensed and unable to hold the title of coach in Argentina.

Moreover, Tognoni says, his suspension "involves all activities related to soccer."

Maradona took over three weeks ago as coach of Deportivo Mandiyu, a first division team in Argentina.

But he has not signed a contract with Mandiyu and is not on the bench during games, although he gives instructions from a seat in the stands.

"FIFA has no precedents on such a case," Tognoni said.

In other business, the general secretaries of the confederations decided to have a six-team Intercontinental Cup at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from Jan 6-13. The tournament will feature Denmark, Argentina, Nigeria, Japan, Mexico and the Oceania champion. The draw will be Nov 28 at Riyadh.