

## BDR retain Nat'l Bank v'ball title

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles retained the National Bank Premier volleyball league with a convincing 3-0 sets win over Titas Club in the final league engagement at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.

In an otherwise one-sided affair, the Riflesmen who had an enviable record against the utility servicemen in their last seven final engagements since 1987, made no nonsense of a serious business winning the first set 15-9.

The BDR spikers then took the second set 15-10 before completing the Titas rout claiming the third and deciding set 15-3. It was BDR's seventh league title since their emergence in the top flight way back in 1987.

Besides, it was a record eighth time clash of the two heavyweights in local volleyball since 1987 where Titas won only twice against BDR's six.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1972-73	Wari Club	Sonal Bank
1973-74	WAPDA SC	Sonal Bank
1974-75	Wari Club	WAPDA SC
1975-76	WAPDA SC	Wari Club
1976-77	WAPDA SC	Azad SC
1977-78	Dilkusha SC	WDB
1978-79	WAPDA SC	WDB
1979-80	Not held	WDB
1980-81	WAPDA SC	WDB
1981-82	WDB	Wari Club
1982-83	Wari Club	BDR
1983-84	Not held	BDR
1984-85	Wari Club	BDR
1985-86	Not held	BDR
1986-87	BDR	Titas Club
1987-88	BDR	WDB
1988-89	BDR	Titas Club
1989-90	BDR	Titas Club
1990-91	Titas	Club BDR
1991-92	Titas	Not held
1992-93	BDR	Titas Club
1993-94	Titas Club	WDB
1994-95	BDR	Titas Club
1995-96	BDR	Titas Club

## Zimbabwe to tour SL in Sept

COLOMBO, June 20: Zimbabwe have agreed to end a drought in Tests for cricket's limited-overs champions Sri Lanka by playing two matches here in September, an official said Thursday, reports AP.

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union has confirmed their participation after the Singer World Series one-day tournament in Colombo from Aug 24-Sep 9, said Tryphon Mirando, Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka.

India, Australia and hosts Sri Lanka are the other nations playing in the Singer tournament.

The venues for the Tests which will be from Sept 11-15 and 18-22, have not yet been decided, said Mirando.

The two countries have played only three Tests, in Zimbabwe in 1994, all of which were drawn.

Sri Lankan cricket board officials have blamed bad planning for the lack of Test matches, with no other five-day games lined up for 1996. Sri Lanka last played a three-Test series in Australia in January, and had none planned until a two-Test tour of the West Indies next April.

Zimbabwe were approached after board officials went to Australia recently in a vain effort to persuade the Australian team to play two Tests during their visit to Colombo in August.

Sri Lanka, who were been consistently snubbed in their requests for five-Test series in England over the past decade, are lobbying with the International Cricket Conference for Test-playing nations to play each other an equal number of times in Tests.



The triumphant Bangladesh Riflesmen who clinched the Premier league title out playing Titas Club 15-9, 15-10 and 15-3 in the final at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Star photo

## Czechs' chilling relief



LIVERPOOL, June 20:

The Czech Republic qualified for the quarter-finals of Euro '96 in sensational fashion on Wednesday after Russia appeared to have stolen their thunder in a memorable Group C game at Anfield, reports Reuter.

The Czechs, 2-0 ahead after just 19 minutes, looked to have blown their chances when Russian substitute Vladimir Beschastnykh rifled home a 25-metre shot in the 85th minute to put his side 3-2 ahead.

But just as it seemed Portugal's opponents in Birmingham on Sunday would be Italy, Czech substitute Vladimir Smicer raced on to a through ball and beat Russian goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchesov to salvage a 3-3 draw.

The Czechs had to wait for a few seconds before learning of Italy's goalless draw against Germany, but their solitary point proved just enough to spark joyful mid-pitch celebrations.

The Czechs hit the woodwork on four occasions, but still came close to disaster in a second-half which contained more twists than the average detective novel.

Russia had played the first 45 minutes like a side who had already packed their bags for home, but two substitutions at the interval transformed the game and at one stage threat-

### Cruzeiro clinch Copa do Brasil

SAO PAULO, Brazil June 20:

Cruzeiro defeated hosts Palmeiras 2-1 Wednesday to win the Copa do Brasil and qualify for next year's Copa Libertadores, reports AP.

This was the second leg of the Copa do Brasil final. The first game ended in a 1-1 tie.

Palmeiras took the lead early in the first half on a goal by Luizao in the sixth minute, but Cruzeiro came back in the 25th minute on a goal by Roberto Gauchao to tie the game.

A goal by Marcelo in the 37th minute was the decider for Cruzeiro.

Cruzeiro will be one of two teams representing Brazil in the Copa Libertadores, the other to be chosen later this year at the national championship.

The Czechs could have established an impregnable lead if Michal Nortnak and Patrik Berger had not been denied by the Russian woodwork, but in the end the only statistics which really mattered were the Group C final standings.

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