

# Squeaky victory for MSC

Sports Reporter

Mohammed Sporting Club maintained their winning run in the Green Delta First Division league with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha in one of yesterday's two matches held at the National Hockey Stadium.

The winners led the first half 1-0.

In a see-saw encounter, winger Zahid Biswas and de-

fended Mahfuz Alam Nixon struck one each for the black and whites while forward Morad Ikramulla reduced the margin for the insurgents.

After eight easy outings against the weaker sides, Mohammedans had to struggle and wait till the last minute of the first session for a lead against the spirited Bima side who, spearheaded by two Pakistani recruit Saqlain and Ghous, gave their mighty counterparts a good run for their money throughout.

And at a stage, when a goal-less first half was beckoning, Zahid Biswas suddenly broke the deadlock with a powerful hit capitalising on a free hit by Khokon from the right flank in the 34th minute.

Skipper Nixon doubled the margin converting a penalty stroke in the 53rd minute. It was Saqlain who was responsible for the penalty as he raised his stick above his head while trying to stop a Nixon hit from a penalty corner.

After conceding the second goal, Bima tried their best to stage a comeback by keeping Mohammedans contained in their own half. And finally they pulled one back through Morad who sounded the board from a Saqlain pass in the 58th minute. It was the first goal Mohammedans conceded so far in their nine league matches.

Mohammedans raised their tally to 27 points and gave them a three-point lead over Usha Krira Chakra, Abahani Krira Chakra and Mariner Young's Club who have 24 points apiece having one match in hand respectively.

On the other hand, it was the

fourth defeat for Bima in nine matches which kept them glued to their previous collection of 15 points.

## AZAD BLANK VICTORIA

In the day's other match, Azad Sporting Club recorded a 3-0 victory over Victoria Sporting Club.

The winners led the first half 2-0.

Rubel put Azad ahead in the 22nd minute through a penalty stroke while Habul increased the margin after four minutes through a field goal. Rana sealed the match in the 36th minute converting a penalty corner.

With the win, Azad raised the account to seven points while Victoria remained on four points.

## BFUJ reception today

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will accord a reception to Bangladesh cricket team at the Jatya Press Club at 4:30 PM this afternoon, reports BSS.

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, and BCB's director of training Gordon Greenidge will attend the reception.

Meanwhile, Computer Network Systems Ltd, a business firm, will accord a reception to Khaled Masud Pilot at a city restaurant in the evening.

Dr Abdullah-al-Muti Sarfuddin is expected to attend the function as the chief guest.

# Charity soccer matches today

Sports Reporter

Two charity football matches between the veteran and present teams of arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club, organised by the Football Players' Welfare Association (FPWA) to raise funds for the cyclone-affected people of southern Bangladesh, will be held at the Dhaka Stadium this evening.

The first match, a 60-minute affair between the old heroes of the two leading clubs, will kick off at 5:30 pm while the other match, an 80-minute encounter between the current teams, is scheduled to start at 6:45 in the evening.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim is expected to witness the matches as chief guest.

Ticket prices were fixed for the matches at Taka 20 per person for general galleries and Taka 50 for the VIP enclosure. Tickets will go on sell from 3 pm and the gates will be opened at 3:30 pm.

A press conference in this connection was organised at the Dhaka Stadium last evening. Shaiful Islam Manik, convener of the association, briefed the newsmen about the matches. Abahani official Abrafuddin Channu, coach Abu Yusuf, Mohammedan manager Imtiaz Sultan Johnny and present team captain Jewel Rana were present.

Following are the probable line-ups provided by the FPWA:

**MOHAMMEDAN SC (veterans):** Kanan, Abul, Kaiser Hamid, Zakaria Pintu, Johnny, Badal Roy, Babul, Kaikobad, Salam, Joshy, Protap Hazra and Tipu.

**ABAHANI KC (veterans):** Motaieb, Tutul, Helal, Yusuf, Rakib, Amalesh, Ashish, Babul, Nanni, Chunnun, Anwar and Saiddin.

**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** Ponir, Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Munna, Masood Rana, Iqbal, Manik, Arman, Sabir, Zakir, Nakib and Alfaz.

**ABAHANI KC:** Biplab, Al-Mamun, Munna, Prodeep, Masum, Swapan, Askar Babu, Rakib, Sentu, Amin Rana, Rumi and Aslam.

## Redtapism indeed!

ZURICH, June 4: FIFA said on Tuesday that Iranian striker Karim Bakari's seven-goal World Cup spree on Monday could not yet be recognised as a world record, reports Reuter.

Iran went into the World Cup record books with their 17-0 demolition of Maldives in an Asian zone qualifier in Damascus on Monday, beating the previous best of 13-0, set by New Zealand against Fiji in 1981.

Bakari scored seven of them, three in a five-minute spell between the 11th and 16th minutes, followed by an almost equally fast six-minute hat-trick between the 62nd and 68th minutes before completing his tally five minutes from time.

There is currently no record of any player scoring as many as seven goals in a World Cup match but FIFA said details of early qualifiers were still incomplete and that it was too early to recognise Bakari's mark as a world record.

Iran's win marked only the 14th time in World Cup history where one team has scored at least 10 goals. Apart from Hungary's 10-1 win over El Salvador in the 1982 finals in Spain, all were in qualifiers.

Four of them have been in qualifiers for next year's World Cup finals in France.

## Cocaine costs another

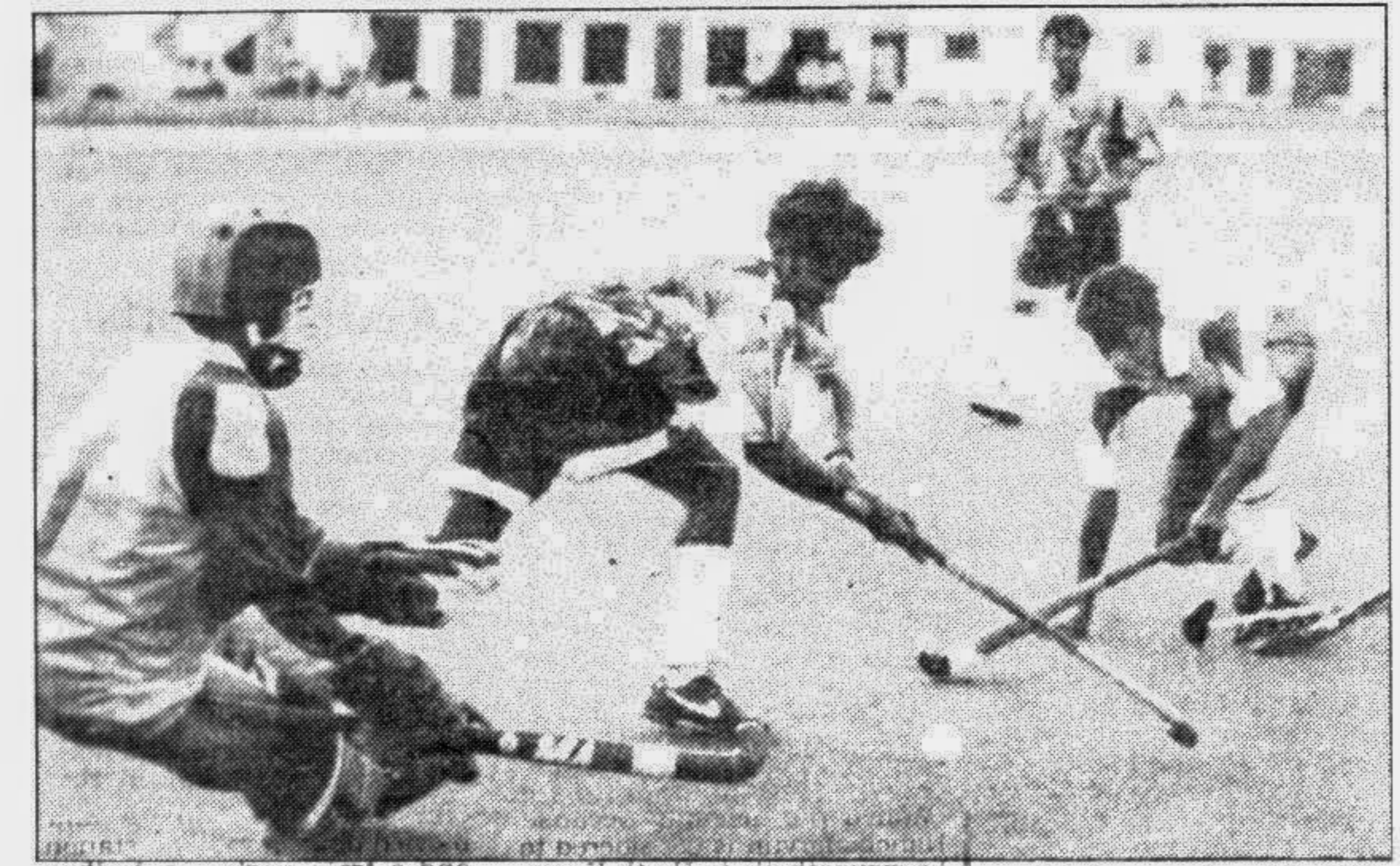
LONDON, June 4: Former Warwickshire all-rounder Paul Smith was on Tuesday banned from professional cricket for 22 months for taking cocaine, reports Reuter.

Smith appeared before the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) disciplinary committee and was found guilty of taking an illegal substance while playing as a county cricketer.

After a hearing lasting a little more than an hour, Smith was banned from all cricket under ECB, until April 1, 1999.

Smith, 33, left Warwickshire last summer after a 15-year career in which he played 221 games, scoring 8,173 runs and taking 283 wickets.

The last cricketer to be suspended for drug taking, former Sussex fast bowler Ed Giddings, is currently serving a 20-month ban, at the end of which he will be qualified for Smith's former county Warwickshire.



Action from the Green Delta First Division league match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

# Enter Klinsmann, exit Mancini

ROME, June 4: Striker Roberto Mancini signed a preliminary contract with Italian club Lazio on Monday while German captain Jurgen Klinsmann arrived in Genoa to be presented as his Sampdoria replacement, reports Reuter.

Lazio said Mancini, who technically remains contracted to Sampdoria until the end of June, had signed a preliminary three-year contract in Rome after meeting president Dino Zoff and majority shareholder Sergio Cragnotti.

Mancini, 32, who has spent the last 15 seasons with Sampdoria, was joined by Sampdoria's Swedish coach Sven-

Goran Eriksson, his deputy Luciano Spinosi, Masseur Paolo Vignano and trainer Carlo Forcardi in a mass move.

Club sources said Eriksson's deal was worth around 900,000 dollars a season. Mancini's a total of 1.8 million dollars.

Sampdoria had already announced that Mancini, one of the greatest players in the history of Sampdoria and a crowd hero, would be replaced by Klinsmann.

The former Bayern Munich striker, speaking fluent Italian, said Sampdoria had offered less than other clubs.

But "I was looking for a serious and ambitious club that could give me the chance to show Italians that I have improved in the last few years," he said.

"I found all this at Samp and with president (Enrico) Mantovani we decided to sign an annual contract but we have also discussed the possibility of extending it."

Klinsmann said that nobody could replace Mancini "who was and remains the standard-bearer for Sampdoria."

"And on a technical level we are different players. For my part, I will try and do my utmost to please the fans."

Klinsmann will wear the number 18 shirt. Sampdoria has said it is considering withdrawing the number 10 shirt worn by Mancini as a mark of respect for the departed great.

The German played in Italy previously at the end of the 1980s with Internazionale and has a holiday home on Lake Como north of Milan.

He said he still had great memories of Inter, especially his first two years at the club.

Klinsmann said that his arguments with Trapattoni, his coach at Inter and Bayern, were mostly over tactics.

"I am a striker and like attacking football. For him the result comes first of all."

## TODAY'S MATCHES

- Green Delta First Division Hockey League**  
(Venue: Hockey Stadium)  
Bangladesh Railway vs Dhaka Ansars (2:30 pm)  
Abahani KC vs Wari Club (4:30 pm)
- Danish Third Division Cricket League**  
Young Cricketers vs New Eagles (MOS)  
Progati Boys Club vs Monipur CC (DCS)
- Third Division Football League**  
(Venue: Army Stadium)  
Purbachal Parisad vs Rahmatganj SC (2:45 pm)  
Kawranbaraz FS vs BG Press (4:30 pm)  
(Venue: Rajuk ground)  
Labagh SC vs Fire Service (4:30 pm)
- Cute Premier Handball League**  
Dhaka Wanderers Club vs Bangladesh Police (3 pm)

## Cute h'ball

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Police won their respective Cute Premier handball league matches held at the handball ground near Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match, BDR beat Narinda Progati Boys Club 29-18 while Police won the next match against Old Ideals 25-22.

## Now Deep Blue Jr in action

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, New York, June 4: Israel's Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, a Russian decent chess fanatic who mastered the game while imprisoned in the Soviet Union, lost an exhibition match Monday against Deep Blue Jr, the light version of the IBM computer that defeated chess champion Garry Kasparov, reports AP.

Sharansky, whose tour of the United States ended Monday, visited IBM's TJ Watson Research Center in New York to discuss emerging information technology issues, preview future trends. He also played chess.

Chess is the 49-year-old mathematician's beloved hobby. He often talks in interviews about how he played the game in his head during months of isolation in Soviet prison. Convicted of spying for the United States, Sharansky spent nearly a decade in custody before being freed in 1986.

Sharansky defeated Kasparov in an exhibition chess game in Jerusalem last year.

Sharansky had requested the opportunity to play against the computer, which is capable of calculating up to 20 million moves per second. The Deep Blue version that defeated Kasparov can process 200 million a second.

In addition to its chess-playing ability, Sharansky said he also was impressed with the supercomputer's other applications. He said that although Kasparov's defeat in May was crushing, it was helping to bring about "absolutely revolutionary" technology.



THE SILENT SPECTATOR: An exquisite bird's eye view of the Dhaka Stadium which bears witness to the decades-old clammy tug-of-war between the football and cricket federations. It reveals a square scar at its heart now. The pitch of the historic venue has been torn down recently to install sporting wicket. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

# For the proper perspective

Syed Ashfaqul Haque & Al-Amin

Our football can go well without any success but cannot go ahead sans Dhaka Stadium.

Over the years, the big bowl at the city hub has remained the arena for sporting activities all and sundry. But of late, the Dhaka Stadium, built once primarily for cricket, has earned the clammy reputation of being 'the apple of discord' between football and cricket.

Sticking to its sick tradition this year too, National Sports Council (NSC), the owner of the venue and the governing body of local sports, failed to appear in the desired role—a sensible arbiter's role with the national interest placed above everything—and quite expectedly gave in to what could be dubbed as the predictable and clever tantrum of the local football clubs on May 26.

Running a campaign over the control of Dhaka Stadium that at times bordered on calculated sentimentalism, the Dhaka Mahanagari Club Samity (DMCS), a powerful guild of the city clubs, finally met with some success when it was given some assurances of advantages by the NSC recently.

Albeit Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and the clubs painfully failed to refurbish the flagging image of country's football, the unimaginative but haughty gang never gave up the perennial and unhealthy battle over the number one national stadium.

The false sense of insecurity in playing at a more suitable venue like Mirpur Stadium has developed in the mind of many a football organisers following

a propaganda brewed by some vested quarters, who make the most of the financial benefits out of the huge gate-receipts of the Dhaka Stadium.

Much to the vexation of the sports-lovers, the DMCS dillydallied for nearly a month to start the football league citing the lame excuse of crisis over venue. Their so-called crisis began with the much-hailed decision of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to hand over the Dhaka Stadium to cricketers. In a bid to enable them prepare uninterrupted for the Asia Cup next month and the 1999 World Cup.

Expressing solidarity with the popular demand for an exclusive cricket venue, the Premier had announced to build a cricket stadium at Maghbarat in the mass reception for the victorious ICC team at the Manik Mia Avenue. Afterwards, she directed NSC to put Dhaka Stadium, a regular Test ground in the then Pakistan, at BCB's disposal till the completion of the new bowl.

Since then the unhappy football federation, clubs and the league committee have been dragging their feet to play at the Mirpur Stadium, which was exclusively built for football.

The dejected DMCS, however, went back on some of its demands and grudgingly agreed to get the league kicked off at the Mirpur Stadium sometime in September after following a discussion with State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader.

The sports supremo, who is also the chairman of the NSC,

in a meeting with 20 Senior Division football club representatives on May 26, assured to 'rehabilitate' football in the Dhaka Stadium again, possibly within a year. He also gave the assurance to do something about the gate-receipt potential of the Mirpur Stadium which the clubs considered highly inadequate compared to that of the Dhaka Stadium, by providing considerable compensation to the participating clubs.

But it seemed a repetition of an old story by the football organisers, who, oblivious of their responsibilities for the betterment of the popular game in this country, always run after pecuniary benefits and petty interests. Things were not very different last year when the DMCS, a welfare organisation of the Dhaka football clubs, had decided to skip the football league pointing out that most of their donors were engaged in parliamentary elections.

And the NSC had also chickened out then; after countless deliberations and an assurance of hefty donation, amounting 300000 to each club, apparently resolved the crisis in a highly unethical fashion.

This has now become a disturbingly consistent pattern. Comes a stalemate BFF, whose only aim seems to have the Dhaka Stadium at its disposal, prefers to monkey about instead of helping NSC out. Besides, one wonders what possibly could either be the necessity or justification of having the league held with donations being extended by the government

to the clubs every year.

Former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad had taken a bold step to shift football from the heart of the busy commercial area to a quiet Mirpur Stadium. But Quader's predecessor Sadek Hossain Khoka surprisingly brought football back to the Dhaka Stadium, much to the frustration of the shop-owners, businessmen and office-goers because disruption in normalcy due to vandalism by soccer hooligans was a feature witnessed around the arena more often than not. The current NSC chief seems to be suffering from the same fixation that once clouded the judgement of Sadek Hossain.

With such tales of confusion doing rounds one cannot help asking the question: what the NSC would do with these venues—Mirpur and Army stadia—in future as BCB is going to get an exclusive place in Maghbarat and BFF refusing to play in Mirpur? If the government cannot exercise control over the clubs what made it entertain in the first place the idea it can afford the luxury of spending public money at its sweet will? Why the public would foot the bill for the idiocy of the statesmen?

Neither the government nor the sport fathers should forget that the construction of these two stadia cost the poor taxpayers a world of fortune. Will it be wise to try the patience of crores of the tolerant sponsors anymore? We want a decision to see an end to this drama of nonsense once for all.

# France, Brazil split points

LYON, France, June 4: A 60th-minute equaliser by substitute striker Marc Koller gave France 1998 World Cup hosts France a 1-1 draw with world champions Brazil in the opening match of the four-team Tournoi de France on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos put a wicked bend on the ball in typical Brazilian fashion to give Mario Zagallo's team the lead in spectacular fashion in the 21st minute.

His left-footed free kick, just to the right of centre and about 35 metres out, curled round France's four-man wall and in off Fabrice Barthez's left-hand post with the surprised Monaco goalkeeper rooted to the spot.

France equalised in a move started by tricky right-sided midfielder Ibrahim Ba, who fed striker Florian Maurice, playing on the ground of his club

Maurice's low shot was blocked by the diving Taffarel. But Karlsruhe's Keller, who came on for Robert Pires after the interval, pounced on the loose ball to nudge it into the net.

England and Italy, rivals in the same World Cup qualifying group, meet in the second match of the tournament, a dress rehearsal for next year's World Cup finals, in Nantes on Wednesday.

Zagallo, using a well worn cliché, said: "It was a match of two halves."

"I liked what the (Brazilian) selection did in the first half... France were better than Brazil in the second half."

Zagallo said he was satisfied given that Brazil rarely have time to train when they get together for matches.

"One year from the World Cup finals, Brazil can't be at their top," the veteran coach said.

Strike pair Ronaldo and Romario were full of good runs that pierced the French defence. Barthez tipped over a fierce drive from the Barcelona player, set up with a fine cross ball by Flamengo's World Cup veteran, early on.

At the other end a minute later Taffarel saved from Ba at the feet of the AC Milan-bound Bordeaux player after he was put through by Zinedine Zidane.

Barthez also had to push over a hard shot from Brazil's right back Cafu, while Taffarel showed that even Brazilian goalkeepers have bell skills as the dangerously juggled with a back pass inside the six-yard box before clearing with a kick.

A free kick on the edge of the six-yard box four minutes into the second half presaged France's equaliser.

The whole Brazilian team stood on the goal-line but there was a metre wide gap to Taffarel's right where Zidane aimed his shot from the tapped free kick only for it to rebound off Cafu's leg.

France created numerous chances, one of the best in the dying minutes on the left where Athletic Bilbao left back Bixente Lizarazu and Keller set up Zidane, whose shot was just wide of the far post.

# Poison dumped near Olympic Games venue

SYDNEY, June 4: Environmental group Greenpeace said Tuesday it had discovered more than 50 drums containing highly toxic dioxin waste at a site on the shores of Homebush Bay, adjacent to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games venue, reports AP.

Greenpeace spokesman Matt Ruchel said the drums contained dangerous levels of dioxin and many were in poor conditions. The site is 1.25-miles (2 kms) from the site of the main Olympic stadium and close to the Olympic ferry terminal.

Ruchel said the stockpile of drums contained sludge Greenpeace believe was gathered during clean up work at the sites of dioxin contamination at Homebush Bay.

Samples taken from the drums showed dioxin levels of 108,000 picograms per gram. Greenpeace said in a statement. It said those levels were approximately 60 times higher than those found during the world's first major dioxin accident at Seveso, Italy, in 1976.

Greenpeace has documented high levels of dioxin in the Homebush Bay district in Sydney's inner west in recent years, with much of it attributed to former Union carbide chemical plant that operated in the area until 1986.

Dioxin is a toxic waste byproduct of the manufacture of certain herbicides.

Greenpeace said it workers, wearing protective clothing, were repackaging the drums and placing them in chemical-proof containers. The stockpile of drums would remain at the site.

## Kaiser plans for new Bayern

LYON, France, June 4: Franz Beckenbauer, president of Bayern Munich, said here on Tuesday that there would be a different line-up at the German champions next season, reports AFP.

Beckenbauer, who was invited to Tuesday's opening match of the Tournoi de France between France and Brazil, said that Brazilian striker Giovanni Elber would be coming from Stuttgart to replace Jurgen Klinsmann who is joining Sampdoria.

The 51-year-old Beckenbauer, a World Cup winner both as player and a coach, said that defender Michael Tarnat and midfielder Thorsten kick would be arriving from Karlsruhe while he would like to sign French international defender Bixente Lizarazu from Athletic Bilbao, though the Spanish club were reluctant to let him go.

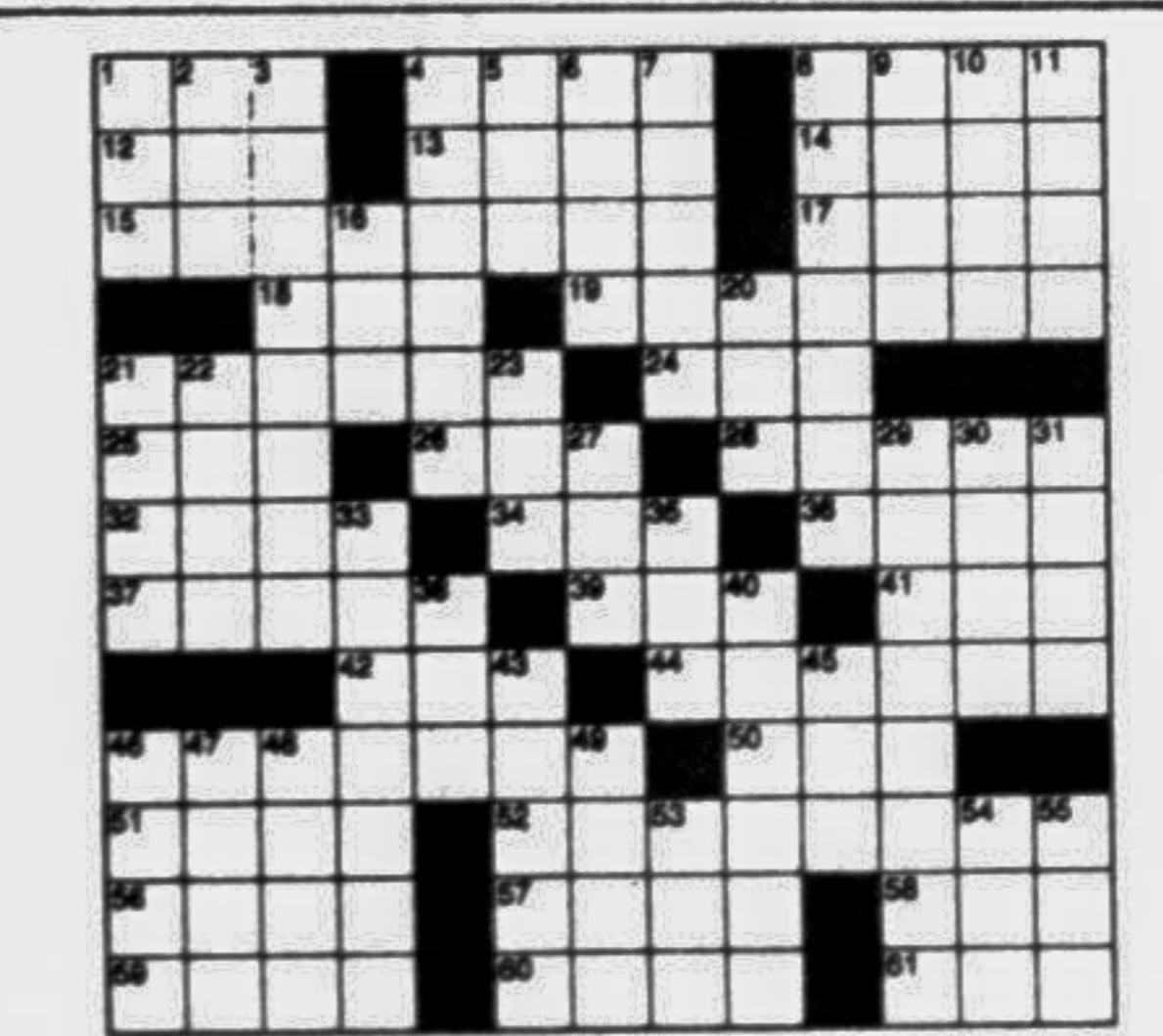
## Nadal misses WC tie

MADRID, June 4: Barcelona defender Miguel Angel Nadal has pulled out of the Spanish squad for Sunday's vital World Cup qualifier with the Czech Republic because of injury. He will be replaced by Atletico Madrid's Juan Lopez, reports Reuter.

Spain coach Javier Clemente has already had to bring in striker Ismael Urzaiz for Nadal's clubmate Sergi Barjuan who pulled up in training last week.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Chum
  - 4 Charitable donation
  - 8 800 of the land
  - 12 "The Greatest"
  - 13 Borscht
  - 14 Writer James
  - 15 Corporate acquisition
  - 17 Cultivate
  - 18 Mrs. Peron
  - 19 Parody
  - 21 Tail
  - 24 Kids' card game
  - 25 Sapporo
  - 26 Margery
  - 28 Simply not done
  - 32 Supreme leader?
  - 34 Royal
  - 36 "The Bird-ge" star
  - 37 Choppers
  - 39 A couple of cups?
- DOWN
- 5 Like
  - 6 Food, often
  - 7 Felineous
  - 9 Flight
  - 10 base
  - 11 James
  - 16 "— a man with seven wives"
  - 18 Moun-
  - 20 "Krazy"
  - 21 legal
  - 22 Hautboy
  - 23 Fool
  - 24 Entained
  - 25 Potok's
  - 26 "—"
  - 27 Similarly
  - 28 Entained
  - 29 Potok's
  - 30 About
  - 31 Evergreens
  - 32 This'll
  - 33 meet at the corner
  - 34 Sassy's
  - 35 Sassy's
  - 36 Boo
  - 37 Evergreens
  - 38 This'll
  - 39 meet at the corner
  - 40 Claim
  - 41 Kind of
  - 42 door or oven
  - 43 Clumsy
  - 44 Clumsy
  - 45 Sassy's
  - 46 Follow
  - 47 Primate
  - 48 Dangling
  - 49 Pol base
  - 50 Dorothy's
  - 51 Through
  - 52 Wapiti



CRYPTOQUIP

DJBWSIUIQ WBCUJ LBMIAL

BY, "XU NPNZL DJBCSAU

Z B M X S Q O N O N M P

B Y N W U."

Yesterday's Cryptquip: DON'T THEY SAY FLIPPER'S FAME HAS PLAINLY MADE HIM INTO A STAR FISH?

Today's Cryptquip clue: W equals M

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Mohammed Sporting Club manager Imtiaz Sultan Johnny (2nd from right) makes a point during a press conference organised in connection with the charity soccer matches against arch-foes Abahani Krira Chakra, at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo