



International Master Ziaur Rahman (L) makes a move against International Women's Master Rani Hamid during their eighth round match of the Open FIDE rating chess tournament at the NSC on Thursday. Zia won the board. —Star photo

FIFA plans for fair game

BONN, Oct 9: World soccer chiefs want to ban sliding tackles in a bid to make the game more attractive and protect skilful players from career-threatening injuries, reports Reuters.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said in an interview published on Wednesday that the game's top players had to be shielded from sliding tackles and other physical challenges.

"In the football of the future, we have to ban tackling, forbid all this sliding," he told the German sports news agency SID.

"We absolutely have to take out aggression, especially in games where a lot is at stake," he added.

"It can't be right that players like Marco van Basten or Rudi Voeller or Ronaldo are booted to bits. It's exactly those players that the fans want to see."

Blatter said FIFA had already urged such a change to soccer's rule-making body, the International Board.

A meeting is due to take place next week when the agenda for the board's next meeting in March next year will be set.

"The first time we got noises of rejection. It was discussed the second time and the subject will be dealt with comprehensively in March 1998 once again," he said.

The idea met derision by Germany's national team coach Berti Vogts, a former defender who was nicknamed "the terrier" in his playing days for the way he used to snap at opponents' heels.

"One-on-one challenges are part of football, neither (German international defender) Juergen Kohler nor I have ever ended the career of a striker," Vogts said.

A look-round Asian Zone

ALMATY, Oct 9: South Korea are confident of securing another win in their trail-blazing run to ward the World Cup finals against Kazakhstan here Saturday, according to coach Cha Bum-Kun, reports AFP.

But Asian Group B rivals Japan face new injury worries as they seek a morale boosting win in Uzbekistan while in Group A China must also win in Kuwait on Friday to keep alive their hopes.

South Korea have won all four group matches played so far in the Asian final qualifying tournament and Cha said after a training session here that he was "sure of a victory against Kazakhstan."

"They are not a big burden since we have played them once before," Cha said. South Korea beat the Kazakhs 3-0 in Seoul last month with Choi Young-Soo getting a hat-trick.

"This time also we will play attacking football and win," Cha said.

His main concern is about the cold weather. Cha has told players to make sure nobody catches the cold.

Japan sacked coach Shu Kamo after giving up a one goal lead in the last minute against the Kazakhs last weekend. And with only one win from four matches, must secure a victory in Tashkent against Uzbekistan to retain any hope of qualifying.

New coach Takeshi Okada, a stop gap replacement with no experience in charge of a team, has four players sidelined with injuries and influenza. Others have food poisoning.

During a workout on Monday, defender Eisuke Nakanishi broke a bone in his left hand and forward Akinori Nishi-

zawa strained ligaments in the left knee.

On Tuesday, defender Norio Omura and midfielder Takashi Hirano retired with a high fever.

"We cannot let any more players be injured or taken ill," said captain Masami Ihara.

But Okada, who was Kamo's assistant, insisted the battle would go ahead.

"As long as we have 11 men we can play soccer," he said. And with rumours of discontent in the team growing he added: "Any one can go home if he can't follow my way."

Japan lost 2-1 to South Korea at home two weeks ago despite taking a 1-0 lead and they also yielded a goal in injury time to the Kazakhs last weekend.

Okada has quickly removed Kamo's favourite midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata and Brazilian-born striker Wagner Lopes.

The coach has also tightened discipline amongst his J-League stars with no "private chats" during training and insisting that all players dine together and carry their own cases.

"We are afraid of nothing. We will win if we relax and give all we have," said Okada, a former international who studied coaching in Brazil, Britain and Germany.

Japan have five points and trail the Koreans by seven points and second placed United Arab Emirates by two points in the five team group.

Only one team in each group is guaranteed a place at France '98. The two second placed nations will play off for a third spot and the loser of that match will play off against Australia next month.

In Group A, China scored a crucial 1-0 home win over Saudi Arabia last weekend to narrow the gap on the leaders, the Saudis and Iran. "But we will have to do that again against Kuwait this time," said China's English consultant Ted Buxton.

The former England coach under Terry Venables said the Chinese players had shown more "fight" against the Saudis but admitted that it would be more difficult playing away.

The final Group A match will see Saudi Arabia host Qatar in Riyadh on Friday.

Borussia in crisis

DORTMUND, Germany, Oct 9: Struggling European Cup champions Borussia Dortmund plunged further into crisis here on Wednesday as the directors fined internationals Juergen Kohler and Stefan Reuter for criticising Italian coach Nevio Scala, reports AFP.

The directors of Dortmund, who lie 16th in the Bundesliga, fined the players 5,000 marks (2,860 dollars) for attacking Scala, hired to replace Ottmar Hitzfeld, coach of the side who beat Juventus to win the European Cup last season, after the 3-1 defeat to Arminia Bielefeld last Saturday.

Reuter, a member of the 1990 and 1994 World Cup final squads, shouted at Scala that he had made countless errors in his substitutions during the game — Kohler, like Reuter a star of the 1990 and 1994 World Cups, supported his teammate.

It is not the first time that Scala, who made his name in taking Parma out of Serie B for the first time ever and later coaching them the Cup Winners' Cup and Italian Cup, has been subjected to criticism by the ageing stars of Dortmund.

Playmaker Andreas Moller, who inspired Germany to the Euro '96 final where he couldn't play because he was suspended, had disagreed with the Italian over being moved from midfield to a forward role — Moller won his argument and stayed in midfield.

Scala's problems mounted also with the announcement that German international Ais Ricken will be out for up to six weeks after undergoing an operation on his right foot.

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Rani bows to Zia

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman continued with his winning run in the Open FIDE rating chess tournament defeating country's lone International Women Master Rani Hamid in the eighth round at NSC chess room yesterday.

Playing with white pieces, Zia, the 1996 national champion, opted English Opening against Rani and checkmated her after a marathon four and a half hours spell.

With the win, Zia raised his tally to eight points and remained atop the standings with a 1.5-point lead over four players — Enamul Hossain Rajib, Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu, Mizanur Rahman Labu and Monir Hossain.

In yesterday's round, Rajib beat Enayet, Shiplu defeated former national champion Tanima Parveen, Labu edged past Ali Anjad Mintu while Monir tamed Aminul Islam.

Rani, ten times national women champion who was second on Wednesday at the seventh round with six points, is now sharing the crowded third spot along with seven others — International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar, Abdullah-al-Rakib, Rezaul Haque, Saifuddin Lovlu, Tyebur Rahman Sumon, Uten and Mahfuzur Rahman Imon.

The ninth of the 11-round Swiss League tourney will begin at the same venue today at 3 pm.

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Violence mars PSG's joy



PARIS, Oct 9: The home success Paris St Germain have been seeking for a month ended in violence against Guingamp at the Parc des Princes on Wednesday, midfielder Jerome Leroy leaving the pitch with his face covered in blood, reports Reuter.

The Parisians beat the Britanny side 4-2 thanks to a double from Brazilian Rai who netted a penalty in the 58th minute and then scored with a fine shot five minutes later.

But at the final whistle, a brawl erupted, with Guingamp players upset after defender Charles-Edouard Coridon suffered a broken leg.

PSG's Leroy appeared to be involved in a fight with defender Jean-Luc Vannucchi. He suffered a cut eyebrow and was forced off the pitch by teammates trying to cool him down.

"This is not soccer," PSG general manager Claude Leroy said. "There is a wide pranoia according to which Paris are the bad boys of the French league. We are not and we proved it with a fine win."

"It is something very bad for soccer. It tarnished our image," said Guingamp striker Lionel Rouxel who scored both his sides goals.

Paris are second in the table on 24 points, two behind leaders Metz who beat Brave le Havre 2-0 thanks to goals from their playmaker Robert Pires and midfielder Jocelyn Blanchard in the 57th and 68th minutes.

"We knew that it would be a difficult match because Le Havre were 17th placed and badly needed points," Pires said. "But we were patient and we won, which was our main goal tonight."

At Rennes, Italian-Fabrizio Ravanelli got off to perfect start with Marseille, scoring his first goal, the second for his side who won 2-0.

It was Ravanelli's first appearance for the former European champions following his signing from Middlesbrough. Ravanelli had been expected to make his debut last week but had to postpone it because of flu.

His penalty clinched Marseille's first away win since they came back to the First Division over a year ago. The

seven points took them from seventh to fifth in the table on 20 points — the same as champions Monaco, who beat Bastia 1-0 on Tuesday.

Third-placed Bordeaux crushed Lens 3-0, but Lyon lost again at home, beaten 2-1 by Montpellier.

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Dhaka International Trade Fair '98

122-124, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka

Tender Notice

Under supervision of the Ministry of Commerce, Export Promotion Bureau has taken the initiative to hold "Dhaka International Trade Fair '98" during February-March 1998 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. The undermentioned publicity materials will be prepared in this respect:

- Application Form
- Folder
- Brochure
- Poster

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed advertising agencies for preparing the above materials. Tender schedule will be available from the General Section of the Bureau at Tk 400/= (four hundred) only (non-refundable) everyday during office hours up to 19-10-97.

3 (three) attractive designs each for Brochure, Folder and Poster should be submitted with the tender. Tender will be paid at the rate Tk 5 (five) thousand for approved design of Brochure and Poster and Tk 3 (three) thousand for design of Folder.

Each tenderer shall have to deposit 5% of the quoted amount as earnest money (refundable) with the tender in Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of "Dhaka International Trade Fair '98". Besides, attested copy of Trade Licence, Income Tax Certificate and bank solvency certificate shall have to be submitted. Tender will be received up to 12:00 Noon of 20-10-97 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM.

M Abdul Mazid
Director (Information)
Export Promotion Bureau

DFF-22592 — 7/10
G-2406

Maradona won't go to Madrid

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 9: Soccer star Diego Maradona has turned down an invitation to play in an exhibition tournament in Madrid on Sunday as part of the European Union's anti-racism year, reports AP.

Maradona said he called the organisers to let them know his decision: