

Sohel Asif wins snooker contest

Sports Reporter

The prize-giving ceremony of the 2nd Inter-club Snooker Championship was held in the city on Monday.

Director-general of External Publicity Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MA Hossain Komol, who was the chief guest, distributed prizes among the winners, said a press release yesterday.

Sohel Asif of the hosts Dhaka Billiard Centre won the championship while Anwar Hossain of Narayanganj Club finished runner-up in the nine-day meet.

The tournament attracted 29 players from four affiliated clubs of the Bangladesh Billiard and Snooker Federation.

Div III cricket

Sumon rises for New Sun

Sports Reporter

New Sun Cricket Club and Anushilon Sangsod won their matches of the Lotus-Kamal Third Division Qualifying Cricket Championship at different city venues yesterday.

At the Mohakhali T&T Club ground, New Sun cricketers recorded an impressive 59-run win over Astral Cricket Club.

Sent in to bat, New Sun scored 188 before going all out in 34.5 overs with opener Biswajit notching a brilliant 57.

In reply, Astral Cricket Club were bundled out for 129 with six balls left in the 35-over-a-side contest.

Sumon, with six for only 13 runs, was the wicket-keeper-in-chief among the New Sun bowlers.

In the other match of the day at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Anushilon Sangsod pulled off an exciting one-wicket win against Future CC.

In a low-scoring affair Anushilon, chasing a Future Total of 116 all out in 33 overs, reached 117 for the loss of nine wickets with only four balls to spare, thanks to some wayward bowling from the Future boys who gave away a staggering 57 extra runs.

MacGill feels offended

SYDNEY, Sept 28: Australian leg-spinner Stuart MacGill has described as excessive and unreasonable his 1,500 Australian dollars (975 US) fine for swearing at a Colombo casino dealer, reports AFP.

MacGill was today fined and reprimanded by Australian team management after the incident at the Bally Club casino in Colombo on Sunday night.

MacGill was at the casino with teammate Colin Miller and the Australian squad's security officer, Reg Dickerson.

MacGill, who had won about 580 US at the casino, said he complained to the casino's supervisor after believing a dealer was cheating him.

"Basically two nights ago I went to the casino, won money, a bloke had been cheating all night and I really had enough," MacGill told Australian Associated Press.

"I complained to the supervisor a couple of times, I had finally had enough and said 'that's it, we're leaving.'

"I swore at him and have been fined for swearing."

"As soon as it happened ... I said to Reg 'we're going and we left.'

"They didn't kick me out, I left voluntarily."

MacGill said he voiced his anger to team management after being summoned to a meeting Monday with captain Steve Waugh, vice-captain Shane Warne, coach Geoff Marsh and team manager Steve Bernhard.

"I think the fine is over the top, I think a reprimand would have been appropriate because I swore and it's offensive to some people," MacGill said.

Mullally mulling over Hants offer

LONDON, Sept 28 (Internet report): England paceman Alan Mullally is considering an offer to play for Hampshire and is expected to respond in the next few days.

Mullally, disaffected at Leicestershire and long linked with a move to Hampshire for whom he made his one-off county debut 11 years ago, will be out of contract at Grace Road from the end of this week.

Hampshire chief executive Tony Baker, meanwhile, who last week insisted his county were merely in the race to sign left-arm Mullally along with a string of other counties, said negotiations had moved on.

"Contact and some negotiations have taken place, and we are now just waiting to see whether he decides to accept our offer or not," said Baker, whose club have already signed Australian leg-spinner Steve Waugh for next summer.

"If it goes ahead I am sure he would like to get it done before his winter commitments."

Prasar Bharati okays tele deal

NEW DELHI, Sept 28: Prasar Bharati has put its seal of approval on the telecast deal between the Board of Control for Cricket in India and Doordarshan for the five-year period of 1999-2004 which has raised much controversy, reports PTI.

"We have ratified the agreement and now it is for the board to ratify it," top Prasar Bharati sources said yesterday adding it had authorised its chief executive officer Rajiv Ratan Shah to finalise the details at Prasar Bharati Board's meeting held on September 25.



Sohel Asif (standing R), champion in the Benson and Hedges Inter Club snooker championship, and runner-up Anwar Hossain pose with the officials during the presentation ceremony on September 27.

Premiership

Everton prevail in Merseyside mayhem



LONDON, Sept 28: A fourth-minute Kevin Campbell goal handed Everton a 1-0 victory Monday in an emotion-charged Merseyside derby at Anfield which ended with Liverpool down to nine men and the visitors down to ten, reports AFP.

Campbell struck his third goal of the season to send the Everton contingent into raptures after Francis Jeffers had touched on Nick Barmby's pass, shooting home past Liverpool's Dutch keeper Sander Westerveld at the famous Kop end.

That was just the start of Westerveld's problems as he was red-carded along with Jeffers after they exchanged blows to earn an early bath with a quarter of an hour remaining to squaring up to each other.

Westerveld's opposite number Paul Gerrard had just two saves to make in the first period, beating away a Jamie Redknapp piledriver and then denying Fowler in the run-up to the Owen penalty claim.

But he more than earned his win bonus with a brilliant late stop after Erik Meijer's drive from the edge of the box deflected wickedly off Michael Ball.

Jeffers might have made the game safe before his inglorious exit but skewed his right-foot shot past the post after cutting through on the left midway through the second period.

Houllier reacted by bringing on former Marseille striker Tiu Camara for Czech international Vladimir Smicer but that only inspired Everton, who almost scored again as Campbell sent a header just over.

Owen lost control of the ball midway through the first half and as David Weir looked to clear his lines the England striker made an atrocious lunge which caught the defender at the top of his thigh.

But there was plenty of superb football as well and Westerveld, who laid some of the blame for his side's loss on the fact a number of first teamers were returning from injuries, described Westerveld's dismissal as "unforgivable" but conceded the result was a fair one.

"I think some of our players

lost the plot and maybe the game was too big for them. The second reason is obviously we have some players who were injured coming back into the team," said Houllier.

"Everton played well, they packed their defence and they really raised a problem to us," Houllier went on, admitting: "We didn't create enough chances."

Everton boss Walter Smith praised his side's determined showing.

"I was very pleased with the first half hour and it was as well as we have played since I have been manager here," said Smith.

The most important thing was the way we competed. We had by far the best of the first half and I felt we were a bit unfortunate not to get more goals."

Huge helpings of goalmouth action at either end kept the crowd on the edge of their seats despite the game's ill-tempered undertones.

Both sides could have found themselves with less than a full complement of players much earlier than they did as Liverpool's Michael Owen and Everton's ex-Red Don Hutchison were both lucky to stay on the pitch, picking up bookings for crude fouls, as the match bubbled along before reaching boiling point.

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STANDINGS

	PL	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Man Utd	9	6	3	0	23	10	21	21
Leeds	9	6	1	2	17	11	19	19
Arsenal	9	6	2	2	12	7	19	19
Sunderland	9	5	2	2	14	8	17	17
Chelsea	7	5	1	1	10	3	16	16
Everton	9	5	1	3	15	9	16	16
Aston Villa	9	5	1	3	11	9	16	16
Leicester	9	4	2	3	14	11	14	14
Tottenham	8	4	2	2	14	11	14	14
West Ham	7	4	1	2	9	5	13	13
Middlesbrough	9	4	0	5	10	13	12	12
Liverpool	8	3	1	4	10	10	10	10
Southampton	8	3	1	4	13	16	10	10
Watford	9	3	0	6	5	9	9	9
Coventry	9	2	2	5	11	13	8	8
Wimbledon	9	1	5	3	13	18	8	8
Bradford	8	2	2	4	4	9	8	8
Derby	9	2	2	5	7	15	8	8
Newcastle	9	1	1	7	18	22	4	4
Sheff Wed	9	0	1	8	3	24	1	1

Everton's Don Hutchison (L) going past Liverpool's Patrik Berger during their Premiership encounter at Anfield on September 27.

— AFP photo

the weekend that he wanted to bring in fresh blood to boost his side.

Now he has admitted he is interested in Carbone, who is on the transfer list at Hillsborough and should be available at less than the 3 million pounds Sheffield Wednesday's disenchanted Italian striker Benito Carbone, reports AFP.

We have approached Wednesday but that hasn't progressed any further," Smith said.

Derby are still waiting to hear back from Owls manager Tony Wilson, who has had a string of problems with the 28-year-old Italian, who is out of favour after several bust-ups with the former Northern Ireland international midfielder.

He was fined two weeks' last month after walking off the bench for his side's game with Southampton - on hearing that Carbone wanted to go back to Italy Wilson offered to drive him to the airport.

The injuries put an end Dall'Armellina's goalkeeping career, just as he was about to be transferred to a higher amateur championship, one step away from the professional game.

Their 1-0 defeat to Bradford on Saturday was their fourth in five home games and after the match the Derby manager said:

Pedersen joins Bregenz

VIENNA, Sept 28: Austrian League newcomers Bregenz have signed Norwegian international midfielder Jan-Ove Pedersen from Brann Bergen for 1999-2000, reports Reuters.

Pedersen, capped 17 times,

will complete the Norwegian season on October 31 for Brann Bergen before moving to Bregenz.

The club from Austria's western-most province of Vorarlberg are bottom of the league with just two wins from 13 matches.

Euro 2000 qualifier Wales name team

CARDIFF, Sept 28 (AFP): Wales football squad selected on Monday to play Switzerland at Wrexham on October 9 in Euro 2000 qualifying Group One:

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Paul Jones (Southampton), Mark Crossley (Nottingham Forest), Darren Ward (Notts Co)

Defenders: Darren Barnard (Barnsley), Mark Delaney (Aston Villa), Robert Page (Watford), Chris Coleman, Andrew Melville, Kit Symons (all Fulham), John Robinson (Charlton Athletic)

Midfielders: Robbie Savage (Leicester), Gary Speed (Newcastle), Mark Pemberton (Everton), Carl Robinson (Wolves), John Oster (Sunderland)

Forwards: John Hartson (Wimbledon), Nathan Blake (Blackburn Rovers), Dean Saunders (Bradford), Ryan Giggs (Manchester Utd), David Johnson (Ipswich)

CONCACAF no more

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Sept 28: After 38 years with an unwieldy name, the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football will now be known as the Football Confederation, reports AFP.

The simplified name for what became known commonly as CONCACAF came along with a new logo for the 38 North American continental football associations adopted at meetings here.

"We thought it was time to make a change, to present a more vibrant and modern image to a part of the world which is making such headway in the game," said organization president Jack Warner.

"Now instead of an awkward acronym, we have three simple and appropriate words."

The confederation's eighth team club championship opens here Tuesday with D.C. United of the United States hoping to defend its title and advance to the first FIFA World Club Championship in Brazil next January.

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Onus on champions

"Our players can identify with some of their players and they know about these players."

Full back Patrick Blondel, who has recovered from a knock which kept him out of Sunday's league win at Rennes, had