

Nat'l karate from today

**Sports Reporter**  
The eighth national karate championships, organised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, begin today at the National Coaching Centre.  
Mohammed Sirajuddin, President of the Bangladesh Judo Karate Federation and Member, Planning Commission, will formally inaugurate the two-day competition at 11 this morning.  
About 200 competitors, including 60 women from 22 teams, will participate in the championships for titles in 10 different weight categories.  
The categories are: -50, -55, -60, -65, -70, +70 kgs and the Open weight category for men and -43, -48 and +48 kgs weight categories for women.  
State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas will be the chief guest at the closing function on Friday and will distribute the prizes.

Nat'l snooker from Apr 27

**Sports Reporter**  
The eighth national snooker championship will begin on April 27 at the Dhaka Club.  
Nuruddin Ahmed, president of the host club, will inaugurate the meet at six in the evening as chief guest.  
Fifty-five players from Dhaka and other districts are expected to take part in the 16-day meet organised by the Bangladesh Billiards and Snooker Federation.

Jabbar Bolikhela

**CHITTAGONG Apr 24:** The traditional 'Jabbar Bolikhela' (Jabbar wrestling) will be held at Lalight Maidan on April 26, reports BSS.  
Jabbar Bolikhela has been an annual affair here since 1909 which draws thousands of people from all over the country.  
A Boishakhi Mela will also be held on the occasion.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas conducting the draw for the United Insurance international Masters' chess tournament at the National Coaching Centre yesterday. —Star photo

United Insurance chess begins

**Sports Reporter**  
The first United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament began at the National Sports Council yesterday under the aegis of the Bangladesh Chess Federation.  
State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas inaugurated the meet as chief guest in the afternoon.  
The minister also performed the draw for the 14-player meet.  
The fourteen players, mostly International Masters or FIDE Masters, from home and abroad, will be competing in a 13-round Swiss league.  
Among the foreign entrants are five Indians — FIDE Master (FM) V. Koshi, International Master (IM) N. K. Misra, FM B. Sheney, FM B. Sareen, and IM T. N. Parameswaran, and a

Pakistani in the person of IM Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi. Four of the five Indians are already in town while the other and Pakistani's Lodhi are expected by tomorrow, April 26.  
The rest are Bangladesh players, namely, FM Younus Hassan, IM Zillur Rahman Champak, Ashraf Hossain Nannu, Maruf Ahmed, Almasur Rahman, FM, Tahmidur Rahman, FM Jamilur Rahman and FM Rezaul Haq.  
The inaugural ceremony was also attended by National Professor Abdur Razaque and Chairman of the sponsoring United Insurance Company M. Moidul Islam.  
General Secretary of the Bangladesh Chess Federation Grandmaster Niaz Mursheed also addressed the opening function which was presided

over by Luthful Matin, treasurer of BCF.  
Matches will begin at the NSC chess room from 3:00 pm tomorrow, Friday.  
The tournament offers a total of Taka 65,000 as prize-money.  
The numbers allocated to the players in the draw are as follows:  
1. FM V. Koshi (India), 2. FM Younus Hassan, 3. IM Zillur Rahman Champak, 4. Ashraf Hossain Nannu, 5. IM N. K. Misra (India), 6. FM Bipin Senoy (India), 7. FM V. Sheney (India), 8. IM Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi (Pakistan), 9. Maruf Ahmed, 10. Almasur Rahman, 11. FM Tahmidur Rahman, 12. FM Jamilur Rahman, 13. IM. T. N. Parameswaran (India) and 14. Rezaul Haq.

Windies have Aussies on the rack

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 24:** The West Indies are just seven Australian wickets away from retaining the Frank Worrell Trophy and underlining their dominance of world cricket, reports Reuter.  
The tourists, the latest pretenders to their crown, were 122 for three wickets at the close on the fourth day of the fourth Test on Tuesday.  
That left them still 429 runs behind the West Indies who declared their second innings at 536 for nine with Gordon Greenidge being dismissed for a career-best 226.  
Australia, already 1-0 down in the five-Test series, were thus set the somewhat ridiculous target of 552 to win.  
The real aim was survival, for one day and 58 overs, reduced later to 49 by bad light.  
An enormous task became virtually impossible after just one ball when Geoff Marsh was trapped leg before by Curtly Ambrose.  
Until Tuesday Ambrose has failed to convert his impressive bowling into wickets.  
But he followed up with

David Boon and Allan Border for a duck-in six balls and it looks as if his time has come. He closed the day with figures of three for 28 off 13 overs.  
The dismissal of Boon for 57 ended a valuable partnership of 111 between him and Mark Taylor who was left out 46 at the close with night-watchman Merv Hughes on three.  
Taylor had been dropped by Richie Richardson at third slip off Ambrose when five while Boon had been missed by Carl Hooper off Patrick Patterson when 40.  
Border's duck was his first in 24 Tests and 39 innings, going back to December 1988 against the West Indies.  
It was a shattering blow to Australia who had found themselves remaining in the field far longer than expected.  
In the morning Greenidge pushed on past his previous best of 223 made in Manchester against England in 1984.  
His score was also the largest made in Tests against Australia by a West Indian, surpassing Denis Atkinson's 219 in Bridgetown in 1955.  
His 11 hours 11 minutes

stay was ended by Mark Waugh who, having gone into the match with two wickets in his Test career, took four for 80.  
Carl Hooper made 57 and Gus Logie an unbeaten 33 while Bruce Reid took two wickets in two balls as the innings came to a close.  
His hat-trick ball was played by Patterson, who then called for the box he had forgotten to wear.  
It was one of the few times in the innings Australia had their opponents worried.  
**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard on the fourth day of the fourth cricket Test between Australia and West Indies on Tuesday.  
**West Indies first innings** 149 (C McDermott four for 49, M Hughes four for 44)  
**Australia first innings** 134 (C Walsh four for 14)  
**West Indies second innings** (overnight 407 for three)  
Greenidge lbw b Hughes 226  
Haynes c Healy b M Waugh 40  
Marshall c Healy b McDermott 15  
Richardson lbw b M Waugh 99  
Hooper c Healy b M Waugh 57  
Richards lbw b M Waugh 25

Logie not out	33
Dujon c M Waugh b McDermott	4
Ambrose b Reid	2
Walsh c Marsh b Reid	0
Patterson not out	4
Extras (lb-19 nb-12)	31
Total (for nine declared)	536
Fall of wickets: 1-129, 2-153, 3-352, 4-454, 5-470, 6-512, 7-522, 8-525, 9-525.	
<b>Bowling:</b>	
	O M R W
McDermott	37.3 8 130 2
Reid	30 4 100 2
Hughes	36 6 125 1
S Waugh	28 6 77 0
M Waugh	28 6 80 4
Jones	3 1 5 0
<b>Australia Second Innings</b>	
Marsh lbw b Ambrose	46
Taylor not out	0
Boon b Ambrose	57
Border c Dujon b Ambrose	0
Hughes not out	3
Extras (b-2 lb-3 nb-11)	16
Total (for three wickets) 122	
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-111, 3-111	
<b>Bowling (to date):</b>	
	O M R W
Ambrose	13 3 28 3
Patterson	11 3 30 0
Walsh	9 3 25 0
Marshall	6 2 23 0
Hooper	10 2 11 0

Borg still has a long way to go

**MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 24:** "Vive Le Roi, Long Live the King, chanted a bunch of groupies as Bjorn Borg headed toward center court Tuesday for his first tournament match in eight years, reports AP.  
But it soon became clear how far Borg has to go to regain his throne as he lost badly to Jordi Arrese of Spain 6-2, 6-3, in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open.  
The 75-minute match proved it will take more than sheer will and hard work for the 34-year-old Swede to make a successful comeback in the sport he left in 1983. Younger legs, quicker reflexes and a new racket might help.  
In some ways, this was the Borg of old. He looked the same — long blond hair, headband, broad shoulders, athletic build. He played the same — topspin groundstrokes, two-handed backhands, displaying a cool demeanor with no show of emotion.  
But in other ways, it was a Borg who seemed just plain old in a game now dominated by youngsters who hit the ball harder and make fewer mistakes than the generation of 10 years ago.  
Arrese, 26, is a clay-court expert ranked No. 52 in the world. Ten years ago, a player of that rank would have had trouble taking a few games off Borg.  
But, with the new graphite rackets and cut-throat competition of today, Arrese had all the tools to stop the man who won the French Open six times and Wimbledon five years in a row.  
Borg remained upbeat about it all. He blamed the long layoff for his poor showing and said he needs more match play to become competitive.  
"My expectations were not that high," he said. "After eight years, it's impossible to play great tennis in your first



BJORN BORG

match. I learned a lot from this match. Even if I lost, I enjoyed just playing a match. I enjoyed competing again."  
Borg said he still plans to enter the Italian Open, French Open and Wimbledon.  
It's going to take a few more tournaments before I will be 100 per cent confident again," he said. "I'm sure if I play more matches I'm going to improve my game. I'm pretty confident about that."  
Arrese had all the confidence Tuesday. He controlled the points with heavy topspin shots. He moved Borg around the court.  
Borg, still playing with a wooden racket, could do little more than keep the ball in play. The points often ended with Borg badly handling a backhand or sailing a forehand beyond the baseline.  
The match began with Borg hitting a backhand long and ended with him slapping a forehand approach shot long.  
Borg committed 31 unforced errors, compared with 25 by Arrese. The Spaniard had 13 winners, five more than Borg. In all, Arrese won 59 points to 44 for Borg.  
"The type of game I have was the worst thing that could happen to Borg," Arrese said. "You could see he was moving his feet trying to slow the

game down. It was too fast for him."  
"It would have been better for him to play against someone who makes more mistakes," Arrese agreed that the wooden racket was a handicap for Borg, who says the graphite

Borg's wife attempts suicide

**MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 24:** One-day after being badly beaten in his comeback attempt, Bjorn Borg received another jolt Wednesday when his wife was hospitalized in Italy after an apparent suicide attempt, reports AP.  
Loredana Berte, a 39-year-old rock singer, was rushed to Milan's Fatebenefratelli hospital after swallowing barbiturates. Doctors said they pumped her stomach and that her life was not in danger.  
Letizia Cecotti, a Milan police spokeswoman, said fire fighters broke down the door of the singer's apartment after the police were called by a servant saying he was worried about Berte.  
Earlier this week, Berte had called Italian journalists at Monte Carlo in an agitated state about reports the marriage was in trouble. She was said to have been particularly upset about a photo in a French magazine showing the Swedish player in the company of a young woman.  
There was no immediate word of Borg's whereabouts or whether he knew of Berte's condition.  
Borg had been staying at his parents' house in Cap Ferrat, France, about 10 kilometers (six miles) west of Monte Carlo, where he played his first tournament since retiring in 1983.  
On the court Tuesday, the people came to see the Borg of old. What they saw was an old Borg.

models don't give him enough control.  
"I know it will be a problem for him," Arrese said. "It's not strong enough and players today will take advantage of it."  
Others noticed that the racket was not Borg's only weakness.  
Borg's former coach, Lennart Bergelin, said, "I don't think the racket was the problem. It's Bjorn. To me he looked a little slow."

Borg's performance came as a disappointment to the more than 7,000 spectators at the Monte Carlo Country Club, the same place where he announced his retirement in 1983.  
"We waited months for this moment," said Prince Albert of Monaco, a tennis fanatic who hit with Borg last week. "The public was carried away by the excitement. We all hoped he would do better. But we couldn't have expected a miracle."  
When Borg and Arrese walked onto the red clay court shortly after 1 p.m. under a soft Mediterranean sun, Albert stood up at his hunch table on the terrace to witness the event.  
Borg was his usual stoic self. But Arrese, appearing slightly awed by the occasion, nervously glanced around the stadium.  
Seated in a courtside box was Borg's physical and conditioning guru, Ron Thatcher, a 79-year-old Englishman who goes by the name Tai Honsahai and watches his protégé through binoculars.  
The crowd broke into rhythmic cheers and clapping as Borg hit his first shots in the warmup.  
Arrese admitted he had dreaded the thought of playing Borg in such conditions. But by the time the match was over, Arrese had a different outlook.  
"I wouldn't want to trade places with anybody in the world," he said. "This day will stay in my heart forever."

UEFA upholds Milan's ban

**GENEVA, Apr 24:** A UEFA appeals panel upheld AC Milan's one-year suspension from European Cups competition on Wednesday, completing the two-time defending Champions Cup and Toyota Intercup Cup champion's fall from grace, reports AP.  
The Union of European Football Associations imposed the ban on AC Milan for leaving the field and not returning within three minutes remaining in a Champions Cup second-leg quarterfinal match at Olympique Marseille on March 26.  
Trailing 1-0 and facing elimination, AC Milan left the field a power outage caused a partial lighting failure. When the

lighting was restored, AC Milan claimed fans, photographers and other unauthorized personnel had entered the field and made resumption of play impossible.  
Marseille was declared winner by forfeit, eliminating

Milan.  
UEFA's five-member appeals jury, after a four-hour hearing, rejected a personal plea by Milan's president, Italian media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, to reduce the ban to a mere fine.  
The suspension will be enforced for the next season Milan qualifies for one of three tournaments — not necessarily 1991-92. But Milan, third in the Italian league with four games remaining, seems certain to qualify for next season's UEFA Cup.

The panel, headed by Swiss jurist Leon Straessle, accused Milan of showing a "highly un-sportsmanlike spirit."  
It said there were no extenuating circumstances given that Milan ignored the referee's instructions to resume play after lighting was restored.  
Nothing could have suggested to Milan officials or players that the referee had ended play, the ruling said. There are no further appeals left to AC Milan.

Zico quits his govt job

**RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 24:** Former soccer idol Zico resigned on Tuesday as the Brazilian Government's Sports Secretary after little more than a year, reports Reuter.  
The resignation, confirmed by a Sports Secretariat spokesman, came 24 hours after Zico sent the Brazilian congress a project aimed at making widespread changes in the way the country's soccer is run.

In a television interview, Zico said he was spending too much time away from his family.  
The plan sent to congress proposed allowing professional clubs to vote in elections for the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) President.  
As a player, Zico took part in three World Cups and played 78 times for Brazil, scoring 54 goals.

Getting's ton in B and H Cup

**LONDON, Apr 24:** Former England captain Mike Gatting stroked a fine century as Middlesex sauntered to an eight-wicket win over Somerset on Tuesday in the opening round of the Benson and Hedges Cup, a 55-overs a-side competition, reports Reuter.  
Somerset began well enough. Peter Roebuck (61) and Jimmy Cook (41) putting on 101 for the first wicket, but John Embury then pegged them back with a competition best five for 37 and their total of 208 all out never looked enough.  
Somerset had no answer to Gatting (112) and Mike Ramprakash (78 not out), who put on 198 for the second wicket in 40 overs.  
Gloucestershire's David Lawrence destroyed combined universities' bid to pull off a surprise success.  
The former England pacesman ripped out their first six batsmen for 20 runs as the universities, chasing a modest target of 150, collapsed to 83 all out in 38 overs.  
Glamorgan were indebted to Ravi Shastri for their 17-run victory over the minor counties at Trowbridge.  
The former Indian Test player held the innings together with an unbeaten 138, smashing two sixes and 13 fours as Glamorgan made 233 for seven.  
Holders Lancashire, seven-wicket winners over Scotland at Forfar, were always in command

Sobers invited to S Africa

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 24:** Sir Garry Sobers, the greatest black cricketer in the game's history, has been invited to South Africa for a ceremony to mark the end of apartheid in sport, reports AFP.  
Sir Garry who was knighted for his services to cricket after a recovered-breaking career as an all-rounder and West Indies captain, has acknowledged that he is willing to accept an official invitation when it arrives.  
He has known about the invitation, for a festival of sport — which will take place on June 29 — for a month and in that time has taken the opportunity to consult senior politicians about what is still seen as a sensitive subject in the Caribbean.  
It is understood that he has received approval from the Prime Minister of Barbados, Erskine Sandiford.  
At a meeting this week, involving the Barbados Prime Minister, ambassador to the United Nations Besly Maycock, Minister for Sport Wes Hall and Colin Cowdrey, President of the International Cricket Council, the world ruling body, it was decided to leave the invitation until more signings of an end to the apartheid system are put in place.  
Cowdrey, Sobers' opponent as England captain 20 years ago, has recently visited Zimbabwe and South Africa and has played a leading part



SIR GARY SOBERS

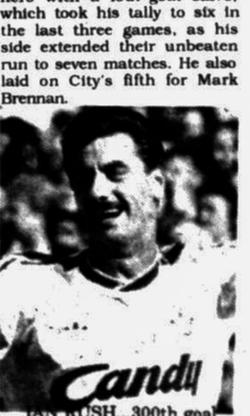
Sobers, 54 has been a sports consultant to the Barbados board of tourism under the last two governments on the island.  
During his long career Sobers made the world record Test score of 365 not out against Pakistan at Kingston, Jamaica in 1957-8, bowled a variety of styles from slow left-arm to fast as he took 235 Test wickets and was a brilliant fielder.  
In 1970 he played in Rhodesia in a single-wicket competition and returned to West Indies to find that a storm had developed which seemed likely to force him out of the game.  
Then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi threatened to stop her country's side playing against West Indies, and the Prime Minister of Guyana Forbes Burnham said he would not allow Sobers to play in Guyana unless he apologised.  
Sobers did send a letter of apology and he continued to lead West Indies for a number of years.  
Reaction in West Indies — where he is considered a role model for young people — to his willingness to visit South Africa is likely to be mixed.  
Two teams of cricketers who toured the country in 1983 and 1984 were banned for life but later allowed back into the game and earlier this week Steve Camacho, Executive Secretary of the West Indies Board of Control said a South African team would be welcome in the Caribbean.

Jansher denies stealing wife

**LONDON, Apr 24:** World squash champion Jansher Khan has denied accusations from a Pakistani man that he has stolen his wife, reports AFP.  
Jansher was the subject of a protest during the British Open here on Sunday, when Pervaiz Akhtar and some of his friends unfurled a banner saying "we want our mum back" during Jansher's semi-final win over Australian Chris Dittmar.  
But the 21-year-old Pakistani star claimed that he had started seeing mother-of-three Nassen Akhtar after she had left her 40-year-old taxi driver husband.  
"I met her four months ago and they'd already broken up," said Jansher, who recently split up with Malaysian beauty Rukhsana Soh.  
"She has come to watch me a couple of times and I've arranged her tickets. I've done nothing wrong. I'm seeing her."  
Jansher felt that the row had been responsible for his loss in Monday night's British Open final against his arch rival, Jahangir Khan.  
"I've been world champion three times, but I've never won the British Open," he said. "Each time I come here there's always something to put pressure on me."

Arsenal maintain lead

**LONDON, Apr 24:** Arsenal, their lead cut to three points in the race for the English League title last weekend, resisted a further challenge from Liverpool on Tuesday night, reports AFP.  
While the champions were rubber-stamping their return to Europe next season in the UEFA Cup with a 3-0 home win over third-placed Crystal Palace, the Gunners were beating London rivals Queen's Park Rangers 2-0 at Highbury.  
Arsenal kept their nerve with three games to go thanks to a penalty from England right-back Lee Dixon and a goal by striker Paul Merson.  
Kevin Campbell, Anders Limpar and Tony Adams all missed first half chances, but Dixon rewarded Arsenal's total domination by scoring from the spot in the 58th minute after Andy Tilson had brought down Paul Davis.  
Merson ensured victory 14 minutes later, flicking home the rebound from Campbell's shot to inflict only the third Rangers defeat in 14 games.  
Meanwhile, at Anfield, Ian Rush earned his place among British football's immortals with the 300th goal of his career in just his 532nd game to put Liverpool on the way to their second win in a week under Graeme Souness.  
Few of Rush's 269 goals for Liverpool have been as spectacular as the one he unleashed for his place in the record books.  
Running on to a pass from John Barnes, he twice exchanged passes with Peter Beardsley before rifling an unstoppable right foot volley from 18 yards past Nigel Martyn in the 41st minute.  
Manchester City closed to within four points of Palace with a sensational 5-1 success at Aston Villa to plunge the Midlands into further relegation trouble.  
David White was the City



PAUL MERSON...300th goal

hero with a four-goal salvo, which took his tally to six in the last three games, as his side extended their unbeaten run to seven matches. He also laid on City's fifth for Mark Brennan.  
"European competition hasn't been the same without Liverpool. It's been lessened by our absence."  
"Without a shadow of a doubt the news that we are back will be welcomed all across Europe."  
**MSC win big in Ispahani cricket**  
**CHITTAGONG, Apr 24:** Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Friends Club by 103 in the CJKP Ispahani First Division super league match at the Chittagong stadium today, reports BSS.  
Mohammedans batted first and scored a massive 204 for six in the stipulated 35 overs. Due to unplayable condition of pitch the match was reduced to 35 overs from the original 45.  
Mohammedans had a disastrous start as they lost their first three wickets for only 32 runs. But national skipper Minhasul Abedin Nannu and his elder brother Nobel had other ideas and played a responsible innings of 113 runs for the fourth wicket partnership.  
Nobel topscored for Mohammedans with 82, including one six and six fours, facing 68 deliveries. Nannu scored 59 with four boundaries, playing 58 balls.  
Subrata of Friends claimed three wickets for 27 runs while Rana Afzal and Sajid took one wicket each.  
In reply, Friends scored 101 for six wickets in 35 overs.  
Afzal and Titu scored 69 in their fourth wicket partnership.  
Titu topscored with 36 followed by Afzal 32 not out and Anwer 12.  
Mohammedan have collected 12 points from their three matches to date while Friends have eight points from the same number of encounters.