



State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas yesterday gave away the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association annual awards for the years 1987-90 at a ceremony held at a local hotel. —Star photo

49 get BSJA awards

Sports Reporter

The awards presentation ceremony of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) for the best sportspersons and organisers for the years 1987 to 1990 was held at a local hotel yesterday afternoon.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas graced the impressive yet unostentatious ceremony as chief guest while Sadeq Hossain Khoka, MP, chess Grandmaster Niaz Murshed and Chairman National Sports Council Maj. General Mahbubur Rahman attended as special invitees.

President of the BSJA Masud Ahmed Rumi and General Secretary Manzurul Haq also addressed the function.

Forty-nine sportspersons, including footballers, cricketers, swimmers, athletes, hockey and chess players as well as coaches and sports promoters received the beautiful BSJA crest and certificate for their salutary achievements and contributions to their respective disciplines which, in the view of the BSJA, have helped in the betterment of our sporting standards.

A minute's silence was observed at the start as a mark of respect to those killed in the devastating cyclone April 29, and also in remembrance of ace sprinter Multiple SAF Games gold medalist Havildar Md. Shah Alam and all the martyrs of the anti-ocracy struggle.

Speakers lauded the role played by the sports journalists through their constructive writings and comments to

wards the development of the country's sporting activities.

The BSJA, on its part, called upon the assembled sports administrations and leading players to take immediate steps to arrange cricket or football tournaments in order to raise urgently needed funds for providing relief to the victims of the Apr 29 cyclone. The BSJA felt that instead of just one or two so-called charity exhibition games efforts should be made for a series of fixtures to raise relief funds.

Twelve players and organisers received awards for 1987, ten for 1988, eight for 1989 and 11 for 1990 for outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

Besides, seven others received special awards. These include a sports sponsor—Nirman International—whose Chairman Mr. K. Z. Islam received a citation for the organisation's vital support to the growth and development of Bangladesh cricket.

Late Shah Alam's award was received by his ageing father and widow. Following is the list of recipients:

The award winners for 1987 are: Football: Khurshid Alam Babul; Cricket: Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu; Hockey: Barkatullah Chapal; Swimming: Abdus Salam and Bazlur Rahman; Chess: Zillur Rahman Champak; Athletics: Late Shah Alam (posthumously); Tennis: Harunur Rashid; Organisers: Abdus Sattar (Narayanganj), Dulu Afendi (Narayanganj), Kamaluddin Ahmed (Chittagong) and Wajed Gazi

(Football).

The award winners for 1988 are: Football: Sheikh Mohammad Aslam and Imtiaz Sultan Johnny; Hockey: Waliul Islam Nasim; Cricket: Ram Chand Goala; Chess: Ziaur Rahman; Athletics: Shahauddin Chowdhury; Organisers: Sachin Kumar Chaki (Gaibandha) and Munir Ahmi (Chandpur); Coaches: Kazi Salahuddin (Football) and Ehtesham Sultan (Hockey).

The award winners for 1989 are: Football: Rumman-Bin-Wali Shabbir; Cricket: Ahmed Iqbal Bachchoo; Hockey: Mohammad Sadeq; Chess: Rezaul Haq; Athletics: Shah Alam Mobin; Swimming: Mukhlesur Rahman; Organisers: Iqbal Khan (Chittagong) and Broj Gopal Saha (Pabna).

The award winners for 1990 are: Football: Mohammad Monem Munna; Cricket: Minhazul Abedin Nannu; Hockey: Jummon Lushai; Chess: Syed Tahmidur Rahman; Swimming: Shamsul Islam; Shooting: Ateeur Rahman and Abdus Sattar Nin; Athletics: Afzal Hossain and Firoza Begum; Organiser: Azizur Rahman (Dinajpur) and Umpire: Mirza Farid Milu (Hockey).

The Special award winners are: Athletics: Amjad Hossain, Fazlul Haq Ukil, Rokeya Begum Khuku and Shamima Sattar Mim; Swimming: Mosharrif Hossain Khan; Football: Khandakar Wasim Iqbal; Coach: Gafur Baloch (Football) and Patron: Nirman International Limited (Cricket).

Sweden pips Yugoslavia



CHIBA, Japan, May 1: Big-match experience helped defending champions Sweden come from behind to pip Yugoslavia 3-2 for the men's team title at the World table tennis championships yesterday, reports Reuter.

Sweden, playing in their fifth straight final, had more strength in depth and know-how than the Yugoslavs, who beat them in the preliminary round but who were all newcomers to the pressure of a world championship title match.

Jorgen Persson, the least celebrated of the big-name Swedes, was their hero.

Forced into playing the deciding match because of an earlier shock loss by World

Champion Jan-Ove Waldner, the tall world number four kept his nerve to defeat Ilija Lupulesku 21-18, 23-21 in a tense encounter.

After taking the winning point, Persson sank back on the mat more in relief than celebration.

"Everything was down to Jorgen (Persson) and he responded magnificently," said coach Anders Thunstrom.

"We expected a close match as they defeated us 3-0 in the group."

Yugoslav coach Milivoj Karakasevic was saddened but not disheartened by the defeat.

"Before the championships our expectation was quite modest to — finish in the top eight," he said. "We reached the final and of course we are sad we lost but when we wake up tomorrow morning we will

realise that this is an enormous success."

The first All-European final for 38 years, following 10 times champions China's quarter-final loss to Czechoslovakia, was tightly contested throughout.

European champion Mikael Appelgren overcame a second set slump in his match with Zoran Kalinic to win 21-13, 18-21, 21-10 to get the Swedes off to a flying start.

But Waldner, beaten twice in group matches, played like a complete novice against Zoran Primorac and succumbed tamerly 21-14, 21-11.

That win boosted the Yugoslavs, playing in their first final since 1975, and European men's doubles champions Primorac and Lupulesku craftily carved out a 21-16, 21-19 win to put the outsiders in the driving seat.

Turks hold Englishmen

IZMIR, Turkey, May 1: Turkey and England drew 2-2 (half-time 1-1) in a European under-21 soccer championship group seven qualifier yesterday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Turkey - Hamdi Cam (26th minute), Hakam (54th); England - Alan Shearer (13th), Kevin Campbell (76th). Attendance: 2,000

BONUS OFFERS

Meanwhile, in an earlier report, Reuter from Istanbul adds: Turkey's international soccer players, yet to score in their European championship qualifying campaign, are being offered substantial bonuses to open their account and beat England for the first time today, reports Reuter.

The President, Prime Minister and the Sports Minister have all promised millions of lira (thousands of

dollars) in a desperate attempt to spur the players on.

In four previous encounters with England, Turkey have never scored a goal, losing 8-0 twice and 5-0, although they did manage a 0-0 draw in a European championship qualifier in Izmir four years ago.

The Anatolian News Agency said each player would receive a 10 million lira (2.525 dollar) win bonus from President

Japan plans bid for 2002 Cup

ZURICH, May 1: Japan is preparing a bid to stage the 2002 World Cup Soccer finals, it was announced on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said in a statement that a formal intention to bid had been received in a letter from the Japanese Football Association.

Turgut Ozal and another five million lira (1,262 dollar) from Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut.

In addition, Ismet Ozaslan, the minister in charge of sport, has offered 15 million lira (3,787 dollars) to the scorer of each goal.

But their German manager, Sepp Piontek, who coached Denmark to their first World Cup finals in 1986 but has yet to see his Turkish side win a point in their three group seven games, was not impressed by the bonuses.

"It is easy to make such promises if you don't have to pay out," he said. "Bonuses will not affect the way Turkish footballers play."

"We have to score something, England have dangerous and free-scoring players. We will take precautions," said Piontek, who will name his side shortly before kick-off.

Abahani held 0-0

Abahani Krira Chakra of Bangladesh despite dominating the match drew goalless with the Indian National pre-Olympic football team in the Group Two match of the Nagjee football tournament in Kozhikode, Kerala, India yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

In their first match, Abahani outplayed Bank of India 4-0 with Aslam and Rumi scoring two goals each.

Abahani have collected three points from two matches in the group. They will play their next match against Titantium.

Spitz to make another effort

LOS ANGELES, California, May 1: Mark Spitz, unconvincing in his two comeback races against Tom Jager and Matt Biondi, is to make his international comeback in Tenerife on May 9. Spitz, who won seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics, hopes to qualify for next year's Games in Barcelona.

Foreman hungry for more

WASHINGTON, May 1: George Foreman, who went 12 rounds with world heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield two weeks ago, is hungry for more, reports AFP.

The 42-year-old former world champ said his wife and trainer Angelo Dundee had given him the go-ahead and it now depended on promoter Bob Arum.

Arum has already talked of a fight against 30-year-old Alex Garcia, ranked 17th by the WBC, in August.

Foreman wants a rematch with Holyfield. That might just be possible as negotiations to set up a fight with former champion Mike Tyson are proving difficult.

"Anything's possible," said Holyfield's manager Dan Duva. Foreman said he would go on a diet if he gets his rematch as he thought the last time he was handicapped by his weight.

China flirts with disaster

COPENHAGEN, May 1: China, one of Badminton's superpowers, flirted with disaster yesterday on the opening day of the Sudirman Cup a mixed team event being contested ahead of next week's world championships, reports Reuter.

The Chinese trailed 2-1 to Sweden following the surprise defeat of world number two Wu Wenkat in the men's singles.

Poles maintain record

DUNKALK, Republic of Ireland, May 1: Poland maintained their hundred per cent record in Group Seven by beating the Republic of Ireland 2-1 in their European under-21 championship qualifier here yesterday, reports AFP.

The victory virtually guarantees the Poles a place in the Olympic Games in Barcelona next year with only one game of importance against the Republic of Ireland remaining.

They took the lead when Irish goalkeeper Alan Gough was unable to stop Kowalczyk firing home from close range and then centre half Waldcho added a second when a crashing volley by Kowalczyk was only half-stopped by Gough.

The Republic pulled one back in the 74th minute when Scott Fitzgerald headed home a corner.

Aussies eye a consolation win



ANTIGUA, May 1: Mark Taylor's seventh Test century has given Australia the chance of a

consolation victory in the fifth and final cricket Test against West Indies which resumes on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

With two days to play after Tuesday's rest day, West Indies are two without loss in their second innings, chasing a daunting 455 to win. West Indies have an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the series.

No team have ever scored so many runs in the second innings of a Test match, but Australian captain Allan Border remains cautious about his

team's chances. "I would have liked to have batted another hour on the fourth day. Given the time remaining, and that the wicket is still playing well, they have an outside chance, they could easily create history," Border said.

Border paid tribute to Taylor, who compiled a resolute 144 in Australia's second innings, his first hundred for 11 Tests and 14 months.

"It was nice and steady at the beginning, then he really took it to them and it blossomed into an ideal Test innings," said Border.

"He has had a fantastic series and bounced back well

from the England series. He has established himself as one of the best opening bats around."

On a less happy note, Broder commented on the acrimony existing between two sides.

"We play an aggressive game," he said, "and we try to hold our ground. There has been a fair bit of lip. It is not just the Aussies who do it and they have given as much back."

"Some teams misconstrue our aggressiveness as something else, especially these guys. They play an aggressive arrogant game. If they smell fear they are all over you. We have to fight fire with fire and stand our ground. If they don't

like it that is their problem." The mutual animosity has been well illustrated by the fuss over West Indian captain Viv Richards' critical comments about Australian coach Bob Simpson.

A partial retraction by Richards on Monday was not enough for Simpson who said he was still unhappy but would not get into a sizzling match with Vivian Richards' out of respect for the game."

Simpson said he hoped for further action from next month's West Indies Board of Control (WIBC) meeting while the Australian Cricket Board, in yet another release, awaited "with interest" a formal response from the WIBC.

Maradona fell for the bait



BUENOS AIRES, May 1: A blonde policewoman lured Diego Maradona into a trap which resulted in the soccer star's arrest for possession and supplying of cocaine, Argentina's leading sports magazine said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Citing a police report as source, the widely respected EL Grafico magazine said Maradona was caught naked and under the influence of drugs in a Buenos Aires flat last Friday in the company of two male friends and the 25-year-old undercover policewoman.

Maradona, 30, often hailed as the world's best soccer player, could face a prison term ranging between one month for possession of drugs for personal use to 15 years for supplying them to others.

Neither Maradona's agent nor the lawyer who is defending him in the drugs case could be reached for comment. The police declined to comment on EL Grafico's story.

Under Maradona's leader-

ship Argentina won its second World Championship in 1986 and fought to second place in the 1990 World Cup play-offs. He also helped his Napoli club win two Italian League championships.

EL Grafico said police had started to collect information on Maradona's involvement with drugs after the stocky midfielder threw a mammoth wedding party in Buenos Aires in November 1989.

Since then Maradona has been tangled in Italian police investigations into Neapolitan drugs and prostitution rings.

When Maradona returned to Argentina this month after the Italian Soccer Federation suspended him for failing a dope test, police planted the woman agent among his circle of friends, the magazine said.

EL Grafico said Maradona was seduced by the policewoman, who coaxed him into meeting several times before busting him last week.

Six anti-drug agents on Friday kicked down the door of the flat where she was with Maradona and two other men.



The magazine said the policewoman and one of the player's friends were drinking whiskey when the agents burst in. The friend threw two bags of cocaine out the window, one with 70 grams (2.5 ounces) which fell on the flat's balcony and another one with 30 grams (one ounce) that dropped onto a neighbouring house's canopy.

The agents found Maradona asleep in another room, naked on a bed with another friend. The player tried to rise and put his underwear on but collapsed onto the bed.

In a daze, according to EL Grafico, Maradona started mumbling, calling for his wife Claudia Villafra.

"Where's Claudia? Where is Claudia? Hey, what's going on, who called a news conference," he asked the agents, the magazine said, adding that Maradona then begged the agents to let him off.

While television cameras followed the unshaven, unsteady Maradona as he was hustled into a police car, other agents rushed the blonde policewoman out of the building and into another car.

The Italian Soccer League in early April banned him from playing for 15 months after his urine sample revealed traces of cocaine.

Two days before the ban was confirmed, Maradona told a television interviewer that he was quitting professional soccer for good.

Wimbledon purse exceeds £ 4m



LONDON, May 1: Total prize money for the Wimbledon tennis championships will break the four million pound barrier this year, reports AFP.

The men's singles champion will receive a record 240,000 pounds — an increase of 10,000 pounds on 1990 — from a total purse of 4,010,970 pounds.

Last year total prize money was 3,819,730 pounds.

The women's singles title will be worth 216,000 pounds compared with 207,000 last year.

Australian great Rod Laver won 2,000 pounds when he won the first Wimbledon in the open era in 1968 when prize money was 26,150 pounds.

Billie Jean King, the women's winner that year, received a mere pittance of 750 pounds.

A man losing in the first round, even if he goes down without winning a single game, will earn 3,600 pounds and first round losers in the women's event will collect 2,790 pounds.

Wimbledon 1991 prize money (last year's amount in brackets).

Men's singles: champion 240,000 pounds (230,000); runner-up 120,000 (115,000); semi-finalists 60,000 (57,500); quarter-finalists 31,200 (29,900)

Women's singles: Champion 216,000 (207,000); runner-up 108,000 (103,500); semi-finalists 52,500 (50,315); quarter-finalists 26,250 (25,415)

Men's doubles (per pair): champions: 98,330 (94,230); runners-up 49,165 (47,110); semi-finalists 25,230 (24,180)

Women's doubles (per pair)

Champions: 85,060 (81,510); runners-up 42,520 (40,750); semi-finalists 20,190 (19,350)

Mixed doubles (per pair): Champions 41,720 (40,000); runners-up 20,860 (20,000); semi-finalists 10,430 (10,000).

PLAYING UNDER NEW COLOURS

Meanwhile AFP from London adds: Players who cross borders should be able to represent their new countries more easily in the future.

The International Tennis Federation is considering adopting a 36 month qualification period.

Players who have lived 36 months consecutively in their new country, hold the appropriate passport and have not competed for another country in that time could play under new colours.

The proposal, to be put to the ITF annual meeting in Hamburg, Germany, on July 12, applies to the men's Davis Cup and women's Federation Cup.

Three players have already been given permission to play for their new countries in the Federation Cup in Nottingham, England, in July.

Patricia Hy, who played for Hong Kong in 1981, 1982,

1985 and 1987, can represent Canada, where she has lived since 1988, if she has obtained Canadian citizenship.

Czechoslovakia's Hana Adamkova, who married New Zealand Davis Cup player Steve Guy, can play for the Kiwis if she has received her passport in time.

And Cathy Caverzasco will be allowed to play for Switzerland where she was born.

Her case was complicated, when she was selected to play for Italy at last year's Federation Cup in Atlanta, Georgia, because her parents are Italian. The Italians later admitted they had been wrong to pick her.

Pernfors' patience pays off



TAMPA, Florida, May 1: Mikael Pernfors, battling back from injury, won his first professional tennis

tour match in more than a year by registering an upset victory on Tuesday at the clay courts of Tampa tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

The unseeded Swede ousted fifth-seeded American David Pate 6-3, 6-2 in his opening match at the 250,000-dollar tournament.

Also advancing with first-round wins were top-seeded American Richey Reneberg, fourth-seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia and eighth seed Stefano Pescosolido of Italy.

Reneberg beat compatriot Lawson Duncan 7-6, 6-2, and Korda cased past American Rick Leach 6-3, 6-2. Pescosolido, 19, was two points away from losing the

match on two occasions, but rallied to beat Canadian Martin Wostenholme 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Pernfors had gone without a tour victory since the 1990 Australian Open. After three successive first-round losses that year, Pernfors had surgery on an Achilles tendon.

When he returned, he suffered first-round losses at the US Open and at Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"At that point, I knew I wasn't ready to come back," said Pernfors, 27, who returned to Sweden for a long break from tennis.

Ranked as high as 10 in 1986, a year in which Pernfors reached the French Open final as an unseeded entry, the Swede's ranking plummeted to 1,002.

"I hope I'm still good enough to get out there with the top players and win," Pernfors said. "I don't know what to expect from myself

right now. Every match is a big one for me. This was a big win today."

Pernfors used an array of topspin groundstrokes to frustrate Pate, a serve-and-volleyer who is more comfortable on faster surfaces.

"Playing on clay is not enjoyable for me," Pate said. "I really can't get the hang of it. It's even more frustrating when you're playing a clay-courtier like Pernfors."

"I know he's been away from the game for a while, but he looked pretty good out there. He was moving well and that's half the battle."

"Pernfors said he expects the comeback to be difficult. "When I was going good, there was a certain respect that existed." I might've won some matches before going out on the court," he said. "Now, I don't think anybody is scared of me. They all think they're going to beat me."

IOA determined to host Afro-Asiad in Delhi

NEW DELHI, May 1: The Indian Olympic Association said today it was committed to hold the first Afro-Asian Games, scheduled to be held here later this year, reports PTI.

The president of the IOA, MR. B. Sivanthi Adityan addressing a press conference of taking charge, said the Association had given a commitment to the Olympic Council of Asia which allotted the Games to India.

He said the government will not have to spend any money

DPRK booters to go to Seoul

SEOUL, May 1: North Korea has changed its mind and decided to send its footballers to Seoul on Monday for a match with South Korea to select a joint team for the world youth championship in Portugal in June, officials said here Wednesday.

The South Korean squad is to go to Pyongyang for a second round selection match on May 12.

in hosting the Games as the sponsors will take care of the same.

Mr Adityan said the IOA which was headed by him when the Games were allotted, had agreed to pay air passage

after careful consideration.

He said an eight-member committee which included the then sports secretary, Mr. M. V. Ardarajan and Sports Authority of India, Director-General, Mr. Arun Kumar

Pandya, had worked out the details and agreed for the same.

"Much has been made out about air passage but government will have to pay nothing," Mr Adityan said.

He said the IOA will meet sometime this month in Delhi to decide on the possible dates and other details.

Male bastion under threat!

LONDON, May 1: The Marylebone Cricket Club, the game's oldest institution, faces an unsettling day on Wednesday when a woman will try to become the first member, reports AFP.

Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, a former England women's Test cricket captain, has been put forward by a clutch of members who want to sweep away the tradition that only the queen is allowed into the Lord's pavilion.

MCC's 17,300 members will vote at Wednesday's 204th annual general meeting of the men-only club.

However, if she is elected she might have to join the 9,338 other candidates expected to have to wait 22 years

to watch cricket from the famous Lord's pav