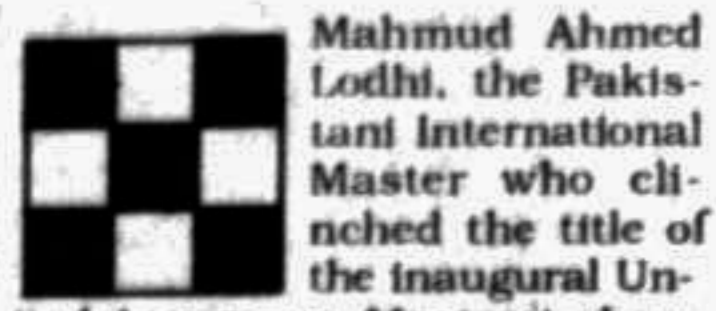


Lodhi richer by Tk 20,000



Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi, the Pakistani International Master who clinched the title of the inaugural United Insurance Masters' chess Saturday, received his winner's cheque for Taka 20,000 along with the championship trophy from national Professor Abdur Razzak at the prize-giving ceremony of the meet held yesterday at the NSC conference room.

Former Bangladesh national champion and Fide Master Younus Hassan, who carried an IM norm by finishing second in the 13-round Swiss league tournament with nine and a half points, earned Taka 15,000.

Indian IM TN Parameaswaran, who placed third, also with 9.5 points, is richer by Taka 10,000 while fourth placed Syed Tahmidur Rahman, the reigning Bangladesh champion who allowed his own title prospects to fade in the latter stages of the competition after having led the field more than midway through, collected Taka 7,000 for his fourth-placed showing.

Sports Reporter

also with 9.5 points. The tie-break system acted against Tahmid's financial interests. Nevertheless, the meet helped Tahmid earn his first IM norm, a commendable achievement indeed.

The remaining 20,000 taka of the total 65,000 taka prize-money on offer was split thus: Taka 4,000 each for fifth placed Indian IM Neeraj Kumar Misra and sixth placed compatriot V Koshi; Taka 2,500 each for seventh placed Vishal Sareen, another of the five Indians who took part in the meet, and eighth-placed former Bangladesh national champion Zillur Rahman Champak.

The remaining six participants in the 14-man field went home empty-handed.

Also present at the ceremony yesterday afternoon were the State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas and National Sports Council Chairman Maj General Mahbubur Rahman, Bangladesh Chess Federation president Commerce Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed presided over the function.

Mahmud Lodhi's ten points

came from eight wins and four draws. His only defeat was at the hands of Syed Tahmidur Rahman early in the tournament.

Cricketers donate blood

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Cricket Players' Association yesterday collected 77 bags of blood at its blood donation campaign for the cyclone and tornado affected people of the country.

The blood collection session, held at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board dressing room at the Dhaka Stadium, from nine in the morning till noon, was arranged with the help of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

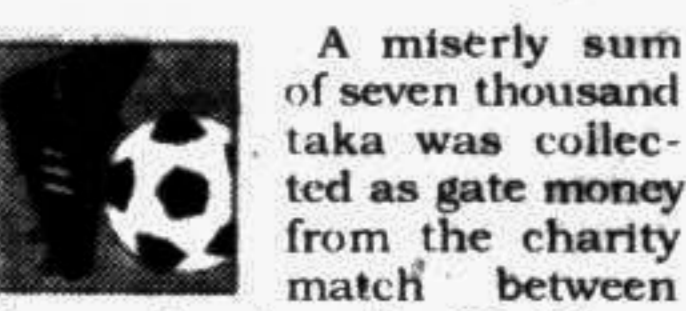
A large number of DCPA members, sportscribes, sports fans and promoters as well as some officials of the Al Baraka Bank donated blood for the noble cause.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas, National Sports Council Chairman Maj Gen Mahbubur Rahman and BCCB chief Kazi Bahauddin were present.



The prize-winners of the first United Insurance International Masters' chess seen with the chief guest National Professor Abdur Razzak and special guests State Minister Mirza Abbas and NSC Chairman Maj Gen Mahbubur Rahman at the NSC conference room yesterday. — Star photo

Poor gates again



Sports Reporter

A miserly sum of seven thousand taka was collected as gate money from the charity match between the national under-23 Olympic squad and Brothers Union yesterday at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium.

The match ended in an unimpressive 1-1 draw.

The Bangladesh Football Federation's noble effort to collect funds through a series of charity matches in aid of the victims of the devastating Apr 29 cyclone has obviously failed to attract the soccer lovers of the city.

It was indeed sad to see that the fans have failed to respond to such a noble cause. Usually, even the two bottom placed teams in the NBL league pull larger crowds than the one that turned up at yesterday's match.

One only hopes today's derby between arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra and Dhaka Mohammedans, the last fixture of the three match charity series, will coax their fans to come to the stadium to help the BFF collect a reasonable amount for the tens of thousands people who have been left without food and shelter in the coastal belt of the country.

Barely a couple of hundred turned up to watch yesterday's match.

After a barren first half, Roxy scored first for the National Under-23 side while Iqbal, the skipper of Brothers

Union, equalised four minutes before the final whistle.

The first match of the charity series, between the Under-23 selection and Mohammedan Sporting on May 7, had raised Taka 41,790.

TODAYS MATCH

Mohammedans vs Abahani (6:30pm)

Bayern keep hopes alive

BONN, May 12: Second half goals by Juergen Kohler and Stefan Effenberg on Saturday earned Bayern Munich a 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt and kept alive their German title hopes, reports Reuter.

The champions were helped by league leaders Kaiserslautern, who were held to a 0-0 draw at lowly Watten-scheid.

Kaiserslautern have 41 points to Bayern's 38 with five league games remaining.

The home win lifted Bayern into second place in the standings ahead of Werder Bremen, who drew 0-0 away to St. Pauli in the other big Bundesliga match of the day.

"We have to win every match from now on," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes told his team before the match.

Clearly under pressure, Bayern began cautiously and became bogged down in midfield for much of the first half.

But Kohler broke the stalemate with a goal in the 70th minute. Effenberg made it 2-0 three minutes from time.

Aussies triumph again



PARIS, May 12: Australia hammered Wales 4-1 here on Saturday to win the French Hockey tournament in style, reports AFP.

Unbeaten throughout the three-day tourney, the Aussies finally broke down the dogged Welsh resistance with two second half goals in two minutes.

Australia took the lead after a short corner and an appalling blunder by Welsh goalkeeper Christopher Ashcroft, allowing right winger Lee Bodimeade to score in the 30th minute.

Stung into action, Wales came storming back with a penalty equalizer from David Hacker, after a shot from Richard Jones was unfairly blocked.

Australia responded with a two-goal blitz which saw skipper Warren Birmingham blast home his fourth penalty in three matches, after a Bodimeade shot was fourth penalty in three matches, after a Bodimeade shot was blocked by Welsh substitute Paul Ed-

ward's foot, and a superb strike in the 40th minute by Stephen Davies.

Just ten seconds after the Welsh had bulled off from Birmingham's penalty, Davies ran the length of the pitch to lob Christopher Ashcroft in the Welsh goal and score the goal of the game.

Left winger Paul Lewis wrapped it up for the Aussies in the 68th minute, scoring from a Jay Staty cross into the danger zone.

Pak run amok

In the day's other match, Pakistan gave France a very severe hockey lesson with a 9-0 victory of their last game of the tournament.

France managed to win a game when Pakistan last toured the country in 1986, but this time there was no doubt.

With only nine minutes gone, Pakistan were already three up. Anjum Saeed scored after four minutes from a short corner, Massadiq Hussain scored the first of his three after seven minutes and Shah-

Seles-Sabatini final



ROME, May 12: Champion Monica Seles will meet the 1989 titleholder Gabriela Sabatini in the women's Italian Open final today after vastly contrasting semifinals, reports Reuter.

But Sabatini needed only 55 minutes to brush aside Conchita Martinez 6-1, 6-0, allowing the Spaniard only 18 points.

Seles, who was on court for 133 minutes, had dropped only nine games on her way to the semifinals.

ning all the balls down. We didn't want the other to get ahead and have the mental advantage.

Sabatini, who has lost three of her four matches against Seles, said she did not think she was in good shape.

"It's going to be an attacking match. I must not play the ball short and I must play different shots and very deep."

Seles, who won the Yugoslav world number one who triumphed last year without dropping a set in the championship, was stretched to the limit by American Mary Joe Fernandez before winning 7-5, 2-6, 6-4.

However, the fourth-seeded Fernandez proved a tough opponent, pinning the Yugoslav to the baseline and proving a tenacious retriever.

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Budd may run in Student Games



LONDON, May 12: South Africa has applied to send an athletics team, including former British international Zola Budd Pieterse, to the World Student Games in Sheffield, England, this July, reports Reuter.

Games' administration director Ray Gridley said on Saturday a South African Polytechnic Sports Association had made an official application to send a 12-strong team, including Budd.

Gridley said he had sent the application to FISU, the world governing body of student sport, which has an executive meeting in Sicily next Friday.

"We were surprised to receive the application, despite rapid progress being made for sport to cooperate on a non-racial basis there, we never expected South Africa to be eligible to compete in Sheffield," he said.

Pieterse, under her maiden name Budd, was controversially granted British citizenship in 1984, allowing her to run over 3,000 metres at the Los Angeles Olympics in the same year.

Her career was dogged by controversy and she became the focus of anti-apartheid campaigns, resulting in a tearful return to South Africa three years ago.

Budd, 24, is now married and studying computer science. She has recently clocked her best times for the

mile, 3:00 and 5,000 metres.

FISU is headed by Primo Nebiolo, who is also chief of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) which has a fact-finding delegation currently in South Africa.

If the IAAF give the go-ahead, South Africa could be invited to the Tokyo World Athletics Championships in August.

The International Olympic Committee has agreed to readmit South Africa to its ranks, possibly in time for next year's Barcelona Games, if it unifies segregated sports bodies and race laws are scrapped.

Sweet revenge for China

BRONDBY, Denmark, May 12: China exacted a double dose of revenge on fierce badminton rivals Indonesia in the World Championships here on Saturday to line up the sport's two most prestigious singles titles, reports AFP.

Zhao Jianhua and Tang Jihong were the Chinese match winners as the top-seeded Ardy Wiranata and Susi Susanti were made to pay for their Sudirman Cup successes last week.

Zhao squandered two match points on that occasion to suffer his first defeat in six encounters with the stocky Indonesian, but he made no mistake this time to run out a 15-2, 10-15, 15-6 winner.

"The difference from the Sudirman Cup is that I felt very tired then," explained the talented Chinese left-hander. "This time I had more stamina."

"I lost the second set because I found it difficult to control the shuttle, but I played by best in the final set because it was crucial."

The double former All-England champion now plays another Indonesian in joint fifth seed Allan Budi Kusuma, who beat China's Lu Jun 15-11, 15-11.

"It was a hard game", commented Kusuma, who is unbeaten against Lu. "I won because I made fewer mistakes."

The Indonesian number three expects another tough match in today's final, having lost all his five meetings with Zhao, including one in the All-England quarter-finals in March.

"Zhao is much better than me and his preparation is much better than it was at the All-England", conceded

Kusuma. "His jumping smash is very sharp".

Kusuma had been doubly determined to beat Lu after watching Susanti, his girlfriend, collapsed 11-4, 11-1 against Tang in the first women's semi-final. "That made me fight", he admitted.

The petite Indonesian was inconsolable after the 16-minute rout, which was her

fourth beating in 10 matches with Tang, and refused to talk about it.

But Tang was understandably glad to outline how she avenged last week's reversal to the world Grand Prix leader.

"I learnt some lessons from the Sudirman Cup", she said. "During that match I was quite impatient and anxious when I was in front."

"Susi is not very good at attacking and smashing. But I can do that, so that if we are both steady, I can win the match."

Tang's opponent in the final will be another Indonesian and joint third seed, Sarwendah Kusumawardhani. She outlasted Lee Haung Soon, the joint fifth seed from South Korea, 2-11, 11-7, 11-6.

The World Cup winner is level with Tang after four meetings, but Kusumawardhani won the last clash in three games at the All-England semifinals. However, Tang commented: "I'm confident".

Gustafsson going great

HAMBURG, Germany, May 12: Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson, his first tennis title fresh in the memory, sustained his superb form on Saturday to reach the German Open final with a 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 victory over Yugoslav Goran Prpic, reports Reuter.

The 24-year-old, who beat Czechoslovak world number three Ivan Lendl on his way to winning the Bavarian Open last Sunday, won through after taking the third set tiebreak 7-4.

Today's match, against Lendl's compatriot Karel Novacek, will be only the fourth final of Gustafsson's career.

Novacek beat German Michael Stich 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 in the first semifinal of the one million-dollar clay-court event.

Gustafsson, ranked 21st in the world, said beating Lendl and winning in Bavaria had

worked wonders for his confidence.

"I had expected to play well in the last two weeks but I never thought I could win one title and then make the final of another event the next week," he said.

"The victory over Lendl was very important. It's very important to beat a player like that. He's almost a legend."

The Swede had several chances to beat Prpic in the third set. But when it went to a tiebreak he quickly took a 4-1 lead and held his nerve to win in one hour and 44 minutes.

Novacek, who won the New Zealand Open in January and lost in last month's Estoril Open final, had the mental edge over Stich in their third set tiebreak which he won 7-5.

After taking the first set 6-3, the Czechoslovak looked to be beaten after Stich, roared

by his home crowd, took the second set 6-2 with ease and was serving for the match at 5-3.

But a footfault at 30-30 upset Stich's concentration and Novacek broke back to force the tiebreak. The German admitted afterwards the call was crucial to his defeat.

Davis Cup score

KUALA LUMPUR, May 12: Malaysia took a 2-1 lead over Saudi Arabia on the second day of their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two tennis first round tie after winning the doubles on Saturday.

Result: Veramuthu Selvam and Wan Rashman Yusof (Malaysia) beat Mohamed Badek Mokial and Ali Tawfik Ibrahim 6-1, 6-2, 6-1.

Christie fails by a whisker

LONDON, May 12: British sprinter Linford Christie just failed to pull off a surprise win when he tried 400m racing in the opening British league match at Hendon, north London here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Christie led the field into the straight but faded over the last 60m as Shaftesbury Barnet's Calvin Henry edged past to win in 47.03 secs.

Christie clocked 47.75, with European junior champion Wayne McDonald (Haringey) third in 48.13.

European champion John Regis opened his season with an impressive 200m in 20.93 sec.

Russell at the helm

NEW DELHI, May 12: World billiards champions Mike Russell of England will lead a strong eight-man field in the first leg of the four-part World Open tournament starting here on June 18, organisers said Saturday, reports AFP.

The five-day event, to be held at the 20,000-capacity Talkatora Indoor Stadium, will be played on a round-robin basis with a two-hour duration for each match.

McAuley's successful defence

BELFAST, May 12: Ireland's Dave McAuley had to survive a knockdown and a badly cut cheek before retaining his International Boxing Federation (IBF) flyweight title at the Mylesfield Centre in Belfast on Saturday, reports AFP.

But his points victory over diminutive Puerto Rican challenger Pedro Feliciano was one-sided and unanimous.

The American judge Kason Cheeks awarded him the fight by a massive 11-point margin while Britain's Dave Parris made the Irishman victor by 119 points to 110, Italian Wal-

Pilic's problem

HAMBURG, May 12: Germany's Tennis Association trainer Niki Pilic said Friday he can't go on working as Boris Becker's personal trainer and as the national team trainer at the same time, reports AP.

"It can't go on like this. It's much too much," Pilic told reporters in Hamburg after another of his top wards, Michael Stich, upset world number one Stefan Edberg in a quarterfinal match at the German Open tournament.

Stich, 22, who defeated Edberg 6-2, 7-6 (7-4), is second only to Becker on the German Davis Cup team coached by Pilic.

The hard-working Pilic took over the additional burden as Becker's personal trainer on Feb. 20, after Becker split with his former coach Bob Brett.

On Thursday, the 41-year-

old and a right swing which stunned McAuley in round six.

The champion took it in a neutral corner, slid down and then was up to take the eight count of American referee Brian Garry.

Two rounds earlier and at exactly the same spot, McAuley emerged from an exchange with his cheek bleeding from a clash of heads.

In the first two rounds the challenger did not throw a scoring punch and it seemed as if McAuley would have an easy night.

Feliciano appeared to slip in the third following a left hook, but the referee still gave the mandatory count.

Arias, Yzaga in final

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, May 12: Fifth-seed Jimmy Arias outlasted qualifier Javier Frana 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 and Jaime Yzaga eliminated Malivi Washington 7-5, 6-2 on Saturday to advance to the finals of the US men's clay court championships, reports Reuter.

Frana, an Argentine ranked 150th, served and attacked consistently throughout the first set, exploiting Arias' tentative backhand.

"It's difficult for me to play with a good serve and being a lefty," said Arias, ranked 58th. "He keeps the ball up high to my backhand which makes it difficult for me. After the first set, I ran around my backhand to hit more forehands."

Frana's fatigue from his gruelling schedule recently began to show in the second and third sets.

Frana, lacking sting on his

serve and missing more volleys, dropped his serve in the second and fourth games to give Arias the second set 6-3.

Error-filled play on the part of both players in the third set led to a series of service breaks. Finally, Arias broke to go up 6-5, and closed the set out on his serve when a Frana forehand sailed long.

Patience and an all-round consistent game gave Peru's Yzaga the edge over American Washington, the 88th ranked player who upset defending champion David Wheaton in a tough three sets last night.

"I tried to hit a lot of balls to his forehand, his weaker side, and keep him off balance by mixing up my shots," said Yzaga, ranked 76th.

In the tight first set, Yzaga secured the only break in game eleven to go up 6-5. He then held serve with an ace to take the set, 7-5.

Yzaga and Washington traded breaks in the first games of the second set, but

Yzaga broke Washington again, at love, in game three.

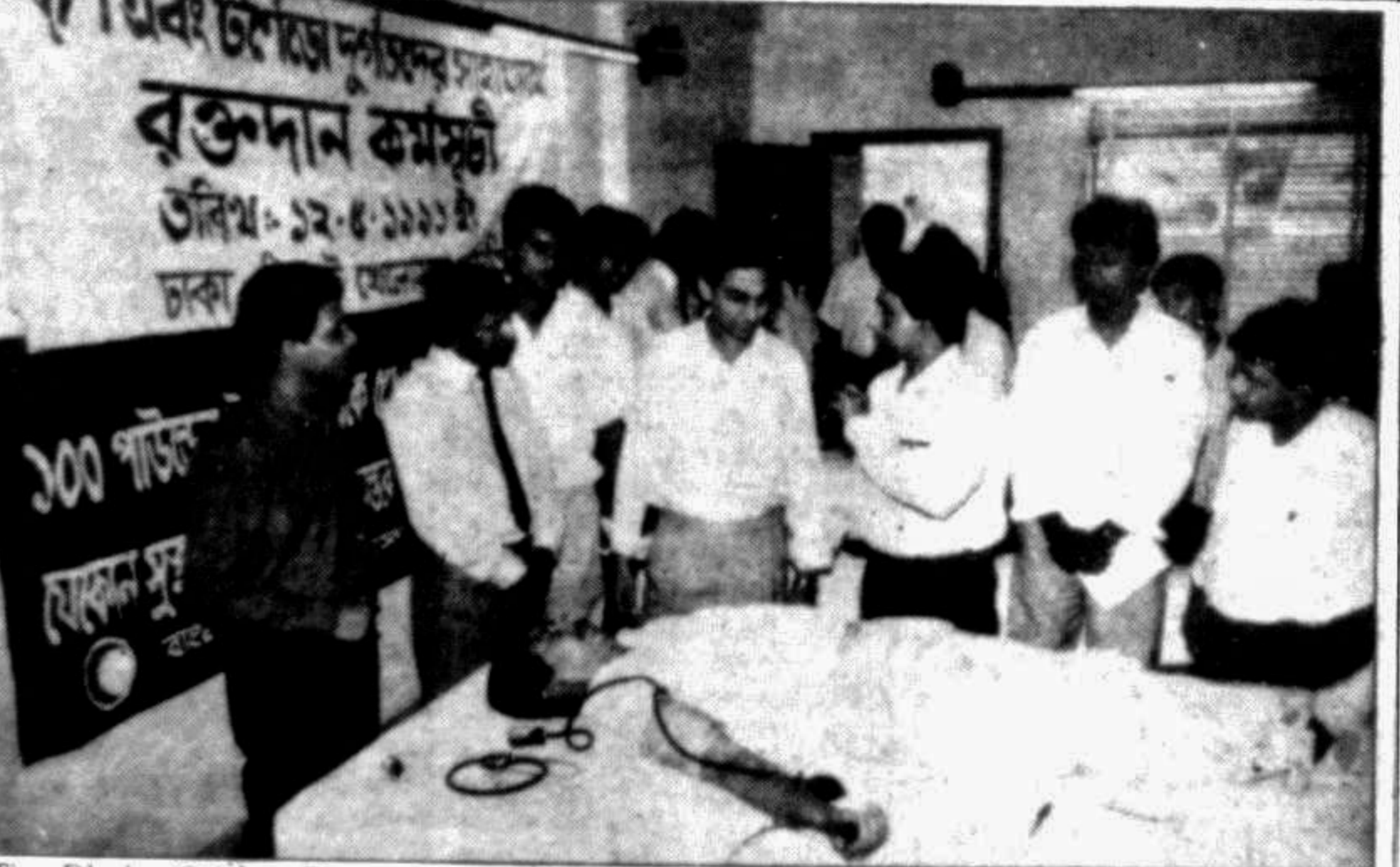
"I was lucky to get the second break in the second set right away. That gave me a lot of confidence and big opportunity to go ahead," Yzaga said.

Capitalising on Washington groundstroke and volley errors, Yzaga sailed through the remainder of the second set to win it 6-2.

Yzaga and Arias each have won three matches in the six times they have played each other.

IBF officials want mixed doubles in Atlanta Games

COPENHAGEN, May 12: Top badminton officials are to press Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch on Sunday for a mixed doubles event to be included in Games after Barcelona in 1992, reports Reuter.



The Dhaka Cricket Players Association arranged a blood donation session at the BCCB premises yesterday in aid of the injured cyclone and tornado victims of the country. State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas and the NSC chief are also seen.