



The winners of the fifth Mariners table tennis championships with chief guest Maj. General Mahbubur Rahman and others at the concluding ceremony at the National coaching Centre yesterday. —Star photo.

Chelimo wins cross country

ALBUFEIRA (Portugal), Feb 3: Kenya's Richard Chelimo won the Portuguese leg of the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) cross country world challenge at Albufeira on Saturday, reports AFP.

Chelimo took the lead a quarter of the way through the 10,000 metres and was never in trouble after. His time of 30 min five seconds was 12 secs ahead of Portugal's Joaquim Pinheiro in second place.

Another Portuguese, Joao Campos was third. Race favourite, William Mutwol of Kenya, was beaten in the final dash with the Portuguese for the lower places and only managed sixth.

Ireland's Cathriona McKierana won the women's race, just ahead of Kenya's Susanirna who had led until the final 300 metres when her energy gave out and she was overtaken.

Luck edges Gross in 10 km sprint

OBERHOF (Germany) Feb 3: Frank Luck edged fellow German Rico Gross in the 10-kilometer sprint at a World Cup biathlon competition here Saturday, reports AP.

Luck finished the course in 25 minutes, 22.3 seconds, 24.3 seconds ahead of 20-year-old newcomer Gross.

Placing third was World Cup points leader Andreas Zingerle of Italy, with a time of 25:51.5.

Elin Kristiansen of Norway won the women's 7.5 kilometer sprint in 24:31.8, followed by Canada's Yvonne Visser with 24:39.5.

England beat Australia in indoor hockey

LONDON, Feb 3: Australia crashed 7-4 to England here on Saturday as the host nation reaped the rewards of their greater experience of indoor hockey, reports AFP.

Two goals apiece from British Olympic hero Sean Kerly, a constant thorn in Australian sides, and Peter Nail spearheaded the English victory.

England were two goals ahead inside five minutes through Sean Kerly and Peter Nail and although Tom Persson pulled one back, Jason Laslett and Martyn Strinley made it 4-1.

Australia hit back again through Persson and Tony Potter, but Kevin Stamp and Nail put England 6-3 ahead after the interval, and although John Huck cut the lead, Kerly had the final say, rattling a penalty stroke in off a post.

Speelman takes early lead

LONDON, Feb 3: British Grandmaster Jon Speelman took the lead over his rival Nigel Short on Saturday, with three points to two in a match of eight games, reports Reuters.

Speelman, playing the white pieces in the fifth game and employing consistent Queenside pressure, offered to gambit a pawn in his eighteenth move but Short wisely declined to accept.

Short, in an uncomfortable position midway through the game, took half an hour to think before his 22nd move, handing Speelman a considerable time advantage. Short now had 16 minutes for his next 18 moves.

With only five minutes left, Speelman penetrated Short's defences.

Zulekha, Rochi win singles titles

Ansars paddlers dominate

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars paddlers finished with three of the five titles at stake in the fifth Mariners table tennis tournament which concluded at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Ansars, who had won the boys' team title Friday, added the women's and boys' singles crowns to their kitty while the only other final decided on the concluding day—the men's singles—went to former national champion Musaddiqul Haque Rochi who represented Bangladesh Biman. Rochi's achievement came at the cost of yet another Ansars player, former national number one Nasimul Hassan Kochi.

Despite the end results, the five-day long meet, organised by Dhaka Mariners Young Club with sponsorship of Rupali Insurance Company Ltd., saw

almost total domination by the Ansars' players who made it to the finals of all five events. On Friday last their men were denied the team title by BTMC after a thrilling five-match contest.

Yesterday, Zulekha of Ansars came back behind to beat teammate Bachchi by 3-1 sets. Bachchi had taken the first set 21-19 but Zulekha rallied fantastically to take the next three sets 21-16, 21-16 and 21-14 to add yet another trophy to her distinguished collection over the years.

Haniet, who played so well in the team event, gave Ansars their second success of the day by taking the boys' singles title after outplaying Victoria Sporting's Aminur in straight sets 21-9, 21-17 and 21-10.

The main draw of the evening, the men's singles fi-

nal involving two players who had won the national championship fizzled out as an anticlimax with Bangladesh Ansars's Kochi failing to find his rhythm in time to make a match of it. By the time he managed to find his touch—in the deciding third set, where he managed to take 19 points—it was a bit too late.

Rochi cool and composed as ever, chipped away at the more extroverted Kochi, taking the first set 21-9. The next set score read 21-17 in Rochi favour while the third went to 21-19.

National Sports Council Chairman Maj. General Mahbubur Rahman, who is also the Director, General of the Bangladesh Ansars & VDP, must have been a proud man giving away the trophies to his players as the chief Guest.

Aussies whitewash Belgians

PERTH, Feb 3: Australian captain Neale Fraser flung down a challenge to France after his team completed its whitewash of Belgium in the first round of the Davis Cup here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Fraser said that he had tremendous depth at his disposal and that the Australian squad was capable of beating any other in the world.

The usually daunting prospect of meeting France on their home turf does not frighten the Australian captain or his players, who are confident they can handle anything the Frenchmen can serve up.

The Australians finished their rout of Belgium on the grass courts at Royal King's park when Richard Fromberg survived in three sets against Eduardo Masso and Wally Masur demolished Filip Dewulf.

Fromberg was playing his second tie, while teenager Todd Woodbridge made his debut in the decisive doubles against Belgium on Saturday.

"We have about eight guys who are now capable of playing Davis Cup singles, who have the capacity to beat anyone in the world," Fraser said.

"Apart from the four players here, Mark Woodford, Jason

Stoltenberg, Pat Cash and Mark Kratzmann have all been in pretty good form.

"With all those guys pushing each other for places in the team, it can only make us stronger, and Australian tennis is in healthy hands.

"The French haven't done so well against us, and we look forward to the prospect of playing them. But first, they must overcome Israel."

The first-round France-Israel tie was scheduled for this weekend but because of the Gulf war, Israel had to postpone the encounter and there is a risk that they will be unable to play on March 29, the rescheduled date.

That would give France a bye into the second round against the Australians for a tie which is likely to be played a week before the French Open.

Masso had a chance to restore some prestige for his country, but failed to finish off his work against Fromberg.

After Fromberg had won the first set 6-3, Masso bounced back to win the second 6-1 and looked in control.

But Fromberg regained his composure and won the deciding set 6-3 after Masso had saved two break points in the eighth game.

Fromberg did not waste his third break opportunity, striding to a 5-3 lead and then

servicing out the match.

Masso joined the Belgian cheer squad for the last rubber and to reflect on lost opportunities in the opening set when he squandered five break points.

Masur was always in control against Dewulf, brushing a side the youngster in just 46 minutes, 6-1, 6-2.

An hour later the mainstay of the Australian grass court team and doubles star Darren Cahill were on a flight to Sydney bound for another tournament in San Francisco.

Masur had talked about rushing through his contest to make the flight, but Fraser warned him to take care because in trying to breeze through he would be prone to mistakes.

Masur abandoned his plans, unaware that after his decisive first set, Cahill had followed through with the arrangements.

While Australia do not know who or when they will be playing in the second round, Belgium face a tough assignment to remain in the World Group.

Some of the fancied nations, including Sweden, are required to play in the challenge round, and Belgium could be ousted from the main competition after a three-year battle to win their way back

No clear favourites for President's Cup

JAKARTA, Feb 3: The annual President's Cup boxing amateur championships get underway here Thursday with none of the 13 confirmed participating countries emerging as clear favourites, reports AFP.

Seven-time champions the Soviet Union, Canada, Australia, South Korea, the Philippines and hosts Indonesia all have an equal chance of winning the overall title simply by virtue of their large entries.

The other countries to have confirmed participation in the February 5-12 tournament were Pakistan, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan, China, Malaysia and Burma.

The Soviet Union are fielding 10 young, but by no

means inexperienced, boxers as their senior fighters decided to stay home for a national tournament.

However among the 10 are middleweight Akaki Kakaozidze and heavyweight Andrew Igor, both gold medalists in last year's world junior championships.

The Soviet bid for an eight title last year was foiled by Thailand, which took three of the 12 golds on offer and with them the coveted cup. The Thais have yet to confirm whether or not they will take part again.

Canada are fielding 10 boxers including 1988 Olympic light-middleweight bronze medalist Raymon Downey, while Australia have six entrants.

As in the past, non-Asian countries are likely to

dominate the upper divisions while the best hopes for countries like 1988 winners South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines will be in the lighter divisions.

The Philippines have confirmed entries in seven divisions, hosts Indonesia are fielding 24 boxers for ten divisions while South Korea has yet to announce its entries.

The schedule for the bouts is to be decided Monday, organizers said.

Hatanaka floors Decima

TOKYO Feb 3: Japanese challenger Kiyoshi Hatanaka recovered from a first round knock-down to win the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-bantamweight title in Nagoya on Sunday, reports Reuters.

England pass up at Perth

PERTH, Feb 3: Australia were poised to inflict another crushing defeat on England in the fifth and final Test of the Ashes series at the WACA ground here, reports AFP.

At the close of play on the third day on Sunday, Australia were 39 for the loss of one second innings wicket and needed just 81 more runs to wrap up the series by an overwhelming 3-0 margin.

Opening batsman Mark Taylor was dismissed by fast bowler Phil DeFreitas from the last ball of the day for 19, leaving his opening partner Geoff Marsh unbeaten on 19, with David Boon to join him when play resumes on Tuesday after Monday's rest day.

Australia's task was made little more than a formality after England had capitulated for a second innings 182.

The tourists were routed by Australia's pace trio of Merv Hughes, Craig McDermott and Terry Alderman in only 61.3 overs.

England's second innings was another saga of almost unrelieved catastrophe.

The tourists had started the day trailing by 63 on the first innings, but this narrow advantage for the home side was considered to be offset by Australia's need to bat last on a pitch expected to start cracking over the last two days.

Skipper Graham Gooch and Mike Atherton gave their side a disciplined, if uncertain start, with 41 runs in 91 minutes before the departure of Gooch for 18.

That was the start of a cascade of wickets in which nine batsmen were ousted for a miserable 103 runs.

The debacle was so complete that when the ninth wicket tumbled in the 55th over, there seemed every chance that Australia would win inside three days for the second time in the series.

However, last-wicket pair Phil Newport and Devon Malcolm displayed a fierce determination which produced 38 runs in 31 minutes.

Newport, flown to Perth from Sri Lanka, where he was on duty with the England A team—for this game, revealed fighting qualities which put the more established batsmen to shame as he completed an unconquered 40, with six boundaries, in just over an hour.

Newport, Gooch, Atherton (25) and Robin Smith (43) were the only batsmen to reach double figures.

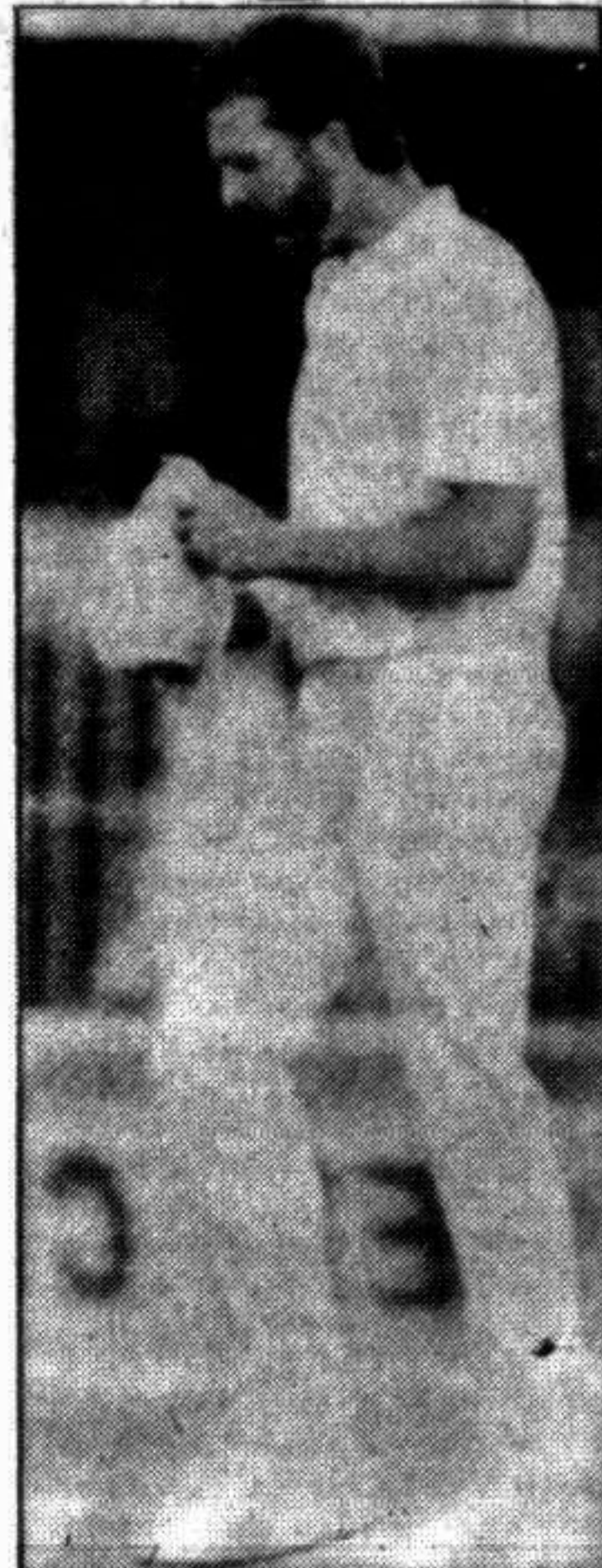
Atherton, dropped when he had made nine, laboured for more than two and a half hours, while Smith performed with distinction for 108 minutes, hitting seven boundaries.

McDermott's three wickets for 60 runs gave him a wonderful match haul of 11-160, while Alderman's third scalp—that of DeFreitas—in his 3-75 stint on his home ground netted him his 100th Test wicket against England. Hughes finished the match with an impeccable 6-86.

Australia's probable victory will be a solid morale boost less than two weeks before the side leave for the West Indies to challenge for what is being billed here as Test cricket's unofficial World Championship.

not out, I. Healy 42; D. Malcolm 39, G. Small 2-65, p. DeFreitas 2-57.

England: 2nd innings
Gooch c Alderman 18
b Hu ghes
Atherton c Boon b Hughes 25
Lamb b Lbw McDermott 5
Smith b Lbw Alderman 43
Gower c Taylor b Alderman 5
Stewart c Healy b McDermott 7
Alderman 5
DeFreitas c Healy b Alderman 5
Small c Taylor b Hughes 4
Newport not out 40
Tufnell c Healy b Hughes 8
Malcolm c Jones b McDermott 6
McDermott 16
Extras (5b, 5lb, 6nb) 6
Total 182
Fall of wickets: 1-41; 2-49; 3-75; 4-80; 5-114; 6-118; 7-125; 8-134; 9-144; 10-182.



CRAIG McDERMOTT

SCOREBOARD
Scorecard at stumps on the third day of the fifth and final Test between Australia and England at the Waca ground here Sunday.

England: 1st Innings 244 (A. Lamb 91, R. Smith 58; C. McDermott 8-97, M. Hughes 2-49).

Australia: 1st Innings 307 (D. Boon 64, C. Matthews 60

Bowling: O M R W
McDermott 19.3 2 60 3
Alderman 22 3 75 3
Hughes 20 7 37 4
Batting time: 294 mins, overs 61.3.

Australia: 2nd Innings
Taylor c Stewart b DeFreitas 19
Marsh not out 19
Boon not out 0
Extras (1w) 1
Total (wkt) 39
Fall of wickets: 1-39.

Bowling: O M R W
Malcolm 4 0 16 0
Small 6 3 17 0
DeFreitas 2.5 0 6 1
Batting times: 54 mins, Overs 12.5
Crowd: 15, 857.

Sabatini denies Navratilova

TOKYO, Feb 3: Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina staged a remarkable come-from-behind victory over former world no.1 Martina Navratilova of the United States here Sunday to win the 350,000 Dollar Toray Pan Pacific Open women's singles title, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old Argentine, who shocked her archrival Steffi Graf of Germany in the quarter-finals, overcame one break down twice in the final set for a 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory to take the title she won in 1987.

"I feel very happy and I'm very satisfied," she said afterward.

"It's great to start the year with this win. It was great to beat Steffi first. That gave me a lot of confidence to be back again with my game that I finished last year."

"Match by match, I kept playing better and better. That's why I feel very satisfied and very happy," she added.

Sabatini, who clinched her first-ever Grand Slam title by beating Graf in the U.S. Open final in September, got off to a slow start, going down 0-5 in the opener.

Her aggressive serve-and-volley tactics were not enough against the nine-time Wimbledon champion, who was the better player at the net.

"I was eager to win this match, and I think I was rushing too much," Sabatini said later.

The Argentine, ranked fourth in the world, changed her pattern and, although she lost the set eventually, came back strongly to tie the match at one set all, showing her signature heavy topspin shots.



Gabriela Sabatini denied Martina Navratilova a triumphant return to the game by winning the Toray Pan Pacific title. Navratilova broke Sabatini in the first and seventh games of the decider but each time the Argentine leveled the score to 3-all and 4-all with marvelous service returns.

"My returns were excellent and my passing shots worked

very very well. I think I concentrated very well and played each point," the Argentine said.

Sabatini fired another good service return winner to take a commanding 40-30 break opportunity, her first match point, in the tenth game.

The 34-year-old Czech-born American powered in her first serve and got to the net, but Sabatini's splendid return forced the American hit a low backhand volley long.

"She (Sabatini) started to play better and better in the second set," said Navratilova. "I raised my game in the third set, but she hit some great shots, hit winners when she needed it."

"Certainly my chances came tantalizingly close to winning the match, but they were quite put out," she said.

It was Sabatini's first victory following her triumph in the US Open.

It was also her fourth win over Navratilova against 13 losses in major tournaments.

Sabatini, for whom it was the 16th career singles title, collected the 70,000 Dollar first prize.

Navratilova, who was back in action this week after a three month break because of arthroscopic knee surgery in mid-November, earned 31,500 Dollars as runner-up.

Later in the day, Elizabeth Smylie of Australia teamed up with American Kathy Jordan to win the doubles title for 21,000 Dollars.

The top-seeded pair downed the second-seeded American duo of Mary Joe Fernandez and Robin White 4-6, 6-0, 6-3. The losers pocketed 10,500 Dollars.

Barcelona draw on soggy pitch

VALENCIA (Spain) Feb 3: Spanish league leaders Barcelona battled to a 2-2 draw away to Valencia on Saturday in a match played in torrential rain on a pitch where water sprayed freely at every step, reports Reuters.

The appalling conditions robbed the match of skill but not of excitement as Valencia twice took the lead only for Barcelona to peg them back each time.

With players sliding in all directions and the ball stopping dead unless lifted well off the ground, Barcelona contrived to look slightly less comical than Valencia in the early stages.

But the mood changed in the 34th minute when Valencia midfielder Roberto Fernandez brought down the curtain on a ballet scene in the Barcelona penalty area by sliding a close-range shot past goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta.

The league leaders were level with in five minutes thanks to a brilliant solo effort from Danish international Michael Laudrup, who cut in from the left and crashed home a 20-metre, left foot drive.

The home side went ahead again in the 50th minute, Bulgarian Luboslav Penev scoring from the penalty spot

Edberg doesn't give Borg a chance

ZAGREB (Yugoslavia), Feb 3: World number two Stefan Edberg said on Saturday his fellow Swede Bjorn Borg had next to no chance of making a successful comeback.

"Tennis is so much different today. There is virtually no difference between the first 50 players," he said.

Edberg, beaten in straight sets by world number 39 Goran Prpic of Yugoslavia in a Davis Cup match on Friday, added:

"Nobody can be too sure of winning, as you could see in my match with Prpic. The level of professionalism is extremely high."

Borg, 34, won 65 tournaments including five consecutive Wimbledon and six French Opens before his retirement in 1982.

He announced his intention to return to tennis last year.

Edberg said it would be better for Borg to stay out of the game. "We in Sweden owe him so much. He moved the sports avalanche in our country and we all want to remember him as he used to be."

"If he comes back and doesn't make it—and I think it's very likely—we'll all feel



BJORN BORG

sorry for him. And Borg does not deserve that."

Tottenham deny Gazza his cut

LONDON, February 3: Tottenham have denied that World Cup star Paul Gascoigne will receive a cut of his transfer fee if they have to sell him to ease their debts, reports AFP.

Gascoigne has a clause in his contract giving him a percentage if he moves — reportedly 50 per cent over and above the first 2 million. But Spurs insist the clause only applies at the end of his contract.

"For the duration of his contract, which does not expire for two years, the player has no entitlement to any percentage of a transfer fee," the club said.

Tottenham, over 12 million pounds in debt, are reported to have rejected offers of more than five million pounds for Gascoigne.

Udayan sports

The annual sports competition of Udayan Bidyalaya was held at the Dhaka University playground yesterday, reports ISS.

Prof. Maniruzzaman Mian, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, inaugurated the meet while Shaymail Nasrin Chowdhury, Head Mistress of the school, presided.