

Sport

Pepsi Asian Cup starts

Sports Reporter

The eighth Pepsi Asian Cup table tennis tournament got underway at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Pratisthan (BKSP) indoor gymnasium in Savar yesterday afternoon.

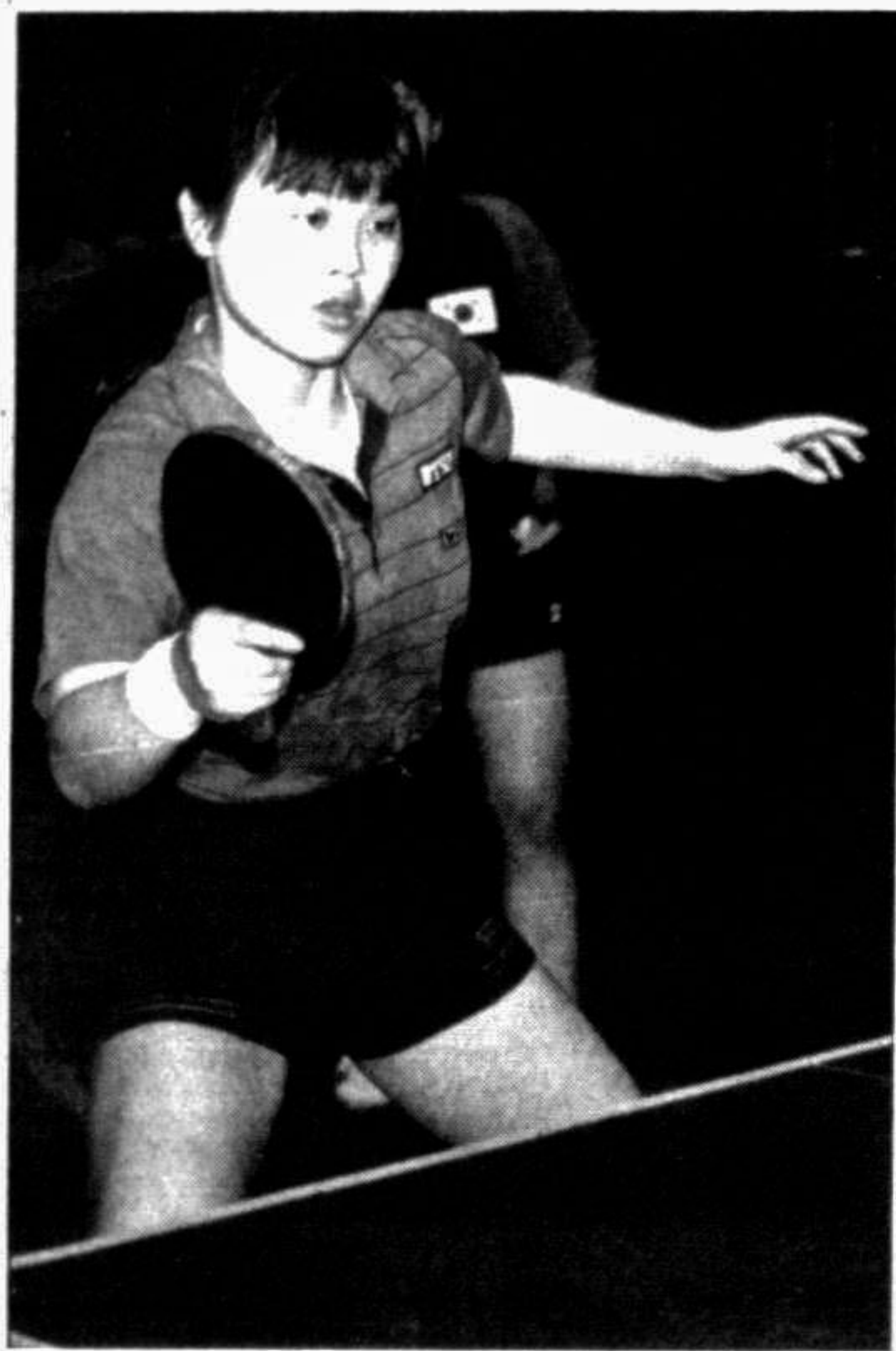
First round robin league matches were held on the opening day.

The men are playing in eight groups with the top two in each group going through to the next round, the knockout stage, which will determine the eight quarterfinalists. The

opponent Suvaporn Praphutikul easily enough 21-9 but the bespectacled Thai girl put up much better resistance in the second game, extending Shimonaga to 21-17.

Fourth seeded Fan Zianxin of China outplayed the tall Indian Niyoti Shah 21-11, 21-

Khan of Pakistan suffered a shock defeat against Ebrahim Alidkhot of Iran 19-21 and 18-21, but his compatriot Farjad Saif beat Lee Chul-Sung of South Korea 16-21, 25-23 and 21-15. Takehiro Watanabe of Japan defeated Thailand's Vichit Thalerngpol 17-21, 21-



Second-seeded Lin Lizhu of Chinese Taipei proved too good for the lone Bangladeshi girl in the meet Zulekha Akhter, winning 21-9, 21-9. — Star photo



Top seeded woman player An Hi-Suk of North Korea lost her opening match of the eighth Pepsi Asian Cup table tennis tournament to South Korea Park Kyung-Ae at the BKSP indoor gym in Savar yesterday. — Star photo

Presidential Advisor for Youth and Sports Alamgir M A Kabir formally inaugurated the ten-nation, four-day meet. The opening ceremony, a boring affair with too many verbose speakers taxing the patience of he participants and spectators alike, was also attended by Mr. Ichiro Ogiwara, president of the International Table Tennis Federation who is here as a special invitee of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, the organisers of the meet.

Thirty-six players -- 24 men and 12 women -- are competing for the singles titles in their respective categories which offer the champions US\$ 3000 and the runners-up US\$ 1500 each. The total prize money is US\$ 20,000 with 11,000 for the men and 9,000 for the women. The top 16 men and eight out of the 12 women will qualify for purses of varying amounts.

women are playing in four groups of three players each. The top two in each group qualify for the quarterfinals. The final matches are scheduled for the concluding day, Saturday, March 9.

In a major upset on the opening day, top seeded woman player An Hi-Suk of North Korea was beaten by her South Korean opponent Park Kyung-Ae 21-19, 19-21, 18-21. Of the four women's first round matches decided till the time of filing this report, the clash between the two Korean girls was by far the most absorbing one, the other three matches being decided in straight sets.

Number two seed Lin Lizhu of Chinese Taipei proved too good for the lone Bangladeshi girl Zulekha Akhter, winning 21-9, 21-9.

Third seeded Japanese player Tomoko Shimonaga won the first game against her Thai

9 in a rather one-sided affair.

Four more women's robin league matches were in progress.

In four out of the eight opening round men's matches, third seeded Kang Hee-Chan of South Korea was the only casualty, losing his inaugural match to the unseeded Xion Ke of China 21-13, 11-21, 15-21.

Top seeded Wu Wen Chia of Chinese Taipei disposed of S. Sriram of India in less than half an hour, winning 21-9, 21-14, second seed Wang Yonggang of China doused Bangladesh's Gias Atiq Ankhil challenge 21-11, 21-13, while fourth seeded left-hander Kim Guk-Chol of North Korea defeated Japan's Yoji Morimoto 21-14, 21-14. Ankhil was the first among the men to make his exit when he lost his second and last robin league match 9-21, 8-21 to Li Sing-Il of North Korea.

South Asian champion Arif

11 and 21-19 while North Korea's Ko Chun-Ho routed Saaduddin Ahmed Kisloo of Bangladesh 21-11 and 21-12.

Today's matches start at 3:00 pm.

The opening day saw a sizeable number of guests making the trip to Savar from Dhaka, including diplomats and their families of some of the participating countries. The 3,000-capacity BKSP gym, recently fitted out with a non-skid synthetic mat, had its steep, narrow galleries almost filled with the uniformed students and guests. An all-female Bangladesh Ansars and VDP band provided the music for the march past by the participating teams. Noto music director Sattya Saha conducted the theme song sung by Abida Sultana in chorus while dancers and musicians from the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy performed in a cultural show organised on the occasion.

Rain ruins play at Kingston

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Mar 6: Rain which seeped under the covers caused play to be abandoned on the fourth day of the first Test between West Indies and Australia here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The umpires made two inspections, but decided that damp patches on the pitch could not be dried in time.

Heavy rain fell overnight but a power cut hindered attempts to put covers in place. Monday up to 20 workers mopped up water.

The fourth day of the West Indies England Test at Sabina Park a year ago was also cancelled because of rain.

Kalabagan 286 for 7

Sports Reporter

Kalabagan Krira Chakra battled with determination to post a healthy 286 for the loss of six wickets against Gulshan Youth Club on the first day of their two-day, 75-overs-a-side match of the Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Gulshan Youth, in reply, had scored 24 for the loss of one wicket in 11 overs when the stumps were drawn for the day.

Bablu laid the foundation of the Kalabagan innings by smashing 71 runs. Pappu scored a useful 58 off 81 balls.

Mamun made 41 and Tamim 21 while Omar Khaled Rumi and Ishiaq remained not out with 39 and 31 runs respectively.

Subrata, Ashfaq, Tito, Shabbir, Tanvir and Gulshan's Indian recruit Ashoke Malhotra bagged one wicket each for 39, 37, 49, 46, 44 and 53 runs respectively.

Saiful and Tanvir were batting with eight each for Gulshan Samir Rahman Sami claimed the only Gulshan wicket to fall.

Gulshan Youth will resume today, needing to score an-

other 263 runs for victory with nine wickets in hand in the remaining 64 overs. It should be an interesting tussle between the Kalabagan bowlers and Gulshan batsmen. Gulshan Youth have the service of two ex-Indian Test batsmen in Arun Lal and Ashoke Malhotra who are quite capable of winning the match by themselves.

On the other hand, Kalabagan, with only one win in five matches, will be desperately looking for a victory in order to avoid relegation to the Milnars league next season.

Court halts Ranji Trophy replay



NEW DELHI, Mar 6: India's Ranji Trophy national cricket championship came to a standstill Tuesday

for the first time in its 55-year history after a court prevented the replay of a controversial match between Punjab and Delhi, reports Reuter.

The decision threw Indian cricket into turmoil for the second time in just over a week.

Last Monday, bowler Rashid

Patel was suspended for 13 months for hitting batsman Raman Lamba with a stump during the January final of the showpiece Duleep Trophy.

Lamba was suspended for 10 months after being accused of starting the trouble. The match had to be abandoned when spectators tried to set fire to the stadium.

The Punjab-Delhi match in January ended in controversy when Punjab claimed Delhi had changed an umpire in the

middle of the four-day game without consultation.

The Indian Cricket Board originally upheld the Punjab protest. It deducted the points Delhi secured by winning, eliminating them from contention for a quarter-final place in the Ranji Trophy.

Delhi then protested and the Board decided on a replay there, starting Wednesday.

Punjab went to court Tuesday and K.S. Korey, a judge in the Punjab's Patiala

district court, ruled the match should not take place until Punjab's case was decided.

Korey summoned representatives of the Indian Board and the Delhi and Punjab Cricket Associations to appear before him on March 20 for the hearing.

Two teams have already qualified for the semifinals and three for the quarter-finals. But the remaining quarter-final matches cannot be played until the court reaches a decision.

Ruddock says he'll kayoe Tyson



LOS ANGELES, Mar 6: Canadian Donovan "Razor" Ruddock predicts he'll knock out Mike Tyson in their March 18 heavyweight bout, but he didn't go so far as naming the round, reports AP.

"I have a lot of confidence in my boxing ability and also my power," Ruddock said Tuesday during a press conference with Tyson.

"I don't know what I'll do, but I'll do what I have to do."

The two are scheduled for a 12-round fight at The Mirage in Las Vegas.

Ruddock accused Tyson of ducking out of a fight against him in November 1989, when the then champion had signed to fight Ruddock at Edmonton. The about was canceled when Tyson's camp said he was suffering from a lung virus.

"I felt Mike was ducking me," Ruddock said. "I believe it. We gave him the opportunity to postpone, not cancel."

Tyson lost his title to Buster Douglas on Feb. 11, 1990, his only loss in 40 fights, including 35 knockouts.

"I'm glad to be in proper shape now," he said. "I hope you all get to see the fight because you won't forget me for a long time. I'll do well. I'm ready for anybody, anytime now."

Tyson, 24, is recognized as the No. 1 contender by the World Boxing Association, World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation.

Ruddock is 25-1-1 with 18 knockouts. With his only loss coming in 1985, the 27-year-old is rated No. 2 by the three boxing organizations.

Ruddock, at 6-foot-3, expects to weigh about 230 for the bout. The 5-foot-11 Tyson should be about 10 pounds lighter.

their fights to the US and the American Red Cross.

Carbajal defence

Meanwhile, another AP message from Phoenix, Arizona says: Michael Carbajal will

100,000 dollars, has a 19-0 record with 13 knockouts, while Varguez is 29-9-1, including 21 knockouts.

The fight will be at Bally's in Las Vegas.

Carbajal's brother and trainer, Danny, calls Varguez



Promoter Murad Muhammad tries to keep former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson (1) and Canadian Donovan "Razor" Ruddock apart during a verbal altercation after a press conference in Los Angeles March 5. Tyson fights Ruddock at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas on March 18. — AFP photo

for fighting George Foreman in what the promoter called "a flimsy disguise to avoid Tyson."

"He'll find his fists full of 270-pound jolly brown giant," King said. "Foreman is the real draw in that fight. Holyfield couldn't draw flies in a dump."

King also announced that he, Tyson and super lightweight champ Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico, who also appears on the card, will donate 250,000 dollars from

a very strong fighter, who really likes to come at you."

"For four rounds," he added, "it should be a real good test. But after that, I don't think he'll be able to handle Michael's speed."

Varguez also is about 3 inches shorter than Carbajal, who is 5-foot-6.

In his last defence, Carbajal knocked out Macario Santos in the second round on Feb. 17 in Las Vegas.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

A devastating bowling spell by Kijal enabled Orient S. C. to crush Lalbagh USC by 104 runs in the Rank Xerox 14 Second Division cricket league yesterday at the Mohakhali T & T ground.

Orient, taking first strike, scored 167 runs for the loss of eight wickets in their stipulated 35 overs.

Pappu 37, Masoud 30, Sohag 19 and Selim Khan with 17 were the Orient batsmen to shine with the willow.

Shelley and Matur claimed three wickets each for 25 and 28 runs respectively.

Lalbagh USC, in reply, were bundled out for a paltry 63 runs in 18 overs.

Tutul, 20 and Azad, 12, were the two Lalbagh batsmen to reach double figures.

Kijal was the wrecker-in-chief with seven Lalbagh scalps for 15 runs. Shaheen supported him with two wickets for three runs.

In another match, at the Dhanmendi Club ground United Heroes recorded their first win, outplaying Three Stars Boys Club by eight wickets.

Three Stars, batting first, were shot out for a meagre 63 runs in only 14.4 overs. Shajal 22 was the lone Three Stars batsman to reach double figures.

Babu (Jr) with three for 14, Masoud two for 11, and Ruhel two for 24 were the successful United Heroes bowlers.

In reply, United Heroes raced to victory scoring 64 for two wickets in 11.4 overs. Rity 28, and Year, 15 were the leading Heroes scorers.

Englets Club chalked up a big 113-run victory over DOHS at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium.

Englets, batting first, scored 209 for eight wickets in their allotted 35 overs. In reply, DOHS managed 96 runs in 26 overs.

In another match, at the Mirpur Palladi ground, Azad S. C. scored a narrow 15-run victory over Cantonians Club.

Budd to take on world

CAPE TOWN, Mar 6: Zola Budd is getting ready to take on the world again, but not until South Africa is reanimated to international athletics, reports Reuter.

Budd, now Mrs Zola Pieterse, has kicked off the shoes she learned to wear running for Britain and has started setting new records, including an unofficial all Africa best time over a mile.

But the tiny 24-year-old South African born middle distance runner said in a telephone interview from her home in Bloemfontein on Tuesday that she was in no hurry to get back to world competition.

"If South Africa is reanimated to international athletics then I would like to compete abroad, but I'm going to wait."

Bashabo earn promotion

Sports Reporter

Bashabo Tarun Sangha earned promotion to the Third Division football league after drubbing Gulbagh Krira Chakra 4-0 in the second semifinal of the Pioneer football league yesterday at the Outer Stadium.

Bashabo Tarun Sangha will now meet Gandaria Famous SC in tomorrow's final of the Pioneer league.

Both champions and runners-up are assured of promotion to the Third Division league next season.

Qualifying round for Div II cricket from Mar 20

Sports Reporter

The qualifying matches for the Second Division cricket league will begin from March 20, according to a BCCB press release issued in Dhaka yesterday.

through the proper channels this time.

"I'm waiting for South Africa to be allowed back into international athletics and I am not doing anything to get into world competition before that," said Budd, controversially granted British citizenship in 1984 to allow her to compete in the Los Angeles

Injury hampers German hopes

BONN, Mar 6: National high jump champion Rolf Sann and Women's 3,000 metres specialist Anke Schaening on Tuesday joined the growing casualty list among the German squad for the world indoor championships in Spain this weekend, reports AFP.

Sann, who last Friday in Berlin set a world best performance this year of 2.39m, has injured a foot while Schaening has blood circulation problems.

Olympics.

"I am a South African and the only way I will get to run abroad is as a South African where South Africa is welcome."

Budd discounted media reports that she planned to run in a British road race next year.

"I said I might be interested if South Africa is back in world competition by then, but I prefer track and cross-country events," she said.

On Monday, Budd ran a barefoot mile in 4:23.38 in the coastal city of Port Elizabeth, slashing almost four seconds off springbok athlete Tanya Peckham's 1989 record of 4:27.18.

Her time was also an all Africa best, but South African records are not internationally recognised.

"I think I will be ready for international competition if it happens," Budd said on Tuesday. "But I am not in any hurry."



Winners and runners-up in the various events of the Engineer Jabbar memorial tennis championships which concluded at the Engineers' Club courts yesterday. Shoven Jamaly won the men's singles beating Hiralal in the final 6-3, 6-1, while Mehrin Asaf won the women's singles defeating Rina 6-0, 6-3. — Star photo

Y'slav soccer authorities end row over venue

BELGRADE, Mar 6: Yugoslav soccer authorities ended an internal row by announcing on Tuesday that their European championship qualifier against Northern Ireland on March 27 would be in Belgrade rather than Skopje, reports Reuter.

The venue of the group four match had been in doubt because national team coach Ivica Osim said in January the municipal stadium pitch in Skopje was too uneven and rough.

Soccer officials in Skopje repeatedly tried to persuade the Yugoslav Soccer Federation (YSF) to improve the pitch, but to no avail.

YSF chief Marko Ilesic said: "The pitch is not good enough, the match is important for us and will be played in Belgrade."

Yugoslavia lead the group after winning all three matches to date.

British riders make history

LONDON, Mar 6: British riders Pauline Strong and Caroline Alexander made cycling history Tuesday when they became the first women to sign for a major professional racing team for 40 years, reports AFP.

Strong, 34, who has ridden three times in the women's Tour de France and last year broke the land's end to John O'Grady record, and 23-year-old Alexander were snapped up by Raleigh.