

Eighth Pepsi Asian Cup concludes today

## Chinese poised for a double

Sports Reporter

Not unexpectedly, a pair of Chinese paddlers are poised to make it a neat double in the eighth Pepsi Asian Cup table tennis tournament which concludes at the Bangladesh Krira Shikhiya Protisthan (BKSP) gymnasium, Savar, today.

In the finals of the women's and men's singles, scheduled for 4:30 and 5:30 pm starts this afternoon, China's Fan Zianxin will play North Korea's Li Jung-Suk while Fan's compatriot Wang Yonggang takes on Lee Chul Seung of South Korea respectively.

On the third day of the four-day meet yesterday, Fan Zianxin, the fourth seed, won her semifinal against South Korea's Park Kyung-Ae in only 31 minutes, the score reading 21-9, 21-7, 21-7.

Park, who on the opening day Wednesday had upset the meet's topseeded player An Hi-Suk of North Korea in the opening round robin match, proved no match for the cool Fan. The 20-year-old Chinese college student had clear superiority in skills over the rather impetuous Park who showed an exaggerated proclivity for hard smashes which mostly were misplaced. On the contrary, Fan's smashes had almost pinpoint accuracy and her subtle placing had the South Korean dancing all around her side of the table.

In the other semifinal, Li Jung-Suk had a tougher time winning against the other Chinese girl in the meet, Zhang Qin, the match going to five, hard-fought games.

In their gruelling, 67-minute encounter, Li won the



Chinese paddler Wang Yonggang made his entry into today's men's singles final of the 8th Pepsi Asian Cup TT by easily disposing of North Korea's Kim Guk-Chol in yesterday's semifinal at the BKSP gymnasium yesterday.

— Star photo

first game 21-17 only for Zhang to draw level by taking the thrilling second 23-21. Li again took the lead by winning the third set 21-19 only to lose the fourth 15-21 to her tall Chinese opponent. In a match marked by a high degree of performance by both players that produced long rallies and skillful placings, the

North Korean girl prevailed 21-14 in the deciding set to prevent an all-Chinese final.

However, South Korea were not to be denied a place in the finals. Their unseeded male player Lee Chul Seung, a strapping lad in his mid-teens, took one hour twenty minutes to overpower China's Xiong Ke in yesterday's semifinal the

scoreline reading 21-13, 24-22, 19-21, 15-21 and 21-19 in the Koreans' favour. In an engrossing encounter that had the sparse crowd spellbound, the two often matched each other shot for shot. Xiong refused to give up after an indifferent first game, forcing the second to deuce twice before losing 24-22. He then came back strongly to win the next to games only to lose out in the deciding game.

However, second seeded Chinese Wang Yonggang had little trouble winning his semi-final against North Korean Kim Guk-Chol, the fourth seed, wrapping up the match in straight sets 21-17, 21-18, 21-15.

The winners of today's singles titles will earn US \$3000 each while the runners-up will settle for 1500 dollars each. Besides, the men's and women's champions will also receive a glittering Pepsi Cup trophy for their achievements.

## PLACING RESULTS

In the third place play-off, Zhang Qin of China beat South Korea's Park Kyung-Ae. An Hi-Suk of North Korea finished fifth among the twelve girls by beating Lin Lizhu of Chinese Taipei, while Park Hae-Jung of South Korea placed seventh beating Japan's Tomoko Shimonaga into eighth place.

The results of the men's placing games were not available till the time of filing this report.

Thirty-six players, 24 men and 12 women, representing ten nations took part.

President Advisor for Foreign Affairs Fakhruddin Ahmed will grace the concluding ceremony as chief guest and give away the prizes.

## HOLYFIELD boxer of the year

NEW YORK, Mar 8: Evander Holyfield, who won the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world, is the Fighter of the Year for 1990 in the opinion of the Boxing Writers Association of America, reports AP.

Holyfield beat Julio Chavez, the World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation junior welterweight champion, who won the honour, named the Edward J. Neil Award, for 1989.

James "Buster" Douglas, who upset Mike Tyson for the heavyweight title, then lost it in a dismal, out-of-shape performance against the unbeaten Holyfield, was not on the ballot.

It'll be great for country cricket," said ACB chairman Colin Egar after the Australian World Cup committee met

Bert Sugar, the editor-publisher of the monthly magazine "Boxing Illustrated," won the Fleischer Award for excellence in boxing journalism.

For the second straight year, the John F. X. Condon Award winner as trainer of the year was George Benton, who trains Holyfield, undisputed lightweight champion Pernell Whitaker and Meldrick Taylor, the World Boxing Association heavyweight champion.

Meanwhile another AP report from Atlanta says, "Heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield may find himself back in court for a new fight with his estranged wife and her lawyer.

The attorney for Paulette

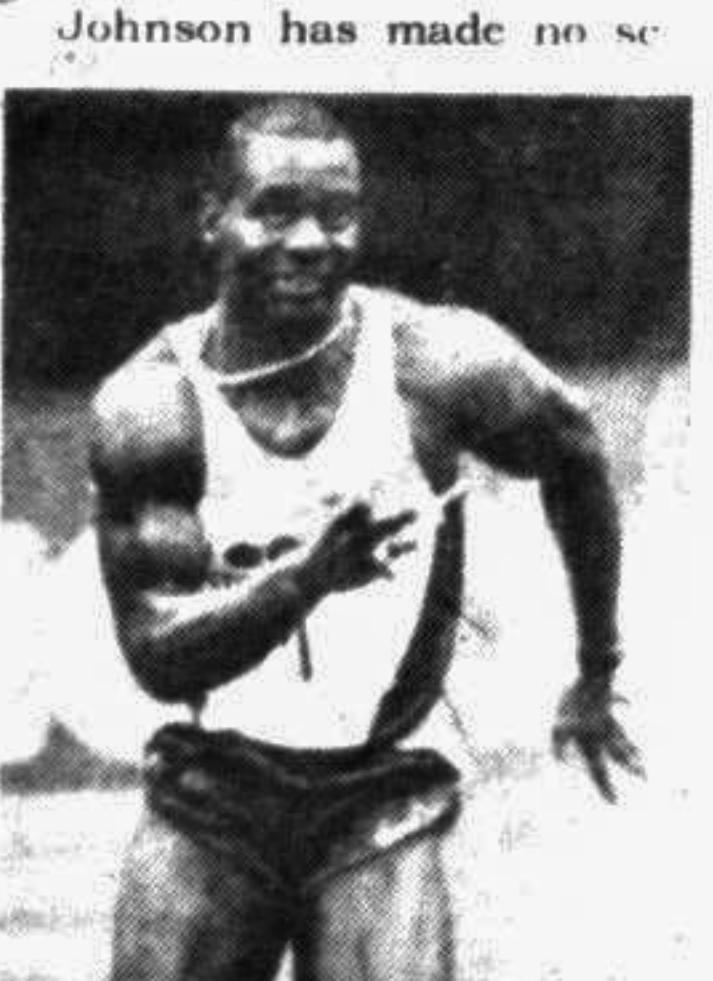
Holyfield has filed to have her divorce petition dismissed and says he plans to file a new petition seeking a more lucrative settlement than the estimated 4-million-dollar agreement reached by the couple in December.

Mrs. Holyfield originally

filed for divorce Sept 7. Acting without attorneys, the

Holyfields signed a settlement Dec 31 and within a month

executed a transfer of 4 million dollars in funds and property to Mrs. Holyfield.



BEN JOHNSON

some friction but also strong support with the other athletes.

American Andre Cason, who with Christie will be one of Johnson's strongest challengers, gave credit to the Canadian, saying "it takes quite an athlete to come back after 28 months of pure hell and compete as well as he has done, and most of all, to hold his head up in society."

"I have gone through a lot of hard times and a lot of energy to come back and train so hard," the 29-year-old Canadian said.

He announced he planned to stay in the sport only for 18 more months, heading for retirement after the Barcelona Olympics.

Other stars in the championships were another sprinter, Merlene Ottey of Jamaica, setting out for a double gold in the women's 60 and 200 meters.

She broke the 200-meter world record on March 3 with a time of 22.24 seconds.

Sergei Bubka of the Soviet

Union, who elevated the pole vault record to 6.08 meters

earlier in the season, and

Noureddine Morceli of Algeria, who set a world record of 3:14.16 for the 1,500 meters, were other top competitors in Seville.

It also cost him an Olympic gold, two world records and millions of dollars in lost endorsements.

"Most of the athletes have been pointing a finger at me. I haven't been pointing a finger at them. But that's always the way it's going to be," he said before the competition.

Two of Johnson's most prominent competitors —

This attention has created

some friction but also strong support with the other athletes.

American Carl Lewis and Linford Christie of Britain — have criticized all the attention focused on Johnson and the rich appearance money he has been getting from meet organizers since his comeback began Jan 11.

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