

Independence Day soccer from today

Sports Reporter

The Independence Day football tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation, begins today at the Mirpur National Stadium.

14-team knockout tournament Brothers Union take on Metropolis First Division newcomers Eskaton Sabuj Sangha. The match kicks off at 3.30 in the afternoon.

Independence Day fare

Sports Reporter

A whole lot of sporting events have been planned in observance of the country's 20th Independence anniversary today, March 26.

Various national and district sports federations and other socio-political bodies have arranged a series of competitions and tournaments to coincide with the occasion.

The Dhaka Cricket Players' Association, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, will hold a day-night limited overs match at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The match, scheduled to start at three this afternoon, will be played between two selections — the former and present national team players, under the titles the Reds and the Greens.

Former national captain Roquibul Hassan will be leading the Greens while the Reds, made up of current Bangladesh players, will be skippered by Minhazul Abedin Nannoo.

The 45-overs-a-side match will be held in two sessions. One innings will be completed between 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm; the next innings, starting from 6:45 pm, will have to be completed by 9:45 pm. The 'dinner break' will be taken between 6:00 and 6:45 pm.

The players, in coloured clothing, will be using a white ball — in fact, two white balls from the two ends — and black sight screens. There are no tickets.

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation has arranged an exhibition match at the hockey stadium between the Evergreens and the Ever-Whites — two selection of the past and present stalwarts of the country.

The match starts at 4:00 pm. The Dhaka Divisional Sports Association has organised the Independence Day kabaddi tournament at the Outer Stadium Kabaddi ground starting tomorrow, March 27. Eight teams will be taking part in the knockout tournament the final of which is scheduled for March 31.

The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) has arranged an exhibition soccer match at the university's central playground involving teams made up of the past and present students who comprise some famous national superstars of yesterday and today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas will inaugurate the match, starting at 3:00 pm.

A juvenile kabaddi tournament will start from tomorrow under the joint auspices of the 'Amra Sabuj Sena Krira Chakra' and the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas will inaugurate the tourney as chief guest.

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra and last year's runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club have been given byes and play from the quarter-final stage.

Admission to today's meet opener is free.

The participating teams are the eight top teams from the last year's Senior Division NBL football league, the Second Division league champions Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, national champions Bangladesh Army, and one team each from the four divisions.

The Senior Division league teams are: Abahani Krira Chakra, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Brothers Union, Fakirpur Young Men's Club, BRTC, Agrani Bank, PWD and Mukti Joddha Sangha.

All the preliminary round matches and the four quarter-finals will be held at the Mirpur National Stadium while the semi-finals and final will be held at the Dhaka Stadium.

NSC indoor gym opens today

Sports Reporter

An exhibition volleyball match will be held today at the inaugural ceremony of the Taka 1.40 crore indoor gymnasium, built by the National Sports Council (NSC) at Dhanmondi, near the Cricket Stadium.

Chairman of the NSC Major General Mahbubur Rahman will inaugurate the gymnasium at 3 pm. The gym will be known as the National Sports Council gymnasium.

A synthetic mat, provided by the Japanese government, has been laid on which all types of indoor games can be played.

Finance are DU cricket champs

Sports Reporter

Selam Shahed's superb all-round performance enabled last year's runners-up Finance Department to clinch this year's Dhaka University inter-department cricket championship, when they romped home with a convincing nine-wicket victory over Public Administration Department in yesterday's final at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Public Administration, batting first, scored 155 for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted 40 overs.

Public Administration's star batsman, Farooq, — a national team and Brothers Union player — scored a superb 71. Sohail remained 17 not out while Masoom and Masood scored 15 runs each.

Selam Shahed, who plays league cricket for Mohammedans, took two wickets for 28 runs. Hasnain and Tutul also chipped in with one wicket each for the Finance Department.

In reply, Finance, inspired by two unbeaten knocks from the blades of Tutul, 66, and Selam Shahed, 51, scored 156 runs for the loss of just one wicket. Robi was the lone man out after scoring 21 runs, succumbing to Sohail.

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof M. Moniruzzaman Miah witnessed the match for some time and distributed the prizes.

Selam Shahed was declared the man of the match for his brilliant performance both with the bat and ball.

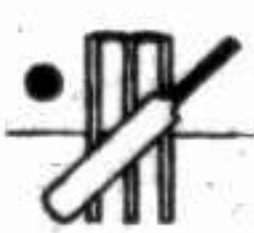
Green Delta hockey from June

Sports Reporter

The Green Delta First Division hockey league will begin from the second week of June, according to a Bangladesh Hockey Federation press release yesterday.

The transfers of the players will begin from May 9 and end on May 16. All players will be able to collect their tokens during the transfer period.

Richardson lashes second ton



GEORGETOWN, Mar 25: Richie Richardson lashed his second consecutive Test century and shared a record-breaking stand with Desmond Haynes as West Indies hit back in the second Test against Australia on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Richardson, unbeaten on 114, and Haynes, who hit 87 not out, powered West Indies to 226 for one in reply to Australia's first innings of 348 at the close of the second day.

Their partnership of 216 was a second wicket record for West Indies against Australia, beating the previous best of 167 set by the same pair in the fifth Test of the 1988-89 series in Adelaide.

The Richardson-Haynes stand sealed an impressive fightback by West Indies after Australia had reached 339 for six at one stage.

Mark Waugh (71) and Ian Healy (53), who put on 101 for the seventh wicket, set up Australia for a big total but their last four wickets tumbled for nine runs, paceman Patrick Patterson ending with four for 80.

Richardson's hundred, his 12th in Tests and seventh against Australia, came in 171

destructive minutes off 116 balls. It followed his unbeaten 104 in the second innings of the drawn first Test in Kingston.

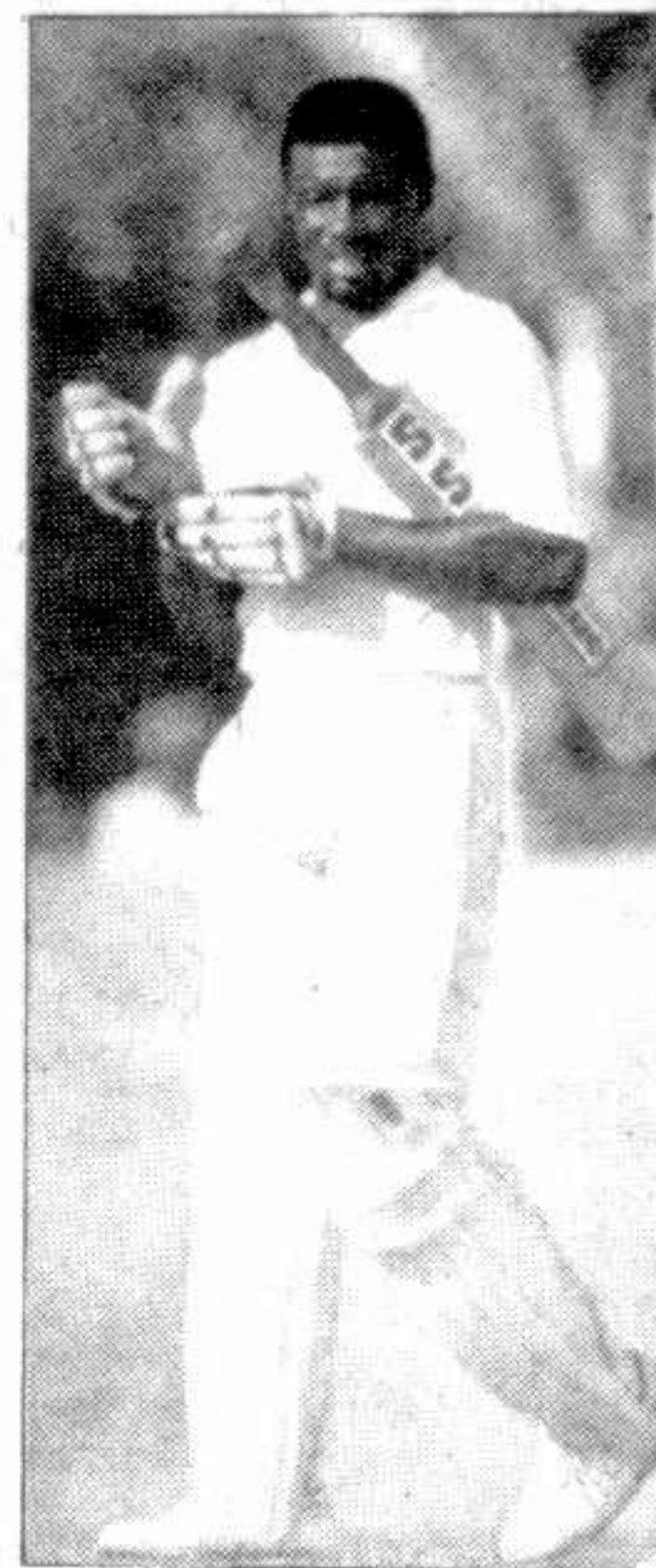
In one five-over spell that ignited the crowd and bewildered Australia, Richardson and Haynes hammered 48 runs off pacemen Merv Hughes and Mike Whitney.

Haynes, who reached his 50 off 107 balls, produced occasional bursts of strokeplay but was essentially content to act as a foil for the vibrant Richardson.

The Antiguan hooked Whitney for six, drove off-spinner Greg Mathews for another six and also struck 14 fours as he unleashed a full repertoire of strokes.

Richardson's double-century partnership with Barbadian Haynes emphatically repaired the early damage to the innings caused by the third-over dismissal of Gordon Greenidge, leg before to fast bowler Craig McDermott for two.

That wicket followed the flurry of dismissals which brought a swift end to Australia's innings. The lack of resistance from the tail-enders underlined the value of the efforts of Waugh and wicket-keeper Healy.



RICHIE RICHARDSON

When they resumed at the overnight 249 for six, Healy was dropped before he had added to his score of three but he seemed unperturbed by the

escape, Carl Hooper missing the chance at second slip off Curtly Ambrose.

Neither did a painful blow to his upper arm from Patterson bother him as he scored his third Test 50.

Waugh appeared unconcerned by anything the West Indian bowlers offered and it was a surprise when his innings, marked by handsome driving, ended when he edged a wide delivery from Patterson to be caught behind.

From that moment on, the day belonged to West Indies.

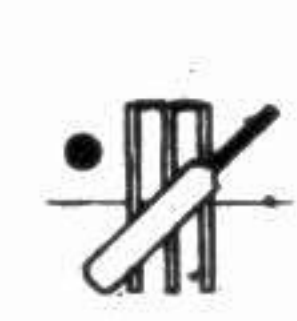
SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the second cricket Test between West Indies and Australia on Sunday:

Australia first innings	348
West Indies first innings	
Greenidge B McDermott	2
Haynes not out	87
Richardson not out	114
Extras (b-4 lb-8 nb-11)	23
Total (for one wicket)	226
Fall of wicket: 1-10	
To bat: C. Hooper, V. Richards, G. Logie, J. Dujon, C. Walsh, M. Marshall, C. Walsh, P. Patterson.	
Bowling:	O M R W
McDermott 14	2 38 1
Whitney 12	2 47 0
Mathews 15	1 64 0
Hughes 6	0 39 0
M. Waugh 2	0 18 0
Border 5	1 8 0

Eskaton Sabuj promoted

Sports Reporter



Eskaton Sabuj gained promotion to the Milnars First Division cricket league after emerging Group 'B' champions, when they outplayed Victoria Sporting Club by a flattering margin of 71 runs in the crucial second phase match of the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at the Mirpur Palahi ground.

Eskaton Sabuj will now play against the champions of Group 'A' in the Rank-Xerox final. Both the champions and runners-up are assured of promotion to the Milnars First Division. The Group 'A' championship will be decided after

a play-off match between Ajax S.C. and City Club.

Eskaton Sabuj won all of their group matches. They beat Victoria S.C., Gandaria Cricketers Club, Orient Sporting Club and Dhanmondi Club. They were declared winners against Dhanmondi when their rivals refused to play on the plea that their players were kidnapped by some hooligans just before the match. The umpires of the match awarded the game in Eskaton's favour as they were not impressed with Dhanmondi's excuse.

Eskaton Sabuj batting first, were all out for 158 runs in 38.2 overs. Opi one of the leading batsman of Eskaton Sabuj

once again top scored with 45 runs. Babul, 27, Shamol 16 and Zahid 10, were the other notable Eskaton batsmen. The Rank bad fielding allowed Eskaton with 25 extra runs.

Iqbal, Popul and Talibur captured two wickets each for 18, 32 and 37 runs respectively for Victoria S.C.

In reply, Victoria Sporting Club were bundled out for a meagre 87 runs in 23.1 overs. Tuhin 23, Khushi 22, and Iqbal with 12 were the Victorian batsmen to reach the double figures.

Amrul was the most successful Eskaton bowler with three wickets for 11 runs. Opt two for 10, Babul two for 12 and Zahid two for 20 were the other successful Eskaton bowlers.

ROK TT players off to Japan

SEOUL, Mar 25: South Korean table tennis players left for Japan today to form an unprecedented unified team with North Koreans for next month's World table tennis championships, reports Reuter.

The tournament in Chiba will be the first at which North and South Korea have formed a joint team for an international sports event. Korea was divided at the end of World War II.

The unified team is composed of 22 players, eleven each from the South and North, and includes such world-class players as Yoon

Caddie takes the cake

NEW DELHI, March 25: Local caddie Ali Sher won the 150,000-Dollar Indian open golf championship on Sunday with a final round 71 on the course where he usually carries the clubs of the wealthy members, reports Reuter.



ALI SHER

His stunning success over third-round leaders Todd Hamilton of the United States and Taiwan's Wang Ter-Chang to become the first Indian to win the title was promptly rewarded with membership of the exclusive New Delhi Golf Club. He also carried off the 25,000 Dollar first prize.

"I played in the spirit of everything to gain and nothing to lose," said Sher, who had a hole-in-one the second round. Hamilton and Wang, a stroke ahead of Sher when the final round began, both carded one-over-par 73s and shared second place.

Chess competition

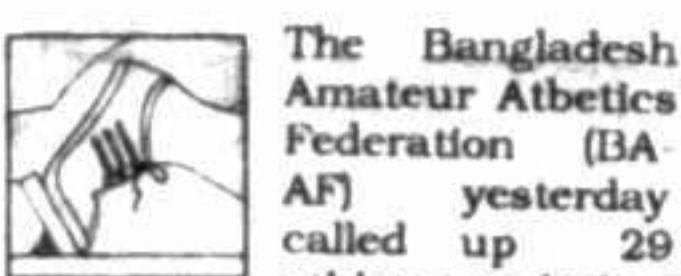
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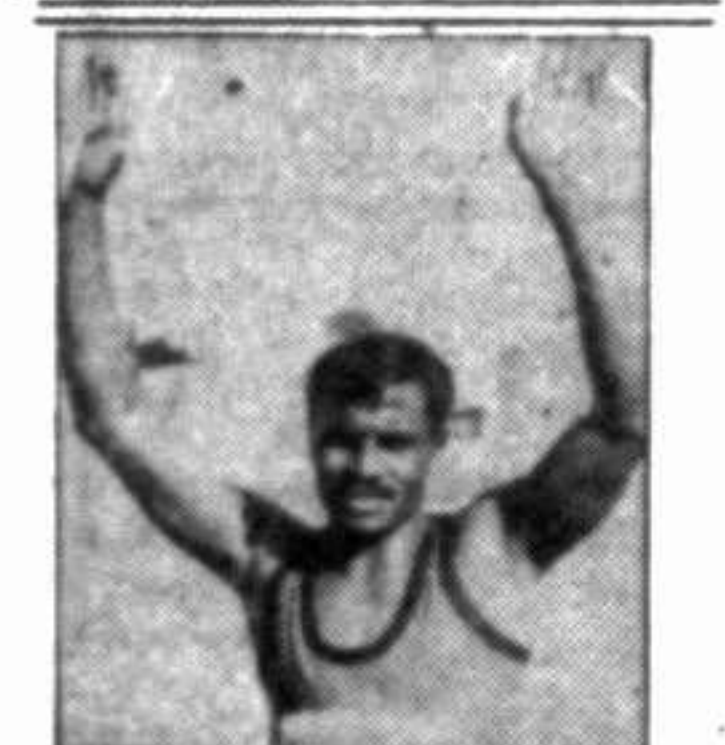
29 called for SAF trials

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF) yesterday called up 29 athletes including eight women for preliminary training prior to the selection of the Bangladesh track and field squad for the fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, to be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Dec 22-30 this year.

The newly-constituted BAAF executive committee has also formed a panel of five coaches to conduct the training camps. They are Arun Chandra Chakma, Kitab Ali, Md. Shah Alam, Mir Sharif Hassan and Sufia Khatun.



Former fastest man of South Asia Hav. Md. Shah Alam, who died in a tragic road accident last year, received this year's Independence Day Award (posthumous).

National men's double sprint champion Golam Ambia who set a new national mark in the national championships last month — also bettering the existing SAF Games mark for the 100 metres dash — leads

Title defence

INGLEWOOD (California), Mar 25: Rolando Pascua makes his first defence of the World Boxing Council light flyweight championship against Melchor Cob Castro Monday night at the Forum, reports AP.

Pascua upset previously unbeaten Humberto Gonzalez at the Forum Dec. 19, scoring a sixth-round knockout in winning the 108-pound title.

Pascua, from The Philippines, brings a 25-5 record with nine knockouts into Monday night's bout, scheduled for 12 rounds. Cob Castro, 22, of Mexico, has a 28-2-4 record with 13 knockouts.

Cob Castro, ranked as the No. 9 light flyweight contender by the WBC, has won 25 of his last 26 bouts. If Pascua retains the title, he will face Gonzalez again on the undercard of the Virgil Hill-Thomas Hearns World Boxing Association light heavyweight championship bout June 3 in Las Vegas.

the list of athletes called for the initial camp. His female counterpart Feroza Khatun leads the name of eight women called to the camp.



Golam Ambia (115)...10.4 secs for the 100m. The SAF record is 10.68 secs

The others are: Men: Farid Khan, Ghiyasuddin, Mujibur Rahman, Solaiman Majumdar, Shah Alam Talukdar, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Ali, Bani Amin, Afzal Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Jahangir Alam, Momdul Huq and Mustafa Talukdar (Bangladesh Army); Shah Jalal Mobin, Mehdi Hassan, Milzar Hossain, (BJMC); Wazir Rahman, and Emdadul Haq

(BTMC); Samar Ranjan Kar Habbao, and Ajmal Hossain (Bangladesh Customs).

Women: Feroza Khatun, Najma Haider Rafeza and Sumita Goswami (BTMC); Nilufar Yasmin, Nasima Akhter and Jasmine (BJMC); Shefali Rani Dey (Bangladesh Ansars); and Rokeya Begum (Bangladesh Customs).

While the BAAF list obviously goes by the performances in the last 19th national championships held at the Army Stadium, Banani Feb 11-14 with the top names in each discipline—including some national record setters—yet only Golam Ambia stands out as a gold medal prospect at the next Games because his is the only timing that is better than a standing SAF mark. The others, despite their personal best timings, would be hard pushed to garner a medal unless they can muster radical improvements in their efforts.

Bangladesh, which had dominated the men's sprints in the first three SAF Games, held in Kathmandu, Dhaka and Calcutta in 1984-'85 and '87 respectively, thanks mainly to the superlative individual performances by the late lamented soldier Havildar Md. Shah Alam, as well as his relay teammates Shah Jalal Mobin and Shahhanuddin Chowdhury, were forced to relinquish their pole position in the sprints at the last Games in Islamabad in

1989 where our overall performance in all ten disciplines was deplorable.

Yet despite the setbacks suffered at the Islamabad



FEROZA BEGUM

Games our athletics bosses failed to learn their lessons and sent a squad to the last Asian Games in Beijing last year where too our runners failed to get off the starting blocks, literally.

According to observers, the BAAF and our sports administrators should guard against the pitfalls of over optimism and plan the training programme by putting things in proper perspective. As one senior athlete of yesteryears put it: "It's time we began showing some respect for our national prestige."

Skah, Jennings keep titles



ANTWERP, Belgium, Mar 25: Moroccan Khalid Skah produced a late sprint to retain the world

men's cross country title on Sunday as four-times former champion John Ngugi retired injured early in the race, reports Reuter.

Skah remained hidden in a leading pack of seven in the second half of the 11.8-kms race on the mainly flat circuit, but edged out Moses Tanui, also runner-up last year, and another Kenyan, Simon Karori, in a spectacular 400-metre sprint finish.

Organisers said Ngugi appeared to have torn a leg muscle. The Kenyan said earlier this week the Antwerp race would be his last world cross country championship.

American Lynn Jennings produced a devastating late surge to beat Ethiopian Tulu Derartu and Briton Liz McColgan in a sprint finish to retain her women's world cross-country title.

Jennings, 30, crossed the finishing line in 20 minutes 24 seconds, three seconds ahead

of Derartu with McColgan another second adrift.

Jennings looked beaten when she lost touch with pack of six athletes led by McColgan 1.5 kilometres from the end.

But the American relied on her superior speed to catch Derartu and McColgan some 400 metres from the end and then stepped up another gear to romp to victory.



KHALID SKAH

"Why be predictable?" said Jennings, whose usual cross country tactics are front-running.

"I was keeping very close

tabs on what was going on ahead of me," she said. "I was confident I'd be in the right place at the right time."

McColgan, who gave birth to a daughter only four months ago, said the pace was not fast when she was in the lead in the closing kilometres.

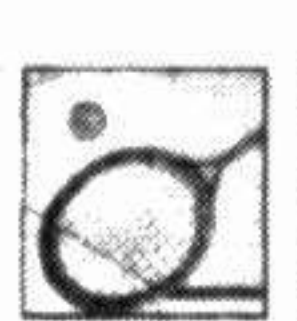
"I can't believe she had a baby four months ago. I take my hat off to her," Jennings said of McColgan.

Earlier, 13-year-old Kenyan Lydia Chechombel won the junior women's title, crossing the finishing line 21 seconds ahead of compatriot Jane Ekimat with American Melody Fairchild another eight seconds adrift.

Cherombel, who said afterwards she took up cross country running only last year and trained five kilometres per day, stormed into the lead after 500 metres and won with ease.

Tanzanian Andrew Sambu, runner-up in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres at last year's African championships, sprinted to victory in the junior men's event, easily beating Kenyan Muindi Mumo.

Younger Khan bites the dust



COLOGNE, Mar 25: World champion Jansher Khan tasted defeat on the international squash circuit for the first time since August when he crashed 15-10, 7-15, 15-14, 15-10 to fellow Pakistani Jahangir Khan in the German Open final on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Jansher was bidding for an 11th consecutive Grand Prix success. His opponent had not won an event since last April's British Open and missed nearly five months of this season suffering from mental and physical exhaustion.

Remarkably, it was the older man who lasted the pace better through the two-hour encounter.

Jahangir, bidding for an unprecedented 10th British Open title next month, always held the upper hand in a 42-minute opening game. One rally lasted eight minutes.

Jansher hit back to take the second game with some ease then Jahangir regained control to lead 11-5 in the third.

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But he saw that advantage disappear as Jansher captured the next six points. The score moved to 14-14 before the 32-minute game went Jahangir's way with the award of a stroke when Jansher impeded his path to the ball.

"That was the most critical point of the match," Jansher said. "But the decision was absolutely correct."

A deciding fifth game looked likely when Jansher led 9-6 in the fourth, but he managed to win just one more point as Jahangir produced a storming finish to complete a victory that will boost his confidence enormously.

"This was a very important win for me," Jahangir said. "It proved that I have regained a high level of fitness and it was just what I needed in my preparation for the British Open."

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Seles, Graf make it a strong field

SAN ANTONIO, Mar 25: Top-ranked Monica Seles and Steffi Graf highlight one of the strongest fields in the Hardcourt Championships since the tournament was revived in 1988, reports AP.