

### NSC chief off to Japan

Sports Reporter

Chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC) Major General Mahbubur Rahman left Dhaka Tuesday for Japan at the invitation of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) President Ichiro Ogimura.

The NSC chairman will attend the opening ceremony of the world table tennis championships, to be held at Chiba, Japan Wednesday as a special invitee of the ITTF.

A record 69 men's teams and 58 women's teams are expected to take part in the 13-day meet.

General Mahbub, during his nine-day visit to Japan, is likely to call on the Japanese Prime Minister, Sports Minister, the president and other senior sports officials.

Bangladesh, which was supposed to send a four-player men's team to the meet, could not do so because of fund constraints.

The ITTF chief Ogimura, during his visit to Dhaka last month for the eighth Pepsi Asian Cup table tennis tournament, had extended an invitation to the BTTF to send a team to the world championships. Hospitality was to include free food and board for five persons and the ITTF was to make a payment of 2800 US dollars in cash.

The BTTF had even completed the selection trials and started a training camp for four players — Nasimul Hassan Koshi, Musadduqul Haq Ruchi, Happy and Munna earlier this month.

But it is gathered that the BTTF failed to receive any cheque of draft for the promised ITTF sum even as late as last Sunday. Besides, the inability of the newly reconstituted federation failed to mobilise counterpart funds for meeting the travelling costs of the team and the government refused to oblige. As a consequence the trip was cancelled.

### Abahani for Nagji soccer

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra were scheduled to leave for India late Tuesday night to participate in the Sait Nagji football tournament in Kerala.

The 26-member team is to take part in the prestigious tournament which began at Calicut, Kerala on April 19. The tournament lasts until May 5.

Defending champions Abahani have been placed directly in the round robin league and will play their first match on Friday, April 26.

The team, headed by Ranabir Kumar Roy, comprises six officials and 20 players.

Other members are: Manager — Kazi Ashrafuddin Ahmed Channu; coach — Abdul Gaffar; officials — Dr Musa Quader, Golam Rabbani Helal and Club Manager — Subhas Som. Players: Mohsin, Selim, Aman, Munna Sr, Rehan, Ranjit, Shipar, Kazi Kamal, Masud, Masud Rana, Yousuf, Rupu, Alamgir, Bakhtiar, Reaz, Chandan, Hare Krishna, Rumi, Gaus and Aslam.

Besides taking part in the Nagji tournament, Abahani are likely to play some exhibition matches during their stay in India.

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, which left Dhaka for Riyadh on Monday to play the two-leg Asian Cup winners' Cup championship matches against Saudi champions Al-Hilal Club scheduled for April 24 and 28, were also invited by the Sait Nagji tournament organisers.

### Sugiarto may coach in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 23: Indonesia's badminton star Ieuk Sugiarto, forced into early retirement, has been offered a coaching stint in Malaysia, reports AFP.

"I will think about the offer. Although I am coaching Indonesian club Pelita Jaya, I don't have a fixed contract", the 28-year-old said Tuesday. Ieuk was here to attend Tuesday's ground-breaking ceremony for the Malaysian Badminton Academy, a brainchild of the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM).

The BAM had also made a similar coaching stint offer to retired world champion Yang Yung of China and his wife, Zheng Yuli, who are spending their honeymoon here.

Ieuk, who has been a vocal critic of the All-Indonesia Badminton Federation for leaving him out of the Barcelona Olympics training squad, said that the omission had forced him to retire from the international arena.

## Jahangir Khan's milestone



LONDON, Apr 23: Jahangir Khan confused his opponent, confounded the critics and cemented his place in the history books when he won his 10th British Open Squash title.

his British titles. Jahangir took five months off the game after missing last year's world championships through a combination of physical and mental exhaustion and few thought he would be ready to mount a serious challenge to Jansher and the latest crop of

said. "I was two up in the second then suddenly Jahangir started to play some very good shots." The Pakistani pair, who are unrelated, treated the crowd to some superb rallies of breathtaking pace and skill, with Jahangir's cat-like re-



Jahangir Khan (L) proudly holds the British Open squash championship trophy at Wembley, London, Apr 22 after beating Jansher Khan (R), to win his tenth successive title. —AFP photo

reports Reuter. The virtuoso Pakistani confirmed he is the greatest player the world has seen when he demolished world champion and compatriot Jansher Khan 2-9, 9-4, 9-4, 9-0 in 94 minutes of often dazzling squash on Monday.

"I was just playing this year to become the player of the century," Jahangir told a news conference. "If somebody wins it next year he will not be able to break the record this century."

Jahangir broke the previous record with nine British Opens last year and he plans to return to the Wembley arena in 1992 in a bid to further extend his unbeaten run of 56 matches in this tournament.

His victory before a warmly appreciative audience, including the Duke of Edinburgh, was one of his most significant since he beat Australian Geoff Hunt in 1982 for the first of

talented Australians at this year's open. "I like it when people say he should be retiring, that he's not playing well and that he won't win this year," Jahangir said. "That gives me the motivation."

With a combination of rigorous physical conditioning and concentrated match play, Jahangir has reduced his weight this year from 78 kg to 70 kg, his playing weight throughout the 1980's.

He beat Jansher in two tournaments in a row and suddenly his challenge began to be taken seriously. In Monday's final Jahangir was slow to warm up, dropping the first game 9-2. But he warmed to his task in the second game, overcoming Jansher's predominantly defensive tactics with a bewildering array of attacking shots.

"I played very good in the first game," a rueful Jansher

flexes and whiplash forehands earning gasps of admiration from the crowd. "In the first game I had to struggle to even win a point," Jahangir said. "In the second I put more pressure on him. I had to be more sharp and I was playing with a lot more balance."

Jahangir plans to play regularly during the northern summer and will contest the World Open.

He will be lucky to find spectators in Adelaide, Australia, as appreciative as Monday's crowd who cheered him on to the court, during the match and at the victory ceremony.

"Maybe it's because I used to live in Wembley," Jahangir said with a broad smile. "When I play in London and England I find a lot of people support me."

### United Insurance chess from today

Sports Reporter

The first United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, begins at the conference room of the National Sports Council today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas Ali will inaugurate the competition at 5-30 in the afternoon.

Fifteen players, including eight from Bangladesh, five from India and one each from Pakistan and Sri Lanka are expected to take part in the 14-round Swiss-league system.

Three Indian players — International Master N K Misra FIDE Master V. Koshi and FIDE Master B. Sareen are already in the city to participate in the meet.

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Two more Indian players — International Master T.N. Parameswaren and FIDE Master B. Shenoy — are also expected to reach Dhaka by Today.

Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi, a Pakistani International Master, is likely to arrive in the city on April 25 — the date for the first round. The Sri Lankan players is yet to confirm his arrival.

The local players will be: I M Zillur Rahman Champak, Jamilur Rahman, Rezanul Huq, Tahmidur Rahman, Younus Hasan, Ashraf H. Nannu, Almansur Rahman and Maruf Ahmed.

### Opie stops Wright for title

LONDON, Apr 23: Lisa Opie became the first home winner of the women's British Open squash title for 30 years when she ended the giant-killing run of fellow Englishwoman Sue Wright 6-9, 9-3, 9-3, 9-4 in the final on Monday, reports Reuter.

The 45-minute match was a scrappy, low-quality affair. Wright took the opening game in 12 minutes and led 2-0 in the second.

## Bangladesh in Group 3

Bangladesh has been placed in Group Three in next year's Asian under 19 football tournament, according to a message received in Dhaka from the Asian Football Confederation headquarters at Kuala Lumpur yesterday, reports BSS.

The other countries of the group — India, Nepal, Pakistan and the Maldives — will play for one berth in the final round.

The AFC, in its executive committee meeting with President Hamzah Abu Samah in the chair, Tuesday grouped Hong Kong, Macao, Chinese Taipei, the Philippines, Vietnam and Guam into a special group with the winners qualifying to play against Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia in the two age-groups under-16 and under-19.

In the under 16-tournament, Bangladesh has been placed in Group Three with Pakistan, India and Nepal. One team from the Group will qualify for the final round.

Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, MP, Vice President of AFC, Zafar Imam, a member of the Bangladesh Football Federation and a member of the AFC tournament committee and Akhtar Hossain Khan, a member of the AFC media committee, attended the meeting.

They will also attend some sub-committee meetings there. The Bangladesh officials are expected to return home Wednesday.

### The groupings

Under-19: Group 1: Syria, Qatar, Iran, Yemen and Lebanon (two teams to qualify).

Group 2: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait (two teams to qualify).

Group 3: India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and the Maldives (one team to qualify).

Group 4: Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, winner of Special Group (one team to qualify).

Group 5: North Korea, China, South Korea and Japan (two teams to qualify).

Special Group: Hong Kong, Macao, Chinese Taipei, the Philippines, Vietnam and Guam.

Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, winner of special group (one team to qualify).

Group 5: North Korea, China, South Korea and Japan (two teams to qualify) and Special Group: Hong Kong, Macao, Chinese Taipei, the Philippines, Vietnam and Guam.

Under-16: Group 1: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman and Kuwait (two teams to qualify).

Group 2: Qatar, Bahrain, Iran, Yemen (two teams to qualify).

Group 3: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and India (one team to qualify).

Group 4: Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, winner of Special Group (one team to qualify).

Group 5: North Korea, China, South Korea and Japan (two teams to qualify).

Special Group: Hong Kong, Macao, Chinese Taipei, the Philippines, Vietnam and Guam.

## BSJA awards on May 1

The Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) will distribute its sports awards for 1987-90 on May 1.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas will be the chief guest and handover the awards to the recipients at a function at 5 pm at Hotel Purbani.

Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, and Grand Master Niaz Morshed will be present as special guests.

For its sports awards for the four years (1987-90), BSJA earlier selected 41 sports personalities—29 athletes, nine organisers, two coaches and one umpire—in recognition of their performances in respective fields.

Besides, the BSJA also announced eight special awards for sportsmen, coach and institution for their valuable contribution in sports.

The awardees for 1987 are: football-Khorshed Alam Babul; cricket-Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu; hockey-Barkatullah

Chapal; swimming-Abdus Salam and Bazul Rahman; chess-Zillur Rahman Champak; athletics-Late Shah Alam (posthumous); tennis-Harunur Rashid; organisers-Abdus Sattar (Kashipur, Narayanganj), Dulu Afendi (Narayanganj), Kamal Uddin Ahmed (Chittagong), and Wajed Gazi (Chittagong).

The awardees for 1988: football-Sheikh Muhammad Aslam and Intiaz Sultan Johnny; hockey-Walul Islam Masim; cricket-Ram Chand Goala; chess-Ziaur Rahman; athletics-Shahan Uddin Chowdhury; organisers-Sachin Kumar Chaki (Gadbandha) and Munir Ahmed (Chandpur); Coaches-Kazi Salauddin (football) and Ehtesham Sultan (hockey).

The recipients for 1989: football-Rumman Bin Wali Shabbir; cricket-Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu; hockey-Mohammad Sadek; chess-Razul Haque; athletics-Shah Jalal Mobin; swimming-Mukhlésur Rahman;

Organisers-Iqbal Khan (Chittagong) and Broja Gopal Shaha Kalada (Patna).

The awardees for 1990: football-Mohammed Monem Munna; cricket-Minhajul Abedin Nannu; hockey: Jamun Lusa; chess-Syed Tahmidur Rahman; swimming-Shamsul Islam; shooting-Atiqur Rahman and Abdus Sattar Nini; athletics-Afzal Hossain and Feroza Begum; organiser-Azizur Rahman (Dinajpur) and Umpire-Mirza Farid Mili (hockey).

The special awardees are: athletics-Amjad Hossain, Fazul Haq Ukil, Rokeya Begum Khuku and Shamima Sattar Mim; swimming-Mosharraf Hossain Khan; football-Khandakar Wasim Iqbal; coach-Gafur Baluch (Football) and Patron-Nirman International Limited.

The BSJA has requested the awardees to remain present at the function to receive their awards. Late Shah Alam's award will be handed over to a member of his family.

### Stadium turned into battlefield

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 23: Three people were hurt when rival fans threw missiles at each other during the Brazilian league match between Vasco Da Gama and Sao Paulo at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Trouble started before the kick-off and continued throughout the game despite segregation of fans at Vasco Da Gama's Sao Januario Stadium.

One Brazilian newspaper said the stadium "looked like a battlefield."

The coach carrying the Sao Paulo team was also bombarded with stones as it arrived at the ground. The three victims were reported to have suffered cuts after being hit by missiles but there were no reports of arrests.

On the field, the teams provided one of the best matches of the championship. Sao Paulo twice came from behind to secure a 2-2 draw despite having international midfielder Cafu sent off during the second half.

Sao Paulo lead the championship on number of games won, although they have been joined on 18 points by Palmeiras, Bragantino and Atletico Mineiro. The top four teams will dispute the final play-offs.

Allietto drew 2-2 away to international in a match which saw nine players booked. Bragantino had an easy 3-1 win over relegation-threatened Nautico 3-1.

## Windies colts must wait a while

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 23: Gordon Greenidge on Sunday provided 209 compelling reasons why the West Indian squad for the coming tour of England will not include many new faces, reports Reuter.

The selectors were due to meet on Monday's rest day to pick the tour party and Greenidge's superb double-century made his inclusion a formality.

The 39-year-old opener's emphatic return to form with an unbeaten 209 completes the renaissance of the old guard whose places appeared under threat at the beginning of the current series with Australia.

Jeff Dujon has produced two match-saving innings to outweigh concern over the decline in his wicket keeping. Malcolm Marshall has bowled intelligently and Viv Richards is well on his way to preserving his record of never losing a Test series as captain.

Gus Logie, Courtney Walsh and Patrick Patterson have all performed well and can expect to retain their places.

With the West Indies poised to take a winning 2-0 lead the selectors — Jackie Hendricks, Irving Shillingford and David Holford — will spend most of the meeting simply rubber stamping places.

The current team will go, along with 12th man and prodigious batting talent, Brian Lara, and reserve wicket

keeper David Williams. With financial restraints set to restrict the West Indies to 16 players for the four-month tour, that leaves just three places, one of which is earmarked for injured bowler Ian Bishop.

Uncertainty surrounds the fitness of the young pace bowler who is reported to have travelled to Venezuela and England in recent weeks in an attempt to hasten his recovery from a stress fracture of the back which has affected him since early January.

The experienced Ezra Moselacy is in reserve if Bishop fails to make it. The amount of non-international matches on an English tour make it ideal for develop-

ing young players. Antiguan Hamesh Anthony, 20, may have done enough in representative matches to squeeze out fellow fast bowlers Anderson Cummins, Ian Allen, Sam Skeete and Kenneth Benjamin.

That leaves a batting spot vacant with the need for it to be an opener lessened by Greenidge's double century at the weekend.

However, Guyanese opener Clayton Lambert has looked the most impressive against the tourists but the selectors may prefer the experience of Phil Simmons, Keith Arthurton or Carlisle Best.

Should it be Simmons or Arthurton, it will mean of the 16 only Lara and Anthony did not tour England in 1988.

## 'Ping-pong diplomacy' returns

CHIBA, Japan, Apr 23: The days of "ping-pong diplomacy" return to the fore on Wednesday when a unified Korean team compete at the World table tennis championships, reports Reuter.

The two countries, still technically at war but united as a team for the first time since 1946, could upset champions China and Sweden in the 13-day event in Chiba, near Tokyo.

The Koreans have world-class players and must rank among the favourites for gold in the seven categories of the biennial event, which this year brings together a record 69 men's teams and 58 women's squads in the separate team competitions.

But there is far more than gold medals at stake. "We will do our best to reap good results and show to the world the scenes of harmony and unity between players from South and North Korea during the championships," said Kim Chang-Jae, General

Manager of the joint Korean national team. Kim listed the men's and women's team events, the women's doubles and the mixed doubles as the best medal hopes.

Germany, hosts of the last championships in Dortmund, also have a unified table tennis team for the first time.

Only the Soviet Union, seen with the Germans as dark horses for the men's team event, are bucking the trend. They have disunity problems instead, with the Baltic Republics seeking separate membership in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) at their congress on April 27.

In an ironic touch, Kuwait have Gulf war savours the United States as opponents in their men's team group.

The tournament, to run until May 6th, will also be the first to use orange-yellow balls on the navy blue tables.

The Korean side has 22 players, 11 from each country, and includes recognised stars Yoo Nam-Kyu and Hyun Jung-



YOO NAM KYU Hwa from the South and Kim Song-Hui and Lee Bun-Hwi from the North. In Dortmund, North Korea won silver in the men's team event while the South took sil-

ver in the women's competition. Sweden's national team leader welcomed the idea of a unified Korean team in the preliminary round of the team event.

"Both North and South Korea were strong candidates to win the championships as separate teams. This means that one difficult opponent is gone," said team champions.

"It will be interesting to meet Korea in the preliminary round. It gives us a chance to size them up," he said.

China, short of talented players now that many have moved abroad, hope to recapture the men's team title for the 11th time and to retain the women's team crown for a record ninth time.

The top 16 countries from the 1989 championships compose the groups A and B in the preliminary round-robin series.

The top six teams from each group qualify for the next round along with four teams from other, lower-ranked group.

## Leconte loses in Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 23: Henri Leconte of France, who owns the last two victories over Bjorn Borg, was eliminated from the Monte Carlo tennis tournament Monday in first-round play, reports AP.

Sweden's Mats Wilander and Ecuador's Andres Gomez went different ways in their opening matches of the 1-million-dollar tennis tournament.

Leconte, who beat Borg in 1983 at Monte Carlo and 1984 at Stuttgart, bowed to Italian Cristiano Caratti. The 20-year-

old Italian beat Leconte 7-5, 2-6, 6-1. Leconte lost to Wilander in the French Open final in 1988.

Borg meets Jordi Arrese of Spain on Tuesday in his latest comeback. They practiced on adjoining courts in the morning which gathered as much attention as the matches on center court.

Three-time French Open champion Wilander, still having trouble finding motivation, breezed past Australian qualifier Mark Woodford, 6-0, 6-3. Gomez, who won in Paris in 1990, continued his slide. He bowed to Italian Omar

Camporese, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Since the US Open, Gomez has won just two matches in 19 tournaments.

Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union, Javier Sanchez of Spain and Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, all had easy straight set victories.

Cherkasov routed Eric Jelen of Germany, 6-0, 6-2; Sanchez trounced Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay, 6-1, 6-1, and Haarhuis coasted by Christian Bergstrom of Sweden, 6-3, 6-2.

Nicklas Kulti of Sweden, 2-6, 7-6(7-2), 7-6(7-2). Also, 1989 Monte Carlo winner, Alberto Mancini of Argentina, beat 1987 finalist, Jimmy Arias of the United States, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

Austria's Horst Skoff, the Netherlands' Mark Koevermans and Spain's Sergi Bruguera also advanced Monday with opening-round victories.

Leconte had been Borg's nemesis in comeback attempts, beating the Swede in his last two official matches. Wilander now plays Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union.

### FIH to examine rules after Olympics

BRUSSELS, Apr 23: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) said on Monday it would examine whether the rules of the sport should be modernised after next year's Olympics in Barcelona, reports Reuter.

The FIH said it would consider a reduction of the number of players from the present 11 and a greater interchange of players, allowing those already substituted to return to the pitch. It gave no further details.

The hockey rules board are to undertake a large-scale study to modernise the rules of hockey after the Barcelona Olympic Games," the Brussels-based FIH said in a statement following its twice-yearly meeting.

The FIH also decided that South Africa could become a member of the African Hockey Federation and FIH and consequently take part in the hockey competition in the African Games in September—under three conditions.

It said South Africa should first form a single hockey body. The International Olympic Committee would also have formally to recognise a South African National Olympic Committee and put an end to the currency moratorium on sporting links before the start of the African Games.

### Khulna cricket

Wonders Club of Khulna defeated Janata Krira Chakra by nine runs in an exciting match of the Partex First Division cricket league play yesterday at the Khulna stadium ground, reports BSS.

Winning the toss, Wonders Club elected to bat and scored, 123-run in forty overs.

Janata Krira Chakra were all out for 114 runs.

### Soccer signing

MADRID, Apr 23: Argentine teenager Juan Esnaider has signed a five-year contract with struggling Spanish soccer champions Real Madrid, his agent said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Enrique Bruschetti said Esnaider, 18, had begun training on Tuesday but gave no details of the transfer fee.

He will replace Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez who is due to leave Real at the end of the season but has already been sidelined by a serious knee injury.

### US rout Trinidad

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Apr 23: The United States routed Trinidad and Tobago 10-0 Monday night to finish first in its qualifying group and advance to the semifinals of qualifying for the first world women's soccer championship, reports AP.

The United States, which outscored opponents 34-0 in three games, will play Haiti

## Seeds crash out

SINGAPORE, Apr 23: Two seeded players crashed out of the 250,000 US dollar Singapore Super tennis tournament here Monday, losing to unseeded players, reports Reuter.

Slobodan Zivojnovic of Yugoslavia beat the number four seed, Kevin Curren of the United States, in three sets 6-7 (8-6), 6-3, 6-4 while Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands beat fifth-seeded Scott Davies of the United States 1-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Zivojnovic, who had to qualify for the main draw of the tournament, said that Curren was "a very good player."

"I decided to put him on the defensive from the start of the game. As the game progressed, I knew I had the advantage," said the 1.98 metre (6 foot 6) Zivojnovic, known as "Bobo" worldwide.

"I kept him at the baseline for the rest of the match," he said.

Only one doubles match was played in the first round, with the American pair of Todd Nelson and Scott Patridge beating Bruce Derlin of New

Zealand and Czechoslovakia's Daniel Vacek 6-1, 7-6(7-1).

The number one seed, Todd Woodbridge of Australia, is scheduled to play his first match today against Jeff Tarango of the United States, who reached the final of the