

Sport

BSJA awards today

The sports awards presentation ceremony of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association for the years 1987, 1988 and 1990 will be held at Hotel Purbani at 5 pm today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas will be the chief guest on the occasion. Grandmaster Niaz Morshed and Sports Organiser Sadeq Hossain Khoka, MP, will attend as special guests.

Twelve players and organisers have been selected for the BSJA awards for 1987, 10 players and organisers for 1988, eight players and organisers for 1989 and eleven for the year 1990 for their outstanding contributions to their respective disciplines.

Besides, seven players and one sponsor organisation will receive special awards.

Niaz to attend Olympic Academy

Grandmaster Niaz Morshed, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Chess Federation, will attend the 31st session of the Olympic Academy to be held in ancient Olympia in Greece from July 16 to 31, reports BSS.

Niaz will represent the Bangladesh Olympic Association in the session.

Abdus Sattar Nini, a gold medal winning shooter in the Commonwealth Games, attended the 30th session last year.

Swedes keep title

CHIBA, Apr 30: Sweden retained their men's team title at the world table tennis championships here today with a narrow 3-2 victory over giant-killing Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

Czechoslovakia, who blocked China's bid to regain the title at the quarter-final stage, beat Belgium 3-1 in the play-off for bronze.

Korea's chance for 2002 Games bid

ZURICH, Apr 30: FIFA President Joao Havelange said on Monday the participation of a joint Korean soccer team in this year's World Youth championship could help Korea's bid to host the 2002 World Cup, reports Reuter.

Describing the decision to send a joint team to the championship in Portugal in June as a "very encouraging sign," the head of the sport's world governing body said: "Obviously there are many other considerations in awarding the World Cup. Korea, like others, would have to meet all the requirements for infrastructure and hosting."

"But, in view of the superb staging of the 1988 Olympics, I would assume that would not be a problem. In that case, with a united team, Korea would have to be considered a very worthy contender as World Cup host."

Earlier on Monday the first joint Korea sports team made history by lifting the women's team title at the world table tennis championships in Chiba, Japan.

Injury forces Cash out

SYDNEY, Apr 30: A back injury has forced former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash out of Australia's Davis Cup team for their second-round tie against France starting on Friday in Nimes, reports Reuter.

Team captain Neale Fraser said in a statement on Tuesday that Cash would be replaced by Mark Kratzmann, who is already in the southern French town practising with team members Richard Fromberg, Wally Masur and Todd Woodbridge.

"Due to a back injury Pat Cash sustained a few weeks ago, he has been advised by his doctor not to start heavy practice until after the quarter-final tie," Fraser said.

Fraser will name his lineup at the draw on Thursday, with the first singles matches due to be played on Friday.

A win by Australia would put them into the semifinals against Yugoslavia.

Eaglets avoid relegation

Sports Reporter

Eaglets Cricket Club gave themselves a fresh lease of life in the Second Division cricket league for next year after beating DOHS by the close margin of one wicket in the relegation play-off match at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

The victory, following their four-wicket win over Lalbagh USC at the same venue Monday, means that Lalbagh and DOHS will fight out among themselves to decide who remains in the Rank-Xorox league and who goes down.

DOHS, playing with two men short, batted first and scored 110 before losing their eighth and last wicket in only 29.2 overs.

Mithu top scored with 44 while his opening partner Chiltu made 12, the only DOHS batsmen to reach double figures.

Mona Sr. was the most successful Eaglets bowler taking three for 19 while Mona Jr. claimed two for 22.

In reply Eaglets, despite their superior strength in numbers, were made to struggle hard for their survival in the league. They lost nine wickets to gather the 111 runs needed for victory in 33 overs.

Opener Maqsood top scored with 23. Khaled made 19 while Munna played the most crucial part by remaining unbeaten on 15 when victory came.

Raj was not out on six. Rinku bowled with purpose to claim three Eaglets wickets for 21 while Bappy and Chanchal picked up two each for 12 and 21 runs respectively.

Snooker results

Nine more matches were decided till yesterday evening, on the fourth day of the eight national Snooker Championship, being held at the Dhaka Club, reports UNB.

Five players won their respective matches while four received walk-overs.

A B Chowdhury of Engineers Club beat Rathan Ahmed of Chittagong Club by 4-2 frames. Waluddin of Narayanjan Club beat Y. Farooque of Dhaka Club 4-2. Syed Mahboob of Gulshan Club defeated his club mate Syed Masud in straight 4-0 frames. Adnan-ul Islam of Chittagong Club beat M. Hasanur of Engineers Club 4-2 and Rehan Hamid Chowdhury of Dhaka Club defeated Kabir Ahmed from the same club 4-1.

SM Haider of Comilla Station Club got a walkover against Clive D Sanges of Chittagong Catholic Club. Mir Shahidullah of Dhaka Club got a walkover against Morad Ali of Dhaka Club. Shamsuddin of Narayanjan Club got a walkover against Ismail Hossain of Chittagong Club and Serajul Islam of Narayanjan Club got a walkover against Shahidul Islam of Dhaka Club.

Nine more matches were in progress at the time of filing this report.

Results of the matches held Monday night: Rashedul Ameen and Amirullah, both from Dhaka Club, defeated their contenders by straight 4-0 frames. Rashedul beat his club mate Jugul Karim while Amirullah beat Siddique Rahim of Chittagong Club.

In other matches, Rehan Hamid Chowdhury of Dhaka Club overcame Mir Shahidullah of the same club by 4-3 frames. Mushtaque Waz of Dhaka Club defeated Rafiuddin of Gulshan Club 4-2. Tasleem Uddin of Dhaka Club defeated Azimuddin Ahmed of same club 4-3 and A Karim of Engineers Club defeated Yakub Sattar of Narayanjan Club 4-1 frames.

Kabir Ahmed of Dhaka Club got a walkover against Morad Ali of Dhaka Club and Rafiqul Islam got a walkover against M A Awal Gulshan Club.

Tahmid beats Lodhi

Sports Reporter

FIDE Master Syed Tahmid-dur Rahman maintained his lead when he recorded a major upset victory over the highest ranking player of the tournament Pakistan's Inter-national Master Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi in the fifth round match of the United Insurance International Masters chess championship yesterday at the National Sports Council chess room.

Tahmidur Rahman now leads the points table with four points from five matches.

Mahmud Lodhi started the proceedings with white pieces while Tahmid opted for a French defence.

Lodhi, midway in the match, forced Tahmid to lose his bishop. The Pakistani star became too adventures and claimed Tahmid's queen without noticing Tahmid had laid a fatal trap. He was forced to accept defeat in the 18th move.

FIDE Master Vishal Suresh of India profited fully from his opponent FIDE Master Jamilur Rahman's mistakes to beat him in 17 moves.

Almasur Rahman beat Maroof Ahmed in 20 moves.

International Master Zillur Rahman Champak overcame

Nat'l youth soccer from May 20

Sports Reporter

The zonal matches of the Suhrawardy Cup national youth football championship begin from May 20 at different venues across the country.

Fifty-three teams have so far confirmed their participation in the under-19 tournament.

Sixteen teams from Dhaka Division, 14 from Khulna Division, 11 each from Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions and the Jessore Board team have already sent their entries to the tournament committee.

The first round matches will be held in eight zonal grounds.

M Taylor tries to salvage pride

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 30: Australia may have lost the series but Mark Taylor went a long way to ensuring they salvaged some pride with a resolute 144 that left West Indies a huge task to win the fifth and final cricket Test, reports Reuter.

Opener Taylor's seventh Test century, and first for 11 Tests and 14 months, was made out of Australia's second innings total of 265 on the third day on Monday.

West Indies, with a winning 2-0 lead in the series, were two without loss at the close in pursuit of their victory target of 455. Two days remain after today's rest day.

Only Australia, with 404 for three, and India, 406 for four, have made more than 400 in the second innings to win a Test match.

Australia, 189 ahead on first innings and six for one overnight, pressed home their advantage almost entirely on the strength of Taylor's effort. David Boon (35), Ian Healy (32) and Merv Hughes (13) were the only other players to make double figures.

Taylor batted six hours, facing 277 balls and hitting 12 fours in an innings of gathering acceleration.

First to congratulate Taylor on reaching three figures was Jeff Dujon but Taylor should perhaps have been thanking the West Indian wicketkeeper in gratitude.

When the opener was on 47 he edged paceman Courtney Walsh to Carl Hooper, who dropped the chance low to his left at slip. And when he was 61, Dujon missed a good stumping chance of Viv Richards.

Taylor also gave a return chance to fast bowler Curtly Ambrose five runs before perishing in the same manner.

Walsh took a big share of the bowling honours, producing a marathon 22-over stint either side of tea which included a nine-over spell in which he captured four for 22.

Walsh bowled Boon, captain Allan Border and Jones, and had first innings century-maker Mark Waugh lbw without scoring as Australia subsided from 142 for two to 265 all out.

Walsh's staunch effort offset the absence of fellow paceman Patrick Patterson for most of the innings. He suffered a tendon strain behind his right knee and bowled only one over—but it was enough to give him the wicket of night-watcherman Healy before lunch.

Malcolm Marshall picked up two wickets to lift his career total in Tests to 356—one ahead of Dennis Lillee's haul—and put him fifth in the list of leading Test wicket-takers headed by Sir Richard Hadlee (431).

Dujon ended the innings with two catches, giving him a series tally of 23 catches, the most by a West Indian in a Test rubber. Deryck Murray's West Indies' record of 24 dismissals



MARK TAYLOR...144

in a series, against England in 1963, included two stumpings. Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes had one over to face before the close, and they resume on Wednesday with a further 453 needed to win.

The highest score a team batting last have ever successfully chased to win a Test is 404, achieved by Sir Don Bradman's 1948 Australians against England at Leeds. West Indies, in 1976, saw India chase 403 at Port-Of-Spain and make 406 for four.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day of the fifth

McDermott	O	M	R	W
Ambrose	16	1	64	3
Walsh	26	2	56	4
Hooper	27	6	61	0
Patterson	1	0	1	1
Marshall	13.1	3	36	2
Richards	8	0	29	0

cricket Test between West Indies and Australia on Monday:

Australia first innings 403 (M. Waugh 139 not out, D. Jones 81, M. Taylor 59, A. Border 59).

West Indies first innings 214 (D. Haynes 84, C. McDermott four for 42, M. Hughes four for 64).

Australia second innings (overnight six for one)

Marsh c Dujon b Ambrose 14
M. Taylor c and b Ambrose 144
Healy c Logie b Patterson 32
Boon b Walsh 35
Border b Walsh 5
Jones b Walsh 8
Waugh lbw Walsh 0
Taylor lbw Marshall 4
Hughes c Walsh b Ambrose 13
McDermott c Dujon b Marshall 1

Alderman not out 0
Extras (b-11 nb-4) 22
Total 265

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-49, 3-142, 4-168, 5-184, 6-184, 7-237, 8-258, 9-265.

Bowling-to-date:

McDermott	O	M	R	W
	1	0	2	0

Richards withdraws statement

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 30: West Indies cricket Captain Viv Richards accused of a "tirade of derogatory remarks" against Australia's coach Bobby Simpson, withdrew his statements on Monday, reports Reuter.

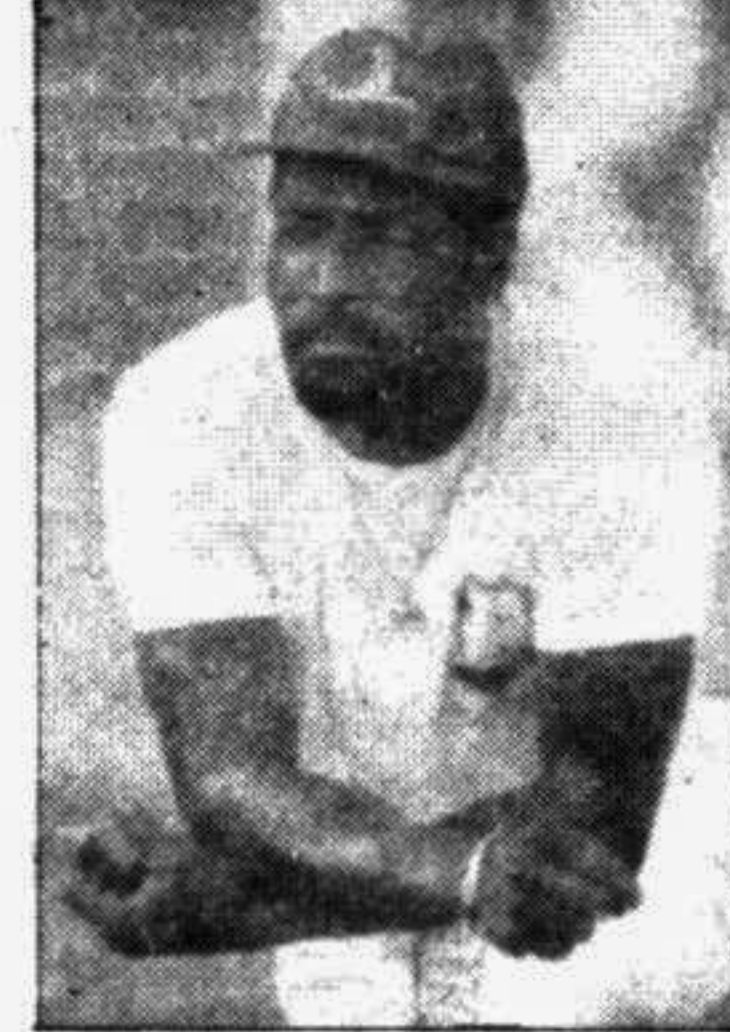
Richards, currently leading his team in the fifth and final Test here, withdrew the comments in his capacity as captain of the West Indies team but intimated they remained his personal view.

His verbal attack on Simpson after West Indies won the fourth Test in Bridgetown last Wednesday sparked a row that led to Australian cricket officials here seeking a complete retraction of Richards' remarks.

The West Indies captain had said at a news conference after the fourth Test: "I do not have the greatest respect for Bobby Simpson. I have seen him for a number of years and I do not like the way he operates. I dismiss anything he says. He is a moaner and a bad loser."

It was, said Australian team manager Lawrie Sawle, "a tirade of derogatory remarks" which abused the code of ethics.

Richards released a handwritten statement during the third day's play on Monday which said: "I considered that the statements regarding Bobby Simpson which I made during a press conference at the conclusion of the fourth Test—reflected my personal



VIV RICHARDS

"Upon consideration how-

ever, these statements were made in my capacity as the captain of the West Indies.

"As my latter capacity takes precedence, I hereby withdraw the statements which I publicly made in this regard."

West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WIBC) had initially issued a press release that said Richards "regrets any embarrassment which may have been caused to the Australian cricket team and Australian Cricket Board (ACB)."

The Australians were unhappy at that development and asked the WIBC to consider the matter further.

Sawle's immediate reaction to Richards' statement was that there would be no reaction until he had consulted ACB Chairman Col Egar, who was not at the ground.

Diego may never return

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 30: Argentine football idol Diego Maradona, freed on bail over the weekend after admitting taking drugs, may never return to the game, his agent said on Monday, reports Reuter.

"When he said in the past he was quitting football I was totally convinced he would never do it. Now I am not so sure," agent Marcos Franchi told a radio interviewer.

"I think he will be able to convince himself that football is not the most important thing (in life). He is a changed man," Franchi said.

Maradona was freed on the equivalent of 20,000 dollars bail early on Sunday after being arrested on Friday in a drug squad raid on a suburban Buenos Aires flat.

Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa said the 30-year-old star was under the influence of drugs when he was held with two friends.

Maradona, who later told a judge he was an occasional drug user, faces a prison term of one month to six years if found guilty of a charge of possession. He would face a stiffer sentence if convicted of a second offence—supplying drugs to others without charge.

One of his lawyers said he expected clarification of the exact charges, such as the amount of drugs allegedly involved, this week.

Maradona, who rose from a Buenos Aires slum to international fame, refused to speak to the army of newsmen besieging the Buenos Aires flat where he joined his wife and two daughters after his release. Maradona was banned for

15 months by FIFA, the sport's world governing body, when traces of cocaine were found in a urine test after a match for Italian club Napoli in March. He arrived in Argentina from Italy four weeks ago saying he wanted to quit the game.

But the weekend before his arrest he played five-a-side soccer with friends. His fans and associates believed he would return to the game once the ban expired.

Televised scenes of Maradona being banded glass-eyed into a police car stunned the nation, which idolises the captain of the side that won the 1986 World Cup title and finished second in last year's finals.

A radio station said its switchboard had been jammed with calls. 60 per cent of whom expressed sympathy for Maradona.

"Maradona has taken drugs for months," La Nación, one of Buenos Aires leading newspapers, said in a front-page banner headline in Monday.

President Carlos Menem, who on Friday removed Maradona from the post of special adviser on sporting affairs and the promotion of Argentina abroad, described him as "a sick lad."

Since signing with Napoli seven years ago, Maradona helped the club with its first two Italian league soccer championships and one European Football Union Cup. But his relations with the club deteriorated over the past two seasons as he deliberately missed matches and skipped training sessions.

In Italy Maradona has been questioned in connection with a Naples drugs and prostitution ring.

Test of nerves ahead of Wiranata

COPENHAGEN, Apr 30: Ardy Wiranata will need to display the same ice-cool nerves that won him men's title here, reports Reuter.

The singles championships start next week after the Sudirman Cup mixed team competition beginning today.

Victories in the All-England championship and Swedish and Japanese Opens have placed the young Indonesian firmly at the top of the world rankings this year.

His coolness under pressure saw Wiranata through an

epic semifinal at the All-England in March when the brilliant Chinese Wu Wenkai had two match points against him.

But economics student Wiranata is well aware that favourites are there to be shot at.

"I know many players want to defeat me and it is difficult to defend my position as world number one," he said. "But I am calm."

As a precocious 19-year-old Wiranata went within a whisker at the last world championships held on his home territory in Jakarta, taking China's Yang Yang to three games in a memorable final.

Since then his career has prospered and this season Wiranata has been in splendid form.

Wu is among the many players who would like to beat the Indonesian and the pair are seeded to meet in the final.

China's Zhao Jianhua, a disappointment at the All-England where he surrendered his title in the semifinals to Malaysia's Foo Kok Keong, is seeded third with Foo at four.

Asia's dominance of the game looks unlikely to be disturbed even though Denmark, a traditional power in the sport, will enjoy home advantage.

The great Dane himself,

Morten Frost, will receive every ounce of encouragement from the crowd, but at 33 the better days look to be a thing of the past.

The women's title also looks Indonesian-bound with world number one Susi Susanti seeded to meet China's Huang Hua in the final.

If Susanti fails, Sarwendah Kusumawardhani, who stretched her on breaking point in the All-England final, could maintain Indonesian honour.

Indonesia are the Sudirman Cup holders, beating South Korea in the 1989 inaugural event when Susanti played a large part.

Second seeded Jimmy Arias and seventh-seeded Malvial Washington upheld their seeding. Arias beat Jim Pugh 6-2, 6-3, and Washington defeated Chuck Adams 6-3, 6-2 in All-American matches.

Kroon, 25, has dropped to 144th in a world after missing three months last year with a wrist injury. But the Swede is determined to have a productive clay court season and Monday's victory could be a positive step.

"I really, wanted to win this match," Kroon said. "I want to get straight into the draw at Wimbledon without having to qualify. I have to do well here. This is a nice result for me."

Barcelona Olympics marathoners will face uphill task

BARCELONA, Spain, Apr 30: Barcelona's Montjuic Hill, its steep sides clothed in green parkland and immaculate terraced gardens, is a sight to gladden the eye.

Except, maybe, the eye of an athlete nearing the end of next year's Olympic marathon, reports Reuter.

Just four kms from the end of the 42.195 km race, when the flesh and the spirit are weakest, the runners will face the daunting task of dragging exhausted limbs up the hill to finish in the Olympic stadium.

The stadium sits on a small plateau at a height of 87 me-

tres above sea level, just below the summit of Montjuic, with panoramic views of this thriving mediterranean city.

It is unlikely the marathon athletes, competing in the toughest race of all in the heat of a Spanish August, will appreciate the view.

After 38 kms of running almost entirely on the flat along the coast and into the city, they will sweep into the imposing Plaza De Espana and face the mountain, with 62 metres to climb in the final four kms.

"We don't expect the Olympic record to be broken,"

confessed Luis Saladie, Deputy Director of athletics of the Barcelona Olympics Organising Committee (COOB).

"But if the course was all like the first 38 kilometres it would be one of the fastest in the world."

The road route up Montjuic makes the climb in barely three kms with gradients even stiffer than those the Olympic runners will race year.

The 1991 Barcelona Marathon was run in March over a course finishing in the Olympic stadium and taking the road up Montjuic. It was won in a slow two hours 16

minutes with athletes complaining that the final hill section was inhuman.

"We knew we could not use the road route for the Olympics, so we have invented a new, longer route, winding gradually up the hill, to soften the gradients," Saladie said.

"Our latest version of the Olympic route has been approved by the International Amateur Athletic Federation but we are still working on it to see if we can soften it a bit more."

COOB say the mix of flat running and climbing in Barcelona make their

marathon more demanding overall than the events in the previous games in Seoul and Los Angeles.

The marathon in the Spanish national championships in August this year will be run over the course at the same time of day as in the Olympics, (starting at 6.30 pm) to see how runners cope.

"I really don't think it will work. They may end up having to pay athletes to run in the Olympics," was the half-serious advance judgement of one veteran sports journalist.

With the marathon before the closing ceremony, COOB

Boxing meet postponed

The finals of the 15th national boxing championships, scheduled for yesterday at the Bangladesh Army Stadium, have been postponed due to Monday night's devastating cyclone in the coastal areas of the country, reports BSS.

A fresh date will be announced later.

Samaranch hopes to see Iraq at Barcelona Games

ATLANTA, Apr 30: Olympics chief Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Monday he was hopeful that Iraq would be able to participate in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, reports Reuter.

Iraq was barred from last year's Asian Games, which were held in Beijing a month after Iraq's August invasion of Kuwait.

"Kuwait will take part in the Games, that is sure," said Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) President, who attended the ceremonial opening of officials of the Atlanta committee which will stage the 1996 Summer Olympics.

"Regarding Iraq, I don't know. But I think with one year, the situation in Iraq will be normal, and we hope also to have the Iraq taking part in the 1992 Games."

The Barcelona Games may also see the return to the Olympics of South Africa, which has been barred because of its apartheid laws.

South Africa, which has not competed in the Olympics since 1960, was granted conditional IOC recognition in March and given six months to eliminate apartheid laws and bring racial unity to its sports structure.

In another peace-making overture, Samaranch met with cable television mogul Ted Turner to discuss his Olympic-style Goodwill Games, an event that has been staged without the IOC's blessing.

"Mr Turner is a very important sportsman. He has a very important the Olympic movement and the International Olympic Committee," said Samaranch, who added that Turner was sending a delegation to IOC headquarters in Lausanne in June.

Samaranch would not say whether the IOC would ask Turner to disband the games—a money-losing proposition for Turner since they began in Moscow in 1986.

"I don't know what can happen but maybe in the future there will be close cooperation," Samaranch said. Asked if the IOC might agree to sponsor the Goodwill Games, Samaranch said: "All is possible in the world."

Kroon steals spotlight

TAMPA, Florida, Apr 30: Niclas Kroon, accused of being overshadowed by more celebrated Swedish players, stole the spotlight at the clay courts of Tampa in his tournament on Monday by upsetting third-seeded Jari Yzaga of Peru, reports Reuter.

Kroon pulled the biggest upset of the first round by eliminating Yzaga 6-3, 6-3.

Another surprise winner at the 250,000-dollar tournament was Kelly Evernden of New Zealand. Evernden, playing his first clay court event in three years, ousted sixth-seeded American Brad Pearce 6-3, 6-2.

Second seeded Jimmy Arias

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