Govt raises grant for DSAs

PM opens Pioneer league

Sports Reporter

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday afternoon formally inaugurated the 1991-92 Pioneer football league at an impressive opening ceremony at the Dhaka Stadium.

The fanfare included release of pigeons and gas balloons and a march past by members of the ninety teams who have entered the tournament. Actual competition doesn't begin until Wednesday, Dec 18.

The Dhaka Metropolis Football Association DAMFA is the organiser of the league for the city's junior footballers.

In her brief speech, Begum Zia said that her government would make concerned efforts to promote sports and games in the country despite resource constraints.

"We want our young talents to get the maximum patronisation from the present government so that they can bring laurels for the country," she said.

Referring to the death of funds for the district sports associations and absence of adequate number of grounds in the metropolis, the Prime Minister announced that henceforth the district sports associations would get Taka 50,000 per year instead of the present Taka 15,000.

She hoped the enhancement of grants would enable the sportsmen to devote their time and energy for the betterment of their performances.

Begum Zia said the BNP government had attached priority to sports as it helped the healthy growth of body and mind. "We will do our best to promote games and sports," she emphasised.

Begum Zia also witnessed an exhibition match for a brief period played between Gulbagh Krira Chakra and Mukim Bazar Krira Chakra.

State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain also spoke at the opening ceremony.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Forest and Environment and Fisheries and Livestock Gayeshwar Roy, president of football federation Siddiqur Rahman, president of the Metropolis Football Association, M. Azizul Haque and Chairman, National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman were also present.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia releasing balloons marking the formal inauguration of the 1991-92 Pioneer soccer league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.—Star photo

Monarch versus Republican !

TOKYO, Dec 15 : US President George Bush will play tennis with Japanese Emperor Akihito during his visit to Japan January 7-10, the Yomiuri Shimbun said Saturday, reports AFP.

Bush is expected to call on Akihito at the Akasaka Place on the second day of his stay and will play on a court within the Place Grounds, the mass-circulation paper said without naming its source.

Akihito, known to be a keen player, met Empress Michiko on a tennis court.

The Yomiuri said the Emperor had never played tennis with a top government leader from abroad.

Netrakona make Suhrawardy finals

Sports Reporter

The last of the zonal finals of the eighth Suhrawardy Cup national under-19 football championship was held at the Netrokona Stadium yesterday.

In the match, Netrokona DSA outplayed Koshoreganj DSA by two goals to one.

All three goals were scored in the first session of play.

Humayun scored for Kishoreganj in the very third minute of the match.

But Babul Das equalised for the hosts in the 26th minute.

To the delight of the partisan crowd Babul Das got the decider in the 36th minute.

Koshoreganj left no stone unturned to draw level but did not succeed, allowing Netrakona to move into the final round of the tournament.

Selim of Netrokona and Ashraf and Jakku of Kishoreganj were shown the yellow card.

Abul Qasem, Deputy Commissioner of Netrokona, witnessed the match and gave away prizes among the winners.

The final round of the eighth Suhrawardy Cup football championship will start from December 25 at Naogaon.

Eighth zonal champions, the seventh Suhrawardy Cup champions Feni DSA and hosts Naogaon will compete for this year's trophy.

Besides Netrokona, the other zonal champions are Comilla, Chittagong, Tangail, Jhenidah, Khulna, Nilphamari and Pabna DSA.

V-Day hockey begins today

Sports Reporter

The 1991 Victory Day Shah Sports hockey tournament begins today at 2.45 pm at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium.

Organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation, 19 teams are taking part in this year's competition.

Bangladesh Sporting Club and Bangladesh Air Force will clash in the opening match.

Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will inaugurate the tournament.

The 13-day long tournament is scheduled to finish on December 28.

TODAY'S MATCH

Bangladesh SC vs Bangladesh Air Force (2:45 pm)

TOMORROW'S MATCHES

Usha Krira Chakra vs Cantonian Club (1.45pm)

Victoria SC vs Wari Club (3.15 pm)

Aussies outplay the Indians

ADELAIDE, Australia, Dec 15 : A most entertaining partnership of 137 runs between man-of-the-match Allan Border and Dean Jones helped Australia to six-wicket victory over India in the World Series Cup cricket competition here today, reports AFP.

Having been set a modest target of 158 to win, Australia began Shakily, but recovered through a superb batting display from Border and Jones in front of an 18,500 crowd.

Earlier, India, after winning the toss and electing to bat in overcast conditions, lost six wickets for 69 before top-scorer Kapil Dev with 39 and Manoj Prabhakar put on 50 to stage a relative recovery.

Their innings ended on 157 with eight balls remaining from the allotted 50 overs.

Australia also made a poor start to their innings but despite losing both opening batsman for 17 they showed composure in stabilising the innings.

For India, Kapil Dev and Prabhakar began well with their medium pace bowling.

David Boon was bowled in the third over with the score on 10 and seven runs later marsh went for three, bowled by Prabhakar casually pushing forward.

With a fairly meagre total of 157 to defend, this was the sort of start India wanted.

But with two wickets down within half an hour, Dean Jones and Allan Border slowly took control.

Left arm spinner Shastri replaced Kapil Dev and in his third over Border swept him for six over square leg. With that shot he took his own crrore to 20 and the total to 46 for two.

The 50 came in the 17th over.

Curiously, it had taken Australia two overs more than India had in spite of their disastrous start.

While Border scored more freely, Jones picked up singles and twos at first. Understandably, his batting was of a more cautious manner after his recent run of low scores.

India endeavoured to break this partnership using five bowlers. It was particularly good to see left arm spinners operating from each end as Shastri and Raju bowled together.

But neither the greater flight of Raju nor Shastri's lower trajectory made any impression on Jones and Border.

Jones lifted Raju for six at mid wicket to take the score to 94 for two and then brought the 100 up in the 30th over.

Three overs later, he reached 50 from 92 balls.

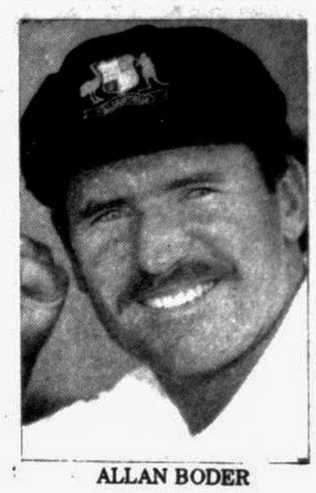
Border followed that with his second six of the innings off occasional bowler Srikkanth, which took him to 53 from 84 balls.

He was finally caught by substitute fielder in place of the injured Kiran More on the backward square leg boundary for an excellent 76, with just four runs required for victory.

Jones remained unbeaten on 63 having played himself back into form.

After the match, Border said : "I thought the bowlers were fantastic. They kept the pressure on."

Commenting on the victory, he added: "This is something we have worked on and now we get our reward."



ALLAN BODER

SCOREBOARD

Scores in the one-day limited over World Series Cup match between Australia and India:

India	
R. Shastri lbw b Reid	1
K. Srikkanth c and b McDermott	3
S. Manjrekar run out	12
S. Tendulkar c Jones b Waugh	21
M. Azharuddin c Healy b Whitney	13
P. Amre c Healy b Whitney	10
Kapil Dev c Moody b Taylor	39
M. Prabhakar run out	17
K. More lbw b McDermott	20
J. Srinath run out	8
S. Raja not out	3
Extras (6lb 4w)	10
Total (48.4 overs)	157

Fall - 1-2, 2-4, 3-37, 4-41, 5-64, 6-69, 7-119, 8-133, 9-149, 10-157

Bowling :	O	M	R	W
Reid	10	1	32	1
McDermott	8.4	0	29	2
S Waugh	10	1	27	1
Whitney	10	3	22	2
Taylor	10	1	71	1

Australia	
D Boon b Kapil Dev	6
G. Marsh b Prabhakar	3
D. Jones not out	63
A. Border c Subrata b Raju	76
T. Moody c Tendulkar b Raju	0
S. Waugh not out	0
Extras (3lb, 4w, 3nb)	10
Total (4 wkts, 40.5 overs)	158

Fall : 1-10, 2-17, 3-154, 4-156

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Kapil Dev	6	2	12	1
Prabhakar	6	0	20	1
Shastri	10	0	34	0
Srinath	6	0	30	0
Raju	9	1	32	2
Srikkanth	2	0	24	0
Tendulkar	1.5	0	3	0

POINTS STANDING

Standings in the World Series Cup one-day cricket competition after today's match between Australia and India (tabulate under played, won, tied, lost, points, run rate).

	G	W	T	L	Pts	Av
Australia	4	3	0	1	6	3.21
India	5	2	1	2	5	3.71
West Indies	3	0	1	2	1	3.61

Patel's brilliance not enough to ensure Auckland's win

AUCKLAND, Dec 15: New Zealand Test cricketer Dipak Patel scored a remarkable double this weekend by hitting one of First Class cricket's fastest double-centuries and taking ten wickets in the match, reports Reuter.

The tall, slim Patel smashed his way to 204 in only 163 minutes off 155 balls for Auckland against Northern Districts in a national championship Shell Trophy match on Saturday.

His second hundred came in a breathtaking 52 minutes.

Nairobi-born Patel, a former Worcestershire professional noted for his graceful batting style, hit 12 sixes to reach 204, just three short of the world record in a First Class innings held by New Zealand's John (JR) Reid.

Few batsmen have scored a double-century faster, although the cricketers, bible, Wisden, records that India's Ravi Shastri hit 200 not out for Bombay against Baroda in 113 minutes in 1984/85.

Bowling his gentle off-spinners, Patel ended up with second innings figures of four for 116 to go with his six for 117 in the first innings.

Only four other players have ever hit a double-century and taken 10 wickets in a first class match.

The last to do it was Johnny Douglas for Essex against Derbyshire in 1921.

England's Legendary WG Grace performed the feat twice in 1977 and 1985 as did the South Australian, George Giffen, in 1891 and 1892.

Patel's effort was not enough to win the match.

English country professional Matthew Maynard, playing for northern, hit 110 in his second innings to go with his first innings score of 195.

Adding to the boundary feast in the match, Maynard hit seven sixes and 24 fours in his first innings and three sixes and 18 fours in his second innings.

At the end of the three-day match which resulted in a draw, northern were 149 runs short of victory with two wickets standing.

Olympic flame arrives in France

PARIS, Dec 15: The Olympic flame arrived in France on Saturday to begin its 5,500 kilometre journey across the country in the next eight weeks to the Winter Games in Albertville, reports Reuter.

The flame, lit at the ruins of ancient Olympia on Friday, arrived in Paris in a miner's lamp on an air France Concorde from Athens.

After a ceremony on the champs Elysees, the Olympic symbol will be carried through France by 5,500 athletes and arrive in Albertville on February 8 for the opening ceremony.

India to send 230-member to SAF Games

NEW DELHI, Dec 15 : The Indian government has decided to send a 230-strong Indian contingent to the fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held at Colombo, Srt Lanka, from December 22 to 31, Reports Xinhua.

This will be the biggest ever Indian contingent sent to the SAF Games, local press reported Saturday.

India will take part in all the 10 disciplines.

MSC-BU semi resumes Dec 18

Sports Reporter

The unfinished semifinal match of the Victory Day cricket tournament between Brothers Union and Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club will be played on December 18 at the Dhaka Stadium.

The tournament committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board also decided to reduce the three-day final to a two day affair.

Under the revised fixture, the 75-overs-a-side final will begin on December 20, says a BCCB press release.

At close on the first day of their two-day semifinal on Dec 13, Brothers Union had made eight without loss in reply to a mammoth 327 for nine made by Dhaka Mohammedans in their stipulated 75 overs.

Akhlaque's title

Sports Reporter

Akhlaque annexed the men's singles title in the Victory Day table tennis tournament which concluded at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Akhlaque beat Badal by 19-21, 21-17, 21-12, 21-15, in the final.

Manas clinched the singles title for boys under 18 years of age outplaying Shaon 21-13, 21-13, 18-21, 14-21, 21-12.

Jewel lifted the singles title for boys under 14 years beating Ashique 21-11, 15-21, 22-20, 21-19 in the final.

Syed Yousuf Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, was present at the closing ceremony as the chief guest and distributed the prizes.

BDR, Police in kabaddi final

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Police moved into the final of the 1991 Victory Day kabaddi competition under the auspices of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation.

Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Police featured in a thrilling 12-12 draw in a match played at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday, a tie that enthralled the encouraging crowd.

The final of the tournament will be held at 2.30 pm tomorrow, December 17.

Wanderers' EC meeting put off

The adjourned meeting of the newly-elected executive committee of Dhaka Wanderers' Club, scheduled to be held tomorrow, December 17, has been postponed due to 'unavoidable reasons', in the language of a club press release.

Member will be informed of the fresh date in due course, said the press release signed by Syed Alamgir Farooque Chowdhury, president of the Dhaka Wanderers' Club.

Mushtaque XI vs Jewel XI match at DCS today

Sports Reporter

A friendly cricket match in celebration of the Victory Day between the 'Shaheed Mushtaque Eleven' and the 'Shaheed Jewel Eleven', an annual feature over the past several years, will be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today. The match starts at 9.15 in the morning.

Organisers Bangladesh Cricket Control Board have selected 28 players and two managers for the match. They are:

Shaheed Mushtaque Eleven: Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu (Captain); Faruk Ahmed (Vice captain); Zahid Razzaque Masum; Nurul Abedin Nobel; Aminul Islam Bulbul; Shah Nawaz Shahid Shanu; Nasir Ahmed Nasu; Jahangir Alam Talukder Dulu; Saiful Islam; Ahmed Fataz Shahin; Md Akram Khan; Habibul Bashar Suman; Anisur Rahman and Md Talha bin-Zakaria.

Manager: Altul Islam

Minhazul Abedin Nannu, who has been appointed captain of the Shaheed Jewel Eleven, seems unlikely to play today because of the injury which has kept him away from Mohammedans' matches over the past week or so. In that case vice captain Gholam Nawsher Prince will lead the side.

The other members of the Saheed Jewel Eleven are:

Jahangir Alam; Azhar Hossain Shantoo; Athar Ali Khan; Selim Shaheed; Mahbubur Rahman Selim; Enamul Haque Moni; Shahidul Alam Ratan; Ruhul Niamur Rashid Ruhul; Saidul Anam Effie; Md Al-Shahriar Rokan; Rahman Abu Hamid Pial and Sharafuddowlah Ibne Shahid Shafkat.

Manager: A S M Roqufbul Hassan.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain and Begum Suraiya Khan, elder sister of Shaheed Jewel will witness the match.

Nat'l cricket next Feb

The national and junior national cricket championships will begin from the last week of February, 1992, at different zones across the country, says a BCCB press release.

District sports association and the affiliated units of the BCCB have been requested to submit their affiliation and entry fees to the BCCB by January 10 at the latest.

The affiliation fee is Taka 300 while the entry for both the senior and junior categories of the championship is Taka 100.

Fees will be received on cash or in cheque, draft or pay order.

District associations interested to host the tournament are also requested to inform the BCCB of their willingness by December 31.

BTTF's gift for Viquarunnisa School

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, in a bid to give a fillip to the quality and the popularity of this game in this country, has undertaken some programmes of distributing sporting equipment.

As part of this, a new table, 10 table tennis bats, 10 dozen balls and two nets were presented by the BTTF to the Viquarunnisa Noon School yesterday a the newly build auditorium of the school.

The function was attended by Major General Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman of the NSC, president of the BTTF Syed Yousuf Hossain, and Hamida Ali, Principal of Viquarunnisa Noon School and College, Kazi Moniruzzaman, general secretary of BTTF and teachers and students of the institution.

Nirman cricket from Jan 15

Sports Reporter

The 1991-92 Nirman Schools cricket tournament, under the aegis of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), is scheduled to begin at Dhaka and various zonal venues across the country from January 15 next.

A press release issued by the BCCB has called for bids from district sports associations intending to host the zonal competitions by Dec 31 at the latest. Host associations must submit a list of participating school teams in their respective zones along with an estimated budget and fixture for the BCCB's approval.

The zonal competitions must be completed by January 25th and the final round with the zonal champions will begin in Dhaka in the first week of February.

Schools in the Dhaka zone, including those outside the metropolitan area, have been advised to file their entries with the BCCB by Dec 31.

Lewis to jump in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, Dec 15 : Carl Lewis, beaten by Mike Powell's record-breaking leap at the World Championships in August, plans to compete in the long fump at an indoor athletics gala in Stockholm next February, the organisers said, reports Reuter.

National daily Dagens Nyheter, who sponsor the DN-gala, said the organisers and Lewis's agent had agreed on the terms although on formal contract had yet been signed.

Lewis has not jumped since the Tokyo championships.

Soviet pole vault world champion and record holder Sergei Bubka had also agreed to participate in the meeting.

Lewis set a 9.86 seconds world record over 100 metres at the world championships but was beaten in the long jump by fellow-American Powell's 8.95 metre leap, despite posting his best career result — a wind-assisted 8.91 metres.

An all-American final

MUNICH, Dec 15: Americans Michael Chang and David Wheaton earned their shot at the richest prize in tennis with gusty performances in the semifinals of the six million dollar Grand Slam Cup on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The 19-year-old Chang staged a dramatic comeback from two sets down against Ivan Lendl to triumph 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, 9-7 in a exhausting, baseline encounter which lasted more than four and an half hours.

Wheaton showed a killer instinct in three tense tie-breaks to beat Wimbledon champion Michael Stich 7-6, 7-6, 7-6 in front of his home German fans in the battle of the big servers.

In today's final, the two Americans will be playing for two million dollars with the loser picking up a cheque for one million.

Wheaton served confidently and played the pressure points with more conviction than Stich as he sealed the first set 8-6 in the tie-break.

The German, roached on by the capacity Olympic arena crowd, had to save five set points in the second set before the American again showed his killer instinct in the tie-break which he won 8-6.

Wheaton ran away with the third-set tie-break 7-3 to finish the match in three hours and 13 minutes.

The Minnesota-based player said he would have to play to hisserve-and-volley strengths in the final.

"I have played Michael many times and I can't get involved in a baseline game because he can outrun me," he said.

Chang's victory was almost a carbon copy of a similar comeback against Lendl at the 1989 French Open.

The American saved a fifth-set match point before sealing the encounter in the 16th game of the set.

Chang said before the semifinal that he knew he had a mountain to climb against Lendl. But the American, who had to wear black, thigh-hugging cycling pants to protect an injured groin muscle, warmed to the task.

"A lot of players get discouraged when they are two sets down. He doesn't get so discouraged at that stage," Lendl said.

749-strong Soviet squad for Barcelona

BARCELONA, Dec 15: A single delegation of 749 people drawn from all the different republics of the former Soviet Union will take part in the Barcelona Olympic Games next year, reports AFP.

Soviet Deputy Sports Minister Anatoly Kolesov confirmed the fact that the Soviets will still form a team despite bids from certain breakaway republics to gain entry to the Games in their own right.

Jabbar's comeback

LOS ANGELES, Dec 15: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is considering a return to professional basketball in a move he said would help attract attention to the fight against AIDS, reports AFP.

Abdul-Jabbar, who holds the National Basketball Association's all-time scoring and shot-blocking records, said he began thinking of making a comeback after his close friend Magic Johnson announced he had tested positive for the HIV virus, which causes Accute Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Leeds United tops English League

LONDON, Dec 15 : Leeds United nudged two points clear at the top of the weather-ravaged English Soccer League on Saturday after only drawing 1-1 at home to Tottenham Hotspur, reports Reuter.

While many difficulties with mist and fog, Leeds had a golden opportunity to move clear of rivals Manchester United.

But Spurs, 2-0 winners at Elland Road last season and one of only 10 First Division clubs in action on Saturday, took an early lead and again proved hard to beat away from home.

Manchester United, who have two games in hand, could regain the lead at Chelsea today, weather permitting.

UEFA Cup quarter- finalists Liverpool again frustrated Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest with a 2-0 home win.

Forest have not won a league match at Anfield since Clough brought them back into the top Division in 1977.

In Scotland, champions Rangers won 3-1 at Falkirk, but Hearts stayed top after beating Motherwell by the same score.

Seventeen league games were postponed. Champions Arsenal, despite under-soil heating, had to postpone their match against Norwhich shortly before the kickoff due to the fog.

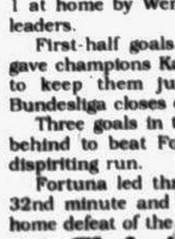
Tottenham stunned the Elland Road faithful into silence by snatching the lead in the 19th minute when David Howells struck from close range after confusion in the Leeds defence.

Defender Chris Whyte, whose muddle with teammate Tony Dorigo had gifted Spurs the goal, then downed Gordon Durie from behind and was promptly booked.

Tottenham's Terry Fenwick followed whyte into the Referee's notebook for a foul on Leeds' striker Rod Wallace.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Papin's hattrick in Marseille win



Papin

PARIS, Dec 15 : A hat trick by ace marksman Jean-Pierre Papin helped league leaders Marseille to a comfortable 5-1 home victory against struggling Rennes in the French League on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Papin now tops the table of scorers with 16 goals, followed by Liberian striker George Weah, who scored his 14th to help Monaco clinch a 3-1 victory against Cannes.

The club of the principality stay second three points behind the French champions, who have a game in hand.

Marseille, who had been relatively unimpressive in their last few matches, delighted their home fans, with international midfielders Franck Sauzee and Jean-Philippe Durand scoring a goal each.

Unfashinable Caen, who fell 5-1 at Auxerre, and Paris St Germain, who drew 1-1 at Le Havre, share third place two points behind Monaco.

Nimes, without internationals striker Eric Cantona, who said on Thursday he was ending his professional career after being suspended for two months by the French League's disciplinary commission, managed the only goalless draw of the night at Lens.

Eintracht threaten Dortmund

BONN, Dec 15 : Eintracht Frankfurt kept the pressure on German League leaders Borussia Dortmund with a 3-0 win against Dynamo Dresden on Saturday while struggling Bayern Munch posted a welcome victory, reports Reuter.

Third-placed VFB Struttgart dropped a point when held 1-1 at home by Werder Bremen to slip two points behind the leaders.

First-half goals from Wolfgang Funkel and Stefan Kuntz gave champions Kaiserslautern a 2-1 win at home to Cologne to keep them just two points behind Borussia as the Bundesliga closes down for its mid-winter break.

Three goals in the last 16 minutes saw Bayern come from behind to beat Fortuna Duesseldore 3-1 and end a recent dispiriting run.

Fortuna led through a goal from Martin Spanring in the 32nd minute and looked like sending Bayern to their sixth home defeat of the season.

Club African lift ACC Cup

KAMPALA, Dec 15 : Club African of Tunisia lifted the African Club Champions' Cup of the strength of a 1-1 draw with Sports Club Villa in the Ugandan capital here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The draw gave Club African a 7-3 goal aggregate victory after thrashing the Ugandans 6-2 in Tunis two weeks ago.

After a barren first half, the Tunisians took the lead in the 51st minute when Villa's Geoffrey Higenyt deflected the ball into his own net after total-mouth scramble.

The Ugandans equalised in the 73rd minute through IDI Batambuze.