

Senior Division league from tomorrow

New sponsors, a new name

Sports Reporter

The Senior Division football league, the cynosure of all sporting competitions in the country, starts tomorrow at the Mirpur National Stadium.

The premier soccer tournament, which remained suspended for the past two seasons owing to a variety of reasons, is set to kick-off tomorrow.

Twenty teams, including two new promotees, will be taking part in the league which has been re-titled the Star Senior Division League after the name of a popular cigarette brand of its new sponsors Bangladesh Tobacco Company. The tobacco giants signed a new three-year deal with the Bangladesh Football Federation, replacing

initial year of sponsorship. The championship, comprising as many as 195 games, scheduled to run until April 18 — barring unforeseen interruptions, that is — will be decided on a straight, single-league basis. Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting, the two traditional giants of the country's soccer, are billed to feature in the last fixture of the league three days

promotees from the Second Division.

A maximum of three foreign players will be allowed to play for any team subject to registration of their names 24 hours before the match.

The new FIFA rules will be imposed in the league which was earlier scheduled to start October 28 last year but could not be held due to the preparation for the SAF Games and other reasons.

The two bottom teams will be relegated to the Second Division while the top teams of the Second Division will be promoted to the First Division next season.

The rates of tickets for league matches are: Daily Gallery ticket: Tk 12 each for two matches; VIP season tickets: Main Gate Tk 600; Gate Ga and Gha Tk 500 (Tk 350 for club officials); Gate Ka and Kha Tk 400 (Tk 300 for club officials); players' concession Tk 150 and Vendors Tk 400.

The details were disclosed by DMFA President M Azizul Hoque at a press conference yesterday at the National Sports Council conference room.

National Sports Council Chairman Major General Mahbubur Rahman, BFF General Secretary Harun ur Rashid, DMFA Secretary Kazi Mithu, League Committee Secretary Arshad Ali Mangul, BTC Corporate Affairs Manager RA Majumdar and Marketing Services Manager Jahangir Kabir also spoke on the occasion.



Ruhul Amin Majumdar (R), Manager Corporate Affairs of BTC, the new sponsors of the Senior Division football league, talking to newsmen yesterday.

row afternoon at 4 pm, with reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra facing Police Athletic Club, the newly-promoted team of the league. The second match on the inaugural day will pit Sadharan Bima against Rahmatganj MFS at six

former sponsors National Bank Limited who lent their name to the league for three years. It is learnt that BTC will be paying Taka 17 lakhs to the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), who will be running the league for the BFF, in the

after the next Bengali New Year. According to the programme, there will be two matches daily, starting at 3:00 and 5:00 pm respectively. Tickets for the galleries will cost Taka 12 daily. Eskaton Sabuj Sangha are the other

Suhrawardy Cup final today

Sports Reporter

The final of the eight national youth under-19 football championship for the Suhrawardy Cup kicks off today at 2:15 pm at Naogon Stadium.

Tangail DSA and Pabna DSA will clash in the final to decide the eight Suhrawardy Cup title. Both the finalists are playing in the final for the first time.

Tangail beat Khulna DSA 3-0 in the semifinal with Bazlur Rahman scoring one and Chapal slugging home the other two.

Earlier in the group affair, they had outplayed Chittagong DSA 2-0, Chapal scoring both

the goals for the winners. On the other hand, Pabna beat hosts Naogon 2-1 in the other semifinal. Maruf and Rashid scored one goal each for the winners.

In the group match, they had outplayed Jhenidah 4-2 in the tie-breaker.

Ten teams — Chittagong, Khulna, Nilphamari, Tangail, Netrokona, Comilla, Pabna, Jhenidah, seventh Suhrawardy Cup champions Feni and hosts Naogon — qualified for the final round.

Foreign Minister, ASM Mustafizur Rahman will witness the final as the chief guest and distribute the awards among the winners.

Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, and Fazlur Rahman Patal, State Minister for Communications, will attend the occasion as special guest. Following is the roll of honour:

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1974	Comilla	Myemensingh
1975	not held	
1976	Khulna	Chittagong
1977	Khulna	Dhaka
1978-1981	not held	
1982	Chittagong and Barisal (joint champions)	
1983	tournament postponed	
1984	Comilla	Netrokona
1985-1986	not held	
1987	Feni	Rajshahi

Sabatini breezes through

SYDNEY, Jan 8: Top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina showed no effects of a long Christmas break in downing Marlon Bollegraf in the second round of the New South Wales Open on Wednesday, reports AP.

Sabatini, ranked third in the world, overpowered Bollegraf 6-0, 6-1, with a dazzling array of spinners from the baseline, unruffled by a rain delay midway through the match.

The beleaguered Bollegraf raised his arms in victory after finally holding serve while sliding down 3-0 in the second set.

In her first match since the Virginia Slims Championships in late November, Sabatini served notice she is in good form to challenge Monica Seles and Steffi Graf when the Australian Open, a two-week Grand Slam event, starts in Melbourne next Monday.

"I've been working pretty hard (and) I'm playing good tennis. Physically, I feel very good," said Sabatini, who had a first-round bye and avoided a rash of upsets that has depleted the tournament of seeded players the first two days.

In the men's draw, three seeds advanced to the quarterfinals despite periodic showers that halted play several times and forced postponement of several matches.

Defending champion Guy Forget of France, the highest remaining seed at No 3, beat Javier Sanchez of Spain 6-2, 6-4. He will face American Aaron Krickstein, a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 winner over Cristiano Caratti of Italy.

Christian Bergstrom of Sweden scored a 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 victory over No 4 Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia to earn a berth against No 5 Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden or Omer Camporese of Italy.

No 7 Emilio Sanchez of Spain downed Australia's John Fitzgerald 6-4, 6-4 and will play Thomas Muster of Austria, who ousted hometown hero Todd Woodbridge 6-4, 3-6, 6-4. Woodbridge knocked out top-seeded Michael Stich a day earlier.

American David Wheaton, the No 8 seed, bounced back from a second-set service break to beat France's Olivier Delaitre 6-4, 6-3. He's matched against either hard-serving Butchman Richard



GABRIELA SABATINI of Argentina defeated Marlon Bollegraf in the second round of the New South Wales Open on Wednesday.

In other women's second-round matches at the White City complex in midtown Sydney, No 3 Jana Novotna advanced when American Patty Fendick injured her right knee after losing the first set and falling behind 2-1 in the second.

No 8 Anke Huber of Germany, No 10 Hlclena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, No 13 Julie Halard of France and No 15 Gigi Fernandez also advanced to the third round, along with unseeded Kimiko Date of Japan and Barbara Rittner of Germany.

Rittner ousted 16th-seeded Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia, the fifth seed to fall by the second round of this \$1.5 million event.

Both Sabatini and Novotna agreed that Seles remains the women to beat at the Australian Open.

"Monica is at the top," said Novotna, ranked seventh in the world. "She hits hard and moves well."

Sabatini added: "to beat Monica Seles, you have to mix up your games, do different things all the time."

More upsets in Auckland

AUCKLAND, Jan 8: Jaime Yzaga of Peru and Markus Zockke of Germany beat seeded players Wednesday in the first round of the upset-filled \$182,500 New Zealand Open tennis championships, reports AP.

Yzaga continued his recovery from a career-threatening knee injury, defeating fourth-seeded Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-4, 7-6 (7-4). Zockke ousted fifth-seeded Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2).

Alexander Volkov of Russia, the No 3 seed, managed to buck the trend that has seen five of the eight seeded players beaten in the first three days of the tournament.

Volkov struggled for three sets in sweltering heat before defeating Mexican Davis Cup player Leonardo Lavalle 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

German qualifier Markus Naewie continued his excellent run, upsetting experienced Argentine Davis Cup player Javier Frana 6-2, 6-3 and advancing to the quarterfinals of an IBM/ATP tour event for the first time in his career.

The demise of Clavet has

left the top half of the draw wide open, without any seeded players left in contention.

Andrei Cherkasov of Russia, the No 2 seed, Volkov and No 7 MaliVal Washington of the United States are the only seeds left in the bottom half of the 32-man event.

Vzaga has spent three months recovering from a knee injury but played excellent baseline tennis.

"Every win is a good win," he said. "I don't really see it as an upset but rather I see every match as a challenge. It's good that I've beaten a great player and it has given me a lot of confidence to keep playing the same way."

Naewie, ranked just 155th in the world, dominated against Frana, serving powerfully and hitting well-placed ground strokes.

"I've been playing my matches here with few unforced errors," he said. "That has put pressure on my opponents."

"I've tried to hit hard shots from the baseline, come in and volley whenever possible to put the pressure on."

The tournament is one of a number of warm-up events prior to the Australian Open, to be played Jan 13-26.

Niaz Morshed off to Calcutta

Sports Reporter

Grandmaster Niaz Morshed left Dhaka yesterday evening for Calcutta to defend his title in the Goodricke International chess tournament which starts in the West Bengal capital today.

Two other Bangladeshis, national champion Riflat bin-Sattar and Ziaur Rahman, are also likely to participate in the prestigious ten-day tournament which this year has attracted ten grandmasters from around the world.

Twenty-one year old Indian prodigy Viswanathan Anand, who a couple of days ago sent shock waves across the world by winning the highest rated international tournament in Reggio Emilia in Italy, is likely to be the main threat to Niaz's title.

PTI adds: Indian Grandmaster and currently world number five, Viswanathan Anand, leads a field of eleven Grandmasters and 12 International Masters in the third Goodricke International chess championship which begins at the Gorky Sadan from tomorrow.

The tournament, to be played on the Swiss league system, will be of eleven rounds and three will be a total of 94 players vying for the first prize of Rupees 40,000.

Besides Anand, the Indian challenge will be led by another Indian GM, Dibyendu Barua and a host of other Indian International masters like Pravin Thipsay, D.V. Prasad and Raja Ravi Shekhar.

Notable among GMs from abroad will be the former world junior champion from Bulgaria Kiril Georgiev, Kiril Ribit of Hungary and the Russian quartet Alexy Vyzmanavin, Victor Bologan, Verslav Eingorn and Vadim Ruban. Englishmen David Rowwood and Daniel King and the defending champion Niaz Morshed of Bangladesh would also participate.

Pioneer soccer

Gulbagh Krira Chakra trounced Khilgaon Juba Sangha 4-1 in the Group B match of Central Zone in the 1991 Janata Bank Pioneer football league, held yesterday at the Khilgaon High School ground.

Gulbagh had no difficulty in outplaying their much weaker opponents.

Md. Javed put Gulbagh in the lead in the very fifth minute of play.

Md. Farid doubled the margin just after three minutes of the first goal.

Idris Ali slotted the third one in the third minute of the second half.

Toufique reduced the margin for Khilgaon in the eight minute of the second session. But to the dismay of the Khilgaon players and supporters, Md. Javed scored his second to complete the tally for Gulbagh Krira Chakra.

The first match of the same group, between Harjan Sebak Samity and Khilgaon Srjoni Sangsad at the venue ended in a 2-2 draw.

Sam Das and Mrinal Das scored one each for the un-touchables while Mamunur Rasheed slammed home both the goals for Srjoni Sangsad.

At the Outer Stadium, Golam Mostafa Lane blanked Kalindi Krira Chakra 3-0 in the Group-B match of West Zone.

Green Delta league from tomorrow

Sports Reporter



The Green Delta First Division hockey league begins tomorrow at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium.

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra will take on newcomers Bangladesh Sporting in the opening encounter. The 16-team league will be formally inaugurated by Nasir Ahmed Chowdhury, Managing Director of Green Delta Insurance Company, the sponsors of the meet, at 2:45 pm tomorrow.

The teams taking part in this year's league, organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation, are Abahani Krira Chakra, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Ajax Sports Club, Mariners Young Club, Sonali Bank, Sadharan Bima, Bachelors Sporting Club, Bangladesh Railway, Azad Sporting Club, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Bangladesh Ansars, Bangladesh Police, Warf Club, Usha Krira Chakra, Bangladesh Sporting and Victoria Sporting Club. Of these, Bangladesh Sporting will be making their First Division debut, having topped the Second Division league in 1989-90. PWD, the winners of the 1990-91 Second Division league which ended only last month, will have to wait until the next league to make their First Division appearance.

According to the by-laws of the competition, the first straight league will be followed by a super league with the top six teams.

Novotna adamant to unsettle Seles

SYDNEY, Jan 8: Jana Novotna, deprived by Monica Seles of her first Grand Slam title in last year's Australian Open final, is adamant only a mixed-up game can topple the world number one next week, reports AP.

Novotna, ranked seven in the world, said here Wednesday that she had the all-round game to unsettle Seles, who won three of the Grand Slams she contested last year — Australian, French and US Opens.

"At the moment from the baseline I think that Monica is the best," 23-year old Novotna told a press conference.

"You might just possibly stay on the baseline and keep hitting and running with her, or some of the players, like me, could try to do something else."

The mixed-up game is the only way to beat Monica. "I don't think you can come to the net and pressure her all the time, she can get used to that as she has a target and can just make passing shots."

"With Monica, I really think you have to stay back, come in and make some unexpected drop shots, serve some aces and keep her guessing."

Third-seeded Novotna went a step closer Wednesday to defending her New South Wales Open title when her American opponent Patty Fendick, was forced to retire with a knee injury during the second set of a second round encounter.

The Czechoslovak was leading 7-6 (7-3), 2-1 at the time of Fendick's withdrawal and now meets Julie Halard of France.

Lewis eyes 3 golds in Barcelona

MILAN, Italy, Jan 8: Carl Lewis, voted the best athlete of 1991 in several world surveys, on Wednesday was quoted as saying he's undecided in which events to shoot for three gold medals at the Barcelona Olympics, reports AP.

The American track star, who has a career record of six Olympic titles, said he was contemplating trying the 200 meters at the US trials. After that I will decide which events enter between the 100 meters, long

jump, 200 meters and relay. I hope to start in three events at Barcelona," Lewis said in a telephone interview with Italy's largest sports daily, Gazzetta dello Sport of Milan.

He also said in the published interview that he aims to jump a world-record 30 feet (9.15 metres) in the long jump, dethroning fellow countryman Mike Powell who upset Lewis in the long jump finals at the world championships in Tokyo last year.

"My trainer has been long saying I can jump 30 feet and I

Every participating side can register a maximum of three foreign players, all of whom can take the field on the same day.

The matches will be of 70 minutes duration with two equal sessions of 35 minutes.

Except on the opening day, there will be two matches played everyday with the starts being scheduled for 1:45 and 3:15 pm.

Among the sixteen teams in the fray, only five have won the championship honours since

cord in the competition, have annexed the title on as many as eight occasions. Their arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club have won four times while Ajax Sports Club became champions twice — in 1986-87 and 1987-88. Sadharan Bima, another side which has always mounted serious title challenges in the league, won the honours in 1983-84. On two other occasions they finished runners-up, behind Abahani, in 1982-83 and in 1984-85.

In the seventeen years of

league since 1987-88, this being the fourth year that the tournaments have carried their name. The company will continue its sponsorship for two more seasons, according to sources.

Addressing a press conference yesterday at the Green Delta Insurance head office in Dilkusha, Managing Director Nasir Ahmed Chowdhury said that since the company was facing some resource constraints it would switch its sponsorship — which they



Nasir Ahmed Chowdhury (R), Managing Director of Green Delta Insurance, addressing newsmen yesterday in connection with the start of this year's First Division hockey league.

its inception in 1973-74. Reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra have the most distinguished track re-

the First Division league, competition was not held in 1976-77 and again in 1985-86. Green Delta Insurance Company has sponsored the

claimed cost them around Taka five lakhs annually — to some less expensive programme, such as junior table tennis leagues for boys and girls.

One set too many for Bush



TOKYO, Jan 8: Bush said he and Armacost were just not able to keep up with the 58-year-old emperor and his 31-year-old son.

"You could double his age and he still wouldn't be as old as I am," Kyodo quoted Bush as saying of Naruhito.

Barbara Bush chatted with Empress Michiko during the match, and the royal couple's younger son and his wife, holding their infant daughter, also watched from the sidelines.

It was the second time Bush and the emperor have met on

the tennis courts. Their first match was in October 1987, when Akihito, then crown prince, was visiting Washington.

Bush, who was vice president at the time, lost that match top.

During a brief meeting with Bush at the Imperial Palace earlier in the day, Akihito thanked the president for attending the funeral for Emperor Hirohito, Akihito's father, in February 1990.

Bush's arrival Tuesday coincided with the third anniversary of Hirohito's death. Japan's imperial family, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and senior government officials marked the anniversary in Tokyo while Bush was traveling in western Japan.

170-team entry for Barcelona Summer Games

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Jan 8: A record 170 teams have entered the July 25-Aug 9 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, the International Olympic Committee said Tuesday, reports AP.

All national Olympic committees recognized by the IOC accepted the Olympic body's invitations, according to a statement from IOC headquarters that did not list individual countries.

It would make Barcelona the first boycott-free Summer Games since 1972, reflecting the end of the Cold War and political reform in South Africa.

Brunei was the last country to meet the IOC's Dec 31 postmark deadline, extended from Nov 25 to give stragglers extra time.

WTA's top 20

The top 20 women's singles players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday.

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
4. Martina Navratilova (US)
5. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
6. Jennifer Capriati (US)
7. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)
8. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
9. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
11. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Zina Garrison (US)
13. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
14. Anke Huber (Germany)
15. Lella Meskhi (Soviet Union)
16. Judith Wiesner (Austria)
17. Hlclena Sukova (Czechoslovakia)
18. Sabine Appelmans (Belgium)
19. Julie Halard (France)
20. Lori McNeil (US)

N'ganj fetes

its heroes

Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 8: The Narayanganj District Sports Association today accorded a reception to those Narayanganj residents who won medals for Bangladesh in the recently concluded fifth SAF Games in Colombo.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, who attended as chief guest, gave away prizes to Kazi Shahana Parveen, who won a shooting gold, Md. Mukhlisur Rahman who won the 200m breaststroke swimming gold, and to Rehana Zaman, Kazi Ferdousi Poly — Shahana's sister — Shafiquzzaman and Mahmuda Sharif, who all won bronze medals at the Games. They were presented the Narayanganj DSA blazers and crests. Two others — footballers Golam Ghouse and Kamrul Islam Tipu — who were also in the bronze-winning football team, failed to attend the reception.

Habibur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner and chief of the NDSA presided over the impressive function held at the Shahed Zia auditorium.

Speaking on the occasion, Home Minister Matin Chowdhury congratulated the athletes, swimmer and shooters saying they had done the country proud and the younger generations of the country to greater deeds in future.



Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury giving away prizes to SAF Games gold winning shooter Kazi Shahana Parveen at the reception accorded to her and others by Narayanganj DSA yesterday.