



Abahani Kriya Chakra's new Russian recruit Alex Polynkov (2nd from left) hands his registration papers to BFF Secretary Harunur Rashid at the latter's office yesterday evening. —Star photo

Abahani sign up Polynkov

Sports Reporter
Abahani Kriya Chakra, the reigning champions, earned the right of using another arrow in their quiver when they completed the registration formalities of their third Russian recruit—Alexander Polynkov, the 19-year old Moscow Torpedo striker.

Polynkov nicknamed 'Asha' is now expected to be in action in Abahani's next First Division football league match against Agrani Bank, on Thursday.

A second year student of the Moscow Physical Institute, Polynkov represented the national youth team of now defunct Soviet Union in 1990. He toured Italy, Germany and Holland with the team. Polynkov is the latest and the last foreign player to join Abahani this year as the popular team had earlier signed two footballers—Sergei Zhukov and Alexey Arifiev—from Russia.

The inclusion of the two players galvanised the performance of the title aspirants and the completion of the trio, it seems, will add to the incisiveness of the side that has so far won all its twelve matches in this year's league and lead the points table, alone at the top.

The new Abahani star went to the Dhaka Stadium office of the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday evening, accompanied by Abahani players, officials and fans, to complete his registration formalities.

The registration had to wait until yesterday due to the non-arrival of necessary papers from the newly-constituted Russian soccer federation. The break-up of the former Soviet Union gave rise to some problems regarding the affiliation of the new CIS's football authorities with FIFA, the world governing body of soccer.

Tanna again in trouble

Sports Reporter
Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) served a show cause notice on Tanveer Mazhar Tanna, an official of Abahani Kriya Chakra, asking him to explain why he should not be declared *persona non grata* inside the stadium arena following his misdeed with referee Munirul Islam in the Abahani-Victoria match last Monday.

Tanna, according to the match report filed by referee, assaulted the referee as some of his decisions were deemed unacceptable by the enraged official. Tanna, it may be recalled, was declared as an unwanted person for his involvement in a similar incident some years back.

Tanna will not be able to accompany the team in the field in its next match on Thursday unless he can convince DMFA otherwise within ten days of the showcause.

Italian default lets Brazilians through

MACEIO, Brazil, Mar 31: Italy's Stefano Pescosolido went to hospital after pulling out of his Davis Cup match against Jaime Oncins on Monday, handing Brazil and upset World Group quarter-final win, reports Reuter.



A Police forward (no.14) tries to head a high ball in yesterday's First Division football league match against Fakirerpool at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

Asian youth under-16 qualifying meet PM heads strong committee

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has been made Chief Patron of the organising committee for the 5th Asian youth (under-16) football championship, scheduled to be held in Rajshahi from May 1 to 10, reports UNB.

The committee was formed yesterday which also made Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Golam Hafiz the chairman and the Secretary of Rajshahi Division Sports Association Zafar Imam the organising secretary.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek

Hossain, State Minister Communication Fazlur Rahman and State Minister Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Islam were made co-chairman.

Bangladesh Football Federation President M Siddiqur Rahman, the Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi have made the vice-president of the committee.

The Group Three matches of the prestigious international tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), will for the first time be held outside the capital.

Bangladesh has been placed in Group Three along with India, Pakistan, Nepal and the Maldives.

The organising committee will sit today in its first meeting to be held at the Cabinet Room at 10 am.

An approximate budget of Taka 21 lakh has been earmarked for the tournament.

Four neutral referees and a match commissioner, nominated by the AFC, will conduct the matches.

The selection committee of the BFF, in the meantime has preliminarily selected 36 booters after trials and the final 22-player squad will be named by April 15.

The officials of the team were also finalised at the BFF's meeting yesterday headed by its vice-president Alamgir Faruque Chowdhury.

Shahed Ali has been made manager of the team while Shamsuzzoha Khan Mazlish will be the associate manager. Hasanuzzaman Baboo and Anwarul Hoque Panna were appointed coach and assistant coach respectively.

Another straw on Police's back

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club pushed newly-promoted Police Athletic Club one step closer to the abyss of relegation as they handed the babes a two-nil defeat in last night's only encounter of the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium.

With Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) almost certain to face the relegation, the fate of the football team of the myrmidons of law seems destined to encounter the same consequences unless, of course, they batten their collection of points with some fine performances in the remaining matches. So far they have collected just five points from twelve games.

Fakirerpool, distinctly the better of the two teams that fought yesterday on the glittering grass bathed in the silver beams of the floodlights, riveted a nail in the heart of the policemen as early as the fourth minute.

Shafiqul of Fakirerpool found a ball travelling towards him

and the forward, positioned well inside the Police box, could just manage to space and time to sidevolley the ball home (1-0).

Police, knowing the dire consequences awaiting them, tried their best to get their act together but lack of fire power and betrayed their enthusiasm and intentions. However, their seriousness and somewhat bulldog tenacity almost paid off ten minutes before the short whistle.

Iman of Police, who looked like Dhaka Wanderers and Mohammedans of the yore, in their black and white jerseys took a long distance shot at the Fakirerpool goal in the 35th minute; the ball hit the crosspiece beating a rather surprised Dhanu, the Fakirerpool custodian, and came back into play; Manna, following and sniffing something in his colleague's attempt, nodded the rebounder but the end was bad as the ball missed the mark; so all could not be well for the policemen.

The second half began with both teams going the whole hog to improve upon their

performances—Police to restore parity and Fakirerpool to consolidate their lead, because with ten points from eleven outings they, too, could not afford a very relaxed and laid-back attitude.

Babar of Police got a fine chance to put his team at par in the 36th minute of the second half when a flag kick was floated from the southwestern side but Babar's header from close was beautifully clasped by a diving Dhanu.

Fakirerpool, who failed to overcome the spirited Policemen and preferred to guard their citadel by having their men brought down, got their desired goal, which virtually sealed the fate of the match seven minutes from the final whistle.

It was Bhola Roy who came as a substitute and presented Fakirerpool a goal which drew out a sigh of relief from his teammates and the officials and the sparse crowd some delight. He got a common ball in the midfield, tore along a few yards and then unleashed a lovely right-footer from just outside the box which eluded

the reach of the airborne Police custodian who realised the danger pretty late and had to pay through his or their noses.

Fakirerpool indulged in some wild shooting after this with their goal achieved. Police made a last-ditch attempt after this with Babar having a go at the goal but the shot missed the mark and the Policemen, reading the writing on the wall, had no other option but to troop back home with long faces as the referee blew the long whistle.

Yellow card: Babar and Iqbal of Police, Dipu of Fakirerpool.

TEAMS
FAKIRERPOOL VC: Dhanu, Dipu, Rakib, Montu, Swapan, Akram, Moshir, Ibrahim, Babu (Apu), Ftroz (Bhola) and Shafiqul.
POLICE AC: Ftroz, Rejaul, Babar, Asith, Monesh, Selim Reza (Zakir), Iqbal, Anjan, Emdad, Mannan (Lulu) and Selim (Manunur).
Referee: Monirul Islam
TODAY'S MATCH
Farashganj vs War (6.45 pm)

BDR poised to retain title

Sports Reporter
Banianagar Sporting Club, one of the underdogs of the handball league, have been scratched from the Cute First Division.

The decision was taken as per Article 33 of the bye-laws of the league since the team did not take the field for their last league match against Tarun Sangad.

Earlier, the league committee also scratched Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club for a similar reason.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Ansars beat last year's runners-up Brothers Union by 18 goals to 11 in a keenly-contested match at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Bangladesh Ansars, with 17 points from their ten matches are a point ahead of the defending champions Bangladesh Rifles, who have 16 from nine outings.

Should Rifles lose to Brothers Union in their last match scheduled for this afternoon, the handball league will have a new champion since Rifles have been champions ever since the inception of the league way back in 1984. In case of a draw, there will be a play-off match between Rifles and Ansars to decide the 1991-92 championship.

Ansars led 8-6 at the breather.

Akram and Khaleq scored six and four goals respectively for Ansars while Helal got five goals for Brothers.

Brothers, who suffered three defeats, are already out of the championship race. They have 12 points from nine matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Surjodoy vs W. Jatrabari (2 pm)

Rifles vs Brothers (3: 15 pm)

Narsingdi chess

Sports Reporter
The prize giving ceremony of the Narsingdi Chess Club was held on March 28 at the Narsingdi Municipality Auditorium, said a press release.

Ninety-eight participants—split into three groups—took part in the competition organised by the club.

Shamsuddin Ahmed, SP of Narsingdi attended the occasion as chief guest.

Sanchez demands attention

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina, Mar 31: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario says she doesn't really crave the spotlight, but when rain washed out most of the action on Monday at the 550,000 dollar Family Circle Cup, she was



ARANTXA SANCHEZ

happy to take the opportunity to say she feels a little overlooked, reports Reuter.

Only three first-round matches were completed at the women's clay court tournament before play was called off for the day.

Krishnan rallies

SINGAPORE, Mar 31: India's Ramesh Krishnan overcame a one-set deficit to qualify for the second round of the Epson Singapore super tennis tournament which started here Monday, reports AFP.

Krishnan, ranked 164th in the world at the end of last year and a wild card entry in the tournament, beat Christian Saccanu of Germany 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The third seed, Dutchman Paul Haarhuis, beat Alex Antonitsch of Austria in straight sets 6-4, 6-1 to advance into the second round of the week-long Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) sanctioned championship.

In other first round matches played Monday, Patrick Kuhnen of Germany beat Israel's Amos Mansdorf 6-4, 6-

Sanchez Vicario, the third seed, was not scheduled to play on Monday, nor were the top two seeds, Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Navratilova.

But Sanchez Vicario, the 20-year-old winner of the prestigious Lipton International title a week ago and the French Open championship in 1989, agreed to meet reporters—and reminded them she is a contender to be reckoned with.

At the Lipton, the Spaniard beat two players ranked in the top 10—year-old Jennifer Capriati, also in the field here, and Sabatini, whom she defeated 6-1, 6-4 in the final.

"Until the semifinals, it was like I was not there," Sanchez Vicario said. But I understand when you have the number one or number three, they have to talk about them."

"I understand that Jennifer is American, but I have a better ranking than here. Now that I won, they'll have to talk about me some also."

Sanchez Vicario said she does not resent the lucrative endorsement contracts awarded to her more high-profile rivals.

"I'm not thinking that way," she said. "I have very good contracts and I'm very happy with the way things are going."

I don't feel like I have to be like Monica (Seles) or Steffi (Graf). I'm more popular in Europe, and maybe it'll just take sometime to be more famous in the States."

"I only say that in a way it's not fair, but I don't want people to think I'm complaining that I don't get enough attention."

Even before the rain hit, the tournament received its first blow on Sunday, when the original to seed, Monica Seles, withdrew. Seles told organiser she fell off her bicycle on Saturday, sustaining a wrist injury which required a soft cast.

The withdrawal of the world's number one opened the door a little wider for Sanchez Vicario to win another tournament—and maybe a little more recognition.

Langer's knock revives WA

PERTH, Mar 31: Justin Langer, Western Australia's least experienced player, revived his team's bid to win the Sheffield Shield cricket final with a career-best 149 against New South Wales on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Langer, in only his seventh Shield appearance, and wicketkeeper Tim Zoehrer (81) put together a 191-run seventh wicket partnership that helped Western Australia to a second innings total 344, setting New South Wales 326 for victory on Wednesday's fifth

and final day. New South Wales, who must win to capture the Shield from holders Western Australia, were 71 for over at the close.

With showers forecast for Wednesday a draw would be enough for Western Australia as they finished higher in the points table at the end of the season.

New South Wales looked to be heading for victory after Western Australia, resuming at 99 for four with an 80-run lead, slumped to 129 for six.

But a dogged contribution from 22-year-old Langer whose

century was his second of the season, and an immensely valuable supporting role played by Zoehrer got them out of trouble.

Langer, who occupied the crease for more than six hours, finally went when New South Wales took the new ball and Michael Whitney took four wickets in the space of 15 balls.

Whitney finished with seven for 75, his second seven-wicket haul at the Waca Ground this season after taking seven for Australia in the fifth Test against India.

Macleay to retire

PERTH, Mar 31: Former Australian one-day international Ken Macleay on Monday announced his retirement from Australian cricket, reports AFP.

However, the all-rounder will play one final season with Somerset in the English county championship this northern summer if he fully recovers from a nagging neck injury which has plagued him in recent months.

Macleay, three days short of 33, said he planned to move from Perth to his family's farm in the southwest of Western Australia.

He represented Australia in 16 one-day internationals, and his outstanding performance was 6-39 in a World Cup match against India at Nottingham, England, in 1983.

He played in 100 first-class games for Western Australia, making 2,870 runs at an average of 27.33 and capturing 261 wickets at an average of 29.41.

Macleay, a right-arm swing bowler and middle-order batsman who was born in England, is the only Western Australian player to complete 2,000 runs and 200 wickets.

He played with Somerset in the last English season, but

Active chess ends today

Sports Reporter
Rifat Bin-Sattar and Ziaur Rahman, the two youngsters, lived up to their reputations by staying at the top of the points table at the end of the eighth round of the Neptune active chess tournament that concludes today.

Yesterday, at the chess room of the National Sports Council, both won their respective two matches to collect seven points.

Zia beat Amir and Tahmid while national champion Rifat defeated Lenin and Lablu.

Zillur Rahman Champak, Tahmidur Rahman, A Shikdar and Kalam follow the duo with six points each.

Rezaul Huq, MR Raja and K Mahmudunnabi Lenin have five and half points.

Saffuddin Lablu, K Kayes Hassan SR Kabir Shiplu, Farid Ahmed, Ali Amjad, Amir Hossain, SH Pallab, Mizanur Rahman have five points apiece.

The final round will be played today and the five-day long tournament that featured 58 participants will be formally rounded off with the prize distribution ceremony at 5.30.

Noah quits job

PARIS, Mar 31: Yannick Noah has resigned as captain of France's Davis Cup team after the holders went out to Switzerland over the weekend, reports AFP.

The 1983 French Open champion, appointed just 12 months ago, said he was disappointed by the way his top two players Guy Forget and Henri Leconte prepared for the tie with the Swiss.

Guy was more or less out. He had a painful wrist and Henri arrived completely out of form, Noah told lequipe newspaper. They did not seem to re-

alise that winning the Cup once was not the be-all and end-all. They had to carry on with their every day lives of tennis players. Instead, they gave up too much of their time giving interviews, doing promotions for their sponsors.

"The strength of this team was our friendship. And it was going stale," he added.

France own the Cup for the first time in 59 years in an emotional final against the United States last December.

Forget said he would try to talk Noah into staying on. "We have no-one to replace him," Forget said.

Rain the spoiler

LISBON, Mar 31: Rain forced the postponement of the opening matches of the Estoril Open tennis tournament on Monday, reports Reuter.

Officials said the first matches at Lisbon's National Stadium would be played today instead.

Eighth-seeded Javier Sanchez of Spain and Frederic Fontaing of France had reached 3-3 in the first set of the opening match when they were forced to abandon play.

Portugal is suffering one of its worst droughts this century and Monday's downpour was the first in Lisbon for three months.

Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl is top seed in the 500,000 dollars tournament.