

# Nirman schools final today

Sports Reporter

Sylhet Aided High School and Comilla Zilla School meet in the final of the tenth Nirman Schools cricket championship at the Dhaka Stadium today.

Foreign Minister and President of the BCCB A S M Mustafizur Rahman is expected to give away the prizes as the chief guest. K Z Islam, the chairman of sponsors Nirman International, will witness the match as the special guest.

This year's Nirman final has generated a lot of interest among the cricket lovers despite the stifling heat because the final round of the last two seasons were not completed for 'unavoidable' reasons. Mukul Niketan of Mymensingh became champions in the 1988-89 season before the lay-off. Earlier, Willes Little Flower School of Dhaka made a hat-trick of the championship when they lifted the title for three years in a row from the 1984-85 cricket season.

Two hundred and eighteen schools featuring 3274 cricketers have taken part in this

year's tournament that concludes today with the final between the two school teams from the eastern belt of the country. Nirman International, the sponsors, have paid Taka six lakh to the organisers Bangladesh Cricket Control Board to conduct the country-wide tournament smoothly. This year the meet was held in 19 zones across the country.

Comilla Zilla School entered the final with a massive 104-run victory over Chittagong Nasrabad High School at the Dhaka Stadium on Tuesday. Their star performer Anis was the architect of this big victory, scoring 95 runs and taking one wicket.

Sylhet Aided High School eliminated the last representative of the capital city — Dhanmendi Government Boys' High School — in a thriller in the other semifinal played at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium on the same day.

Sylhet Aided High School won the match by ten runs. Fine collective effort saw them overpowering the Dhaka team who had the consolation of having one of their players

nominated man-of-the-match despite the defeat. Moudud, one of the most consistent performers in this tournament, scored 45 and took two wickets but failed to take his team to the final.

Himu, Lipu and Hassan have also made their presences felt in the tournament and will try their level best to inspire the first-ever victory for a school team from Comilla. Sylhet Aided High School, on the other hand, will try to complete the unfinished task of their seniors who failed to win the national championship earlier this month, losing the final to Chittagong.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

1984-85 Willes Little Flower School (Dhaka)  
 1985-86 Willes Little Flower School (Dhaka)  
 1986-87 Willes Little Flower School (Dhaka)  
 1987-88 Narayanganj High School (Narayanganj)  
 1988-89 Mukul Niketan (Mymensingh)  
 1989-90 Final round not completed  
 1990-91 Final round not completed



Ziaur Rahman (L) of Biman beat M.R. Hafiz of Dhaka Metro in yesterday's fourth round of the 18th nationals at the NSC chess room. —Star photo

# Zia, Rani share lead

Sports Reporter

Former champion Ziaur Rahman, who began his quest for the national chess title this time around with a fortuitous walk-over against last year's runner-up Ziaur Kader Tuhin, shared the lead with national women's champion Rani Hamid at the end of the fourth round's play at the NSC chess room yesterday. Both had three points from four games each.

Four others — defending champion Rezaat bin-Sattar, 1990 champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman, former champion Jamliur Rahman and Iqbal Rakib shared the second spot with two and a half points each.

Refaat, who lost his third round match to Ziaur Rahman Tuesday, yesterday suffered another setback when he was held to a draw by Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars. On the other hand, Zia, inspired no doubt by his victory over his former schoolmate, went on to register his third win, beating M R Hafiz of Dhaka Metropolis in 38 moves.

International Woman Master Rani Hamid, who drew her adjourned third round match against Biman teammate Syed Tahmid yesterday morning, needed only 36 moves to beat Md Kalam of Dhaka Metro, despite playing with black pieces.

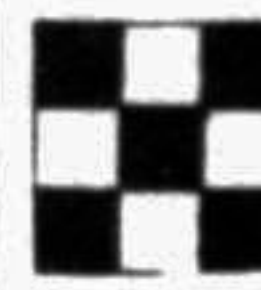
Jamliur Rahman, who lost his opener to Rezaat Sunday, yesterday drew with Niyamul Huq Niru, his Ansars teammate.

Iqbal Rakib of Dhaka Metro caused a bit of a stir by beating fellow Dhaka Metro player Anisur Rahman in only 26 moves while Nahid Mia of Chittagong and Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of BTMC played out for a draw.

In other matches, Syed Tahmid beat Jamalpur's Abdul Khaled in 24 moves while Ziaur Kader Tuhin, who defaulted his opening match against 1988 winner Ziaur Rahman due to indisposition, yesterday beat Amir Hossain of Dhaka Metro in 33 moves.

Earlier, in the morning, Tuhin drew his adjourned third round tie with Niyamul Huq Niru.

# Kasparov hails Karpov's exit as a positive thing for chess



LINARES, Apr 29 — Chess world champion Garry Kasparov of Russia late Tuesday hailed the elimination of his compatriot and eternal rival Anatoly Karpov by Britain's Nigel Short as 'very positive' reports AFP.

Short playing white, won the 10th and last game in this southern Spanish town Tuesday to win a candidates semi-final against Karpov 6-4. He now goes on to play against the other semi-final winner, Jan Timman of the Netherlands, for the honour of competing against Kasparov in Los Angeles in August 1993.

Kasparov, reached by telephone in Dortmund, Germany, where he was playing in a tournament, told AFP that the elimination of Karpov was 'very good for chess'.

The presence of Western players at the World Championship level would, he said, 'raise much more interest for the media and the public'.

On the Los Angeles final, Kasparov said: 'For me, I feel more confident.'

Questioned about his challenger Kasparov, 29, said he did not mind whether it was Short, 26, or Timman, 40. But he added:

'I think Short will be better for chess. For the public, it's better that the challenger is younger than the champion.'

Meanwhile, an AP message from Linares said: Britain's top chess player, 26-year-old Nigel Short, took a giant step Tuesday toward champion Anatoly Karpov in the Candidates tournament chess semifinal.

Short, playing white and moving first, defeated Karpov on Tuesday in 41 moves in the final match of their 10-game series, winning the series with six points to four for Karpov.

The loss throws into doubt the future of the former world champion. Karpov has been ranked No. 2 since losing the world title in 1985 to Garry Kasparov of Russia.

'It was the end of something,' Short said. 'Basically, I outplayed him.'

He credited his victory to remaining calm early in the series when Karpov held the upper hand and to not being cowed by the Russian's reputation.

The Short-Karpov series and the other semifinal series won Monday by Jan Timman of the Netherlands began April 10.

Players receive one point for a win and a half point for a draw.

Short, ranked No. 4 in the world, will be the favourite when he faces Timman — ranked No. 18 — in January 1993 for the right to play world champion Kasparov in Los Angeles in August 1993.

Timman won his 10-game semifinal series Monday, defeating Arthur Yusupov of Russia, six points to four.

Short and Timman each received dls 1,22,400 for their victories and Yusupov and Karpov each received dls 73,400.

# Asian Group 3 u-16 football Team leaves for Rajshahi today

Sports Reporter

A 21-member Nepalese football team arrived in Dhaka yesterday to take part in the Fifth Asian Youth under-16 Group Three championship beginning at the Rajshahi Stadium from May 3.

The Maldives, one of the five participants including hosts Bangladesh, were the first to arrive while Pakistan and India are expected to be here by tomorrow.

The match commissioner from the United Arab Emirates and the four referees from Thailand and Sri Lanka are also expected to be in the capital by May Day.

Meanwhile, a 25-member Bangladesh football squad leaves Dhaka for Rajshahi today to stake claim on the tournament that is yet to find an official sponsor.

However, the local authorities in Rajshahi have completed arrangements for the

smooth holding of the tournament. The Rajshahi stadium with a capacity of 15000, has been renovated. Ticket rates have been fixed at Taka 15 and Taka 10 daily. Radio Bangladesh, Rajshahi will broadcast running commentary of all the matches.

Known as one of the hottest places in the country, Rajshahi is not deemed by football enthusiasts as the best place to play soccer, especially at this time of the year. The Nepalese boys in particular, who are used to cooler conditions back home, may find it rather difficult and energy-sapping to show their normal skills with the mercury being over forty degrees Celsius. Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and minnows Maldives are more or less familiar with such conditions. The fight for the title is expected to be limited to India, Pakistan and the hosts.

But if the Nepalese boys can get themselves acclima-

tised with the sultry conditions, they could cause an upset or two while the juvenile footballers from the Maldives will enter the fray with renewed confidence following the trail blazing act of their seniors who surprised many by picking the silver in football in the last South Asian Federation Games held in Colombo last December.

All the ten matches will start at 4.30 pm daily.

Bangladesh will take on the Maldives in the opening fixture.

### FIXTURE

Following is the full fixture of the tournament.

May 3	Bangladesh	vs Maldives
May 4	Nepal	vs India
May 5	Pakistan	vs Maldives
May 6	Bangladesh	vs Nepal
May 7	India	vs Pakistan
May 8	Nepal	vs Maldives
May 9	Bangladesh	vs Pakistan
May 10	India	vs Maldives
May 11	Pakistan	vs Nepal
May 12	Bangladesh	vs India

# Sao Paulo beat Nacional

Sports Reporter

MONTEVIDEO, Apr 29: Brazilian champions Sao Paulo beat Uruguayans Nacional 1-0 in a first leg tie to their second round South American Libertadores Cup match on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Sao Paulo goalkeeper Zetti and Nacional substitute Javier Wanchope were both sent off after a vicious exchange of kicks during the match which had been surprisingly peaceful until the clash 15 minutes from time.

Zetti grabbed a Nacional cross and fell to the ground with the ball, where he was kicked in the arm by Wanchope; Zetti, still lying on the ground, retaliated with a vicious kick to Wanchope's stomach.

Sao Paulo coach Tele Santana was forced to take off forward Macedo and bring on

21-year-old reserve goalkeeper Alexandre to replace Zetti for the remainder of the match.

Alexandre made two important saves in his 15 minutes on the pitch, leaving the three-time Libertadores Cup champions from Uruguay a mountain to climb in next week's second leg match in Sao Paulo.

The Nacional team was a pale shadow of the clubs which had won the competition in 1971, 1980 and 1988 and rarely threatened the Sao Paulo goal.

The match had been billed as a clash between the rugged Uruguayan style and the more refined Brazilian approach.

Sao Paulo, who have never won the Libertadores Cup, struck the crucial blow when Brazil international Elivelton scored on the break in the 16th minute. The Sao Paulo winger collected a pass from Plhinha, beat a defender and then shot past Nacional goal-

keeper Jorge Sere.

Nacional suffered another blow shortly after giving up the goal when their 18-year-old striker Fabian O'Neill, considered the revelation of Uruguayan soccer, was taken off injured.

Zetti was not threatened until five minutes from half-time when Nacional's Panamanian striker Julio Cesar Valdez shot narrowly wide from 25 metres.

Sao Paulo should have wrapped up the match early in the second half with Elivelton, Rai, Palhinha and Pintado all missing good chances, much to the dismay of their coach who stood on the touchline shouting at his players.

### TEAMS

NACIONAL: Jorge Sere, Tony Gomez, Ricardo Canals, Carlos Soca, Ruben Silva, Marcelo Araleguim, Alvaro Gutierrez (Javier Wanchope), Yuberth Lemos, Edgar Borges, Julio Cesar Valdez, Fabian O'Neill (Wilson Nunez).

SAO PAULO: Zetti, Cafu, Ronaldo, Antonio Carlos, Ivan, Adilson, Pintado, Rai, Macedo (Alexandre), Palhinha, Elivelton.

# Chinese maintain supremacy



HIROSHIMA, Japan, Apr 29: Chinese smashed two Asian records in the last two relay races to win the 24 gold, 15 silver and six bronze medals, reports AFP.

They were followed by hosts Japan in second with 11 gold, 17 silver and 15 bronze. South Korea with no gold, three silver and six bronze in third, North Korea in fourth with no gold, one silver and one bronze, and Hong Kong in fifth, with two bronzes.

There was a total of 31 swimming and four diving events at the Hiroshima city indoor pool.

The Philippines, Thailand, Kuwait, Indonesia also brought home one bronze each, while China made a clean sweep of four titles in diving.

World individual medley double champion Lin Li led the Chinese women's team with Luo Xia, Xian Hong and Zhuang Yong in the 4X100 metres medley relay to clock 4:09.13, breaking the previous record of 4:11.54 set by their own team in Tokyo in 1989.

Then their men's squad — Lin Laujiu, Chen Jianhong, Shen Jiangang and Xie Jun — came in at 3:42.74 to smash the previous record of 3:44.36 set by Japan at the Seoul Olympics.

It was also the fifth gold medal for both Lin Li and Chen Jianhong.

'My time was nearly the same as I had expected before coming here,' said Lin after winning the women's 200m individual relay earlier in the day. 'I don't want to say it aloud, but for me, it was rather a practice race than an international competition.'

'I hope to break my personal best time and take a medal in the Barcelona Olympics,' said Lin, who was seventh in the same race at the Seoul Games.

'Of course, I will try to cut the 2:13.00 margin. If I can swim around 2:12.00 or so, I think I can take the gold medal.'

The 21-year-old Chinese, who also won the 400m individual medley, 100m and 200m backstroke, added that her biggest rival in Barcelona will be Summer Sanders of the United States, the runner-up to Lin at the World Championships.

Chinese swimming coach Chen Yungeng said the competition did not mean a great deal for either China or Japan, who shared all the gold medals.

'The Japanese swimmers had peaked for their national championships a week ago and they were tired,' he said. 'If they could have swam as well as they did last week, they would have taken half of the medals.'

Chen has said that his swimmers had not specially trained for the four-day competition because they wanted to peak for the Olympics and would be going into special training at an altitude of nearly 2,000 metres (6,600 feet) ahead of the Barcelona Games.

'I am confident in taking more medals than we did in Seoul,' where Yang Yenyi (50m freestyle), Zhuang Yong (100m freestyle) and Huang Xiaomin (200m breaststroke) each earned silver and Qian Hong (100m butterfly) won bronze.

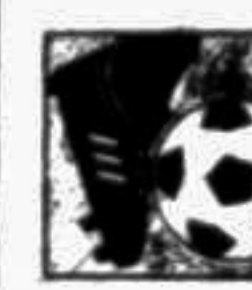
But Chen admitted it was unlikely that the team would win as many gold in Barcelona as it did during the World Championships in Perth, Australia last year. There, Lin Li won two golds, Qian Hong won one, and Zhuang won one gold and a Bronze.

### No alcohol

TURIN, Italy, Apr 29: Italian authorities ordered a ban on alcohol in Turin's Stadium for Wednesday's UEFA Cup final first leg tie between Torino and Ajax Amsterdam, reports Reuter.

Civil governor Carlo Lessona said he imposed the ban to prevent drunken brawls spoiling the game in the northern city's stadium of the Alps.

# Back with a bang



BEIFAST, Apr 29: Lithuania made a stunning World Cup return on Tuesday, holding Northern Ireland Group 2 draw in a European Group Three qualifier, reports Reuter.

Northern Ireland were expected to record a substantial victory to launch their bid for the 1994 finals and looked well on course when they raced into a two-goal lead inside the first 16 minutes.

Kevin Wilson fired home from the edge of the area to open the score with 13 minutes gone and defender Gerry Taggart added the second.

But the hosts inexplicably surrendered the initiative and four minutes before halftime Lithuania, whose last World Cup appearance was in the qualifying competition for the 1938 finals, replied through winger Arminas Narberkovas.

He cut inside neatly before steering a low shot into the far corner to silence the Windsor Park crowd.

Lithuania levelled unspectacular fashion three minutes into the second half. Jim Magilton fouled Valdas Ivanauskas 25 metres out and Robertas Fridrikas crashed a superb shot into the back of the net.

Fridrikas was denied an even more sensational goal in the 82nd minute when he cannoned a 35 metres free-kick off the woodwork.

Lithuanian coach Algis Lubinskas said: 'It's a piece of history for us. We are very pleased and we are very proud.'

'We have only been playing together for two matches and people have said that we weren't very good. But we have proved tonight that we can play football and get results.'

# Napoli eye Stoichkov

Sports Reporter

BARCELONA, Spain, Apr 29: Hristo Stoichkov, Barcelona's Bulgarian international, could land himself a 100% pay rise if he agrees to join Napoli in Italy and follow in the footsteps of disgraced Diego Maradona, reports AFP.

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Napoli, who are desperately seeking a top-quality replacement for the diminutive Argentine, believe they have found their man in Stoichkov at Barcelona — the club's agent signed Maradona from in 1984 for 13 million dollars.

They are understood to have offered 9.5 million dollars for Stoichkov, and are also prepared to buy out the remainder of his contract as well as offering the player 5.7 million dollars over four years.

That is twice what he earns at Barcelona and Stoichkov said: 'I've been told that two Italian clubs have put bids in for me and I'm ready to leave Barcelona if they don't want me here anymore.'

The player's outspoken attitude and forceful views have meant he has not always seen eye to eye with manager Johann Cruyff, and there have been repeated rumours that his days in Catalonia were

numbered before the news of the bids.

The other side apparently interested in luring him to Italy are Fiorentina, but Napoli have already opened negotiations with the Barcelona, as sporting director Giorgio Perinetti was in the city last Friday to lodge their bid in person.

### Napoli yet to call Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Apr 29: Diego Maradona has not been summoned by Italian soccer club Napoli to return and prepare for the 1992-1993 soccer season, the soccer star's agent Marcos Franchi said Tuesday, reports AP.

Franchi was interviewed by a local radio station about remarks by Napoli President Corrado Ferlaino, to the effect that 'Maradona is still owned by Napoli, thus it's our right and duty to summon him for next season.'

The agent agreed that 'Diego (Maradona) is bound by his contract to Napoli until June 1993,' but he added that Ferlaino's remarks 'are good for nothing except to create more problems.'

'I don't know what Diego will do when the club summons him,' Franchi said. 'We'll have to wait and see.'

Franchi said that he had offered the Neapolitan club a sum of money to cancel the contract, but he refused to disclose the amount.



South African athletic captain Elana Meyers hugs Zola Budd-Pieterse (R) and Colleen de Reuck after the trio swept the women's 3000m in the second leg of the African Unity Games in Germiston, near Johannesburg last week.

# Monaco in final

CANNES, France, Apr 29: Monaco squeezed into the French Cup final on Tuesday in a penalty shoot-out after their semifinal with Cannes ended in a goalless draw after extra time, reports Reuter.

Monaco's veteran 'keeper Jean-Luc Ettori saved Cannes' second spot kick taken by Dutch stopper Addick Koot and his team went on to convert all their penalties to win 5-3.

Manaco, who meet Werder Bremen of Germany in the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Lisbon next Wednesday, will face either champions Marseille or Second Division Bastia in the French final in Paris on May 10.

If Marseille win next Tuesday's semifinal in Corsica, the two Mediterranean clubs will meet in the final for the third time in the past four seasons.

Marseille won 4-3 in 1989 but the club from the principality exacted revenge with a 1-0 win in last year's final.

The match in Cannes was a disappointment with few scoring chances for either team.

Monaco, who lost their 10 days ago when they were beaten by Marseille, looked jaded by a heavy programme and missed injured Portuguese forward Gil Rui Barros.

# Mini-booters invited to WB

Sports Reporter

A 17-member Bangladesh junior under-15 football squad is likely to visit Calcutta to take part in some exhibition matches from May 13 to 21.

The letter of invitation came from the Calcutta Corporation to the Bangladesh Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The ministry has reportedly asked the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to form a team in consultation with the National Sports Council (NSC) and the Bangladesh Krira Shikkaya Prothisthan (BKSP).

When contacted, Harun-ur-Rahid, the BFF secretary, told The Daily Star that the federation would try to follow the order of the Sports Ministry but he did not elaborate.

Bangladesh youngsters visited West Bengal several times, earning rich praise for their footballing skills.

### DU cricket

Department of Pharmacy posted a three-wicket victory over Department of Bengali in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition, at the Jagannath Hall grounds yesterday.

### Title retained

WOLVERHAMPTON, England, Apr 29: Zambian light middle-weight James Tapiha failed miserably in his bid to end Chris Pyatt's reign as Commonwealth champion here on Tuesday night, reports AFP.