

Asian under-16 Group Three qualifiers

Big day for Rajshahi

Sports Reporter

The Group Three qualifying round tournament of the fifth Asian under-16 football championship begins today at the Rajshahi Stadium.

Five teams, including hosts Bangladesh, are taking part in the tournament that is being organised by the Rajshahi District Sports Association.

India, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh will vie for the title of the ten-day long competition which will be inaugurated by State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadeq Hossain Khoka.

The champion team will win passage into the next round to be played in Saudi Arabia in September. Hosts Bangladesh meet Maldives in the opening match scheduled for a 4.30 pm kick-off.

While Pakistan, Nepal, the Maldives, and hosts Bangladesh are already in Rajshahi, the Indian team which reached Dhaka only yesterday afternoon, will leave for Rajshahi today.

The organisers have completed all necessary arrangements for the smooth holding of the biennial feature of the Asian Football Confederation. The Rajshahi Stadium, with a capacity of 15,000, has been renovated and the town itself spruced up.

The stadium has been decorated with flags, colour banners and festoons to host the prestigious international meet.

A media centre with fax, tele, telephone and other facilities was opened yesterday.

Addressing a press conference, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu sought cooperation from all to make the tournament successful. Joint Secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation Sirajul Islam Baccho and Organising Secretary Zafar Imam also spoke on the occasion.

The Social Marketing Company, an organisation working in the family planning sector, is sponsoring the meet and has announced the "Raja Cup" for the championship trophy.

The match commissioner

Abdur Rahman Zainal of United Arab Emirates and two referees from Thailand — P Somporn and P Boonchard — have arrived in the city to conduct the matches.

The two other Sri Lankan referees — Yapa A Mohasena and Mohammad Mohsin Arif — who arrived in Dhaka yesterday will also reach Rajshahi by today.

Three local referees — Hashmat Hossain, Shawkat Hossain Anja and Abdul Haq — will assist the four foreign match supervisors.

The Rajshahi station of Radio Bangladesh will broadcast running commentary of all the matches.

**FIXTURE**

Following is the fixture of the matches:

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

**TEAMS**

**MALDIVES:**  
Ahmed Shahr — (Manager), Mohamed Hashim — (Asst Manager), Moosa Mani — (Coach), Ahmed Saleem — (Asst Coach).

**Players:**  
Shamir Mohamed, Ahmed Ziyad, Ahmed Marzooq, Ibrahim Luthufee, Mohamed Arif, Abdoulla Rouf, Hussain Ziyad, Ahmed Haishm, Ali Hassan, Mohammed Ikleel, Zuhair Ismail, Moosa Fathy, Ismail Shareef, Hussain Habbab, Mohamed Saeed, Abdullah Rasheed, Adnan Habbab, Ibrahim Ismail, Ahmed Ali Did, Ahmed Rasheed.

**NEPAL:**  
Raju Thapa — (Coach), Holger Obermann — (Sports Advisor).

**Players:**  
Bhupendra Mishra, Amar Adhikari, Sallish Doshi, Gambhir Roy, Den Kaji Maharajan, Anil Upadhyay, Dilip Kumar Katuwal, Amir Dongol, Devendra Lama, Sajjan Basnet, Rajman Shingh, Ranjit Shingh, Rabin Thapa, Raj Kumar Thapa, Shirish Bickram Shah, Santalal Choudhury, Saj Kumar Ale, Suresh Kumar Banya, Ashok Chudhamini Bajracharya, Dipendra Man Shrestha.

**PAKISTAN:**  
Hafiz Salman Butt — (Delegation Head), Md Naeem Awan (Manager), Hafiz Sohaib Butt — (Coach), Mohammad Younas, (Asst Coach), **Players:**  
Mohammad Ayub, Zia Subtain, Athar Mehmood, Shahid Inman, Laeqq Shah, Khalid Khan, Ghulam Mustafa, Ifthikhar Ghani, Anjad Refique, Asghar Khan Anjar, Farooque Aziz, Abu Bakar, Khushif Naeer, Ejay Ahmed Khan, Obada Tariq, Naeem Khalid, Asif Khan, Shamael Anjum, Mateen Mehmood, Adeel Sharif Butt.

**INDIA:**  
Borchand Shingh — (Manager), Goutom Sarkar — (Chief Coach), Compton Dutt — (Technical Director), **Players:**  
Goutam Roy, Avijit Barua, Sandipan Maitra, Dulal Biswas, Rajul Moatafa, Sumitava Sengupta, Sanjay Dayal, Amit Ghosh, Maha Majhi, Amitava Ghosh, Amit Das, Prasenjit Paul, Anup Mukherjee, Baichung Bhutia, Basudev Mondal, Baburam Kisku, Sukhlal Turky, Ratan Singh, Surendra Singh Jadon, Jeshu Singh, Trilok Singh, Ajoy Singh, Joseph, Lakshman Chatterjee, Tarun Roy.

**BANGLADESH:**  
S M Saheb Ali — (Manager), Shamsuddoha Khan Majlish — (Associate Manager), Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu — (Coach), A K M Anwarul Hoque Panna — (Asst Coach), **Players:**  
Md Arman, Md Emdadul Haque, Md Milon Hossain, Nasirul Haque, Mosaddor Rahman, Biplob Marmar, Ujjal Kumar Chakraborty, Ruhul Amin, Paritosh Dewan, Md Alauddin, Mozammel Haque Chowdhury (Biplob), M A Abid (Hiru), Md Moniruzzaman, Md Nazimuddin, Md Zahidul Islam Nayan, Masud Zafar, Sahed Abadin Shobhan, Md Hafizur Rashid, Abdul-Al-Muzahid (Soyed), Jahangir Hossain, Mohammad Yusuf, Zafar Hasan Simon, Alok Kumar Bakshi, Bazlur Rahman.

Volleyball nationals from today

Sports Reporter

The final rounds of the 15th national men's and ninth national women's volleyball championships begin in the city today under the aegis of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation.

Jute Minister Brig (retd) M Hannan Shah will inaugurate the meets at 4.30 this afternoon at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

The six-day meets, being staged simultaneously, are being sponsored by the Bangladesh General Insurance Company Limited who are forking out just over Taka one lakh twenty five thousand out of the TK 2.08 lakh needed for the conduct of the finals. The federation is paying for the remaining portion of the expenses.

Fourteen teams, including defending champions Bangladesh Army, will be vying for the honours in the men's competition. The other teams are Tangail, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Comilla, Dinajpur, Pabna, Jessore and hosts Dhaka DSA, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Rifles, the Power Development Board and Rajshahi University. Army had won the title in 1990 beating Navy, there was no national championship last year.

Divided into four groups, the teams will play on a league basis with the four group champions qualifying for the semifinals.

While most of the teams had reached the capital by yesterday, the organisers were still expecting three teams, namely, Tangail, Dinajpur and Rajshahi University sometime today. However, Rajshahi University may not turn up at all since the authorities had closed the university since last April 17. According to Volleyball Federation officials,

no one could be reached at the university for confirmation of the team's participation.

There are ten teams in the women's section of the competition, although the organisers insisted at a press conference yesterday afternoon that eleven teams would be taking part.

Khulna are the defending champions while the other

clement weather games may be shifted to the adjacent wooden-floor gym.

The players of the participating teams are putting up at various city hotels and the National Sports Council hostel.

The preliminary league matches will be best-of-three sets contests with the semifinals and the finals being decided on the basis of best-of-five sets.

The organisers, who held a press conference yesterday at the NSC, hope to be able to stage the final matches of both the men's and women's championships on May 8, subject to the weather over the next few days.

M A Samad, Chairman of

BGIC, handed over a cheque for Taka 1.25 lakh to Maj-General Mahbubur Rahman, chief of the BVF at the press conference. Gholam Quddus Chowdhury, general secretary of the BVF, also addressed the newsmen.

**RAJBARI'S TITLE**

Meanwhile, Rajbari DSA annexed the Dhaka Division



The Rajbari girls won the Dhaka Divisional volleyball championship beating Narayanganj in yesterday's final at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex. —Star photo

teams in the fray are Narayanganj, Rajbari, Chittagong, Comilla, Rangpur, Bogra, and Jessore DSA, Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

Matches will be held at the Volleyball Stadium in the afternoon but in case of in-

Controversy continues over qualification of shuttlers for Olympics

Zhao, Susanti top IBF rankings

LONDON, May 2: China's top three men badminton players will each be at the Barcelona Olympics following Friday's publication of the latest world rankings, reports Reuters.

The sport makes its Olympic debut at Barcelona and the latest list determines who will be invited to the Games.

The publication revives the controversy which surfaced at the end of the All-England championship in March, won surprisingly by Liu Jun.

That victory thrust Liu from number 11 to number three — comfortably into the top eight which guarantees a Barcelona slot. Liu is currently ranked four, behind world champion Zhao Jianhua, top Indonesian Ardy B Wiranta and Malaysia's Rashid Sidek.

In the All-England final Liu became only the second unseeded player in the history of the tournament to win the men's title.

His wins over compatriots Zhao and Wu Wenkai brought accusations from at least one rival team that the Chinese had maneuvered their players to get the maximum quota of places at the games. The accusations were denied by Zhao.

International Badminton Federation president Arthur Jones said at the time it was "a very tricky thing for people to try to manoeuvre (the system)."

Jones said on Friday: "Players from 110 countries have battled for at least 18 months to achieve a place in the Games and now the world will see the elite in action."

The top European, ranked eight, is Denmark's Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen.

The top two ranked women are Indonesia's Susi Susanti and China's world champion Tang Jituhong.

**LEADING RANKINGS**

Meanwhile, following are the final leading world rankings issued by the International Badminton Federation on Friday (players marked (O) have qualified for the Barcelona Olympics):

**MEN**

1. Zhao Jianhua (China) (O) 2. Ardy B Wiranta (Indonesia) (O) 3. Rashid Sidek (Malaysia) (O) 4. Liu Jun (China) (O) 5. Wu Wenkai (China) (O) 6. Allan Budi Kusuma (Indonesia) (O) 7. Hermawan Susanto (Indonesia) (O) 8. Paoul Erik Hoyer Larsen (Denmark) (O) 9.

nesia) (O) 14. Lee Kwang-Jin (South Korea) (O) 15. Darren Hall (England) (O) 16. Wan Zhengwen (China) (O) 17. Heryanto Arbi (Indonesia) (O) 18. Jena Olsson (Sweden) (O) 19. Kim Hak-Kyun (South Korea) (O) 20. Eddy Kurniawan (Indonesia) (O)

**WOMEN**

1. Susi Susanti (Indonesia) (O) 2. Tang Jituhong (China) (O) 3. Huang Hua (China) (O) 4. Bang Soo Hyun (South Korea) (O) 5. Lee Heoung-Soon (South Korea) (O) 6. Pernille Medergeraad Jensen (Denmark) (O) 7. Sarwendan Kusumwardhank (Indonesia) (O) 8. Lim Xiaogin (Sweden) (O) 9. Ye Zhaoying (China) (O) 10. Camilla Martin (Denmark) (O) 11. Elena Rybkina (CIS) (O) 12. Zhou Lei (China) (O) 13. Eline Coene (Netherlands) (O) 14. Yuliani Santoso (Indonesia) (O) 15. Hisako Mizui (Japan) (O) 16. Joanne Muggeridge (England) (O) 17. Sonja Harehual Jarensiri (Thailand) (O) 18. Christine Magnusson (Sweden) (O) 19. Liu Huhong (China) (O) 20. Astrid Van Der Knaap (Netherlands) (O)

Fellow prisoner raises storm over Tyson status

INDIANAPOLIS, May 2: A prisoner has filed a civil rights complaint alleging that he has been threatened by prison officials for talking to the media about fellow inmate Mike Tyson, reports AP.

James Bell Yager, who is serving a 42-year sentence at the Indiana Youth Centre for bank embezzlement and forgery, said he asked the US Justice Department in Washington to investigate his claims, filed via certified mail Friday.

Yager said Tyson has received preferential treatment since he was assigned to the Youth Centre to serve a six-year sentence for rape.

Yager said prison officials asked him to sign documents Wednesday allowing them to censor his comments to reporters and respond to them. He also said prison officials prevented reporters from entering the Youth Centre.

The complaint says Yager, who heads the National Prisoners' Rights Union, was threatened with "unspecified reprisals" if he talked to reporters without prior approval.

Department of Correction spokesman Kevin Moore said Yager was asked to consent to the interviews and agree that a DOC staff member would be present.

In his complaint, Yager said, "Prison officials are finding it harder and harder to refute information being provided the media by (Yager) to the extent they have elected to employ gestapo tactics and threatened (Yager) with reprisals for talking to the media," the document said.

Yager has told reporters that Tyson:

- Was allowed to attend school in the morning and work in the afternoon, when other prisoners were denied the half-day setup.
- Was allowed more visiting time with friends and family than the 10 hours allowed each month. Unlimited visits are allowed with attorneys and ministers.
- Visited with more than three people at one time, another violation of prison rules.
- Met with visitors in a private room.

"The DOC is placing him in a vulnerable position because of this special treatment, and he's not asking for it," Yager said.

Moore acknowledged that Tyson met with visitors in a private room but he has denied Yager's other allegations.

Rani Hamid leads the pack

Sports Reporter

The spotlight was once again upon Rani Hamid, the queen of Bangladesh chess and the reigning national women's champion, who outwitted her opponents in style to stay at the top of the points table at the end of the sixth round of the 18th national championship yesterday.

aggressive play cost Rakib his queen.

Former men's champion and FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman suffered a shock defeat to remain in third position with three and a half points as he went down to Amir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolis after 33 moves in his sixth round tie.

Zia, playing with white, adopted a Queen's gambit

Khaleq of Jamalpur (L) in action against Chittagong's Nahid Miaid during their sixth round match of the national championship at the NSC chess room yesterday. —Star photo

terday at the chess room of the National Coaching Centre.

Rani Hamid singularly held the top position with five points as competition resumed after a day's break Friday.

Rani Hamid, who won her adjourned fifth round match against Nahid Miaid of Chittagong, later in the afternoon defeated Syed Iqbal Rakib of Dhaka Metropolis yesterday to climb up the ladder. Playing with black pieces, Rani began with a Queen's pawn opening and made the most of the weak moves of her opponent who conceded defeat after 35 moves as Rani's ag-

opening but committed some serious blunders in the middle of the proceedings which cost him the match.

Jamilur Rahman of Ansars, another former national champion, notched up the second position with four and a half points beating Anisur Rahman of Dhaka Metro in only eleven moves. Playing with white, Jamil began with a bishop opening and Anis surrendered when he lost his knight in one of the most swiftly settled matches.

Defending champion Reefat bin-Sattar drew with his Biman teammate Syed Tahmidur moves.

In other matches of the day, Kalimullah Khan Kalam of Dhaka Metropolis outwitted Khandaker Kayes Hossain of Ansars in 64 moves, M R Hafiz of Metropolis defeated Neyamul Huq Niru of Ansars in 36 moves and Nahid Miaid of Chittagong beat Abdul Khaleq of Mymensingh in 44 moves.

Anis, Kalam, Rakib and Nahid have three points each while Tuhin, Hafiz and Niru have two and a half points each. Kayes had two, Amir one and a half and Khaleq one point at the end of the sixth round.

Japanese medical team to treat Lineker's son

TOKYO, May 2: The Japanese soccer club that has signed up Gary Lineker will set up a medical team to treat the England captain's leukaemia-stricken baby son, media reports said today, reports Reuters.

Grampus Eight of Nagoya will form a five-member team to take care of the millionaire striker's son, George, now being treated at a London hospital, the reports said.

"I would like to tell him (Lineker) about our preparations to help put his mind at rest. Then, he will be able to concentrate better on play," the Japan Times quoted President Narumi Nishigaki as saying.

Nishigaki was due to leave for London today to inform Lineker of his plans and hold a news conference with him on Monday.

Club officials were not immediately available to comment.

There had been speculation the illness might prevent Lineker from joining the Japanese club.

The reports said a team from the Japanese Red Cross Nagoya first hospital, led by leukaemia specialist Yoshitaka Kodera, would treat the baby. It would be able to bring bone marrow from England within 24 hours if necessary.

British doctors say the baby has responded well to treatment, and they have cleared him to travel with his parents to Japan.



M.A. Samad(R), Chairman, Bangladesh General Insurance Company addressing a press conference on the eve of the national volleyball championships, sponsored by the BGIC, at the NSC yesterday. On his right is BVF chief Maj. General Mahbubur Rahman. —Star photo