

Sport

Fed Cup b'ball gets underway

Sports Reporter
The fifth Federation Cup basketball tournament organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation began yesterday at the modern gymnasium.
Ten teams, including three outstation teams, divided into two groups, are taking part in the meet sponsored by Rahimafrooz, a leading business house of the country.
The teams in the nine-day long fray are: Five Star, Dhaka Winners, The Greys, Angels Club, Eagles Club, Dhumketa Club, Josephites, Chandpur Club, Stars Club (Golapganj), Sylhet and Altal Smriti Sangsad of Rajshahi.
On the opening day, Angels Club thoroughly outclassed Chandpur Club 125-58. The winners led the half-time 59-20.
Dulal with 30 and James with 22 were the principal scorers for the winners. Liton with 12 and Islam with 10 tried their best for the vanquished.
In the second match, Altal Smriti Sangsad of Rajshahi caused a major upset by outscoring fancied Josephites Club in a keenly contested game.
The outstation club carved out a 59-47 victory against the fancied Dhaka side. At half-time they led 22-21.
Rajshahi's Rezaul was the highest scorer with 23 while teammate Nazrul followed him with 21. Bashirul and Mushtaq with 12 each did most of the scoring for the losers.
State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan inaugurated the meet in the evening.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Gregs vs Star Club, Sylhet (4-30 pm)
Dhumketa vs Eagles Club (5-30 pm)
Juventus win first leg of Italian Cup final
TURIN, Italy, May 8: Roberto Baggio converted a penalty kick in the 22nd minute to give Juventus of Turin a 1-0 victory against Parma in a first-leg final of the Italian Cup Thursday night, reports AP.
The Turin team's home victory appeared somewhat undeserved as the visitors, led by Swedish forward Tomas Brodin and Belgian midfielder

Nepal beat Maldives 1-0

A Correspondent
free-kick by Rajkumar to safety seven minutes later.
A few minutes later Saeed, a Maldives defender, made a goalline save when a Rajkumar header beat an out-of-position Habib and immediately after this they survived yet another scare when a prowling Rajkumar unleashed a powerful right-footer that returned off the side post. Amir Polgol of Nepal reasserted the Nepalese ascendancy a minute later but goalie Hossain Habib rose to the occasion to keep his side afloat.
After about twenty minutes of spiritless, languid football Nepal scored the match-winner in the 21st minute.
Substitute Dilip Kumar swerved in a centre from the right that eluded a host of leaping heads and the grasp of a frozen Maldives custodian to come to a lurking Rajkumar Thapa who made no mistake in nodding the ball home (1-0).
Nepal, who sprang a surprise by beating India 2-1 in their first match, were drowned in a goal deluge by Bangladesh. The hosts beat them 8-0 and after today's win Nepal raise their collection to four from three matches while Maldives, who snatched a point from Pakistan, remain at one, also after having played three matches.
While giving his reactions after the match, the Nepalese coach showed an inclination for futuristic comment by saying that unless something really funny takes place over the next few days Bangladesh are going to win the championship.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh take on Pakistan tomorrow (Saturday) in a vital match as a win will ensure the hosts the Rajah Cup, thereby earning them a passage to the final round to be held in Saudi Arabia. Bangladesh coach Hasanuzzaman Babu sounded pretty confident about the chances of his side but he declined to make any prediction as regards the margin of the victory.

TEAMS
NEPAL: Bhubendra Adhikari, Sailesh Joshi, Gambhir Rai, Tenkaji Maharajan, Anil Upadhaya (Dilip Kumar Katuooal), Amir M Polgol, Ranjit Singh, Shojan Basnet, Devendra Lama, Rabin Thapa and Rajkumar Thapa.
THE MALDIVES: Hossain Habib, Ibrahim Luthfee, Moosa Fathee, Ismail Sharif, M Saeed, Ahmed Morzoog, Ahmed Ali Didi, Shamir Mohamed (Ahmed Zyaad), Mohamed Erif, Hossain Znaad and Zuhair Ismail.
Referee — Boonchart (Thailand)
Linesmen: Yappa (Sri Lanka) and Somporn (Thailand)
TODAY'S MATCH
Bangladesh vs Pakistan (4-30 pm).

Rani surges ahead of pack

Sports Reporter
Former champion and FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman drew his match against Khandaker Kayes Hassan to stay just behind Rani with eight points. Playing with black, Zia adopted a Sicilian defence opening in a match that saw both players switching to the advance variation of a French opening from the Alpine variation. Although Zia had a pawn more in his hand the match petered out to a draw after 45 moves.
Syed Tahmidur Rahman, another former champion, shared points with Jamilur Rahman of Ansars to share the second spot in the points table along with Reefat and Zia. Tahmidur now has 8 points while Jamil is in close third with seven and a half points.
Reefat bid Sattar the reigning champion, was the third player to finish on joint second spot after his 50-move match with Ansur Rahman of Dhaka Metropolis ended in a draw. Reefat, a college student, played with black pieces in the drawn encounter and with yesterday's half point raised his collection to eight.
In the other matches of the round, Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of BTMC outwitted Amir Hossain of Metropolis while the latter's teammate MR Hafiz carried home another disappointing result as Abdul Khaleq of Jamalpur recorded a fine victory.
Syed Iqbal Rakib of Metropolis drew with Nahid Miyazid of Chittagong.

Olympique Marseille too shocked to play French Cup final

PARIS, May 8: Four-time defending league champion Olympique Marseille said Friday it would not play in the French Cup final on Tuesday while victims remained hospitalised from the collapse of a stadium grandstand in Corsica, reports AP.
A communique issued by its vice-president, Jean-Louis Leverreau, said the players, supporters and administrators all voted against participating in the final.
"There are people between life and death, it is difficult to play in these conditions,"

'94 Cup draw in Vegas likely

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ, May 8: The draw for the 1994 World Cup probably will be held in Las Vegas on Dec 18 or Dec 19, 1993, FIFA officials said Thursday, reports AP.
Although Las Vegas is not one of the sites for the 24-nation, 52-game tournament, it has bid to host the draw, in which the teams will be divided into six groups.
FIFA President Joao Havelange said soccer was seeking the spectacle of Glitter Gulch for the draw, which will be broadcast live worldwide.
"FIFA has wanted to go there for a number of reasons, and given the international prestige of a Las Vegas show, it makes a lot of sense," said Scott Le Tellier, chief operating officer of World Cup USA 1994, the committee that will stage the games.
A source familiar with the bidding, speaking on the condition he not be identified, said Caesars Palace and The Mirage were seeking to hold the draw, as was the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, which would stage it in the Thomas & Mack Center. FIFA officials cautioned that the decision was not final.
"We are awaiting proposals from the hotels," FIFA spokesman Guido Tongoni said.
In order to have the draw take place during prime time European television, it probably would start at mid-day.
"It should be a pretty good show," Le Tellier said. "This is what Vegas wanted to do all along."
The qualifying draw in which 136 nations were divided into groups for the preliminary round, was held Dec 8 at The Paramount in New York's Madison Square Garden. The United States qualifies automatically as host nation and Germany qualifies as defending champion. The other nations play 582 games to determine the other 22 finalists.
In addition to the draw,

FIFA to re-admit SA on July 2

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ, May 8: FIFA president Joao Havelange said Thursday he expected South Africa would be readmitted to international soccer on July 2 after a 28-year ban, reports AP.
Havelange, who last month toured South Africa, said he would recommend the readmission at the FIFA executive committee meeting July 1 at Zurich, Switzerland, and was confident the FIFA Congress would vote in favour of readmission the following day.
South Africa was suspended by FIFA in 1964 and expelled in 1976.
"The problem of apartheid in this country is not a problem any more," Havelange said. "On July 1 during the meeting of the executive committee, I will propose the readmission of South Africa. I am confident that the executive committee will recommend that South Africa should be readmitted the following day at the meeting of the FIFA Congress."

Des Walker joins Sampdoria

GENOA, Italy, May 8: Nottingham Forest and England defender Des Walker stung for Italian champions Sampdoria for 1.5 million pounds sterling (2.67 million dollars) on Thursday after completing a medical, reports Reuter.
Sampdoria officials met Walker and his agent Dennis Roach at the club headquarters in Genoa and took less than one hour to finalise details of a three-year contract. This player's salary is likely to be just under 440,000 pounds (£783,600 dollar).



ROBERTO BAGGIO

Georges Grun, commanded the match throughout and kept Juventus defense busy.
Baggio, Italy's most expensive transfer ever, made some beautiful moves but was seldom supported by teammates in front.
Striker Salvatore Tota Schillaci was substituted following a lackluster first half.
The decisive penalty was awarded by referee Rosario Lo Bello when forward Paolo Di Canio was fouled in the penalty area as he prepared to kick to the net from a few meters.
Di Canio suffered an apparently serious knee injury during the second half and was taken away on a stretcher.
Juventus goalie Angelo Ferruzzi made several brilliant interventions, stopping powerful shots by Grun and other Parma forwards.
Parma's centerforward Marco Osio spoiled an easy chance in the second half, kicking the ball past the post from three meters.
Parma, which eliminated Sampdoria of Genoa in the semifinals, will try to recover the one-goal gap in the second-leg final scheduled in Parma next Thursday.
The winner of the Italian Cup earns a berth in next season's European Cup Winner's Cup.

Berlin lets Bubka down

BERLIN, May 8: Unhappy with training conditions in Berlin, pole vault world record holder Sergei Bubka has returned to his native Ukraine to prepare for the Barcelona Olympics, an official said Friday, reports AP.
Bubka signed a contract with a Berlin club in January and moved with his family to a city apartment.
But Rudi Thiel, track and field director of the OSC Berlin club, said Bubka has returned to Donetsk in Ukraine to prepare for the Olympics.
Bubka complained that the indoor hall he was using was becoming overcrowded and that too many journalists wanted to interview him, Thiel said.
He said Bubka would return to Berlin in May, before going to the Summer Olympics in Barcelona which start in late July.

Thai pair jolts Indonesians

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8: Eight-time Thomas Cup champions Indonesia breezed past Thailand 4-1 in a Group A match on Thursday but not before a scare when their top doubles pair lost to a Thai scratch combination, reports Reuter.
Ardy Wiranata redeemed himself after his shocky defeat by Sweden's Jens Olsson on Tuesday by beating Sompol Kukasemjir 15-6, 15-4 in the first singles.
But the Indonesians were jolted yet again when All England doubles champion Eddy Hartono and Rudy Gunawan went down to Thailand's scratch pair of Pramote Thirawitwata and Sakrapee Thongsari 16-18, 15-8, 3-15.
The Indonesians' play was lethargic and they made too many unforced errors.
"They were too anxious to finish the match off and made many mistakes" said Sakrapee. "We pushed the shuttle a lot to the back to tire them."
Sakrapee, who has only recently recovered from an injury, is not the regular partner for Pramote who usually pairs with Sripong Stripul who was rested.
The Indonesians however won the rest of the matches easily. In the women's Uber Cup, defending champions China trounced the Netherlands 5-0 and will now meet arch rivals Indonesia to decide the winner of Group A on Sunday. Indonesia are expected to beat Malaysia when they meet today.
South Korea, who lost the last two finals to China, are tipped to meet the Chinese in the final again.

Rok beat hosts

ROK BEAT HOSTS
In another Thomas Cup Group B game, South Korea edged out hosts Malaysia 3-2 to keep their semifinals hopes alive after a surprising defeat by Denmark on Wednesday.
Malaysia got off to a good start when Rashid Sidek easily beat Lee Kwang-Jin 15-7, 15-3.
But the Malaysians knew they were in trouble when brothers Razif and Jalani Sidek, their top doubles pair, lost 15-11, 15-12 to Park Joo-Bong and Lee Sang-Bok — a partnership re-launched because Park's current partner Kim Moon-Soo was injured.
"We did not lack confidence," Park said. "We had beaten them three times before in 1989 when we were playing together."

Morale boost for Swedes

STOCKHOLM, May 8: Striker Kennet Andersson, only a substitute for his club Meehelen, led European championship hosts Sweden to a confidence-boosting 5-0 win over Poland in a friendly on Thursday, reports Reuter.
"This was exactly what we needed. It felt good all the way. Perhaps we are in the position to enjoy some praise this time," said Sweden's manager Tommy Svensson.
Sweden's recent record in internationals is far from impressive: two 0-0 draws and a 1-0 defeat to Australia during a tour in January and unconvincing 1-0 win over Tunisia.
Svensson has also been criticised in the national media for being undecided on most team positions with only one month to go before the hosts kick off the finals against France on June 10.

National men's volleyball final today BJMC girls nat'l champs

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation are the new national women's volleyball champions.
In the final of the ninth version of the nationals at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday the spikers from BJMC beat Rangpur DSA by three sets to two in a thrilling contest despite the sultry heat and humidity.
spiking of their BJMC opponents. The second set was slightly keener with Rangpur managing to take 12 points off their more fancied rivals.
Just when everything seemed lost for the girls from the northern district of the country their fortunes suddenly turned with complacency creeping in among the players on the other side of

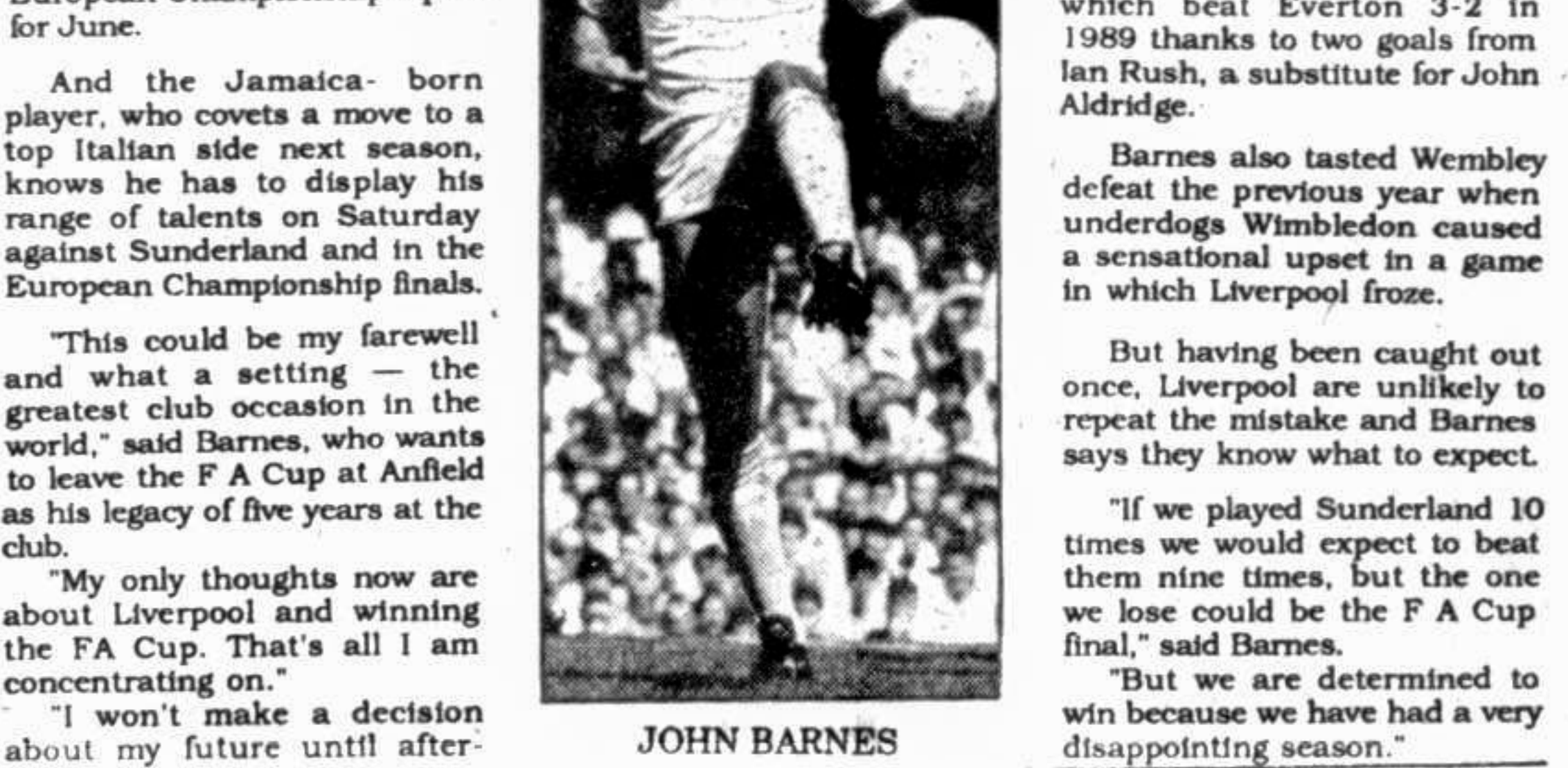


The triumphant Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation girls who annexed the ninth national women's volleyball championship beating Rangpur in yesterday's final at the Outer Stadium volleyball court. —Star photo

BJMC, who had beaten Bangladesh Ansars 7-15, 15-1, 15-10 and 16-14 in what in the end turned out to be a fairly exciting semifinal earlier in the day at the Dhanmondi indoor complex, found in Rangpur a determined opponent who refused to give up even after conceding the first two sets of their best-of-five showdown.
Rangpur, 15-1, 15-4 and 15-5 winners over Chittagong in a rather one-sided semifinal, lost the opening set of the final, shifted to the Volleball Stadium yesterday afternoon, 2-15, failing to find their rhythm against the aggressive

Liverpool-Sunderland F A Cup final today High personal stakes for Barnes

LONDON, May 8: John Barnes, Liverpool's gifted but enigmatic winger, is primed to produce one of his virtuoso performances in Saturday's F A Cup final as he attempts to secure his England place and attract an Italian club, reports Reuter.
Barnes, who has been restricted to just 15 games for Liverpool this season because of an Achilles tendon injury, needs to convince England manager Graham Taylor he is worthy of a place in the European Championship squad for June.
And the Jamaica-born player, who covets a move to a top Italian side next season, knows he has to display his range of talents on Saturday against Sunderland and in the European Championship finals.
"This could be my farewell and what a setting — the greatest club occasion in the world," said Barnes, who wants to leave the F A Cup at Anfield as his legacy of five years at the club.
"My only thoughts now are about Liverpool and winning the FA Cup. That's all I am concentrating on."
"I won't make a decision about my future until afterwards, possible not until after the European Championship."



JOHN BARNES

No blood tests at Barcelona

SEVILLE, Spain, May 8: The International Olympic Committee has ruled out introducing blood tests as a doping control measure at the Summer Games in Barcelona, a top official said Friday, reports AP.
Kevan Gosper, an IOC vice president, said more time was needed to perfect the testing process and study the ethical implications of drawing blood from athletes.
"First you have to have the feasibility, then we can look at the other questions," he said during a break in meetings of the IOC Executive Board.
Gosper said the issue was discussed with Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the IOC's medical commission, earlier this week in Monte Carlo.
"Essentially they're not satisfied they've got sufficient testing processes," Gosper said. "There is an argument that before you are confident to apply this you have to have many, many tests."
"The thrust of the question was to avoid uncertainty and controversy," he said. "We

detecting the use of performance-enhancing drugs by athletes.
Some officials and athletes, especially in the United States, have expressed concern that blood tests could represent a violation of the body. De Merode caused a stir on the eve of the Winter Games in Albertville when he suggested that blood testing could be introduced immediately. But he backed down, saying later that it was necessary to carry out about 10,000 trials before starting blood testing at the Olympics.
Gosper said the whole matter would be discussed again after the Barcelona Games.
Keba Mbaye, an IOC vice president and former judge on the World Court, reported last year that blood tests do not represent any moral, legal or religious problems.
"From my point of view, we have still not discussed (the ethical implications) extensively," Gosper said.
Some officials have suggested that blood tests should be introduced quietly in order to catch unsuspecting athletes.
But one IOC official said that was the wrong approach.

Royal blessing for fair play
LONDON, May 8: The Duke of Edinburgh gave his backing here on Thursday to a new organisation to improve standards of fair play and enhance the image of professional sport in Britain, reports AP.
"I think this is a great opportunity to improve the relationship between officials, like umpires and judges, and the performers," Prince Philip said of the new Institute of Professional Sport.
"It's absolutely vital that professional sportsmen and women should get an uplift and have a relationship with those officials."
"Image is a very important element; if someone brings the medical profession into disrepute, it affects everybody across the board in that profession. It is the same with sport. It is important that it has a high image."