

Usha becomes mother

KOZHIKODE, May 10: Sprint queen P T Usha yesterday gave birth to a baby boy at a private nursing home here, reports PTL.

Both the mother and child are keeping in good health, according to noted gynecologist, Dr Varghese.



Usha, working as sports officer in the Southern Railways, was living in Madras after her marriage to Sreenivasan, a kabaddi player.

She reached her home town here on April 25 and was admitted the nursing home on April 29.

Handball awards ceremony today

The prize-giving ceremony of the 1991-92 Cate First Division handball league will be held tomorrow at 5:30 pm at the National Sports Council conference room.

Bangladesh rifles, champions ever since the inception of the league way back in 1984, with 18 points from ten matches retained the title for the seventh consecutive time. They lost only one league match to Bangladesh Ansars 16-21.

Surjodoy Boys Club, with 17 points, finished runners-up. They lost to Rifles 8-29 and dropped another point by drawing with Bangladesh Ansars.

Initially there were 12 teams in the league. But Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, who failed to turn up after playing their opening league fixture were scratched from the league.

Volleyball leagues from June 1

The 1991-92 Dhaka First and Second Division volleyball leagues will simultaneously begin from June 1 at the Volleyball Stadium, says a Bangladesh Volleyball Federation press release.

Concerned clubs have been asked to contact the federation in this regard.

Reefat, Zia regain lead

Sports Reporter

Two champions — one current and another former — went up the ladder to share the top position at the end of the thirteenth round while the holder of that position for the last two days was engaged in an unfinished marathon adjourned game in the eighth national chess championship yesterday at the chess room of the National Coaching Centre.

Defending champion Reefat bin-Sattar of Biman defeated Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of BTMC to raise his collection to ten points while his friend and teammate FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman drew level with him in the points table with a win against Kalimullah Khan Kalam of Dhaka Metropolis.

Playing with black pieces, Reefat adopted a French defence opening and succeeded in retaining his rook against

Shiplu's knight and the BTMC player conceded defeat in 58 moves.

Zia, also playing with black, recorded an easier win against Kalam when the latter surrendered in 36 moves.

Former champion Zia, who began with a French defence opening, adopted an advanced variation but suffered a setback when he lost his queen in the 22nd move. But he recovered well and after 36 moves Kalam accepted defeat in the face of some aggressive chess by the Biman player.

However, the most engrossing match of the day was played between Rani Hamid and Anisur Rahman of Metropolis.

The six-hour marathon between the two contestants of different sexes was adjourned after 64 moves and the match resumes today at ten. With the result of her 13th match yet to be decided, national women's champion Rani shares the second position with Jamilur Rahman of Ansars with both having nine points.

Jamil, another ex-champion, checkmated Nahid Miyazid of Chittagong in his thirteenth match yesterday to collect his ninth point in this 16 player, 15 round tournament. Jamil, who played with black, adopted the Karocan variation and his opponent, reading the writing on the wall quite clearly accepted defeat after 33 moves.

Syed Tahmidur Rahman, another former champion who was deposed by Reefat last year, made short work of Mr Hafiz of Metropolis. Playing with white pieces the bearded engineer defeated Hafiz in only 23 moves.

Amir Hossain in Metropolis got the better of Abdul Khaleq of Jamalpur in 38 moves, while Ansars teammates Khandaker Kayes Hassan and Niamul Huq Niru settled for a draw in the other match of the day.

Earlier on Saturday, Kenya's handball teams pulled out of the African Championships due to start in Ilorin, Nigeria, on May 11 because of lack of money.

They, however, refused to allow government representatives and KFF officials to accompany them unless they met their own expenses.

Earlier on Saturday, Kenya's handball teams pulled out of the African Championships due to start in Ilorin, Nigeria, on May 11 because of lack of money.

They, however, refused to allow government representatives and KFF officials to accompany them unless they met their own expenses.

Earlier on Saturday, Kenya's handball teams pulled out of the African Championships due to start in Ilorin, Nigeria, on May 11 because of lack of money.

They, however, refused to allow government representatives and KFF officials to accompany them unless they met their own expenses.

Earlier on Saturday, Kenya's handball teams pulled out of the African Championships due to start in Ilorin, Nigeria, on May 11 because of lack of money.

They, however, refused to allow government representatives and KFF officials to accompany them unless they met their own expenses.

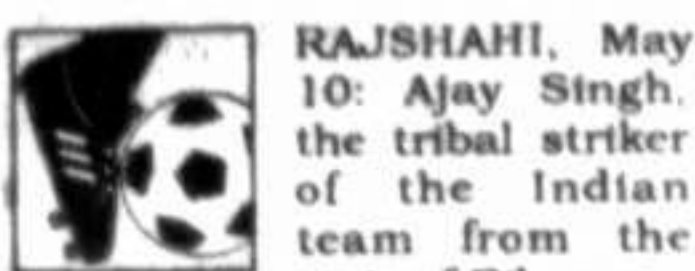
Earlier on Saturday, Kenya's handball teams pulled out of the African Championships due to start in Ilorin, Nigeria, on May 11 because of lack of money.

They, however, refused to allow government representatives and KFF officials to accompany them unless they met their own expenses.

Earlier on Saturday, Kenya's handball teams pulled out of the African Championships due to start in Ilorin, Nigeria, on May 11 because of lack of money.

They, however, refused to allow government representatives and KFF officials to accompany them unless they met their own expenses.

Earlier on Saturday, Kenya's handball teams pulled out of the African Championships due to start in Ilorin, Nigeria, on May 11 because of lack of money.



RAJSHAHI, May 10: Ajay Singh, the tribal striker of the Indian team from the state of Bihar gave ample proof of his goal-scoring ability and concern about his side's chances in the fifth Asian youth under-16 Group Three qualifying round football championship as he pumped in all six goals in his team's emphatic 6-0 victory against the hapless Maldives today at the local stadium.

The Indians, donned in blue, entered the field with the express desire of scoring as many goals as possible — perhaps over ten — in a last-ditch attempt to brighten their chances of beating hosts Bangladesh who, with just one match in hand, have so far maintained a clean slate. Bangladesh have won their all three matches and need only a draw to emerge as the best team in the competition involving five South Asian neighbours. The champions will go through to the finals of the meet, to be held in Saudi Arabia.

With the two wing-backs, Dulal Biswas on the right and Reazul Mustafa on the left overlapping with menacing frequency and skipper Amit Das showing some vague glimpses of the hallmark of team coach Gautam Sarkar who, according to some of the pundits of Calcutta football, catapulted himself to the height of a model as a midfielder with his industrious and tenacious football, India had little trouble in grinding their maladroit opponents.

India went the whole hog right from the very kick-off and got their first goal in the eighth minute of the match. Dulal Biswas accelerated down the right flank to float a lovely cross across the goal-mouth and Ajay Singh had all the time in the world to nod the ball home with the Maldives custodian Hossain Habib watching helplessly under the bar (1-0).

Maldives broke the Indian stranglehold in the seventh minute but their forwards failed to draw level from

India once again averted the danger of a counter-attack in the 31st minute and averted their unfancied opponents with a third goal for their infrequent but annoying flirtings.

Gautam Roy, who had hardly anything to do under the Indian bar, was forced to apply some of his goalkeeping expertise seconds before the buzzer when he parried an attempt by a Maldives forward for a corner.

Indian outside-left Shukial Turkey sent in a scorching cross from the left and Ajay Singh sidevolleyed it home in style six minutes after the breather to make it 3-0, thereby earning the distinction of scoring the first hat-trick of the meet.

The opportunistic Ajay Singh was not contented with this feat and went on to hammer three more goals to

Goodwill run from Taipei to Beijing

TAIPEI, Taiwan, May 10: Sixteen Taiwanese athletes Sunday began a 14-day goodwill run from Taipei to Beijing in the latest exchange between this island and China, reports AP.

Organizers said Chinese athletes would join the 12 Taiwanese men and four women in China for the 2,700-kilometer (1,674-mile) relay run scheduled to end in Beijing May 23.

They said the run was the first sports event to be held in both Taiwan and China.

A Correspondent

achieve the unique distinction of scoring a double hat-trick which raised his tally to seven in this tournament.

Ajay Singh scored the fourth goal two minutes later when he leapt in the air to head in a fine cross from midfielder Prosenjit Paul (4-0).

The Indians looked a little blasé after having put four past the islanders and although the team in red had about 12 minutes to catch their breath the Indians came in another deadly assault in the 22nd minute with Ajay Singh again finding the net after Reazul's cross from the left had Hossain Habib totally flummoxed (5-0).

Ajay Singh, who had earlier made his mark with a superb goal against Pakistan, added another feather to his cap when in the very next minute he tore down the middle in a solo dash to put the ball into the net after having lured Hossain Habib out of his position (6-0).

Ajay missed a fine opportunity to score his seventh goal of the match two minutes later as the skilful forward failed to get a round Hossain Habib, the Maldives custodian.

Hossain Habib had the misfortune of seeing the first red card of the tournament since one Pakistani player received the marching order in an earlier match for having seen the yellow twice in one match, as the Maldives goalkeeper, perhaps out of sheer frustration, handled the ball outside the box and Shri Lankan referee Yappa promptly turned him out of the field in the 26th minute of the second half.

India kept up the pressure for more goals and virtually lay siege around the opposition citadel in the last 14 minutes but to no avail. Referee Yappa deprived the goal-hungry Indians of a penalty in the 38th minute when he ignored a clear handball by one of the Maldives defenders inside the prohibited zone.

Musah Fatch of Maldives was shown the yellow card for spurge.

Indian coach Gautam Sarkar, one of the luminaries of the Calcutta maidan in the

Seventies and early Eighties, expressed happiness over the big win of his side but he also added that his boys should have won by a margin of a dozen goals.

Gautam Sarkar looked anything but depressed about the advantageous position of the home side and he said although an uphill task his side will take the strong Bangladesh team in the right frame of mind and will try their level best to cause an upset Tuesday.

TEAMS

INDIA: Gautam Roy, Dulal Biswas, Amit Ghose, Maha Majhi, Rajul Mustafa, Prosenjit Paul, Amith Das, Anup Mukherjee, Ajay Singh, Joseph Johnson (Trilok Singh) and Shukial Turkey.

MALDIVES: Hossain Habib (Abdullah Rouf), Ahmed Rasheed, Ibrahim Luthufee, Shamir Mohammed, Moosa Fatch, Ismail Shareef, Mohammed Saeed, Mohammed Arif, Hussain Ziyad, Ahmed Marzooq and Zuhair Ismail.

Referee: A H Yappa (Shri Lanka).

TODAY'S MATCH

Pakistan vs Nepal (4.30 pm)

Pakistan 274/4 at Cardiff

Sports Reporter

Pakistan had made 274 for the loss of four wickets at close of play on the second day of their rain-marred three-day match against Glamorgan at Cardiff yesterday, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka late last night.

After rain had ruined the entire day's play on Saturday, Pakistan won the toss Sunday and elected to bat. Opening batsman Aamir Sohail hit his second century of the tour by scoring 124.

With only a day's play possible Monday, the match is headed for a draw.

The Pakistanis lost their opening first class match, against Worcestershire, by five wickets Friday.

Waqar to miss one-dayers

CARDIFF, Wales, May 10:

Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis will not play in the opening two one-day games against England starting May 20, team manager Intikhab Alam said Saturday, reports AP.

Waqar is going to be very important to us for a long time and we won't take any chances with him because we have to think of his future," Intikhab said.

A stress fracture of the back early this year prevented Waqar playing in Pakistan's successful World Cup campaign.

Intikhab said the bowler had been given medical approval to begin light training. He's hoped to be fit for the first Test match at Edgbaston June 4.

The news is encouraging but Waqar will have to build-up gradually. This sort of problem could easily return if we are not careful," Intikhab said.

Waqar did not accompany the team to Cardiff for its three-day match against Welsh county Glamorgan, washed out Saturday. He stayed in London to continue training.

"He is doing a lot of swimming at the moment as part of his training."

Intikhab is confident Waqar will not need practice on English grounds before joining the team. The bowler, rated as one of the world's best, took 113 first class wickets for Surrey last season.

Div II cricket qualifiers now from May 20

Sports Reporter

The qualifying competition for the Second Division cricket league will now begin in the city from May 20 instead of May 15, as was originally scheduled. No reason was given for the delay.

Seventy four teams have entered their names for the knockout competition. The top two will earn the right to play in the Second Division next season.

Forty teams took part in last year's qualifiers with Evergreen and Western Club earning promotion.

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), organisers of the meet, plan a grand rally of the participating teams on the inaugural day at the Dhaka Stadium.

Foreign Minister and President of the BCCB ASM Mustafizur Rahman will inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Matches will be played at the various city cricket venues such as Dhaka Stadium, Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Dhanmondi Club ground, Mirpur Pallabi and the Mohakhali T & T ground.



Action from yesterday's fifth Federation Cup basketball tourney Group A match between Five Star Club and Altaf Smriti Sangha of Rajshahi. The Dhaka side, sporting all those stars, won 117-48 at the wooden-floor gym. —Star photo

Five Stars, Angels win big

Sports Reporter

Favourites Five Stars Club and Angels Club registered flattering wins on the third day of the fifth Rahimafroz Federation Cup basketball tournament at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The oppressive heat and humidity appeared to have had little effect on the spirit and stamina of Five Stars, runners-up to Dhaka Winners Club in the fourth Fed Cup, and their fleet-footed cagers ran all over their weak opponents Altaf Smriti Sangha, winning by a convincing margin of 117 points to 48.

Altaf Smriti Sangha, the Rajshahi team which had caused quite a stir by turning the tables on the more fancied Josephites whom they beat 59-47 on the opening day of the ten-team meet Friday, literally had no answers to the far superior skills of Five Stars. The half-time saw them trail 20 points to Five Stars' 59.

It was a repetition of the same one-sided state of affair

in the second session with Five Stars continuing in the same vein to basket 58 more points while their opponents scored 28 more for a final score line of 117 to 48.



বাস্কেটবল-৯২

It was the first Group A league outing for Five Stars. Zahir with 38 points led the charge for the winners with Asghar scoring 25. Rashid

with 12 and Nazrul with 11 were the notable triers for Altaf Smriti Sangha.

In the second match of the day, held later in the afternoon, another strong contender Angels Club posted their second straight win in Group B beating Eagles Club 94-47 in a lackluster encounter.

The winners led 45-14 at the breather.

Siddique with 28 and Dulal with 18 were the leading scorers for Angels while Imon with 14 and Taufique with 12 were the top scorers for Eagles.

Angels had outclassed Chandpur DSA 125 to 11 in the inaugural match of the meet, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation, while Eagles Saturday defeated Dhumketu Club 54-52 in a keen contest.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Altaf Smriti vs The Greys Club (4:30)

Dhaka Winners Club vs Eagles Club (6:00)

Lan wins Olympic diving prelim

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. May 10: For the second consecutive year, China's Lan Wei won the 3-metre springboard event at the Alamo International, a prelude to the Summer Olympics, reports AP.

Lan, 24, led 11 other Olympic hopefuls throughout

his list of 11 dives, but punctuated the victory on his final dive with an 85.68, giving his 683.94 points. Kent Ferguson (666) and Scott Donie (653.37) of the United States finished second and third.

In the women's platform finals, Mexico's Maria Jose Alcalá held off a late-charging 13-year-old Jenny Keim of the United States, 417.42 to 411.09. Irina Pisareva of the Commonwealth of Independent States took third with 405.42.

For Alcalá, 20, the victory assured her a berth on the Mexican team at Barcelona. She finished ninth at the 1988 Olympics.

"I was nervous at the last Olympics," Alcalá said. "I'll feel better at the next one."

After blowing her fifth dive on an eight-dive list, Keim, charged back from ninth place — delighting the hometown fans.

"Now people will know I'm somebody who can possibly make the Olympic team," said Keim, who was a nationally-ranked gymnast under Bela Karolyi before suffering a stress fracture of the back at the age of 8. "This is the best thing that ever happened to me, except when I was born."

Ferguson, 29, saved his best dive for last, scoring 87.12 on a reverse 1 1/2 somersault with 3 1/2 twists, to put some pressure on the seemingly unflappable Lan.

"I felt a threat on the last dive," said Lan, who like the US divers will compete in his country's Olympic trials in mid-June. "But it's my favorite dive and I knew I can do it."

For Ferguson, Barcelona is

probably his last chance at an Olympic berth. The top two finishers in each event at the Olympic trials makes the team.

"This is a good gauge on what I have to work on," Ferguson said. I was third at the trials in 1984 and 88. Hopefully, the third time will be a charm."

As China's Li Deliang faltered, Donie, 23, came from behind to win the bronze.

"This reaffirms to me that I'm good in both the 3-metre and platform," said Donie, the platform gold medalist at the 1991 Outdoor Championship. "This shows people that the Chinese aren't taking over. But he (Lan) was on fire today."

ROK shuttlers in Thomas Cup semifinals

KUALA LUMPUR, May 10: South Korea proved too powerful for England and won their Thomas Cup badminton clash 4-1 on Saturday to become the first Group B team to reach the semifinals, reports Reuter.

Hosts Malaysia face Denmark today to decide the second semifinal qualifiers from Group B. China and Indonesia have already clinched the semifinal places from Group A.

South Korea had got themselves into difficulty by losing to Denmark in their first group game, while on Friday England beat the Danes for the first time ever in the competition.

But South Korea gave England little chance of another upset, even though England's Darren Hall took the first singles by beating Lee Kwan-Jin 15-9, 15-3.



Reigning champion Reefat bin-Sattar of Biman (R) on way to beating BTMC's Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu in the 13th round of the 18th nationals at the NSC chess room yesterday. The win helped Reefat regain the lead at the top of the table along with teammate Ziaur Rahman. —Star photo