

MSC-AIS tie today

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club will get the chance of clearing the rust that must have accrued due to their long dislocation from the field as they take on visiting Ambassadors-In-Sports today at seven pm in an exhibition match at the Dhaka Stadium.

An amateur football team, Ambassadors-In-Sports or AIS, as it is called, played the first match of their 10-day tour of Bangladesh against league champions Abahani Krira Chakra on Saturday, losing by a solitary goal.

With the first match serving as an eye-opener for the more naive section of our football

Pakistan beat Maldives 5-0

KANNUR, May 17: Pakistan rounded off their four-match engagement in the 28th Asian youth (under-19) football championship here tonight with a measure of authority downing Maldives by five goals to nil, reports PTI.

This win, however, did not help Pakistan in any way as they are already out of the championship securing 3 points from their four matches.

Maldives, with one match left against favourites India on Tuesday, are pointless from their three engagements.

Striker Lal Muhammed, who was in brilliant form this evening, chipped in with three of the goals while Azhar Ali and Haider Imran scored the others.

Tomorrow, Bangladesh faces Nepal in a needle match.

'The megaphone' relishes victory in silence

BONN, May 17: VFB Stuttgart's outspoken coach Christoph Daum, nicknamed 'The Megaphone' sought solitude to relish the biggest moment of his career — winning the German league in dramatic style, reports Reuter.

Daum, known for his provocative public statements, withdrew to an empty dressing room on Saturday to shed a few tears after VFB's 2-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen.

A late goal from German World Cup defender Guido Buchwald gave the south German club the title on goal difference from Borussia Dortmund on a nail-biting final day of the season.

But as fans and players celebrated at the end, Daum relished the achievement of a life-long ambition on his own. "It all overwhelmed me. I cried a bit," Daum said. "This title is proof that you can also achieve things by painstaking work. I'm not just a talker."

Behind the self-opinionated public figure, Daum is known as a great motivator. Still only 38, he could develop into one of the most successful German coaches.

When Daum took charge of VFB in November 1990 the club were struggling in the relegation zone.

He gave them the confidence to clinch the fourth championship in their history. But the title was not safe until Buchwald's 86th minute winner.

VFB, Dortmund and Eintracht Frankfurt had started the last day with the same number of points, with Ein-

VFB are Bundesliga champs

BONN, May 17: The German league title went to 10-man VFB Stuttgart on Saturday after a goal in the 86th minute sealed the most thrilling finish to a season in the Bundesliga's history, reports AFP.

Guido Buchwald was Stuttgart's hero of the day, securing a 2-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen as title favourites Eintracht Frankfurt slumped to defeat by the same scoreline at Hasna Rostock.

Borussia Dortmund, who started the day level with Stuttgart and Eintracht of 50 points from 37 games, on 1-0 at lowly MSV Duisburg. But goal difference gave Stuttgart the three-way battle for the honours.

Leverkusen's Martin Kree opened the scoring in the 20th minute, and it soon began to look as if Stuttgart's season would end in disappointment. But Fritz Walter got the vital equaliser, rattling home a 43rd minute penalty which also made him the season's top scorer with 22 goals.

Stuttgart kept up the pressure, but their spirits sank again when former East

fans who jump at any soccer match involving a foreign team, today's tie is likely to draw a thinner crowd and the contest itself is likely to be little better than that which took place on Saturday.

Mohammedans, last year's First Division runners-up and who are currently trailing arch-rivals Abahani by two points with 29 points from 16 matches, are expected to deem today's contest as a valuable match practice before resuming their quest for regaining the title as the remainder of the suspended league resumes, in all probability, from May 25.

Mohammedans will be without some of their regular players who are currently doing national duties away in India with the under-19 squad. However, with the Russian trio of Abdou Rahimov, the devastating striker Nabikov and Kuznetsov, victory should not be much of a hassle unless, of course, they muddle and bungle things like the Abahani forwards.

AIS, who claimed themselves to be a competent and tuned football team, badly failed to stake their claim. In any case, one should not be fussy about the standard of football of a team that has taken all the trouble of fund-raising and travelling just for the sake of goodwill and friendship among the countries.

AIS leave Dhaka for Chittagong for their third exhibition match in Cox's Bazar on May 21. The visitors play their fourth match in Satkhira on May 23 and the last in Jessore on May 24 before leaving for India on May 25.

tracht expecting to succeed because of their superior goal difference.

The Frankfurt side's hopes collapsed with a 2-1 defeat at Hasna Rostock. Although Dortmund sealed two points with a 1-0 win at Duisburg, their inferior goal tally put them behind VFB.

As he celebrated the victory with his team in the streets of Stuttgart on Sunday, Daum new VFB, who reached the final of the UEFA Cup in 1989, would go into next season's European Cup without their key midfielder playmaker Matthias Sammer.

The former East German, who is almost certain to be in Germany's squad for next month's European Championship, has become the latest German star to move to the Italian First Division with Internazionale Milan.

"Sammer is impossible to replace," Daum said. "We will have to change our way of playing next season... We now have to establish ourselves at the top on the national scene and serve notice that we are in the European Cup."

Dortmund and Eintracht, who came so close to historic victories, had the consolation of qualifying for next season's UEFA Cup with fourth-placed Cologne and 1991 champions Kaiserslautern, who finished fifth.

The second German team in next season's European Cup Winners' Cup will be decided next weekend when Borussia Moenchengladbach meet Second Division handover in the German Cup final. Werder Bremen qualify as holders.

Despite their victory over Eintracht, Hasna were relegated after their first season in the United Bundesliga.



German Steffi Graf in action against American Jennifer Capriati during the semifinal match of the German Open tennis tournament in Berlin on May 16. Graf won 2-6, 6-3 and 6-4. World No.2 Graf went on to win the title beating Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 4-6, 7-6, 6-2 in the two-hour final Sunday, according to BBC monitored last night —AFP photo

Costa meets Courier in final

ROME, May 17: Unseeded Carlos Costa defeated Czechoslovak eighth seed Petr Korda 6-4, 6-3 on Saturday to clinch a place in the final of the men's Italian Open clay court tournament, reports Reuter.

The emerging Spanish talent, who has the best results on clay of any player this season, will meet world number one Jim Courier today in what promises to be an intriguing match.

Top-seeded Courier recovered to beat German outsider Carl-Uwe Steeb 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 in the first semifinal.

The 24-year-old Costa, who has risen to a career best 15th in the world rankings after winning titles in Estoril and Barcelona, controlled the match throughout against Korda.

The Czechoslovak had earned the admiration of the Roman crowd by recovering from the brink of defeat against Argentine Alberto Mancini and second-seeded American Pete Sampras in earlier rounds.

But his service let him down badly against Costa, who clinched an easy win in 84 minutes.

Korda, 24, saved three match points before finally succumbing to Costa.

The boisterous Foro Italico crowd cheered each reprieve wildly but the world number nine was unable to produce another rescue act.

He overtook a 3-6, 0-5 deficit against Mancini and trailed by one set and 3-5 before beating Sampras in the

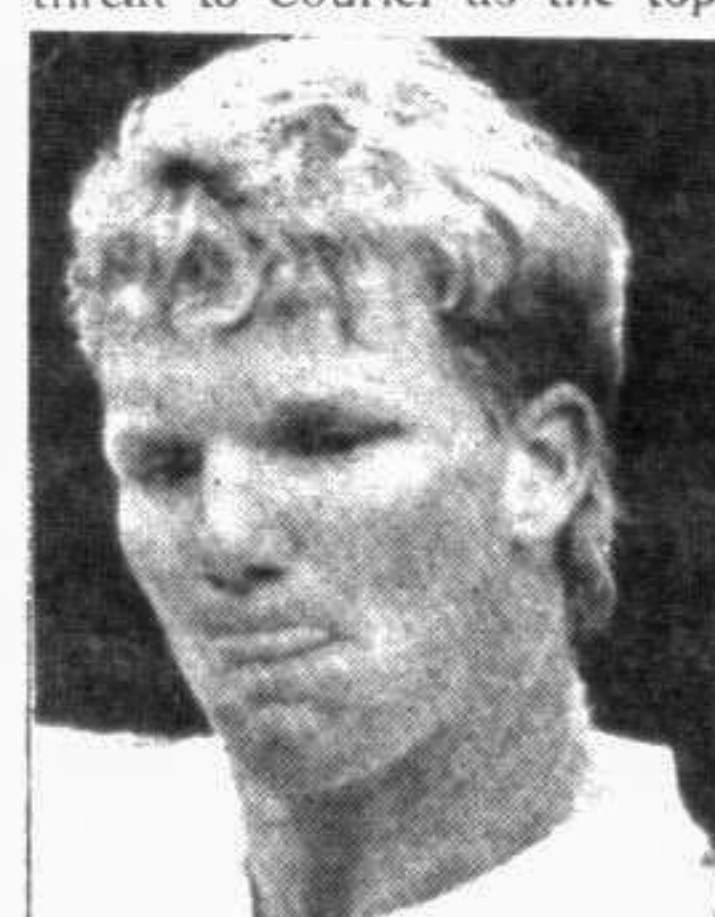
quarter-finals. Korda complained bitterly about the condition of the centre court which both he and Courier had said on Friday lacked a decent clay covering.

"It is so slippery. I don't know what they did, if they

LATEST: Jim Courier won the title beating Spain's Carlos Costa 7-6, 6-6, 6-4 in the final held Sunday, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka late last night.

added more clay, but I couldn't run on it."

Korda said Costa was playing well enough to pose a threat to Courier as the top



JIM COURIER

seed aims to become the first American to win here since Jimmy Arias in 1983.

"If Costa plays every shot as well as he did today, he has a good chance to beat him."

Costa, a neat right-hander, is delighted with his current progress. A year ago he did not even figure in the world top 200.

He said: "Korda is a very strange player. He plays three brilliant shots and then hits one out. I had no idea where he would play the next ball."

The Spaniard, who had not won a title until this season, has not dropped a set in Rome.

Courier, playing his first clay tournament of the season, was happier with the surface on Saturday which had been heavily watered and was repaired after the second set of his match.

The 21-year-old had a furious row with Australian umpire Richard Ings during the first set.

Ings overruled a line judge to call a Steeb return in and gave the German a break for 6-5.

Courier responded by blasting a ball at the drinks cooler beside the umpire's chair and carried on the argument for two or three minutes. But he regained his composure to take the next two sets as Steeb, ranked 38th in the world, ran out of steam.

Schools TT now June 22-25

Sports Reporter

The national level schools table tennis tournament, sponsored by Green Delta Insurance Company, which was originally scheduled to commence at the National Coaching Centre from May 21 will now be held June 22-25, according to a Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation press release issued yesterday.

The change in the schedule has been necessitated by the half-yearly examinations in most schools.

Competition will be held in the boys' and girls' team events and the singles.

Schools interested in participating have been advised to complete their entry formalities with the BTTF by June 18. There is no entry fee.

Outstation teams, comprising three boys and three girls accompanied by one official, will be eligible for TA-DA and food and board during the course of the four-day tournament.

Finance retain DU title

Sports Reporter

The students of the Department of Finance proved at the cost of their unequal opponents International Relations that when it comes to the simpler arithmetic of runs and wickets they have no peers, at least within the confines of the Dhaka University, when they retained the inter-department cricket title beating IR by 143 runs in the final at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Batting first Finance, the reigning champions amassed a mammoth 270 for four wickets with Shovon hitting a superb unbeaten 109. Shovon, who plays top division cricket for Brothers Union tore the weak IR attack to shreds in association with opener Rownakul Islam Tutul.

Tutul who opens for PWD in the Premier Division league, hammered a sparkling 74. Rupam, another fine player and man in the boys' world with his experience of Senior Division cricket, scored 17 while Zahid remained unbeaten on 13.

Matlab of IR bought two wickets at a dear price of 62 runs. Sumi picked up one for

37. Faced with a daunting task of getting 271 for victory in 35 overs against a superior and experienced attack International Relations surrendered at 127 for eight in the 35 overs.

Zulfikar Haider top scored with 36. Rana with 18 and Mesbahuddin with 15 were the other two principal scorers.

Babu of Finance wrought havoc with the leather taking three IR wickets for 29. Selim Shahed with one for seven and Rupam with the identical figures snuffed out any hidden IR ambition of offering a challenge pretty early.

Hosts Malaysia lift Thomas Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17: Hosts Malaysia scored a thrilling 3-2 win over old enemy Indonesia on Saturday to win the men's badminton Thomas Cup after 25 barren years, reports Reuter.

Cheered on by a packed 12,000 crowd, including King Sultan Azlan Shah and Queen Baimun, the Malaysians played their hearts out to fulfil the hopes of an entire nation where badminton is a passion. Indonesia, looking for their first triumph since 1984 but always the underdogs given the recent track record against their close neighbour, had their chances.

But a surprise 15-6, 15-12 defeat of World Championship runner-up Allan Budi Kusuma by veteran Foo Kok Keong in the second singles turned the tide in Malaysia's as the hosts pulled 2-1 ahead.

Rashid Sidek, who has had a superb tournament, played to form to beat Ardy Wiranata 15-11, 10-15, 15-4 in the first singles. The match was a thriller between two of the most exciting talents on the world's badminton stage but Rashid, ranked third in the world and always at his best at home, bested Ardy again to lead their personal duel 5-3.

Rashid's elder brother Razif and Jalani fell to world number one and All England champions Eddy Hartono and Rudy Guanwan in the first doubles.

The Indonesians won 15-9, 10-15, 15-3 focusing their attack on the older Razif who felt the pace. At 1-1 the final looked in Indonesia's favour when world number six Kusuma took to the court to play Foo.

In the second game, Kusuma tried to tire the older Foo by making plenty of 10bs with drop shots and they were neck-and-neck at 10-10.

But mistakes plagued the Indonesian again and Foo took maximum advantage to give his country a vital edge. The world number six pair of Cheah Soon Kit and Soo Beng Kiang, heroes in Malaysia's 3-2 win over defending champions China in the semifinal when they second the winning point played confidently to win the first game 15-12 in the crucial second double.

But with an entire nation expecting victory the two Malaysians lost their concentration to allow Reky Minto and Ricky Subagja to race to a 5-1 win lead from which they never could recover as the Indonesians forced rubber by winning 15-10.

The Indonesians, roared on by several hundred fans comprising immigrant Indonesian workers, go off to a great start to lead 5-2 and victory seemed within their grasp.

But the young Malaysian pair kept their nerves and forced the Indonesians into errors with some brilliant attacking play to draw level at 5-5 and went ahead to clinch a glorious win for their team by taking the rubber 15-8.

Joko Suprianto won the dead singles 15-3, 15-7 against Kwan Yoke Meng to make the final score 3-2. "We are very happy," said team captain Razif, "I have no words to describe how we feel."

"There is nothing to say we have finally won it," said an elated Malaysian Badminton Association president Elyas Omar, the driving forces behind Malaysia's resurgence in the game.

The women Uber Cup was

won by China who beat South Korea 3-2 in Friday's final.

Rich rewards for Malaysian heroes

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17: Malaysia's victorious Thomas Cup shuttlers, will be showered with cash and other gifts for lifting badminton's supreme prize after a 25 year break, Sports Minister Anwar Musa said today, reports AFP.

"We will reward each of the seven players with 100,000 Malaysian dollars (40,000 US) Anwar said, adding that the Badminton Association of Malaysia would get (500,000 dollars) (200,000 US).

Malaysia, spearheaded by 24 year-old singles ace Rashid Sidek edged archrival Indonesia 3-2 in a titanic six hour battle that ended in the early hours of Sunday.

Besides Rashid's triumph over Indonesian No 1 Ardy Wiranata, Malaysia also picked up points through second singles Foo Kok Keong and its young second doubles pair of Cheah Soon Kit and Soo Beng Kiang.

Anwar said that some 2.5 million dollars (one million US) was pledged by companies and the National Sports Council to the players and coaches if they succeeded in winning the silver trophy which only Malaysia, Indonesia and China have won in the past.

He said that an exclusive golf club had pledged life memberships worth 75,000 dollars (30,000 US) to the players and coaches while Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, currently holidaying abroad, was also expected to reward the players on his return home.

Konishiki falters yet again

TOKYO, May 17: American sumo giant Konishiki tumbled to his third humiliating loss Saturday, in an anticlimactic finish to weeks of debate on whether he should be the first foreigner promoted to sumo's highest rank, reports AP.

Konishiki was widely expected to be promoted had he won the current 15-day tournament, which started last Sunday, with a good record. But the head of the Sumo Association, Dewanoumi, said after Konishiki lost balance and fell face-forward Saturday that promotion now would be "difficult."

Konishiki's closeness to the coveted 'yokozuna', or 'grand champion', rank has forced sumo officials to debate whether foreigners should be allowed to reach the peak of the traditional sport, which has Shinto religious overtones. The controversy exploded last month when two publications quoted Konishiki as saying racism was blocking him from promotion. He later denied making the comment.

Despite the pressure and tension created by the controversy, Konishiki seemed ready to wrestle his way to promotion on the first four days of the tournament, easily beating two fellow Hawaiian wrestlers and two others.

But never strong under pressure, he then lost to three lower-ranked wrestlers, each time in embarrassing fashion. A sullen-looking Konishiki was speechless as he left the dressing room after the bout Saturday.

"It's disappointing after all the anticipation we had of his being promoted," said an announcer on the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK). Konishiki, 28, whose real name is Salevaa Atisano, now holds the No. 2 rank of 'ozeki', or 'champion'.

The former American football player from Honolulu has risen higher than any other foreigner in sumo history, and is closer to promotion to yokozuna than any other wrestler.

Wrestlers must win two consecutive tournaments or compile a record 'of equal worth' to gain the grand champion's belt.

In the major tournaments held six times each year, Konishiki has won three since 1989, including two of the last three tournaments.

With an unimpressive 4-3 record in the current tournament, however, his hopes for the championship and promotion have virtually vanished.

The only other foreigner to

have captured a tournament title was former 'sekiwake', or 'junior champion,' Jesse Kuhaulua, who won in July 1972. Kuhaulua, also a Hawaii native, wrestled under the name Takamiyama.

Since his debut 10 years ago, Konishiki has become a celebrity in Japan. His lavish wedding to a Japanese model in February was televised live nationwide, and rubber Konishiki masks can be found in novelty stores.

Ironically, during the tournament, Konishiki became the highest-ranked active wrestler after the surprise retirement of yokozuna Hokutoumi, which left sumo without a yokozuna for the first time in 60 years.

Aussie booters hold Dutch in qualifier

SYDNEY, May 17: Australia withstood a wave of second half attacks and held on to draw 1-1 with the Netherlands in an Olympic Games qualifying soccer match played Sunday at the Sydney Football Stadium, reports AP.

Fullback Tony Vidmar shot Australia into the lead in the 25th minute, but the Netherlands equalized in the 49th minute when Australian defender Shaun Murphy headed a corner kick into his own net.

The two teams meet again in Utrecht on May 24 with the winner advancing to the Barcelona Olympic Games tournament.

The Australians had the better of the first half, but the Dutch dominated the second period.

"The own goal so soon after halftime really deflated us," said Australian coach Eddie Thomson. "We let Holland get on top."

"We've got a lot of things to work on, but it's not over yet." Vidmar's goal gave the Australians a real lift. He slotted home a low drive past goalkeeper Edwin Zoetebeier after the Dutch defence failed to clear a free-kick.

The Dutch fought their way back into the match, however, with SVV-Dordrecht midfielder Dean Gorre a combative influence.



Department of Finance who retained the DU inter-department cricket championship by beating International Relations in the final yesterday at the Jagannath Hall ground. —Star photo