

Reefat for Asian junior chess

Sports Reporter
Two-time national chess champion Reefat bin-Sattar will represent Bangladesh in the Asian junior chess under-20 championship to be held in Qatar Aug 31-Sept 14.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation has also decided to send national sub-junior champion Shawkat Hossain Pallab to take part in the fifth Asian under-16 competition to be held simultaneously in Doha under the auspices of the Qatar Chess Association.

Former national champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman, dethroned by Reefat in 1991, will accompany the two players as coach-cum-official.

The hosts will provide free board and food for the squad. The National Sports Council is paying for the air fare for the players while Tahmid will bear his own travel expenses.

A FIDE recognised event, the Asian junior meet, held in Dubai last year, offers the champion and automatic International Master (IM) title. National runner-up and former champion Ziaur Rahman who participated in the Dubai meet managed a fourth position.

The champion of the under-16 championship will earn the FIDE Master title.

Reefat had won the Asian under-16 or sub-junior championship in 1989.

Niaz shares lead in Lloyds chess

Sports Reporter
Grandmaster Niaz Morshed registered his third straight win to move to the top position in the Lloyds Bank chess competition now being held in London, according to information received yesterday from the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Niaz, who beat British GM Malcolm Payne in the third round, shares the top position with world No. 10 Belgian GM Mikhail Gurevich and Dutch GM Niboyev.

Three British Grandmaster — Michael Adams, Jonathan Speelman and John Nunn — jointly share the second place with two and a half points each.

Nineteen Grandmasters are taking part in this tournament which began on August 22.

BSWA's discussion meeting

Sports Reporter
A discussion meeting on 'Olympics and Bangladesh' will be held today at the National Sports Council conference room.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will be the chief guest at the meeting convened by the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association.

Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Bashir Ahmed, the President and the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association respectively, will also take part in the discussions.

The programme is scheduled to begin at 4 in the afternoon.

Jahangir keen to get back

KARACHI, Pakistan, Aug 26: Six times world champion Jahangir Khan will make his return to the international squash circuit in the World Open in Johannesburg next month, reports Reuter.

Jahangir, forced out of the game in February by a lumber spine injury, said on Tuesday he had recovered completely and was keen to regain the world crown he lost to Australia's Rodney Martin last year.

He said he also planned to play in the Dutch Open in late October and the European Open in Kell, Germany, the following month.

The World Open begins on September 21.

Sabatini sails into 3rd round

SAN DIEGO, California, Aug 26: Top seed Gabriela Sabatini crushed American Kimberly Po 6-0, 6-0 in 45 minutes to sail into the third round of the 225,000 dollar Mazda Tennis Classic on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The fourth-ranked Argentine, who received a first round bye in the 28-player hardcourt tune-up for the US Open, could have been off court even quicker but was content to stay on the baseline and wait for her opponent to make mistakes.

Fifth-seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia used an aggressive serve and volley game to frustrate Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist 6-3, 6-3 and Kimiko Date of Japan eliminated former top-10 player Pam Shriver by the identical score in first round play.

Judith Wiesner of Austria won the right to face second-seeded defending champion

Faridpur deserving champs



Sports Reporter
Faridpur DSA deservedly dethroned Dhaka DSA, the reigning champions, to annex the 12th national youth hockey championship yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

On a rain soaked pitch last year's runners-up Faridpur improved upon their performance to win the championship for the second time only with a clear and comfortable two-goal victory over holders Dhaka.

Although the winners did not let down those who put their shirts on them on the basis of their performance in this tournament, the match produced nothing noteworthy apart from the two goals that came as the natural conclusion of their dominance, particularly in the second half of the match.

Reigning champions Dhaka, however, drew the first blood with defender Ejaz building a fine move in tandem with Nasir in the 17th minute but Faridpur custodian Mizanur Rahman brought off a fine close range save to keep his side afloat.

Faridpur took time to settle down and gradually stepped up pressure. Most of their moves were engineered down the left flank where Wahiduzzaman Peter showed fine turn of speed but lacked in control. Faridpur skipper Musa Miah was in fine form flogging most of the sorties made by the opponents and supplied some good, long and telling throughs for his forwards. Star forward Giasuddin Rubel, on whom the outstation team depended heavily for goals, was heavily marked by the Dhaka defenders who more often than not indulged in furtive but painful tackles to stop the speedy Faridpur forwards.

Dynamics is not all in a ball game; marksmanship is necessary as well, and in the first 35 minutes of the game this was badly missed as both teams entered each other's territory without ever managing a crack at the goal.

Faridpur started the second half with a felt sense of urgency and took lead in the 43rd minute of the match.

Yusuf Ali Biswas of Faridpur ran down the right flank to send in a screaming low cross from the right and an unmarked Wahiduzzaman Peter deflected the ball home much to the delight of his teammates (1-0).

The goal really boosted the favourites who had the unimaginative Dhaka players grouping with some, fast, cohesive hockey in the post-lemon session. Wahiduzzaman twice

broke clear of the Dhaka defence only to lose control. The scorer was guilty of miffing up the best chance of the day when he failed to get the ball past a lone Javed, the Dhaka goalkeeper. After the dapper Yusuf had caused confusion in the Dhaka defence with a fine piece of stick work.

Gradually navy blue seemed to outnumber the light blue in the green background as



RUBEL... man-of-the-match

Faridpur took firm control of the match.

However, Dhaka once came extremely close to scoring when Nasir's cross from the left went a begging with Faridpur custodian Mizan well beaten, but Mohammad Hossain of Dhaka slid across the turf in vain as his stretched stick could not contact the speeding ball across the goal-mouth.

The rare breakthrough Dhaka move shook Faridpur out of their slumber of complacency and Rubel, Wahid, Musa, Yusuf went all out to ensure their slender lead. The match virtually remained confined to the Dhaka citadel at the fag end and the expected second goal coincided with the final whistle of the match.

A lovely split pass down the middle set Dewan Shaiful Islam of Faridpur on course and

the helpless goalkeeper rushed out only to allow the menacing forward find the cage in the 60th minute.

The goal created a bit of confusion as Dhaka players looked at the umpire for an offside but the official pointed toward the centre and before Dhaka could recover from the shock of seeing the writing on the wall, it was all over.

Ehtesham and Tareq of Dhaka and Yusuf of Faridpur were shown the yellow cards for dangerous fouls.

UNSAVOURY EPISODE

An unsavoury incident took place at the end of the match when some of the Dhaka players, perhaps driven by frustration, chased the Faridpur players who were on their way to complete the victory lap.

Home Secretary Manzurul Karim gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

Otasuddin Rubel of Faridpur had the rare distinction of winning two awards — the best player of the tournament and the highest scorer for his eight goals.

Meanwhile, a show cause notice regarding eligibility of some Dhaka players on age grounds reached the Bangladesh Hockey Federation during the match. Jessor DSA, who lost to Dhaka in the first semifinal, lodged a rather shady protest with the BHF. In a meeting called prior to the final, BHF rejected Jessor's plea, which prompted the outstation team to go to the court.

TEAMS

FARIDPUR DSA: Mamun Hasan, Isa Miah, Asad Bin Kader, Abu Taher, Musa Miah, Yusuf Ali Biswas, Nasruddin, Al-Emran, Rubel, Dewan Shaiful Islam, Wahiduzzaman (Anwar Ali).

DHAKA DSA: Javed, Fayaz, Ejaz, Taherul Islam, Khokon, Ehtesham, Tarique, Abdul Wahab, Nasruddin, Mohammed Hossain (Selim), Asadullah (Jahangir).

Umpires — Mir Monowar Ali, Aslam Belim

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champion	Runners-up
1975	Dhaka DSA	Faridpur DSA
1976	Dhaka DSA	Dhaka Education Board
1977	Dhaka Education Board	Dhaka DSA
1978	not held	
1979	Dhaka Education Board	Dhaka DSA
1980	Dhaka Metropolitan S A	
1981-82	not held	
1983	Dhaka DSA and Dhaka Education Board (Joint champions)	
1984-86	not held	
1987	Faridpur DSA	Jessor DSA
1988	Patuakhali DSA	B K S P
1989	B K S P	Dhaka DSA
1990	B K S P	Dhaka DSA
1991	Dhaka DSA	Faridpur DSA
1992	Faridpur DSA	Dhaka DSA

Asir to lead Bangladesh in Asian Juniors

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday announced the 21-member squad for the second Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament to be held from September 11 to 23 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The contingent comprises 16 players and five officials. Bangladesh will play their first match against China on September 11. However, the date of departure of Bangladesh team has not yet been finalised mainly because of financial problems.

Officials are still in a dilemma whether to incur a huge expenditure by reaching Kuala Lumpur early, thereby paying through the nose for checking into costly hotels or to avail the hospitality of the hosts at a subsidised rate which will be operational only a day before the competition.

Although it is almost sure that the dilemma will not reign long the 'Bangladeshi boys' will have a tough time there. Bangladesh will play

South Korea on September 12. The boys will look for a win against Sri Lanka on September 16. Singapore will be the next opponents on September 24 while Bangladesh will play their last match against fancied India on September 30.

Veteran goalkeeper Rahmat Ali Asir has been named the captain while the fifteen other players are Jahangir Alam, Raibuddin Ahmed, Khwaja Irteza Qader Gudu, Mamunur Rashid, Zahurul Islam Mitu, Khurshid Alam, Mahfuz Alam Nixon, Kazi A Zafar Tapan, Mahub Harun (V Captain), Haider Alam, Md Sadek, Alamgir Alam, Abdur Rashid, Akhtar Hossain and Zahid Biswas.

The four stand-bys are Shamim Ahmed, Jewel Lussal, Biaka Lussal and Zahid Hossain Raju.

The five officials are Ibrahim Saber (Manager), Monowar Hossain (Asst Manager), Ehtesham Sultan (Coach), Mir Mohammad Monowar Ali (Judge), Mirza Farid Ahmed (Umpire).

Besides, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation President Alamgir Mohammed Adil will go there as a special guest.

ATP's top 20

MONACO, Aug 26: Leading men's rankings issued by the Association of Tennis Professionals on Monday:

1. Jim Courier (US) 3,690 points
2. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 3,503
3. Pete Sampras (US) 3,116
4. Michael Chang (US) 2,179
5. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 2,154
6. Petr Korda (Czechoslovakia) 1,895
7. Boris Becker (Germany) 1,892
8. Andre Agassi (US) 1,889
9. Ivan Lendl (US) 1,873
10. Carlos Costa (Spain) 1,655
11. Michael Stich (Germany) 1,584
12. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 1,551
13. Guy Forget (France) 1,524
14. Maltvai Washington (US) 1,523
15. Richard Krajcek (Netherlands) 1,385
16. Aaron Krickstein (US) 1,379
17. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1,216
18. John McEnroe (US) 1,210
19. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 1,207
20. Alexander Volkov (CIS) 1,197



Members of the Faridpur DSA squad after winning the 12th national youth under-18 title yesterday at the Hockey Stadium. — Star photo



Participants of the Danish 17th national TT championship at yesterday's inaugural ceremony at the NSC gymnasium. — Star photo

National TT underway

Sports Reporter
Favourites for the boys' singles title enjoyed absolute supremacy on the inaugural day of the week-long 17th national table tennis championships at the National Sports Council yesterday.

On the opening day, some 64 encounters of the boys' singles were decided with defending champion Manash Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), last year's runner-up Md Hanif Hamlet of Bangladesh Ansars, the 1992 schools table tennis champion Md Mahabub and runner-up Emdad Kabir Shaon of BTMC moving into the next round.

Fancied Selim Reza and Golam Mainuddin Rubel of Bangladesh Ansars also qualified for the second round. Manash outclassed Imon, an independent player, 21-4, 21-6 while Hamlet outplayed Tuhin — another independent paddler — 21-11 and 21-6.

Mahabub beat Saraj 21-8, 21-7 while Shaon got a walkover against Rezwana, yet another independent player.

One hundred and twenty players in eight different groups took part in the knock-out boys' singles matches decided in best-of-three sets.

A record number of 290 players and 37 teams are taking part in ten different events. These are the men's team, women's team, boys' team, men's singles, women's singles, boys' singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, boys' doubles and mixed doubles.

Some more matches of the boys' singles along with other events will be played today.

The women's team matches begin today and the final will be held tomorrow while the men's and boys' team competitions also start today with the finals scheduled for August 29.

The men's singles are to start tomorrow and the ladies individual competition on Saturday. The meet will conclude Sept 1.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka inaugurated the meet organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation.

Danish Condensed Milk Bangladesh Limited is sponsoring the biggest table tennis competition of the country.

Biman, who bagged the men's and women's team titles of the 16th nationals, definitely start as the favourites.

The Biman men's team includes the defending singles champion Musaddequl Haq Rochi, last year's runner-up Saiful Haq Saadi, former champion Nasimul Hassan Kochi, Syed Bakhtiar Uddin and Mahmud Sobel.

BCCB finalises players' pool

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday announced the players' pool for the last two cricket seasons — 1989-90 and 1990-91 — now find themselves in the select club.

The seventeen players are: Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Golam Nawsher Prince, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Akram Khan, Athar Ali, Azhar Hossain Shantu, Zahid Razzak Masum, Enamul Haq Moni, Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Jahangir Alam Talukdar Dulu, Saiful Islam, Mahbubur Rahman Selim, Farooq Ahmed, Selim Shahed, Shahinawaz Shahid Shauhu, Nurul Abedin Nobel and Jahangir Alam.

Presided over by board president Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, the meeting called in response to a memorandum submitted by the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA) to review the decision of a pool comprising the top national players, decided that the stipulation of three pool players per team will remain valid. However, the BCCB changed the period of

consideration of national team player from three years to two. As a result, players who have been representing the Bangladesh cricket team for the last two cricket seasons — 1989-90 and 1990-91 — now find themselves in the select club.

However, the notable omissions from the pool were former Bangladesh skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, Jahangir Shah Badshah, Rafiqul Alam, Golam Faruq Suru and Harunur Rashid Liton, who have not done national duty for the past two seasons.

Rafiqul Alam has been spared because he tendered his letter of retirement im-

Pakistan 151 for 5

SCARBOROUGH, England, Aug 26: Pakistan were 151 for five (Sohab Mohammad 57 not out), at the close on the first day of their three-day cricket match against a World XI today, reports Reuter.

Connors eager to meet old-timers

WASHINGTON, Aug 26: Jimmy Connors will compete next year in a new tennis circuit for players 35 years of age and older, reports AP.

"They all want to play. It's a great way to get all the guys I grew up with back into the sport and back playing again," Connors said Tuesday in New York, where he is preparing for next week's US Open.

Besides Connors, who has committed to play all five to seven events during the inaugural season of the Champions Tour, others who have indicated interest in playing in-

Seles, Courier top seeds for US Open

NEW YORK, Aug 26: The two top-ranked players in the world, Monica Seles and Jim Courier, were made the top seeds on Wednesday for the US Open Tennis Championships, which begin next Monday, reports AP.

This is the first time either player has been seeded first in the US Open, the US Tennis Association said. Seles is the defending champion, while Courier lost in the final last year to Stefan Edberg.

Edberg, of Sweden is seeded No 2 in the men's tournament, while Wimbledon Champion Steffi Graf of Germany is the women's No 2 seed.

Stich suffers a sun-stroke

SCHENECTADY, New York, Aug 26: Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany collapsed after completing a first round win in high heat and humidity at the 255,000 dollars OTB International tennis Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The top seed and defending champion needed a second set tiebreak to eliminate American qualifier Martin Blackman 6-3, 7-6 then slumped to the ground after his post-match interview.

"Michael was dehydrated," tournament director Nitly Singh said. "They were thinking of giving him an IV but he appears to be okay now."

But Stich said he had a surprisingly tough time with the unknown Blackman.

clude Bjorn Borg, Vitas Gerulaitis, Guillermo Vilas, Jose Luis Clerc, John Lloyd, Roscoe Tanner, Dick Stockton and Johan Kriek.

"A lot of the guys have been out of tennis 8, 9, 10 years," Connors said. "Borg is one of them. They can still play."

Connors has won 109 singles titles, more than any other male player in history, including two Wimbledon, five US Opens and one Australian

Early birthday for Connors

NEW YORK, Aug 26: Jimmy Connors, who made a big deal out of his age with last year's success at the US Open, celebrated his 40th birthday eight days early at a gala party, reports AP.

"I'm 40, there's no getting around it," said Connors on Tuesday. "I divide it in half. The first 20 years, I was learning to play tennis. The second 20, I've been playing. I'm a young man when it comes to playing."



JIMMY CONNORS

Connors, whose birthday is Sept 2, reached the semifinals of the US Open a year ago but said he doesn't view his age as an important factor.

"They were trying to push me out of this game 10 years ago," he said. "I'm still here."

And he plans to be here, too. "There's a 35-and-over tour next year," he said. "I'll be on that for sure."

Still, he is realistic about his prospects for this year's Open which begins next Monday. "I hope the expectations are not too high," he said. "I don't know if I can hold up for two weeks."

Then he brightened. "I play every day like it's the most important match of my life," he said. "That might be good enough."

diately before the formation of the pool.

Gazi Ashraf Lipu, the general secretary of the DCPA, expressed his resentment over the latest decision of the BCCB. The present GMCC and former Abahani player argued over the span of time for eligibility in the pool saying that he should have been in the pool even by the two-year consideration, saying that he was in the Bangladesh team that took part in the ICC tournament in July 1989.

However, BCCB treasurer Reza-e-Karim said that the time span for consideration began from April, that year — exactly the time when the Bangladesh squad was picked.

Meanwhile, the league committee will hold a meeting today to take some decisions regarding the players' transfers for the coming season.

The BCCB selection committee is also likely to announce the name of the preliminary squad for the forthcoming Asia Cup to be held in Pakistan next October.

Open. He also spent 159 consecutive weeks ranked as the No. 1 player in the world, the longest uninterrupted hold on this position in the history of men's tennis.

Connors said he will continue to play the regular ATP Tour, although it will be a "cutback schedule."

"I'm going to have to get in shape to play with those guys," said Gerulaitis. "I think it would work. They'd find a way to market it."

"It's a lot different from golf just because physically it's not as demanding playing golf. And they make it a lot easier to play

golf. Those courses, they're almost playing off women's tee.

"There's no way to shorten the tennis court or make the ball lighter. But while these guys are young enough, you still can put on a really good competitive match of our group of guys. And once we lay down the first four or five years, then I think it will perpetuate."

The Champions Tour will be owned and managed by Net Assets Inc. a new company which will be headquartered in Washington, DC Connors will serve as president of the new company, while Ray Benton, former president and chief operating officer of ProServ Inc. will be chairman and chief executive officer.

Zelesny stays top

LAHTI, Finland, Aug 26: Czechoslovak Olympic champion Jan Zelesny confirmed his position as the world's leading javelin thrower when he again beat silver medalist Seppo Raty of Finland at an athletics meeting on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Zelesny had three throws beyond 86 metres, all of them ahead of Raty's best attempt of 85.10.

The Czechoslovak's best throw measured 88.34, 1.32 metres short of his gold medal distance at the Barcelona Olympics.

Two other Finns, Harri Hakkarainen and Kimmo Kinnunen, filled the next two places with throws of 82.70 and 82.06 metres respectively.

Olympic women's long jump champion Heike Drechsler narrowly beat Barcelona silver medalist Inessa Kravets of the Ukraine but the German's leap of 6.90 metres was well short of the 7.14 she achieved at the Games.

Kravets jumped 6.87 while Jelena Persina from Kazakhstan was third with 6.59.