Sports Reporter Abahani Krira Chakra, the reigning Dhaka First division football league champions. have moved into the quarterfi-

nals of the Indian Indepen dence Day Cup tournament. now being held in Nowgong. Assam, according to Golam Rabbani Helal, an Abahani offi-Helal, who had a telephonic

conversation with Pradip Hazari, a joint secretary of the Nowgong Sports Association. said that Abahani beat Banpur United Club by two-goals to one in the pre-quarter finals vesterday.

All three goals came in the second half of the match.

Mamun Joarder put Abahani ahead in the very first minute of the second half[1-0] Dhali drew level for Banpur

United in the 30th minute

from a penalty (1-1). Nira scored the winner for Abahant in the 35th minute (2-

Despite these two goals, the Abahani forwards reportedly wasted half a dozen scoring chances.

Abahani will now play Assam Police in the quarterfinals tomorrow(Thursday).

Reefat, Pallab post wins in Asian jr chess

By M.I. Khan Tojo

Bangladesh national champion Reefat bin-Sattar won his opening match of the Asian Junior championship in Qatar vesterday beating Mohsen Gorbant of Iran, according to a fax message received in Dhaka last

Twenty-four participants are competing in this under-20 tournament being hosted by the Qatar Chess Association.

V. Tkachev of Kazakhstan

who has a FIDE rating of 2430. is the top seed in the meet followed by Tu Hoang Thong of Vietnam while Reefat, who has a rating of 2335, is the third seed. Another Bangladeshi

prospect. Shawkat Hossain Pallab, also won his opening round match in the fifth Asian under-16 (sub-junior) meet beating Mazdak Bakhtiary of Both tournaments, to be

decided on an 11-rounds Swiss league, are being held simultaneously.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Lalbagh Sporting Club and City Club won their respective matches of the Second Divi sion league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Lalbagh edged past Rayer-

bazar AC 1-0 in the day's first match. Md Alamgir scored the de-

eider in the 52nd minute. Nasimuzzaman of Lalbagh

was sent off by referee Nasir Chowdhury City Club beat Chalantika Krira Chakra also by a solitary

goal in the other match of the Rezaur Rahman Sagar got

the winner in the 56th minute. Shahariar and Sagar of City Club and Solaiman and Rezaul Karim of Chalantika invited the yellow cards for rough play. Meanwhile, no matches of

the Second Division league will be tomorrow because of the Ma-o-Mant Gold Cup under-14 soccer final.

Under the changed schedule. Muslim Institute will play City Club while Prantik Krira Chakra will take on Azad Sporting Club on September 5 at 3 and 4:30 pm respectively at the Dhaka Stadium.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bangladesh Boys vs BG Press (3 pm: Dhaka Stadium). Janata Club vs Malibagh Abhijatrik (4:30 pm: Dhaka Sta-

Div III Soccer

Sports Reporter

Both matches of the Pragati Insurance Third Division foot ball league ended in a goal less draws at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Maghbazar Krira Chakra shared points with Badda Jagarani Sangha in the day's first match.

Shamim of Maghbazar and Monir Hossain of Jagarani Sangha received yellow cards.

Rahmatganj Sporting Club and Fire Service SDS Club also shared points after their encounter ended in a goalless

Maqsud of Rahmatganj and Shahidullah of Fire Service were shown the yellow cards.

Schools soccer

Shahjahanpur Railway Govt High School became champtons in the Mottiheel Thana inter-school football tournament beating Motifheel Govt Boys School 2-1 in the final in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

12 schools took part in the tournament.

The champion trio: The victors of the different singles event of the 17th national Danish table tennis championship which concluded at the NSC gymnasium yesterday. From left to right - women's champion Zulekha (Bangladesh Ansars), boys champion Mahabub (BTMC) and men's winner Rochi (Biman). - Star phote

Rochi extends reign Sports Reporter

Musaddig-ul-Huq Rochi, the trim. cool paddler with a receding hairline, retained his men's singles tit-

le yesterday, the concluding day of 17th national table championships to complete a hattrick of titles at the National Sports Council gymnasium. While it was the fourth suc

cessive triumps for the shortstatured Bangladesh Biman player. zippy Zulekha Akhtar of Ansars relived sensation after eleven long years to lift the women's singles championship, dethroning eleventime champion but a handicapped Zobera Rahman Linu. The boys' singles category saw a new champion in Mahboob of Bangladesh Textiles Mills (BTMC). The man who broke a lance

with Rochi in the final was none other than teammate and three-time champion, a bit heavy. Saidul Huq Sadi who, with a judicious mixture of forehands and backhands, took the first set from the favourite and the eventual five-time champion Rochi at 17-21.

The left-handed Rochi then romped home in the second by a flattering score of 21-10. A rejuvenated Rochi pocketed the third as easily, 21-11, with Sadi looking tired and a little out of gas.

After a rather long break. understandably for the malaise the suffocating heat was causing, the southpaw sealed the fate of the match in a clinical fashion, taking the fourth set

In the women's final, held earlier in the morning. Zulekha Akhtar showed unwavering concentration and determination in an epic clash with arch-rival Zobera Rahman Linu; to regain her paradise after eleven years.

Champion in 1981, Zulekha this year started her campaign like a person with a mission. and her feat was an object lesson for the younger players.

Not endowed with the grace which the little Linu has. Zulekha fought against all odds with a cultivated weapon named perseverance to take the women's doubles crown and then adorn it with the

coup de grace yesterday. Zulekha started in a rip-

roaring fashion, taking the first two sets at 21-9 and 21-11 with a remarkably nervy Linu unable to justice to her fame Champions always have some thing up their sleeves to testify their rating and Linu did just that from third set onwards. The belated but expected turnaround took place as the svelte paddler drew level tak ing the two successive sets by identical margins of 21-17.

But the president of the immortals could not have allot ted two paradises to two at a time and one had to be sacrificed. Linu's left foot gave in and from then on the player who had monopolized the women's singles title for almost an era hobbled and hopped to lose the fifth set at 17-21. The few pearly beads that Linu tried to hide while receiving the runner-up trophy were more than enough to comment on the sad saga of lost paradise. A vastly improved Ahmed

Munir Hussain Sagar, the younger brother of former national champion Saduddin Kislu impressed spectators as probably the best boy paddler of the meet but failed to finish off his dream run as Mahboob of BTMC took the boys' singles title in a pulsating final.

Mahboob won the first set 21-18 . only to be brought down at 19-21 in the next. However, as the match progressed. Sagar failed to sustain his wide array of strokes due to lack of concentration and impetuosity.

Mahboob won the third set at 21-14 and then followed it up with 21-15 victory in the ultimate set to emerge as the new national champion in the boys singles category. Although Sagar could not

end his spirited campaign for Munshiganj in style, his elder brother Kislu. the BTMC skipper and a former men's champion, quietly claimed the 'double' by sharing the honours of being the men's doubles and mixed doubles champions. After having taken the

men's double with Akhlaque the day before. Kislu beautifully shielded his injured partner Linu in the mixed doubles final to take the crown beating Zulekha and Mustafa at 21-13-21-14, 21-15. Minister for Agriculture and

Irrigation Major General (rtd) Majid-ul-Huq gave away the prizes as chief guest. The seven-day long tourna-

ment, which began on August 26 under the aegis of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Fed eration and the financial benevolence of Danish Condensed Milk Limited, featured a record participation by 37 teams and more than 250

Bangladesh Biman retained the men's team championship while Bangladesh Ansars finished runners-up.

in the women's team championship Ansars won the crown dethroning Bangladesh Biman.

Boys' singles

ROLL OF HONOUR

A CHAR	TARGET OF GRANDS AND		
1974	M Noor Ahmed	Munira Helen	Mustafa Shamim
1975	A Aziz Muttaqi	KZ Dila	MAK Sumit
1976	A Aziz Muttaqi	Zobera Linu	Maruf
1978	M Shamim	KZ Dila	Maruf
1979	MAK Sumit	Linu	NH Kocht
1980	MAK Sumit	KZ Dila	Manzur Ahmed
1981	SH Sadi	Zulekha Akhtar	SAS Happy
1982	NH Kochi	Z R Linu	SAS Happy
1983	NH Kochi	Z R Linu	Ibrahim Hossain
1984	SH Sadi	Z R Linu	Naimul Huq Munna
1985	SH Sadi	Z R Linu	Akhlagur Rahman
1986	MH Rochi	Z R Linu	Akhlagur Rahman
1987	SA Kislu	TT Binu	Akhlagur Rahman
1988	SA Kislu	ZR Linu	Akhlaque
1989	MH Rochi	ZR Linu	Akhlaque
1990	MH Rochi	ZR Linu	GM Rubel
1991	MH Rochi	ZR Linu	Manas Chowdhury
1992	MH Rochi	Zulekha Akhtar	

Feni, Tangail in Ma-o-Moni final



Tangatl DSA will play Feni DSA in the final of the 1992 Ma-o-Moni Gold Cup national youth under-14 football tournament tomorrow

at the Dhaka Stadium. Tangail beat Satkhira 3-2 in

the first semifinal while Fent outplayed Sylhet 3-1 in the other semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

For the Feni supporters, the victory in the semifinal was doubly satisfying as their gifted striker Lenin scored all the three goals for the team.

It was the second hat-trick of the eight-team final round, the first one being slammed by

Div II chess on

Sports Reporter

Narayanganj Chess Club.

Golden Chess Club, South Kamalapur Chess Club, Jahangirnagar University, Notre Dame Chess Club and Arunayatan Sangha made a good beginning by wining their respective first round matches of the Second Division chess league that began yesterday at the National Sports Council chess room.

Twenty -eight teams are taking part in the eight-round Swiss league meet.

Mattur Rahman, a joint secretary of the Bangladesh Chess Federation inaugurated the competition.

Abdullah-Al-Bakt of Jhenidah against Sylhet in one of the Group A league match on Au-Sylhet, who made the semi-

finals as the Group A runners up with only three points. were no match for Fent, who got the better of their opponents in all departments. Inspired by thousands of

fans, Lenin put Feni in the lead in the 32nd minute of the first half (1-0) He made it 2-0 in the 18th

minute of the second half[2-0]. Limon reduced the margin for Sylhet in the 30th minute, much against the run of play Lenin completed his hat-

trick to consolidate Fent's position two minutes from time (3-1).Anwar of Fent and Limon of Sylhet received the yellow

cards from referee Abdul Aziz for rough play. Earlier in the evening Tan-Shah soccer semis

Sports Reporter Kashmitola Shaheen Smriti Sangsad face Lalbagh Tarun Sangha at 3 p.m today in the first semifinal of the Shah Sports Cup soccer tournament at the Hazaribagh Park ground.

The second semifinal of the

meet, organised by the Ganaktuly Kishore Football XI. will be played between Gulam Mustafa Lane Kishore Sangha and Swadesh Samajkalyan Sangha on Friday at the same venue.

gail beat Satkhira by three goals to two. The match was a keenlycontested one with attacks and

counter attacks. Tangail, who enjoyed slight supremacy, led 2-0 at the breather.

Rana put Tangail in the lead in the ninth minute(1-0). Hanif Pradhan doubled the

margin in the 14th minute(2-Satkhira, who made the

semifinals from Group B by virtue of a better goal difference, were not ready to give up the hopes of qualifying for the final and they came back in the game when Humayun Kabir scored in the sixth minute of the second half (2-1). But promising striker Hanti

Pradhan of Tangail got his second goal of the match to shatter Satkhira's dreams in the ninth minute(3-1). Yet the Satkhira boys fought

back to make the semifinal an enjoyable affair. Satkhira intensified their

pressure and Igbal Kabir Khan once again reduced the margin in the 28th minute (3-2). Satkhira tried their level best but failed to score during the remaining 12 minutes of

The final between Tangail

and Feni will be held tomorrow Thursday at 5:30 pm. Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia will witness the match as chief guest and give away the trophies among the win-

Collegian runs Courier close



1: Two aces beat the wild card as Grand Slam winner this year top pro Jim Coushare the same coach and rier barely edged top collegian Alex O'Brien at the US Open on

For most of the 3-hour, 18minute match, there was little difference between them except Courier's cap. The same size and similar in style. Courier came from the school of hard groundstrokes, and O'Brien from Stanford to meet before 20,000 fans in a packed stadium. On the same night Steffi

Monday night in a four-set

showdown, report agencies.

Graf declared herself fit for the US Open and proved it by opening with a 6-0, 6-2 annihilation of American Halle Ctoffi. "My shoulder has been really fine for the past week now. without any problems at all,"

her right shoulder which forced her out of the Canadian Open two weeks ago. Graf, who is seeded second here, blamed three weeks of playing on clay courts at the Federation Cup and the

Graf said of a chronic injury to

Olympics for the sorness. Monica Seles, the defending women's champion. lenced critics of her noisy grunting by softly smothering Audra Keller 6-1, 6-0 in a fast 45 minutes on a lightly-scheduled opening day of the year's final Grand Slam.

Courier barely avoided becoming only the third topseeded man to lose at the Open since 1950, beating O'Brien 4-6, 6-1, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) on the strength of a few harder shots and a pair of providential aces in the tiebreak. The first ace, which drew a

look of disbelief from O'Brien. gave Courier quadruple match point. O'Brien fought off three of them, but Courier closed it out with his 16th ace of the Officen, ranked No. 185,

came in as a wild card after

Coaching for

Pioneer booters

starts Sept 6

Sports Reporter

programme for selected foot-

ballers of the Pioneer league is

expected to begin from

September 6 at the Dhaka

The government has sanc-

tioned Taka 3,98,000 for the

talent spotting programme

which will be conducted in

In the first phase, 250 play-

ers of the 85 Pioneer clubs will

participate in a three-week

long preliminary coaching ses-

different zones in the city.

sion to be conducted at five

league, which concluded in

March last is also divided in

coaches will be in charge of

running the programme in

On completion of the 21

day course, 90 players - 18

from each zone - will be

with these players who will

will be selected for another

month-long coaching pro-

gramme under the senior

the course. Kazi Mishu secre-

tary of the Dhaka Metropolis

Football Association (DMFA).

the organisers, told The Daily

Star that it will definitely help

spot talented young players

who could be of great use to

clubs, which cannot afford

good coaching programme due

to lack of funds will have an

ideal chance to train their

Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka

will inaugurate the coaching

tribute cheques for Taka

4.20,000 among the clubs

which participated in the last

Khaleda Zia promised the

grant during the inaugural cer-

emony of the league last

December at the Dhaka

Stadium which she had at-

BDR soccer

Rifles (BDR) inter-sector foot-

ball tournament beating Dina-

jpur sector 3-0 Tuesday at the

Dinajpur Sector ground, re-

Sepoy Shaffqul Islam of

Nine sector teams partici-

Deputy Director General of

Rangpur was adjudged the

best-player-of-the-competition.

pated in the week long meet.

BDR Brig TUM Iftekharul

Basher witnessed the final as

chief guest and distributed

tended as chief guest.

Prime Minister Begum

The minister, will also dis-

programme as chief guest.

State Minister for Youth and

"Besides, the Pioneer league

the national youth team.

players," Mishu said.

Pioneer league.

ports UNB.

Explaining the objective of

Five teams will be formed

Finally 63 junior footballers

picked for further training.

take part in a tournament.

coaches of the country.

The 1991 Pioneer football

A coach and two assistant

Stadium.

three phases.

five zones.

each zone.

The intensive coaching

winning the NCAA championship. He and Courier, a final ist here last year and a double



MONICA SELES

"I had no idea what he' ranked," Courier said. "He's a better player than that."

Courier recalled playing O'Brien often in juniors when they were young teens.

"We'd play on the baseline. run each other ragged, Courier said. That's about the way they played Monday, except that O'Brien showed a clever and adroit use of touch volleys that Courier has never mastered.

"I wasn't thrilled at the prospect of drawing Courier in the first round," O'Brien said. "Then again, it is a great opportunity. It's a great match to play because I have nothing to But Graf, US Open cham

pion in 1988 and 1989. showed no lingering effects as the bombarded Coiffi with ferocious serves and ground strokes. "She hit it incredibly hard on every shot," Cioffi said after

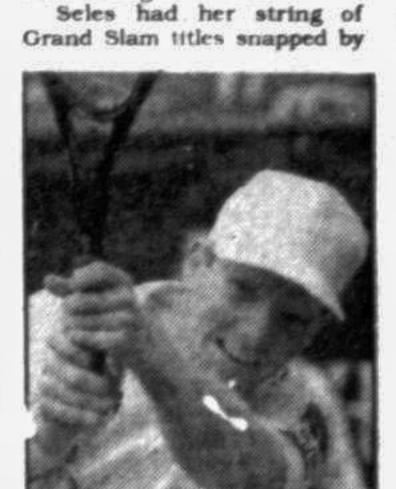
the 42-minute match. "I was

on the defensive every single

Graf, who was also stricken with the flu late last week.

added that she was feeling

better every day. "My cold is almost gone, so I am feeling a lot better."



JIM COURIER

Steffi Graf at Wimbledon where the Florida-based Yugoslav was hounded by the press and taunted by a "gruntometer" set up to measure the loud grunts she emitted when slugging her ferocious groundstrokes.

With no "gruntometer" in sight. Seles made swift work of Keller, who did enough grunting for both of them.

'I'm not thinking about it at all," Seles said about the noisy habit that attracted so much attention this year at

Wimbledon. Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich also got off to a good start by posting a 6-4. 6-3. 6-4 win over Frenchman Oliver Delattere in the first Centre Court match of the two-week tournament.

Stich was broken in the

first game but the 11th-seeded German won four successive games after trailing Delaitre 4-2 to capture the opening set on his way to a routine victory. The 23-year-old Stich, who

was ranked as high as number three in 1991 following his Wimbledon triumph and finished the year rated fourth in

the world, has won only once this year and dropped to 11th in the rankings.

Against Delaitre, ranked 43 but with victories this year over Boris Becker and Petr Korda, Stich stroked 36 winners and took advantage of his

superior serving power in the one hour 38 minute match. Goran Ivanisevic, who has often left the National Tennis Centre in disappointment, avenged his defeat in Barcelona to Olympic champion Marc Rosset by sweeping to 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory in one

hour 32 minutes. "I'm still not playing as well as I can, but this match has given me a lot of confidence because I beat a great player." said lyanisevic, who settled for bronze at Barcelona.

"In the Olympics I was very tired and he played the best match of his life," said Ivanisevic, who had survived four five-set singles matches on the way to the semifinals and a five-set doubles match the day before playing his good friend Rosset.

Rosset said he was bothered by the whirling wind at Louis Armstrong Stadium and bemoaned another difficult draw in a Grand Slam, but was happy

In another match, David Wheaton of USA over powered Andrew Sznajder 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-4. Like Seles, the opening day

of the championships were unusually quiet. Instead of cramming all 128 men's and women's first-round singles matches into the first two days of the tournament, officials are spreading the opening matches over three days.

The only other seeded players in action during the early going were 13th- seeded Guy Forget of France and women's seventh seed Mary Joe Fernandez. Forget defeated American

Jim Grabb 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 and Fernandez fought back to beat fellow-American Donna Faber 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Birthday favour for Connors occasion of Connors' milestone

"We wanted to do some-

thinking.

entered the officials'



is throwing a 40th birthday party for Jimmy Connors by scheduling his opening match for Wednesday, but the tournament referee denies the first round was stretched to a third day for his benefit, re-

ports Reuter. The new format, which schedules first-round play past Tuesday for the first time. comes at an opportune time for Connors, who withdrew from a tournament last week with a leg injury.

But Connors pronounced himself fully fit after a spirited practice session of Monday. the opening day of the Open. and tournament referee Thomas Barnes dismissed the idea that the new schedule was designed to help the popular

American.

"Nobody pressured us to do this," Barnes, the head official who issues all final schedules. said in his office underneath the National Tennis Stadium. "We had decided to play the

first round of the men out over

three days during last year's. Open." "We felt this way there would be a lot of matches to

watch every day and be better for the fans. He conceded the special



a coup for tournament publicity and for television.

teed a Stadium Court birthday celebration before an expected full house and a huge television audience for the match between Connors and Brazilian Jaime Oncins.

thing for his birthday and think the fans expected us to top shape when he tries to redo something for him he peat last year's astounding advance to the semifinals. Connors showed he was raring to go in a lively practice on Monday. Sept 1: Poland climbed into

The new format looked like

The tournament is guaran-While Connors said the left

thigh injury which forced him





football league match between Lalbagh SC and Rayerbazar

out of last week's Hamlet Challenge Cup tournament no longer bothered him, the additional rest day was sure to help his chances of being in

session with Briton John Lloyd I'm uninjured," Connors

said in the locker room.

Poland top Group A in bridge Olympiad SALSOMAGGIORE. Italy,

the top four of their group Monday in round-robin play at the World Contract Bridge Team Olympiad, reports AP. Their play made the team a strong candidate for a qualify-

ing berth in Wednesday's quarterfinals. Poland held a 22point lead over fifth place in Group A: the first four teams in each group qualify. Austria, Denmark and Israel held the remaining top three

places, but Egypt, Hong Kong and Great Britain all were within range of fourth place. In Group B the picture was clearer. The Netherlands. United States and Turkey were in good position to qualify. France, in fourth place, was

only 13 points ahead of

Sweden. No other teams were within range. In the Woman's Olympiad, Germany clinched a qualifying berth, pulling far ahead of the field in Group A. Austria, China and Netherlands also appeared to be certain qualifiers since fifth-place United States is 25 points out of fourth with only

two matches to go. Canada still had an outside chance in Group B but was 18 points behind fourth-place Denmark. Great Britain, Sweden, France and Denmark appeared to be likely qualifiers.

New body for Skating Fed

The National Sports Council yesterday announced a 21member adhoc committee for the Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation with A K A Firoz Noon as president, reports

The other members of the

committee are: Vice Presi-

dents - Major (Retd) Mehdi Ali

Imam and S M A Karim.

General Secretary - Qamrul Islam: Joint Secretaries Luthfur Rahman and Jummon Raj. Treasurer -Nazimuddin Chowdhury; Members - Mosharraf Hossain, Lailun Nahar Ershad, K M A Hat, Ruhul Amin Majumder, Nastruddin Ahmed, Col A R Mollick, Syed Ziad Rahman, M H Chowdhury Mushtaq Ahmed, Miraj Hossain, Ferdous Ahmed, M Yousuf Mian, A S M Obaidul Huq and a representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports

Rangpur sector emerged champions in the Bangladesh

AC at the Dhaka Stadium. Lalbagh won by a solitary goal. - Star photo