

Mamun Joardar's second hattrick for Chuadanga

Chandpur reach final round

Sports Reporter

Chandpur became the third team to qualify for the 12-team finals of the 17th national soccer championship for the Sher-e-Bangla Cup, which will start from November 4 at the Mymensingh Stadium.

Chandpur beat Sunamganj by four goals to three in the tie-breaker after the regulation period of the Sunamganj zonal final ended scoreless.

Md Borhanuddin, Golam Mustafa Jahangir Gazi and Yusuf found the net for Chandpur and Md Sohel Islam, Abdul Aziz and Abdur Rahman scored for Sunamganj in the penalty shootout.

Borhanuddin, Yusuf and Mazhar Ali of Chandpur and Abdur Rahman and Lutfor Rahman Nayan of the hosts Sunamganj were booked by referee Nasir Chowdhury for rough play.

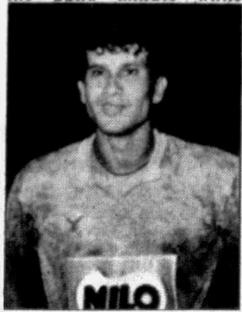
Finance Minister Saifur Rahman witnessed the final as chief guest and gave away the prizes.

Earlier, Bangladesh Customs and Dhaka University qualified for the final round by emerging champions of the services zone and the Universities zone respectively.

Mamun Joardar, the speedy First Division league champions Abahani Krira Chakra forward, once again hogged the headlines at Jessore yesterday.

Mamun, who had scored five of six goals for Chuadanga in their quarterfinal encounter against Satkhira on October 21, netted four goals in a row in their 6-1 victory over Kushtia in the zonal semi-

finals yesterday. Mahmudul Haq Liton open the account for Chuadanga in the 22nd minute while



MAMUN...2nd hattrick

Giasuddin doubled the margin in the 23rd minute (2-0). Mamun, who had scored both the goals for Abahani in their 2-1 victory against arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in the final match of this year's Senior Division league, then led the charge for Chuadanga and got his first goal of the match in the 34th minute (3-0).

Mamun netted his second in the 50th minute and completed his second hattrick of the current Sher-e-Bangla Cup in the 52nd minute (5-0).

He then completed the tally for the winners in the 62nd minute (6-0). Helaluddin pulled one back for Kushtia in the 70th minute (6-1).

Mamun Joardar and Tusha of Chuadanga and Mujibur Rahman of Kushtia received

yellow card cautions. Chuadanga will play hosts Jessore in the final tomorrow.

At Khulna, Bagerhat clinched a berth in the final beating Barisal by four goals to two in the tie-breakers.

The 90-minute regulation period failed to resolve the issue leaving both teams locked 2-2.

Prashanta and Alok scored for Bagerhat while Kamal and Zakir were Barisal's scorers during the scheduled time.

Prashanta, Badal, Samad and Alok found the net for Bagerhat while Rubel and Kamal scored for Barisal from the Penalty kicks.

Bagerhat will play hosts Khulna in the zonal final tomorrow.

At Nilphamari, the hosts qualified for the zonal final with a convincing 4-0 victory over Rangpur.

Nilphamari led 1-0 at the break. Ripon put Nilphamari ahead in the 32nd minute and made it 2-0 in the 85th minute.

Shashon scored the remaining two goals for Nilphamari three and two minutes from time (4-0). Nilphamari will take on the victors of today's semifinal between Gabandha and Kurigram on October 27.

At Joypurhat, Naogaon edged past the hosts by two goals to one. Tipu put Naogaon in the lead in the third minute of play (1-0) while Pulok levelled the margin for Joypurhat in the very next minute (1-1).

Belal netted the winner for Naogaon in the 69th minute

(2-1). Naogaon will clash with the winners of today's semifinal between Rajshahi and Pabna in the final on October 27.

At Netrokona, Tangail got the better of Narsingdhi by four goals to nil.

Harun-ur-Rashid Tapan and Shahidul Alam Ranju netted two goals each.

Salam Khan of Tangail and Nazmul of Narsingdhi received the yellow cards from referee Nurul Islam.

Tangail will play Jamalpur in the semifinals tomorrow.

At Madaripur, Dhaka beat Gopalganj by a solitary goal. Badal Das scored the all-important goal in the 20th minute.

Dhaka will meet Munshiganj in the semifinals tomorrow.

One more zonal final will be held today with Cox's Bazar taking on the technical finalists hosts Bandarban at the Bandarban Stadium.

Bandarban were declared the winners in the semifinals against Rangamati by the tournament committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) since Aung Ching Chowdhury of Rangamati was found guilty of double registration.

Aung Ching, who scored the all-important goal for Rangamati in the semifinals, has been suspended for a year from the national soccer championship.

Defending champions Dhaka University and hosts of the final round Mymensingh DSA will play directly in the 12-team final round starting Nov 4.

Magic refuses to name names

SAN DIEGO, California, Oct 24: Earvin "Magic" Johnson, hoping to leave behind the latest twist in his comeback saga, refused on Friday to confirm published reports that old friend Isaiah Thomas was spreading rumours of Magic having gay relationships, reports Reuter.

"I don't have any comments about it. I said what I wanted to say about it and it's over with," Johnson told a news conference before he and his Los Angeles Lakers teammates were to play the Sacramento Kings in an exhibition game.

Friday's New York Newsday quoted a person close to Johnson as saying the Lakers guard had accused Detroit Pistons star Thomas of spreading a rumour that he had contracted the AIDS virus through homosexual contact.

Thomas, who had established a tradition of kissing old friend and adversary Johnson on the cheek before games, adamantly denied the charges when reached by the newspaper.

Johnson, who is returning to the National Basketball Association after missing 11 all of last season, repeatedly said he contracted the virus through heterosexual contact.

The issues came to attention of Tuesday when Johnson told reporters that another NBA player was telling people that the Lakers star was bisexual.

"There's a guy in this league, and I know who it is, who ran into a few people to try to insinuate that I was going both ways" said Johnson, who refuses to identify the player.

"These people called me up... Different coaches got wind of what was going on and they called me.

Johnson who led the United States to the gold medal in the Barcelona Olympics this summer, said he confronted the player who denied spreading the rumour. Johnson said their friendship is finished, saying, "You backstab, I'm gone."

Korda in CA semis

VIENNA, Oct 24: Top-seeded Czech Petr Korda on Friday clinched a berth in the semifinals of the dlr 305,000 CA Trophy men's tennis tournament, beating local hero Alex Antonitsch in a game of sloppy serves but rocketing returns, reports AP.

Three left-handers are in Saturday's semifinals. Korda will play last year's finalist Jan Siemerink of Holland, while Italy's Gianluca Pozzi will take on Russian Andrei Chesnokov, a right-hander.

Korda took one hour, 49 minutes to beat Antonitsch 7-5, 6-4 in front of a disappointed home crowd at Vienna's Stadthalle.

He will face Siemerink, who ousted fourth-ranked Californian Brad Gilbert 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 in their quarterfinal.

Although happy with his semifinal berth, Korda acknowledged after the match: "Sometimes I wasn't playing, I was battling."

"I returned like the world's number three but served like number 200," he said. There were eleven breaks of serve in the match.



Former World No 1 Czech-born American Ivan Lendl hits the ball during his Marlboro Championship semifinal against Dutchman Richard Krajicek in Hong Kong yesterday. Lendl, the defending champion, set a date with fellow American Michael Chang in the final after beating Krajicek 7-6, 6-3.

Chang faces Lendl in HK final

HONG KONG, Oct 24: American Michael Chang overcame a courageous display from Croatia's Goran Prpic to enter the final of the 640,000 US dollars Marlboro Championships here Saturday, reports AP.

Hong Kong's favourite sportsman, Chang had his task cut out in defeating Prpic 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 6-3.

Chang, who is seeking to win his first title, here, in eight attempts will meet defending champion Ivan Lendl of the United States in the final.

Lendl knocked out Dutchman Richard Krajicek 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in the other semifinal.

Prpic did the impossible task of winning the hearts of Hong Kong's unashamedly pro-Chang crowd by playing on despite twisting his right knee early in the third set.

The 28-year-old Croatian, who wears a knee brace due to a serious injury back in 1986, had just levelled set scores and broken Chang's serve at the

start of the third set to take a 1-0 lead. Playing superbly at this stage, Prpic, chasing a shot wide, fell and twisted his knee. He picked himself up and hobbled off court.

An ice pack and a doctor's examination on court, resulted in Prpic continuing to play, but the wind had been taken out of his sails and Chang raced to win the set 6-3.

"I was 99 per cent close to coming off the court at the time. It was not painful, but I have twisted my knee so many times this year that I was scared of moving," said Prpic afterwards.

Prpic, who has had major surgery on his right knee twice, added that he could have won the match if not for the scare.

"I should have won the match Michael surprised me... He was playing too slow or may be I was playing well," said Prpic.

Czech-born American Lendl, chasing his third successive title here, hardly missed a beat in his straight

sets victory over Krajicek. The 32-year-old Lendl, winner of last week's Japan Indoor title, took control against Krajicek with pinpoint first serves.

Up against one of the bigger servers in the game, Lendl took on his opponent at his own game and came out on top as he registered a high percentage of first serves.

"I have been serving well lately and this part of my game has become stronger," said a satisfied Lendl.

Lendl's precision serving denied Krajicek the opportunity to come to the net, he found his touch had deserted him as had his big serves.

Krajicek, however, hung on grimly and took Lendl into a tie-break in the first set. But serving the first tie-break point, Krajicek dropped it and with the whiff of victory, Lendl calmly ran out a 7-4 winner.

The second set was hardly a contest with Lendl moving up a tempo and needing only one break of service to move relentlessly into his third consecutive final here.

Uruguayan booters banned by AUF

MONTEVIDEO, Oct 24: The Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) has banned all of its players from local and international competition as their two-week strike continues, reports AP.

The AUF sent a fax to FIFA, world football's ruling body informing them of the decision, and sent telexes to the football associations of neighbouring countries asking them not to field Uruguayan players.

All of the national federations affiliated to FIFA must respect the AUF ban, according to FIFA regulations.

The show of strength began 16 days ago after sanctions were imposed on two clubs whose supporters were involved in a brawl which left one fan dead. The sanctions included the non-payment of players' salaries.

The strikers are apparently counting on Uruguayans in Italy to back them and are reported to have the support of Argentine star Diego Maradona, now playing for Sevilla in Spain.

However, AUF president Hugo Batalla claims the strike is part of a wider effort by players to shake up the federation.

JU soccer

Department of Pharmacy outclassed Drama and Theater department 7-0 in the inter-department football competition of the Jahangir Nagar University at the University ground in Savar yesterday, reports UNB.

Sayed scored a hattrick while Jewel and Zakir added two goals each in the match. Department of Archeology will take on Philosophy at 3.30 pm at the same ground today.

Jackson unbeaten

IRVINE, California, Oct 24: Unbeaten John David Jackson of Newport Beach, Calif, won a unanimous 10-round decision over Sergio Medina of Oakland in a middleweight bout Thursday night at the Irvine Marriott Hotel, reports AP.

Blackburn surge to the top

LONDON, Oct 24: Blackburn Rovers struggled to a goal-less tie with Manchester United Saturday - their second scoreless draw in a row - yet clambered back to the top of English soccer's Premier League standings, reports AP.

With leader Norwich not in action until they meet Liverpool Sunday, Blackburn took advantage of the chance to leapfrog the Canaries.

Despite having the Premier League top scorer, England striker Alan Shearer, on the lineup, they failed to hit the target for the second game in a row and only goes top on goal difference.

On Monday they tied 0-0 with Aston Villa. Blackburn have 26 points from 13 games and Norwich have 26 from 12.

Queens Park Rangers moved into third place with a 2-1 victory over defending champion Leeds at Loftus Road. Gordon Strachan fired the visitor ahead but Rangers hit back through David Bardsley and Les Ferdinand.

Arsenal downed Everton 2-0 with goals from England striker Ian Wright and Swedish midfielder Anders

Limpit to move into fourth and Coventry slipped two places to fifth after losing 2-1 at home to Chelsea.

Mick Harford and Graham Stuart netted the goals for Chelsea at highfield Road and Robert Rosario replied for the Sky Blues.

Aston Villa dropped from fourth to sixth after a 1-1 tie at Oldham. Villa trailed to a header by one of its former players, Ian Olney, but Dalian Atkinson leveled late in the game.

Upset of the day was at St James Park, Newcastle, where the home team had their 100 per cent record broken by visiting Grimsby, which won 1-0 thanks to a late goal by Jim Dobbins.

Newcastle won their first 11 games of the season and a sellout crowd of 30,000 had expected victory No 12 Newcastle remain well ahead in the standings, however, nine points clear of second place Swindon, which won 1-0 at West Ham.

With Rangers in action Sunday in the League Cup final against Aberdeen, Celtic cut their lead in the Premier Division standings to three points by beating Airdrie 2-0 at Parkhead. John Collins and Paul McStay were the scorers.

Dozzell leveled for the home team. Manchester City edged Southampton 1-0 thanks to a lone strike by Michael Sheron while Middlesbrough and Sheffield Wednesday tied 1-1.

Mark Bright fired Wednesday ahead at Ayresome Park but Paul Wilkinson leveled.

Last place Nottingham Forest stayed rooted to the foot of the standings after a goal-less tie at Sheffield United.

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Sampras too good for Washington

LYON, Oct 24: Defending champion Pete Sampras moved into the final of the dlr 600,000 Lyon Open tennis tournament with a rapid semifinal victory over Mali Val Washington, 6-0, 6-2 Saturday, reports AP.

In the other semifinal, Frenchman Cedric Pioline edged another American, Richey Reneberg, 6-2, 6-7 (1-7), 7-5, in a match that lasted nearly three hours.

Sampras, the No 1 seed and No 3-ranked player in the world, needed less than a half hour to win the first set.

Washington, third-seeded and 14th ranked in the world, did a little better in the second set but could not cope with Sampras's heavy serves and volleys.

Sampras is back playing in Lyon for the first time since he lost both singles matches in the Davis Cup final last December against France.

Pioline, who beat France's top player Guy Forget earlier in the tournament, enters a Grand Prix final for the first time in his career.

He raced through the first set but was edged in the second set. He gained a 4-1 lead in the third set and was within a

point of making it 5-1 but Reneberg, ranked 67th in the world, recovered to tie it at 5-5. Then Pioline took the final two games to gain the finals.

"I could have won it in two sets but Reneberg came back," Pioline said. "I missed some shots that cost me a lot. Finally it came down to a couple of key points."

"This first final is just a step in my career. Even better, it's in France," Pioline said.

Morgan to meet Grabb in final

TAIPEI, Oct 24: Third seed Jim Grabb of the United States and Jamie Morgan of Australia will clash in the final of the 300,000 US dollar Taiwan Tennis Open after winning through their respective semifinals here Saturday, reports AP.

Grabb, ranked 78 in the world, powered to victory over eighth-seeded Patrik Kuhnen of Germany 6-1, 6-3 while the unseeded Morgan had a tough fight against Russian Andrei Olhovskiy 6-7, 7-5, 7-5.

"I can't play much better than that. I did everything incredibly well, especially my returns," the 28-year-old American said.

"Even his good returns I volleyed well. I put a lot of pressure on him and only missed two first serves in the second set," Grabb said.

Morgan managed to break Olhovskiy's powerful serve in the final game of the last two sets to take the match and a berth in his second career final.

The 23-year-old Australian player, who has never won a match on carpet prior to this event, was sidelined for nearly four months earlier this year with a dislocated pelvis.

First French triumph over SA at home

PARIS, Oct 24: France won their first rugby match against South Africa at home Saturday, 29-16 behind Thierry Lacroix's 19 points, reports AP.

South Africa had won seven previous tests and tied one with France on French soil since the national teams started playing each other almost 80 years ago. Included was a 20-15 victory last week at Lyon as South Africa were making their first international trip since 1981.

Lacroix was a replacement for Sebastian Viars as the French kicker. In last week's match Viars missed four penalties and a conversion.

Lacroix, a 25-year-old from Dax, helped a French regional team beat the South Africans in the first match of the tour, Oct 3 in Bordeaux. He had four penalty kicks, including three in second half and a conversion in the 24-17 win.

Since then South Africa won five more times before losing Saturday.

The teams were tied 6-6 at halftime. Naas Botha, the South African captain, put the visitors ahead when he converted a penalty from about 40 meters (yards) away in the 33rd minute.

Lacroix, who had missed his first two penalty kicks, equalised it less than two minutes later with a 37-metre score.

In the 33rd minute Lacroix put France ahead 6-3, but Botha tied it just before half-time with a 26-metre drop kick.

France put on the pressure

Graf faces Novotna for title

BRIGHTON, Oct 24: Steffi Graf reached the final of the dlr 350,000 Brighton indoor women's tennis tournament for the sixth time in seven years Saturday when she overpowered fellow German Anke Huber 7-5, 6-2 in the semi-final, reports AP.

In her 10th final of the year, the world No 2 will face Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, who upset second seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez 6-3, 6-4.

The tournament's top seed, Graf had to work hard to win the opening set in 39 minutes but then won four straight games from 2-2 in the second set to claim victory.

"I took it too easy today," a disgruntled Graf said after her semifinal victory.

"In the quarter-finals (against Lori McNeil) I gave myself ten out of ten. Today it was only a five." Graf made numerous errors

in a tense first set and only scraped through in the 12th

first game of the second set only then to be left in a frail of winners from Graf who won six of the next seven games to wrap up the match.

"I think it was my best match against her," Huber said. "I played a really good first set but then everything went so fast."

Huber won only seven points in the last four games. "There were a few important points I could have played better on but against Steffi that is very difficult," said Huber who now is 0-4 against her countrywoman.

Novotna's more aggressive serve and volley game gave her the edge throughout her semifinal against Fernandez.

The Czechoslovak No 5 seed broke serve once in the first set and three times in the second to advance to the final. It will be her third meeting with Graf in the past month. On both occasions, in Leipzig, Germany and Zurich, Switzerland, Graf won tight three set matches.

Steffi Graf

game when Huber lost her serve by playing an over-ambitious forehand over the baseline on set point.

But Huber, who tried to venture off the baseline as of ten as possible, broke in the

27-24, but were crushed by the world champion Wallabies, 26-3.

France's most recent victories came in a summer tour to Argentina, where it won two tests.

The lineups: FRANCE: Jean-Luc Saourmy, Philippe Saint Andre, Franck Mesnel, Thierry Lacroix, Jean-Baptiste Lafond, Alain Penaud, Aubin Huebner, Marc Ceccillon, Laurent Cabannes, Philippe Benetton, Olivier Roumat, Abdelatif Benazzi, Philippe Gallart, Jean-Michel Gonzales, Louis Army.

SOUTH AFRICA: Hugh Reece-Edwards, James Small, Danie Gerber, Ieter Muller, Jacques Olivier, Naas Botha, Grath Wright, Christian Strauss, Aderian Richter, Whal Bartmann, Adolf Malan, Adri Geldenhuys, Heinrich Rodgers, Willem Hills, Johannes Stryger.

immediately at the start of the second half.

They almost scored in the first two minutes and then Lacroix came back to add another penalty at the 43 minutes mark.

Five minutes later France scored a try. Philippe Saint Andre and Larent Cabannes did most of the work to set ball at the one-metre line. Olivier Roumat bulled over the line and Lacroix added the conversion to up the score to 16-6.

Two more penalty kicks by Lacroix over the next 12 minutes gave France a 22-6 lead before the springboks made a comeback.

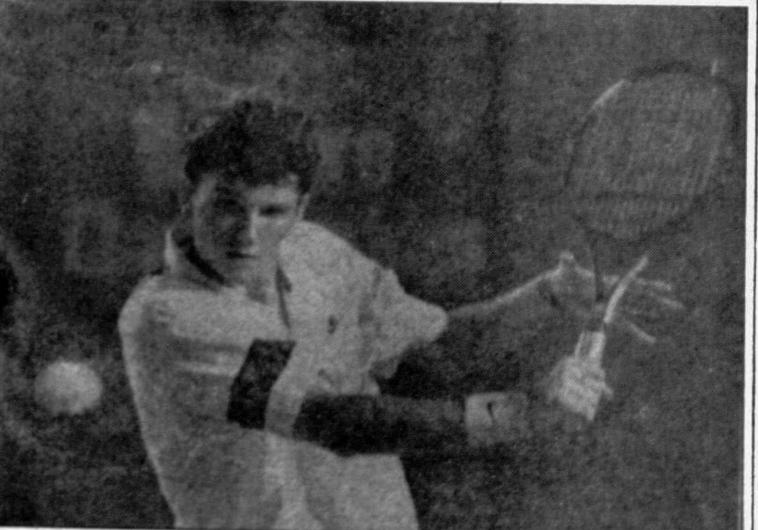
Botha scored a penalty in the 68th minute to close the margin to 22-9. Then Danie Gerber notched a try in the 70th minute as he took advantage of a French bobbie near the goal line. Botha's conversion made it 22-16.

That was as close as South Africa would come. France kept control of the match and added another try in the final minute when Alain Penaud went over the goal followed by Lacroix's final points.

South Africa is in the final week of a nine-match tour in France. Last week's win over France. It was the first victory for South Africa in international rugby since 1984.

South Africa now have two more matches against regional teams in France before heading to England. They meet the English national team Nov. 14 at Twickenham.

Accepted vack into international competition after the abolition of apartheid laws, the Springboks returned to the world stage over the summer by playing host to New Zealand and Australia. They came close against New Zealand, losing



Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands makes a backhand return in his last preliminary group match against Russian Alexander Volkov in Hong Kong on October 23. Krajicek beat Volkov to move into the semifinals where he was eventually beaten by defending champion Czech-born American Ivan Lendl.



Backstroke swimmers of the 11 to 12 years age group are ready to go at the Dhanomdi Women's Complex pool yesterday.