Sports Reporter

from today

The 16th national basketball championship for the BGIC Cup will be held from December 19 to 25 at the wooden-floor gymnastum. Incorporated with the fifth Bangladesh Games, a quadrennial sporting meet scheduled to be held in Dhaka from December 18 to 25, this year's national championship will feature 14 teams divided into four groups.

Reigning champions Bangladesh Navy have been placed in Group A along with Bkerganj DSA, Sylhet and Rajshahi. Group B consists of last year's runners-up Dhaka University, Bangladesh Police, Brahmanbaria DSA and ,Narayanganj DSA. The last two groups - Group C and D - are a little different in their com binations, accommodating three teams each. Bangladesh Army, Khulna DSA and Bangladesh Air Force are in Group C while Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Chandpur DSA and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will fill in the numbers in Group D.

Addressing a press conference at the conference room of the National Sports Council (NSC), Shahidul Alam, chairman of the tournament committee and the vice president of the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BABF) told newsmen that the sponsors Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC) who have been financing the national meet from last year, will pay the BABF Taka one lakh 30 thousand, 23,000 short of the expenses earmarked by the federation for this tourney.

BABF president Prof Rashiduddin Ahmed, renowned neurologist, told the newsmen that the Bangladesh Olympic Association(BOA) has assured he BABF of some fi nancial assistance regarding the tournament since this national champions its will go on record as - --- of the Bankladest Garage

Seventeen teams took part in the last national championship. Four matches will be played

on the opening day with Brahmanbaria DSA taking on Narayanganj DSA in the first tie at 8:30 am.

Champions Navy will face Sylhet DSA in the second match at 3.00, shortly after the 'official' inauguration by BOA president Gias Kamal Chowdhury.

Bangladesh Army will play Khulna DSA in the third match at 4:30 pm and the day's last fixture will be played between Chandpur DSA and BUET at 6:00 pm.

V-Day b'ball tie ends in fiasco

Sports Reporter

Rank mismanagement on the part of the organisers, by now an all-too-familiar feature of the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BABF), led to a fiasco in a vital encounter of the Victory Day basketball championship at he wooden-floor gymnasium yes-

Thirty two seconds before the final whistle players of both teams - First Division league champions Azad Boys -Club and Josephites Club refused to carry on because of extremely poor supervision by referee Rafig.

Looking apparently unfit, Rafiq fatled to give the ruling of a disqualifying foul when one of the Josephite cagers thrust his elbow at Azad's Junayed, causing a cut in the chain. With this blow coming as the last straw in a rough match marked by 'unnoticed' infringements, scuffles broke out between players of the two

Azad Boys were comfortably placed at 82 to 52 when the match met a premature death.

Azad Boys fielded Kim, an Australian diplomat, in yesterday's match. Having been stationed in

Dhaka for the last two months, Kim did not take part in Azad's last match despite having the necessary permission.

Kim had a bitter acquaintance with local basketball, apparently in shambles as Josephites roughed him up with cynical fouls and to eap it all referee Rafiq ignored them

from apparent ignorance. After the match Tareq Khan Majlish, the other referee, was quoted to have said that his

colleague asked him about the rules in the course of the match.

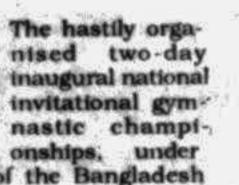
In the first match of the day, Bangladesh Army (Reds) scored an emphatic 75-57 win over Bangladesh Air Force. The winners led the first half 36-

Rahim and Kamran were the main scorers for the winners with 18 and 16 points.

Wahidul with 24 and Khairul with 11 were the other scorers for the losers.

Gymnasts have long way to go

Sports Reporter



invitational gymnastic champithe aegis of the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation, concluded yesterday at the National Coaching Centre

gymnasium. Participated by 40 gymnasts including a dozen girls, performances in the ten events included in the lacklustre meet only helped to underline the infantile stage of the sport in this country. Despite the rather lenient scoring by the local - qualified or otherwise - judges, the gymnasts dis-playing their skills left a lot to be desired, more often than not failing to achieve minimum standards of performance, not to speak of perfection. Although it would be unfair to expect our boys and girls to reach anywhere near the nearperfect nine-plus scores one sees in international competition yet such ludicrously low scores of 2.00 out of a possible 10 - which even suffice to earn a medal! - only reflects upon the pathetic plight of the sport in this land. And when such performances earn medals in a competition given the status of a national invitational sucet one can only shrug



Marzina Chowdhury won the women's balance beam gold in the first national invitational gymnastics competition, which concluded yesterday at the NSC gym. - Star photo

MUNICH, Dec 13:

Michael Stich

season

dlrs 2

ended a disappoi

nting

paycheck Sunday, beating

Michael Chang 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 in

the final of the Grand Slam

German to win a big season-

ending tennis tournament.

Boris Becker, who did not play

here, won last month's ATP

play in all three Grand Slam

Cups, lost the final for the

An earlier report said :

Michael Chang tamed the

power of Goran Ivanisevic and

Michael Stich won three tie-

breakers against Pete Sam-

pras on Saturday to reach the

ting Croatian, 6-7, 6-2, 6-4, 3-

6, 6-3, while Stich became the

first non-American to reach

the final in the three years of

the richest tennis tournament

from fourth to 15th in the ATP

Tour rankings after a disap-

pointing season, beat third-

ranked Sampras 7-6, 7-6, 3-6,

become the first player to sur

pass 1,000 in a season, bring-

ing his total to 1,017. But he

also double faulted 19 times,

essentially wiping out his most

Supreme surface that should

not favour his game, wasted

five match points and saved

three break points while serv-

He finally scored with a

"I tried to play consistent

tennis throughout the whole

match the rest was up to

Goran," Chang said. "If he hits

great shots, you can't do any-

last year, and semifinalist in

the inaugural Grand Slam Cup

The dirs 6 million tourna-

Chang is the only player to

ment awards dirs 2 million to

the winner and dlrs 1 million

have taken part in all three

years of the event, earning a

total of dirs 1.9 million even

augural Grand Slam Cup in

Sampras, winner of the in-

to the losing finalist.

before Sunday's final.

Chang was runner-up here

service winner, clinching the

match after three hours and

Chang, playing on a fast

effective weapon.

ing for the match.

39 minutes.

thing about it."

Ivanisevic had 25 aces to

The German, who has fallen

in the world.

Chang outlasted the big hit

final of the Grand Slam Cup.

Chang, the only player to

Tour World Championship.

second straight year.

Stich became the second

Cup, reports AP.

with a

Stich richer by \$2 m

the three tiebreakers against

Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon

MICHAEL STICH ... \$ 2m

He was furious after losing

the second set on a Stich serve

he thought was long. But he

rebounded in the third, break-

first time for a 4-2 lead in the

Stich broke Sampras for the

ing Stich for a 4-2 lead.

1990, was unable to win any of fourth set. Cheered on by

one's shoulders in commisera-

Returning to the results of the current meet, six out of the ten events were decided yesterday. Two male gymnasts from - Akhtaruzzaman Shaheen and Saiful Islam

bagged two gold medals each Aslam Hossain picked up the two other gold medals at stake in the men's section by winning the horizontal bars and the floor exercises, both events held yesterday. While Shaheen added the

pommel horse gold yesterday to his parallel bars success on the opening day Saturday, Saiful excelled on the Roman rings yesterday to give him his second gold medal after the long horse event which he had won the day before.

For the record, Shaheen achieved the highest score of 5.95 in the parallel bars and a lowly - but good for gold - in the pommel horse. Saiful's winning scores were 7.95 in the long horse and a poor 4.40 on the Roman rings. In the men's floor exercises

Aslam Hossain scored 6.95 for the gold, followed by Sohel Rana with silver and Md Rafigul Alam Jewel with bronze.

Earlier in the day Aslam scored a dismal 3.25 on the horizontal bars which was still good enough to land him the gold. Md Nazrul Islam secured the silver with a score of 2.80 and Iftekhar Newaz the bronze by managing a score of 2.60, such was the level of competi-

Gauhar Farzana Fauzy who settled behind her sister Gauhar Sultana Daisy for the side-horse bronze medal on Saturday, yesterday achieved her goal of winning the uneven bars gold medal with a score of 2.30. Jannatul Firdous Munni, who had won the side horse gold medal, took the silver and Fauzy's sister Daisy the bronze.

Suraiyya Rahman, silver medallist on the balance beam Saturday, scored 6.20 yesterday for the floor exercise gold She was followed by Rumana Yasmin with a score of 5.75 and Mahbuba Yasmin Iti with 5.50 for silver and bronze respectively.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka gave away the prizes at the concluding ceremony which was also attended by Nurul Hossain Khan, Chairman of the Eastern Bank.

11,000 home fans in Munich's

Olympiahalle, Stich had the

chance to serve out the match.

Chang, the youngest of the

four semifinalists at 20, could

not match Ivanisevic's power,

but his steadier game at the

end prevailed over the erratic

Croatian, who was penalized a

point after an earlier warning

in the fifth game gave Chang

the second set. The same

thing happened in the third

set, Ivanisevic double-faulting

at game point in the seventh

the start of the fourth set, but

Ivanisevic gained the vital

break when Chang charged

forward, only to see his volley

title favourite even though his

game is best suited to the fast

player who never gives up on

any point," the German said.

"The chances in the final are

Goran that he is capable of

playing on the fast surface."

"Chang showed by beating

Stich said he was not the

"Michael is the kind of

sail into the net

surface.

50-50.

The two traded breaks at

A double fault by Ivanisevic

following several outbursts.

Nat'l badminton gets underway

Sports Reporter The seventeenth national badminton championships got underway at the wooden-floor

gymnasium yesterday. Organised by the Bangladesh Badminton Federation. the tournament features 123 shuttlers including 13 women from 24 teams. On the opening day eleven

men's singles matches were decided. Mukul of Jessore beat Peroz of Luxmipur 15-1, 15-1. Rafiqul of Strajganj got past Kutul of Rajbari 17-15, 15-3. Ratan of BRTC fought off Ramzan of Narayangani 18-14, 15-11. Khurshid of Pabna ed ged past Asu of Rajshahi in a three -setter 15-11, 8-15 and 15-10. Rathindranath of Khulna squashed Matin of BRTC 15-6, 15-4. Peter of Pabna defeated Pabna's Mahibur 15-3, 15-0. Wahidur of Rangpur dumped Arif of Luxmipur 15-1, 15-1. Mukul of BRTC outscored Meraj of Gazipur 15-7, 15-7. Russel of Sylhet sweated it out in his 14-17, 15-2, and 15-11 victory against Krishnamandal of Jamalpur. Shakil of Pabna blanked Patal of Rajbari 15-3, 15-0. Nowshad of Natore sneaked past Nastr of BRTC with a 18-14, 15-5 victory.

Konika-Noori win girls' doubles

Sports Reporter

Konika Rani Adhikary and Ayesha Khatun Noori lifted the girls' doubles crown of the Agrani Bank Victory Day under 16 badminton championship at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The victorious pair defeated Momo and Liza 15-13, 10-15 and 15-8.

In the boys singles Zia Hassan and Zakaria advanced to the final. Zia outscored Sarkar Sarwar Jahan 15-4, 8-15 and 15-5 in one of the semifinals. Zakaria had a relatively easy passage against Morshed Lincoln with a 15-9, 15-8 victory.

In the boys' doubles, Ramzan and Sarkar Sarwar Jahan defeated Sarwar Jahan and Nurul Alam to reach the final. In the other semi-final Mokhlesur Rahman and Zia Hossain brushed aside the the combined challenge of Mahbubur and Bazlur Rahman.

The final of the boys' doubles will be played today

BUET's field day

Sports Reporter Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology (BUET), aided by a fine hattrick from centre-forward Shoeb Mohammad Asaduzza man, trounced outstation Pirojpur District Sports Association (DSA) 6-0 in the 15th national hockey championship at the Hockey Stadium vesterday.

The winners led the first half of the first of the two matches of the day 2-0.

Shoeb opened the account for his side in the fifth minute of the match with a field goal. Fifteen minutes before the breather he doubled the margin in similar fashion. Shoeb achieved his cher-

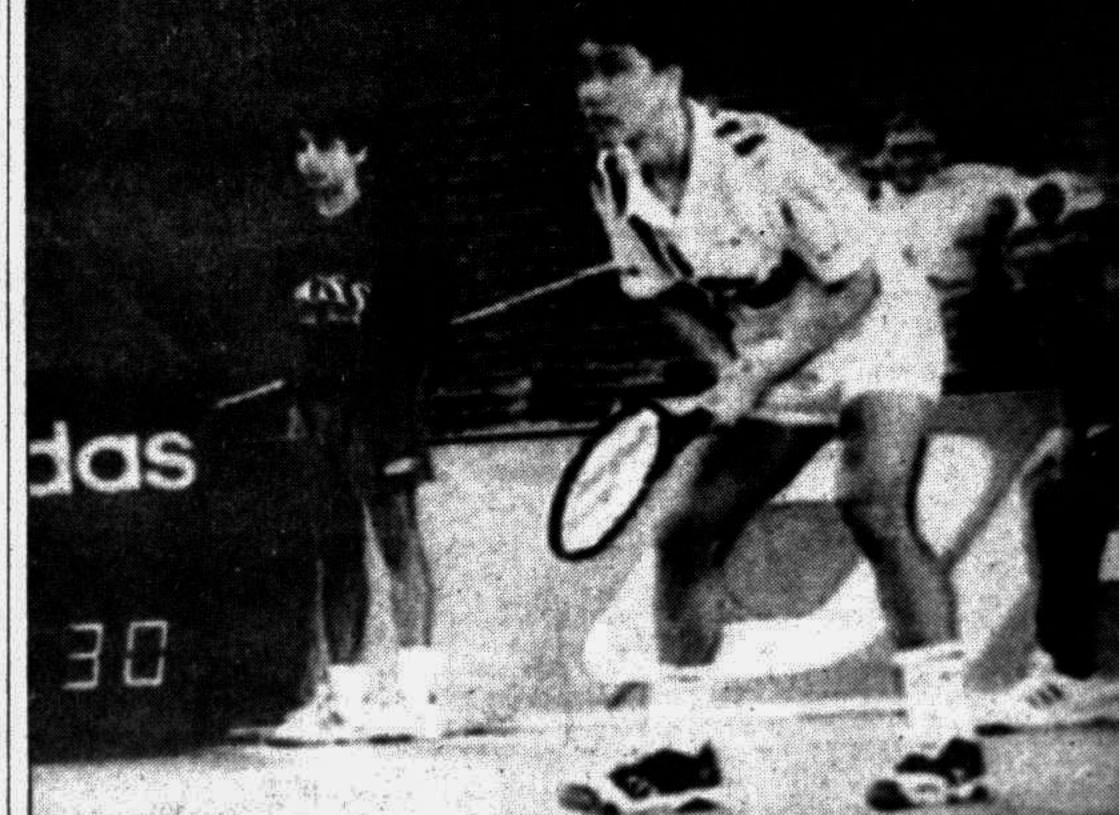
ished goal midway through the second half with another field goal (3-0). Nazmul Habib sounded

the board by scoring the fourth field goal of the match. The ball had barely been

moved from the centre when BUET skipper Sirajus Salegin Chowdhury joined the goal-riot with another field goal in the 61st minute. Abdullah Al-Mamun roun-

ded off the show with the sixth goal four minutes later when he scored yet another field Dhaka Education Board

(DEB) beat Mymensingh DSA by a solitary goal in the second match of the day.



American Michael Chang awaits a Goran Ivanisevic serve during the Grand Slam Cup semifinal in Munich. Germany on Saturday, Chang outlasted Ivanisevic 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6 and - Star TV photo 6-3 in a 3-hour 39-minute tie.

BJMC girls face Ansars for title today

Just like last year, it's to be

another Bangladesh Army ver-

sus Bangladesh Navy final for

the honours of the 16th na-

tional men's volleyball champi-

onship for the BGIC Cup at the

Outer Stadium Volleyball court

ing at 3:30 pm, defending

champions Bangladesh Jute

Mills Corporation (BJMC) will

take on Bangladesh Ansars in

the final of the 10th women's

national meet at the same

Yesterday's semifinals of

both the men's and women's

events produced some exciting

volleyball with three of today's

four finalists having to rally

from behind to book their

berths in today's title-deciding

clashes. The star-studded

BJMC girls provided the only

exception by outclassing last

year's beaten finalists Rangpur

The other women's semifi-

nal saw title-aspirants

Bangladesh Ansars stage a re-

markable late rally after being

1-2 sets down to see the back

of former national champions

Khulna DSA in the last en-

gagement of the day that went

The terrific comeback by

Ansars, who lost the second

and third sets after having eas-

ily won the opening set, left

the keen Khulna girls in tears.

The final score read 15-7, 5-

favour of the Ansars girls.

15, 12-15, 17-16 and 15-9 in

in a cliff-hanger of a fourth

set, Khulna almost pulled off

victory only to force a deuce

and lose out 16-17 to the more

determined Ansars women.

Had Khulna not allowed Ansars

to claw their way back into

contention by levelling the

score at two-sets all, the fifth

and deciding set which the

physically and mentally

drained Khulna ladies lost 9

15, would have been totally

unnecessary. But that's the

name of the game and the

Khulna girls will have all the

time to ponder what might

have been on their long trip

back home, perhaps wiser but

definitely sadder for the expe-

MEN'S SEMIFINALS

also saw the eventual winners

Army and Navy recovering af-

ter opening set losses against

their respective opponents: But while reigning champi-

ons Army brooked no further

nonsense from the Air Force

The two men's semifinals

DSA by three straight sets 15-

4, 15-2 and 15-5.

late into the night.

Earlier this afternoon, start-

this afternoon.

Army, Navy in repeat final

Sports Reporter

men after an 11-15 first set loss, winning the next three scts 15-10, 15-9, 15-8 for a facile 3-1 sets victory, the satlors had their hands full against the spikers from Bangladesh Rifles (BDR)

The Riflemen looked to be all set to change the script for the final from that of last year when they literally spiked the sailors 3-15 in the first set, smashing their way through even before the Navy players had had time to settle down.

Navy took the second set 15-10 only to see BDR again surge ahead by clinching the third set 15-6. However, Navy successfully mustered all their

big guns in the remaining two sets to take their appointed place in today's final by winning 15-5 and 15-9.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Haftz will give away the trophies this evening as chief guest while State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossatn Khoka will attend as a special guest.

The top eight out of the 11 teams that participated in the men's nationals this year and the top six of the seven-team. women's field will also play in the quadrennial fifth Bangladesh Games, to be held in the city Dec 18-25.



A Navyman smothers a Rifles spiker's smash during the BGIC national volleyball championship semifinal at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday. Last year's runners-up Navy beat Rifles to set up a repeat final with defending champs Bangladesh Army.

Benn retains WBC crown



LONDON, Dec 13: Nigel Benn floored Nicky Piper with a left hook in the 11th round and followed it up

with a fight-ending combination to keep his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title on a knockout Saturday, reports AP.

It was Benn's first defence of the title he won from Italy's Mauro Galvano and the English fighter, formerly the World Boxing Organization middleweight titlist, stretched his record to 35-2-0 with a hardearned victory over the durable Welshman.

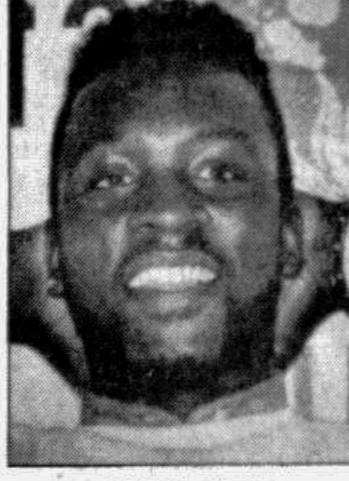
Usually a fast starter who tends to fade in the middle of the fight, Benn did it the other way round this time. Five inches (12 cm) shorter

than the 6-feet-3 (1, 9m) Welshman, the champion felt the sting of Piper's combina-Piper, who has moved down

from light-heavyweight, had Benn in trouble on the ropes in the second but the champion came back with two rights over the top of the Welshman's defence.

Piper's superior accuracy earned him points as the fight went on but Benn began to turn up the pressure in the fifth and sixth and started to find the target with his bombing rights.

He also homed in on Piper's midriff with slugging combinations and when he exploded a



NIGEL BENN

left uppercut flush on the challenger's face late in the sixth he knew he had found a way through.

By the ninth, Benn's shots were landing in combination and he shook Piper three times in the 10th.

The 11th was 45 seconds old when Benn produced a left hook that sent Piper spinning across the ring, into the ropes and onto the floor.

The Welshman beat the count comfortably but his legs betrayed his courage and Benn looked ready to deliver the knockout punch. Somehow

Piper stayed on his feet but when Benn pounded in another combination with the Welshman on the ropes, English referee Larry O'Connell halted the fight at 1 minute 44 seconds of the round. On the undercard, unbeaten

British heavy weight Herbie Hide took a step nearer a world title contest with a knockout victory over American journey man James Pritchard. Rock Newman, manager of

world champion Riddick Bowe, has suggested the 21year-old Englishman has a 50 percent chance to being the titlist's first challenger. Hide had Pritchard on the

floor three times during their short time in the ring and moved smoothly to his 19th victory

For Pritchard, from Louisville, Kentucky, it was his ninth defeat against 28 victo-

Coincidentally, Bowe has arrived in Britain to take part in the British Broadcasting Corporation's sports review of the year, being screened live Sunday.

The BBC hopes he may have something to say about his first world title defence, particularly whether British heavy weights, Lennox Lewis, Frank Bruno and Herbie Hide, all now ranked in the top 10, figure in his plans.

Sweet revenge for Mizoguchi, Tamura

FUKUOKA, Japan, Dec 13: Noriko Mizoguchi and Ryoko Tamura Sunday made up for their defeats in the Olympic finals by picking up three titles in the two-day Fukuoka international women's judo tournament, reports AFP.

Mizoguchi evened the score with Almudena Munoz as she avenged her narrow defeat at Barcelona by outpointing the Spaniard with an incomplete throw in the four-minute 52kilogram featherweight final.

Tamura, the 17-year-old darling of Japanese judo. dumped Sylvie Meloux of France with a "tatotoshi" body throw with 42 seconds to go in the 48 kg bantamweight class.

The 56kg lightweight title went to South Korea's Chung Sun-Yong as she shook Japan's Chiyori Tateno with an annerthigh throw 2 mins 38 secs into the bout.

Zhan Ying immobilised fellow Chinese Qiao Yanmin to win the open-weight title in the absence of world-class heavyweights in what is usually a showpiece division.

"I paid back what I had owed her," said Mizoguchi, a 21-year-old university junior. "I was really determined going into the fight because a backto-back defeat would ruin my morale."

With an even one-one score against Munoz, Mizoguchi had her sights set on the World Championships in Hamilton, Canada, next year. "I will definitely become champion."

Tamura made the final by also knocking out two opponents by a clear-cut "ippon" victory in the absence of Olympic champton Cectle Nowak of France who has stepped up one class from the

lightest division. With Mizoguchi and Amura securing the Pukuoka title for the third year in a row, Japan wrapped up the contest with

three titles against two for Cuba and one each for China, South Korea and Australia.

On Saturday, Olympic champion Adlais Reve and Olympic silver medalist Estela Rodriguez won titles for Cuba. Reve outpointed Japan's Yukiko Abe in the 66kg middleweight final and Rodriguez dumped Gaelle Potel of France with a hip throw in the over-72kg heavyweight final.

won the 61-kg light-mid dleweight title by beating Japan's Hiroko Kitazume by a narrow decision.

Australian Leanne Sheehy

Title retained

PHONEIX, Arizona, Dec 13: American Michael Carbajal retained his International Boxing Federation light-flyweight title when he knocked out Panamanian Robinson Cuesta at 2:04 of the eighth round on Saturday, reports Reuter.