

## Feni move into nat'l soccer semis

**From Our Correspondent**

KHULNA, Feb 14: Feni DSA advanced to the semifinal of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship eliminating Bangladesh Ansars by a lone goal in the opening match today at the Khulna Stadium.

In the inaugural game, Ratan of Feni scored the winner in the 51st minute from inside the box.

Ansars missed at least half a dozen scoring opportunities.

Lokman and Arman of Ansars were cautioned for rough play.

Newly elected Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman formally inaugurated the 13-day meet in the afternoon.

## Int'l Masters' chess from Feb 18

**Sports Reporter**

The second United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament will start from February 18 under the auspices of the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF), a federation press release said yesterday.

Interested participants have been requested to complete entry formalities by the 17th of this month.

Four top players from the preliminary round will qualify for the final round.

National level players from Pakistan and India will take part in the final round games.

## Nirman cricket

**Sports Reporter**

Scholastica and Udayan Bidyalaya recorded easy wins in their respective 12th Nirman schools cricket championship matches in different city venues yesterday.

At the DCG, Scholastica trounced Arab Mission School by ten wickets.

Arab Mission scored 93 in 24.2 overs while Scholastica made 94 without loss in 18.2 overs.

At the DCS, Udayan Bidyalaya outplayed St Margaret's Tutorial by six wickets.

Batting first, St Margaret's were all out for 133 in 29.2 overs. Udayan reached 134 to win the match in 22.3 overs losing only four wickets in the process.

## Div II cricket

**Sports Reporter**

Himel's unbeaten 60 helped Gopibagh Friends Association record a massive eight-wicket against Young Pegasus A in a super league match of the Second Division cricket league on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Winning the tons, Young Pegasus decided to bat first and were all out for 113 in 34.2 overs.

Gopibagh reached 114 losing two wickets in 29.1 overs.

In another match held at the Jagannath Hall ground, Kathalbagh outplayed Mirpur Nabin KC by four wickets.

Mirpur Nabin, batting first, were all out for 100 in 39 overs.

Kathalbagh posted 102 for six in 39 overs.

In the other game Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha beat Gandaria cricketers by 57 runs at the Dhaka Stadium. Dhanmondi made 235 for 5 in the allotted 40 overs. Gandaria, in reply, scored 166 all out in the same number of overs.

## Guyana gain revenge

**GEORGETOWN, Feb 14:** Deposed title holders Guyana had a small measure of revenge as they spun new Red Stripe Cup champions Leeward Islands to defeat by 40 runs on the final day of the last match of this season's competition on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Leeward Islands, who clinched the title by winning first innings points, had been set a moderate victory target of 175 and all day in which to get the runs but crumbled to be all out for 134.

Architects of their defeat were Guyana's two off-spinners Roger Harper and Clyde Butts who ran through the Leeward Islands batsmen after they had looked well on course for victory at 75 for one.

Harper, the Guyana captain, finished with five for 38 and Butts, playing his final first class match before retiring, captured four for 38.

## King's Cup

**Soccer**

BANGKOK, Feb 14: South Korea's industrial bank held last year's runnerup, Thai A, to a 1-1 draw with both goals scored in the first half of a Group A first round match in the 25th King's Cup football tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

# Bangladesh do it in style

**Sports Reporter**

Bangladesh duly won their ICC Trophy opener beating Argentina by seven wickets as Sunday's rain-affected unfinished match was played to a deserving conclusion at the Simba Union Sports Club ground yesterday, a faxed message received by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) last night, revealed.

Bangladesh started from where they had left off Sunday — raring to go for a victory target of 121 only in 50 overs but thwarted by rain after having bowled Argentina for a scant 120 in 43.2 overs.

Given the relative strength of the two teams, Bangladesh's eventual win was never in doubt.

The only cause of concern for the second-seeded team was the whimsical, wet weather in a spree of spoiling the show of 20 ICC associate members' right from the very outset.

Fortunately the galling prospect of sharing points could not raise its feared head and with the weather in mood for some play, Bangladesh careered to a seven-wicket win in 35.2 overs, without really turning a hair.

Athar Ali Khan, the solid, in-form right-handed opener who was later adjudged man-of-the match, gave Bangladesh an ideal start in tandem with his shorter but perkier partner Jahangir Alam. Together they raised 68 runs for the first wicket.

Jahangir, who is his team's second wicketkeeper after Nasir Ahmed Nasu, was the first to go for a positive 37, made off 52 balls.

His partner left for a 92-ball 41, the top score of the innings with Bangladesh sitting snug on 90. Athar was caught by Forrester, the topscorer of the Argentine innings, off the bowling of Gooding. Top to top, quite a way to go!

Skipper Faruque Ahmed, a pugnacious character, was perhaps too keen and uptight to see his side get off to a good start and failed to play his natural game. He was out for 12, made from 38 balls.

Faruque's loss with the total on 115 was the third and last casualty in store for the Bangladesh innings as Aminul Islam Bulbul with an unbeaten 15 from 20 balls and Minhazul Abedin Nannu on eight not out guided them to 123 for three in 35.2 overs, more than enough for a win.

On Sunday, Argentina were all out for 120 with Bangladesh bowlers in full cry. Left-arm paceman Prince and left-arm spinner Enamul Huq Moni captured three wickets apiece.

There were two wickets for Nannu and one each for Jahangir Talukdar Dulu and Athar Ali.

Bangladesh play their next match against East Africa today at the Impala Club ground.

## ICC TROPHY



**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard of the ICC Trophy cricket championship match between Bangladesh and Argentina concluded yesterday at the Simba Union SC ground in Nairobi.

**ARGENTINA:**

Ferguson c Athar b Nannu 11  
Roberts b Dulu 0  
Alonso c Nannu b Athar 11  
Forrester b Prince 39  
Kirchbaum c Bulbul b Nannu 13

## Worries wax for England

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Feb 14:** England's touring cricketers drew their four-day match against Barbados Sunday and fast bowler Angus Fraser was injured when he was struck on the left hand while batting, reports AP.

The injury comes on the eve of the start of England's series against the West Indies.

Fraser was struck in England's first innings and an X-ray revealed fractures above and below the knuckle of the index finger.

Manager Keith Fletcher said Fraser, the 28-year-old middle-order player, was unlikely to play in the first one-day international against the West Indies here Wednesday but did not rule him out for the first Test of the five-match series, starting in Kingston, Jamaica, next Saturday.

"We'll have to wait and see but it is not as serious as we had feared," Fletcher said.

Fraser, his hand in a sling, said the injury "looked more painful than it is".

"I'd love to play in the Test and it shouldn't affect my bowling but it will depend on my batting and fielding," he said.

England already have another fast bowler, Andy Caddick, on the injured list. He has been sidelined with sore shins but Fletcher said he should be fit enough for the first Test and possibly for Wednesday's one-day international.

The West Indies also have injury problems. All-rounder Carl Hoppe has reported to the selectors that the stiff back that kept him out of Guyana's last Red Stripe Cup match against the Leeward Islands had not improved.

Andrew Sealy, secretary of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WIBC), said a decision on Hoppe's position in the West Indies team for Wednesday's one-day international and the first Test would be made Monday.

The match against Barbados, affected by rain on the first three days, petered out into an inevitable draw.

Final scores: Barbados 348 and 192 for six wickets declared; England 302 and 48 for no wickets.

Barbados lost the wickets of openers Desmond Haynes, for 2, and Philo Wallace, for 7, both to fast bowler Allan Iglesden but Sherwin Campbell, 53, and captain Roland Holder, 54, scotched any England hopes of a collapse.

The pair added 77 for the third wicket before off-spinner Graeme Hick dismissed holder and left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell, in 24 consecutive overs, claimed Campbell and livingstone Puckering.

Wicket keeper Courtney Browne, 25, and Vaspert Drakes, 34, were batting at tea when Barbados declared to give England the last hour and a half's batting.

In that time, Robin Smith and Mark Ramprakash added 48 for the first wicket against casual bowling.

## Aussie pace falls into place

**JOHANNESBURG, Feb 14:** Australian pace attack gave an early glimpse of their firepower, bowling out Northern Transvaal for 209 runs in their first innings in the four-day fixture at Centurion Park on Sunday, reports AP.

This was in reply to Australia's first innings 363 all out.

Australia opted for batting practice and refused to enforce a follow on. Leading on the first innings by 154 runs, Australia took stumps on 10 for no loss with an overall lead of 164 runs.

Glen McGrath, Merv Hughes and Paul Reiffel shared all wickets to fall with the latter being outstanding picking up four for 27.

Dan van Zyl and Steve Elworthy shared 75 runs for the seventh wicket either sides of two collapses after Reiffel opened the flood gates picking up two wickets in his third over.

The pair figured in a short rescue after the side was reduced to 113 for six, but once the stand was broken collapsed again to Merv Hughes.

Hughes, having gone wicketless in the first 16 overs, produced three in one over.

Van Zyl remained unbeaten on 63 while the rest capitulated after being caught twice off Hughes' no-balls. He batted for 135 minutes and struck seven boundaries.

Elworthy followed up the four for 85 in the Australian innings with a useful 29 which included a six off, off-spinner Tim May and four boundaries.

Australia, continuing on 274

## India's return to desert

**NEW DELHI, Feb 14:** Indian cricket authorities Monday lifted a three-year ban on playing in Sharjah and decided to take part in the Australasia Cup there in April, subject to government clearance, reports AP.

A special general body meeting of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) here accepted an invitation from the Sharjah-based Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS) to take part in the seven-nation tournament in the Gulf from April 12-22.

BCCI secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya, however, clarified that the visit was subject to clearance by the Indian government.

India have not played in the desert venue since October 1991 because of what it termed a "pro-Pakistani bias" in the conduct of tournaments there.

Dalmiya said the CBFS had accepted India's conditions like appointing third country umpires, a match referee approved by the International Cricket Council and a BCCI nominee on the technical committee.

The CBFS had also accepted BCCI's proposal to award benefit purses of 35,000 dollars each to three Indians instead of two. The Indian beneficiaries this year will be former Test stars Rusi Modi and Srinivas Venkatraghavan and current captain Mohammad Azharuddin.

Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates are the other teams invited for the April tournament.

## Sampras, Courier head field

**PHILADELPHIA, Feb 14:** A year ago, Pete Sampras was No. 2 in the world and hoping to claim the top spot from Jim Courier, reports AP.

Now Sampras leads the pack — and the third-ranked Courier tries not to seem eager to reclaim No. 1.

"I try to be really low-key and patient," Courier said in a recent conference call. "As most of you know, that's fighting against nature with my personality."

Sampras and Courier lead a 32-player field in the Comcast US Indoor Monday through Sunday at the Spectrum. Top 10 players Michael Chang and

## Partex b'ball

**Sports Reporter**

Title contenders Angels Club maintained their all-win run when they trounced minnows Hornets Club 108-55 in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 57-17.

Dulal top scored with 35 points while Raju contributed 22 and Siddique 14 for Angels.

Julian and Tarun caged 21 and 14 respectively for the losers.

Angels have collected maximum points from seven games so far. Hornets on the other hand have managed nine points.

## ICC Trophy other results

**NAIROBI, Feb 14:** Results of 50 overs ICC (International Cricket Conference) Trophy matches on Monday, reports Reuter.

Hong Kong beat Denmark by two wickets. Denmark 192, Hong Kong 192-8 (John orders 63 not out, Stuart Brew 42, Ole Mortensen 4-21).

United Arab Emirates beat East and Central Africa by seven wickets. East and Central Africa 92 in 37.3 overs (Johan Samarasekera 4-14, Arshad Laiq 3-18). UAE 93-3, 26.5 overs (Azhar Saeed 44).

Kenya beat Singapore by nine wickets. Singapore 76 in 34.5 overs (Asif Karim 5-20, Rajab Ali 4-9). Kenya 77-1 in 9.2 overs.

Canada beat Namibia by ten wickets. Namibia 51 in 15 overs (Bhawa Singh 7-21). Canada 52-0 in 10 overs.

Netherlands beat Gibraltar by ten wickets. Gibraltar 80 on 44.4 overs. Netherlands 85-0 in 10 overs (Nolan Clarke 49 not out).

Ireland v Papua New Guinea, no play due to rain.

## Marvellous Majumdar

**NEW DELHI, Feb 14:** A young Indian cricketer has broken a 73-year-old world cricket record by scoring 260 runs on his debut in first class cricket, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Amol Majumdar, 19, playing for Bombay against Haryana in a Ranji Trophy match passed the record of Transvaal's W F E Marx, who scored 240 against Griqualand West in Johannesburg in the 1920-21 season, PTI said.

The knock by Majumdar, a former-19 national skipper, enabled Bombay to pile up 718 runs before they were all out.

Majumdar overhauled Marx's record on Sunday when he hit 30 boundaries to make an unbeaten 245. He was out after adding 15 runs on Monday, stumped as he stepped out to hit Pankaj Thakur.

He was involved in a 228-run partnership with Bombay captain Ravi Shastri. The former Indian skipper scored 118.

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Manchester United striker Mark Hughes(R) attempts an overhead kick in front of an unidentified Sheffield Wednesday player during their English League Cup semifinal first leg match in Manchester on Feb 13. United won 1-0. —AFP photo

# Japan won't quit after all

**KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14:** Japan is willing to drop its controversial decision to pull its J-League teams

out of the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) regional tournaments, following a compromise brokered by AFC general secretary Peter Velappan, reports AFP.

"In principle the sides will be in this year's competitions provided we can find a schedule that accommodates their existing professional league commitments," said Velappan Monday.

The Football Association of Japan dropped the bombshell Friday that the hugely successful J-League teams were out of the 1994 tournaments at a seminar where amongst other things the AFC stressed the value of their club competitions as a means of improving football across the continent.

Velappan indicated the Japanese reversal followed the overwhelmingly negative response to the news across Asia, which comes at a time when the publicity-conscious Japanese are jockeying to win votes for their 2002 World Cup campaign.

One English-language Malaysian newspaper headlined the withdrawal story Japan socks it to AFC.

"We respect their playing schedule," said Velappan of the J-League. "Just as we respect the schedule of other east Asian professional leagues like Hong Kong and South Korea."

Velappan's solution is to have the AFC tournament legs played mid week to avoid clashes with the predominantly weekend based J-League fixtures.

The AFC competitions committee, which makes the formal draw for both the Asian Club Championships and Asian Cup Winners' Cup, is expected to meet at the beginning of next month to set the seal on the three-month competition which is due to start in August.

The success of the J-League has lured Japanese teams away from playing in the less lucrative Asian tournaments were previously they had been a consistent feature.

An understrength side from J-League champions Yomiuri Verdy were beaten in this year's semifinals of the Asian Club Championships by Thai Farmers.

And although Yokohama Marinos also reached the semifinals of this year's Asian Cup Winners' Cup, they withdrew to concentrate on the more lucrative local Emperor's Cup.

The AFC tournaments offer top prize money 50,000 US dollars for competition winners, but do not subsidize travel or accommodation for traveling teams, no matter the distances involved.

On the other hand each Japanese team receives a 20 million dollar subsidy from the J-League itself and prize money of up to 500,000 dollars.

Japan's original decision to withdraw their teams came as a shock when it was announced and cast a shadow over the seminar which was held for general secretaries of the 36 countries that make up the AFC.

During the seminar the AFC had deliberately held up the professional league of Japan as one of the best examples for other non-professional administrations to copy.

# Martin begins with a bang

**MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb 14:** Todd Martin finished what he started Sunday, winning the Kroger-St. Jude International tennis championship, reports AP.

"This year has started off better than I ever could have imagined," Martin said after beating fellow American Brad Gilbert 6-4, 7-5, in his first tournament after losing in the finals of last month's Australian Open.

"I'm just happy to get through a final. It's been since last May, and I've had plenty of chances.... It's nice to finish the job."

Martin, ranked ninth in the world, won his first title last May at Coral Springs and then lost in four finals, including falling to Pete Sampras last month in the year's first Grand Slam event.

Sunday's victory came at the site of his breakthrough performance in 1993. He started the year ranked 87th in the world and reached his first final in Memphis, where he lost to then — No 1 Jim Courier.

Martin, who won \$110,500 with the victory, broke Gilbert twice in taking the first set. The second break came with Martin leading 5-4. He crossed up Gilbert with a backhand and then a forehand.

**Chen, Byrne win**

**BEIJING, Feb 14:** Chen Li of China and Jenny Byrne of Australia won their opening matches Monday in the Nokia Open '94 women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

Chen, ranked 270th in the world, overwhelmed 178th-ranked Nicole Pratt of Australia 6-1, 6-1 at Beijing's National Olympic Sports Center.

The left-handed Chen drew enthusiastic applause from the home audience, while Pratt seemed hesitant and committed 13 double faults.

Byrne had to fight for about two hours before putting away Angela Kerek of Germany 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

cross-court shot to go up 30-40. Gilbert then hit long to give Martin the game and the set.

The split breaks in the second set to tie at 4-4, and each held serve as Martin went ahead 6-5. Gilbert, trying to force the tiebreaker, held double when he put a shot into the net to give Martin the advantage. Martin won the tournament when Gilbert hit into the net on Martin's return.

"My serve let me down. All of a sudden, it put me in trouble," Gilbert said.

Gilbert, the second-oldest player in the top 50 at 32, behind only 33-year-old Ivan Lendl, had been looking for his first tour title since September 1990. He now has lost in seven straight finals.

"I was a little sluggish at the start of the first set, and again after I won the first set," Martin said.

"Brad, he sort of lulls you to sleep with the softness of his shots.... when you're even or ahead, that lulls you asleep even more."

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The players of IFIC Bank who defeated Rupali Bank by six wickets in the Office cricket league on Feb 11 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. —Star photo