

Biman U-14 nat'l soccer begins today

Sports Reporter
The final phase of the Biman Cup under-14 national soccer tournament under the auspices of Bangladesh Football Federation begins at the Mirpur Stadium today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will inaugurate the ten-day meet sponsored by national airlines Biman Bangladesh.

Eight zonal champions — Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Bandarban, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Khulna, Patuakhali and reigning champions Tangail are taking part in the round robin league fray.

Dhaka will take on Gaibandha in the first match at 5.30 pm while holders Tangail will meet Patuakhali in the other match at 7 pm.

RU dominate in varsity athletics

Sports Reporter
Rajshahi University dominated the track on the opening day of the inter-university athletic meet at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) ground yesterday.

The university from the northern part of the country took both the 100 meter sprints to finish the day with nine golds eight silvers and three bronzes on the opening day of the two-day meet.

Runa Laila of Rajshahi who bagged the gold in the 200 meter sprint became the fastest woman clocking 13.70 seconds in the 100 meter dash. Tawhidur Rahman took the gold in the men's 100 meter sprint with a timing of 11.10 seconds.

Of the other four golds decided on the day, Dhaka University and Chittagong University took two each. In all 62 athletes from five universities are taking part in the meet which ends today.

SA-Aussie 5th one-dayer today

EAST LONDON. South Africa, Apr 1: Australia and South Africa begin the final showdown of their gruelling double-headed summer with the second half of the one-day series starting here Saturday at Buffalo Park, reports AP.

Skipper Kepler Wessels and his men hold the key to the eight-match series with a 3-1 lead.

With the three-match Test series in stalemate at one win apiece.

Wessels feels the intensity of the competition should lift both home sides' game. The two teams have already been in loggerheads in six Tests and 11 one-dayers this season.

South Africa were widely criticised for their conservative approach in the final Test, which fizzled to a draw after the home side had batted itself to a strong position.

Both sides will miss the services of their strike bowlers — Australia's Craig McDermott and South Africa's Allan Donald.

McDermott flew back to Australia for surgery on a troublesome left knee while Donald flew to his home in Birmingham to rest, a strained hamstring.

Medium paceman Damien Fleming replaced McDermott.

A glitch in Biman engine

Sports Reporter
Former champions Dhaka University were halfway through to the final of the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship when they had Bangladesh Biman, tottering at the end of rain-affected first day of the second semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Biman who too had the

taste of the title in the past, made heavy weather of a fairly straight forward University attack to finish the day on 94 for six wickets in the possible 45 overs.

The match started at 2 pm because of the wet, unplayable condition of the ground caused by the persistent rain and the airlines team was on the run once national cricketer Selim

Shahed won the toss to opt for fielding first.

Dhaka University's young left-arm pacemen Morshed Ali trapped Biman's tail opener Ahmed Fayaz in front of the wicket with the score on unlucky 13 and the infatuated never left Biman barring a belated rearguard action from all rounder Jahangir Talukdar.

The unorthodox national cricketer remained unconquered on 30 made from 63 balls to drag Biman from a hopeless 43 for five wickets to a relatively respectable 94 with the tireless rain devouring once again a considerable portion of day's play the authorities were forced to recast the tie into a 60-overs-a-side contest with Biman having 15 more overs left to raise a fighting total.

So pathetic was the Biman batting that none except the 'drafted' Khaled Mahmud (of course apart from Jahangir) made it to the double figures. He made 13 before offering a snick behind the stumps to Rabi off slow left-arm Shamsul who finished with dented figures of one for seven from five overs.

However Mamun was the most successful University bowler with an analysis of two for 22 from 12 overs.

Pacer Morshed bowled commendably to capture one for 17 while off spinner Rupam who played for Biman in Navana league last year, proved quite unkind for his 'former team' with a tight analysis of one for ten from eight overs.

National cricketer Sarfuddin Iqbal Shaheed who opened the attack despite being a spinner — thanks to New Zealander Martin Crowe's pioneering experiment in '92 World Cup — also bowled with remarkable control giving away just five runs from as many overs, three of which were maidens.

Meanwhile, Sylhet became the first team to enter the final when they cut out defending champions Chittagong in a rain-affected, frustratingly extended semifinal which ended on Thursday.



Jahangir Talukdar Dulu, better known as a new ball bowler returns to the pavilion after conjuring the saving grace with an unbeaten 30 in the Biman paltry total of 94 for six on the rain-hit first day of the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship's second semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Sanchez, Martinez roll on

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC. Apr 1: Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, her game rejuvenated after

a shaky first set, beat Amanda Coetzer 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 Thursday to move into the quarterfinals of the dlr's 750,000 Family Circle Cup, reports AP.

Sanchez Vicario, ranked second in the world, led 5-3 in the opening set and appeared headed for an easy victory. However, Coetzer, the ninth seed, forced a tiebreaker to conclude a set that lasted 83 minutes.

"I was up 5-3 and I tried to go too much for the point and win the point too quickly," Sanchez Vicario said. "I made some mistakes and allowed her to come back into the match again."

Other third round winners in the clay-court tournament included No. 2 Conchita Martinez of Spain, No. 5 Lindsay Davenport of the United States, No. 6 Natalia Zvereva of Belarus and No. 7 Mary Pierce of France.

Martinez also turned it on after a close first set, ousting No. 10 Sabine Hack 7-6 (8-6), 6-2.

Davenport topped Emanuela Zardo 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. The 17-year-old Californian has had several strong performances this season. She lost to Steffi Graf in the quarterfinals of the Australia Open and in the semifinals of the Lipton event.

In the quarterfinals she will play Iva Majoli, who beat No. 14 Lella Meskhi 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

It was the Croatian teenager's second-straight win over a seeded player. She topped No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini in three sets Wednesday.

Pierce squandered five match points before topping No. 22 Brenda Schultz 6-1, 7-5. Pierce will meet Sanchez Vicario in the quarters.

"It's a big difference when you win the first set than when you have to come back," said Sanchez Vicario. "But even if I lost the first set, I knew that if I would keep playing the same way as I did, I would still have a chance to do well and come back."

Coetzer couldn't seem to regain her stroke after that.

BJMC excel in nat'l cycling

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) ruled the 19th national cycling competition with a haul of nine golds including two on the concluding day of the three-day meet at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

BJMC who captured five golds on the second day and the only gold decided on the rain-hit opening day on Wednesday, took the gold in the men's 4000-metre point race and 4000-metre team pursuit to finish with nine golds, four silvers and four bronzes.

Ansars and VDP and BTMC captured three golds each but the Ansars team claimed six silvers against BTMC's four to finish second leaving the other participant of the championship BDR goldless.

M Azizul Huq, secretary for the Ministry of Youth and Sports distributed prizes among the winners.

IM chess meet well & truly over

Sports Reporter
Unavailable though for the tournament proper, the conference room of the National Sports Council (NSC) played host to the concluding ceremony of the Second United Insurance International Masters chess tournament yesterday.

Despite the pre-tournament assurance from none other than the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain himself who is also the chairman of the NSC, country's highest government body for sports, the just concluded 40-player eleven round Swiss league meet had to be conducted in the rather stifling atmosphere of the NSC chess room as the spacious, spruce conference room closed on the organisers possibly owing to an inscrutable and unheard 'shut sesame' directive after the inaugural ceremony.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mian who was the chief guest on the concluding day gave away prizes among the winners. President of Bangladesh Chess Federation Nasimuddin Ahmed and Chairman of United Insurance Company M Moidul Islam were also present on the occasion.

The two-week long meet which began on March 20 with five participants from India and Pakistan came to an end on the tune of FIDE Master Rezaul Huq who produced a western classic on guitar.

Miandad still forlorn

ISLAMABAD, Apr 1: Master batsman Javed Miandad has again been dropped in the Pakistan team announced today for the six-nation Australasia Cup commencing in the Gulf Sheikdom of Sharjah from April 12, reports AFP.

Test bowler Aaqib Javed and batsman Ijaz Ahmed have been recalled for the championship in which teams from Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates are to compete.

The selectors once again ignored Miandad, veteran of 220 one-day internationals and a popular player among the Sharjah crowd.

He was earlier omitted over fitness and form when the team toured New Zealand. The batsman has blamed selectors for the omission.

Pace bowler Athar Laiq will represent Pakistan for the first time abroad.

Ijaz had been out of the national team for the past two years while Aaqib Javed, bothered by a back problem, last played for Pakistan against Zimbabwe during the winter tour.

Led by Salim Malik, the squad announced by chief selector Imtiaz Ahmed in the Punjab capital Lahore.

Azhar in for a real fortune

CALCUTTA, Apr 1: A heavy purse is awaiting Indian skipper Mohammed Azharuddin at Sharjah, the city witness to many unpleasant incidents in earlier cricket tournament, reports PTI.

Azharuddin will be richer by over Rs. 10,50,000 (US dollars 35,000) after India's participation in the six-nation Australasia tournament.

Along with the Indian skipper, S. Venkatraghavan, a former national captain and now an international umpire, and RS Mody will also receive cheques of the same amount. Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya said here yesterday.

He said the Indian team, which would be playing in Sharjah after a gap of three years, would be selected in Bombay on April 5.

Dalmiya said the team would be accompanied by Ajit Wadekar as cricket manager and Jyoti Prasad Bajpai as administrative manager.

After some unpleasant incidents in Sharjah in October, 1991, India had stopped participating in tournaments held in Sharjah, Dalmiya said, adding the BCCI agreed to compete in the Australasia Cup following categorical assurances that the tournament would be organised in an impartial way.

Krabbe's misfortune

BONN, Apr 1: Former world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe, banned for two years for doping, has suffered a misadventure, her father said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Krabbe, 24, had announced only three weeks ago that she was pregnant by Michael Zimmermann, 32, the lawyer who has been backing the former East German sprinter's fight to overturn the ban that will keep her out of action until August next year.

The child was due at the end of September.



Pakistani International Master (IM) Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi shakes hands with chairman of United Insurance Company M Moidul Islam after receiving winner's cheque at a prize giving ceremony at the NSC conference room yesterday. Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah is also seen.

Stewart swims into history

FEDERAL WAY, Wash., Apr 1: Mel Stewart, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist and world

record holder in the 200-metre butterfly, on Thursday became the first US swimmer ever to win 11 national titles in the same event, reports AP.

The two-time Olympian led wire to wire in capturing the 200 butterfly in 1 minute 58.32 seconds at the US Swimming Championships.

Stewart passed retired Mary T Meagher (200 butterfly) and Janet Evans (800 freestyle), who have 10 individual championships each.

Stewart, who competed at University of Tennessee, didn't come close to his world record of 1:55.69, but said he was suffering from jet lag.

The barnstormer Stewart flew to Seattle from Knoxville, Tenn. after flying twice to France to compete in meets. He figured he has flown nearly 11,000 miles (17,700 kms) in the past nine days.

Turkish-born Ugur Taner, a University of California sophomore, stayed close but couldn't catch Stewart. Taner was timed in 1:59.77, followed by Tom Malchow, of St Paul, Minn. in 1:59.86.

Stewart had splits of 26.50, 29.72, 30.80 and 31.30.

Stewart's victory highlighted the second day of the five-day meet in the King County Aquatic Centre's 50-

meter pool. The meet is being used to select the US contingent for this year's Goodwill Games in Russia.

Nicole Haislett, a three-time gold medalist at Barcelona two years ago, took her 10th national title.

Haislett, who wrapped up her University of Florida swimming career at the NCAA women's meet two weeks ago, won the 100 freestyle in 56.25 seconds, easily beating Denmark's Gitta Jensen. Jensen was second in 57.10.

She benefitted from the absence of Stanford's Jenny Thompson, the world record-holder in the event, who passed up this meet.

Haislett, winner of the 100 freestyle at the 1991 World Championships, took the lead during the first lap of the two-lap spring and steadily pulled away in the final 50 meters.

Although Haislett has had success in the 100 freestyle, the 200 freestyle is considered her specialty. She earned an Olympic gold medal in the 200 freestyle, as well as two relay gold medals in Barcelona.

Kristine Quance picked up her seventh national title by winning the 200 backstroke in 2:28.55, beating a field that included American and former world record holder Anita Nall and Canada's Guylaine Cloutier.

Nall, whose American record is 2:25.35 set in 1992, was far back in second at 2:30.95.

In the men's 100 freestyle, the university of Michigan's Gustavo Borges won in 49.64. Borges, of Brazil, was an Olympic, silver medalist at Barcelona in the event.

Borges beat American Gary Hall (50.27) and Teaner (50.42).

The men's 200 breaststroke was won by Hungary's Norbert Rosza in 2:13.58. Rosza is a former world record-holder in the event who finished second in Barcelona.

Steve West of the University of Michigan was second in 2:16.11, followed by Seth VanNorden in 2:16.20.

Suzanne Toldo, a high school student from Kalamazoo, Mich, had her best day ever in the women's 200 backstroke.

First, she set a personal best of 2:12.92 in the morning's preliminaries and then bettered her time in 2:12.26 to win the finals.

Lea Loveless was a close second. Loveless, a fourth-place finisher in the race at the 1992 Olympics, was timed in 2:12.60.

Brad Bridgewater of the Texas Aquatics had an excellent 200 backstroke race, winning in a career-best 1:59.15. It was the best time in the event by an American this year and the fourth best by a US swimmer ever.

Michelle Grigione was the women's 200 butterfly winner in 2:12.72.

Home still inspires Evans

FEDERAL WAY, Washington, Apr 1: Janet Evans has encountered some rough water since she won three gold medals at the 1988 Olympics, but it has not dimmed her ambition to compete before her home fans at the Atlanta Games, reports AFP.

Evans' exploits at Seoul, where she had just turned 17, made her the darling of the Games.

By 1992, Evans was feeling trapped in that role as she tried to balance training, university studies and sponsors' demands.

At the Barcelona Games, she won one gold and one silver, and had to listen to pundits proclaiming that at 21 she was over the hill.

"I think in '92 people questioned whether it was good for me to still be in the sport," Evans said. "Last summer proved I could still swim fast, so that was a big stepping block for me. It gave me a lot of confidence in what I'm doing."

"I'm secure enough in my life, I know what I want to do and I'm not going to worry about pressures from other people."

At the relatively advanced age of 22, Evans still dominates women's distance swimming. She holds the world records for the 400m, 800m and 1,500m freestyle, and she is gearing up to defend her 400m and 800m titles at the 1992 Olympics.

Evans said she had no trouble staying motivated, but she admitted her graduation from university this spring would put a question mark over her competitive career.

"I'd love to swim in Atlanta," she said. "I graduate in May, I'm going to swim during summer, then I'm going to make a decision. I would love to swim (at the Olympics) in my home country."

She said her sponsorship contracts would make it possible to continue her training even after she graduates, but she knows that the longer she hangs on the harder it will be to dominate.

Far from making her intimidating, she says her reputation is an incitement to younger swimmers.

"Once you reach the top, it's easy for people to put in their goals and try to beat you," she said. "I think people try to beat you all the time."



JANET EVANS

titles at the World Championships in Rome in September.

"The World Championships have to be a major priority this

Sampras sails, Chang fails

OSAKA, Japan, Apr 1: World Number one Pete Sampras stayed in form to beat Guillaume Raoux in the quarter finals here Friday, but Michael Chang failed to defend his singles title at the 650,000-dollar Salem Open tennis tournament, reports AFP.

Sampras raced to a straight forward 6-3, 6-3 victory over the Frenchman, while the Chinese-American crowd favourite watched his 6-2, 4-1 advantage shrivel into a 6-2, 5-7, 3-6 defeat to Henrik Holm of Sweden.

Thursday saw another upset when French qualifier Lionel Roux, who pulled off the biggest upset over former world number one Ivan Lendl Thursday, caused yet another blow beating American sixth seed Aaron Krickstein 7-5, 7-6 (7/2).

Sampras has to wait till Saturday to see whom he will play next as rain started to fall

forcing organisers to postpone the remaining match after fifth seed Andre Agassi was leading 7-6 (7/1), 3-1 over fellow American David Wheaton.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Sampras when he was asked about a rematch against Agassi.

Sampras overcame a stomach ailment and first set deficit to beat Agassi 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 at the Key Biscayne final 12 days ago.

"Whenever I play Andre, he seems to take the best out of me. We both play very different games in the contrast of styles of play. I think it's fun to watch. We both are looking forward to it," added the top seed.

"I thought I played so far my best tennis today. Guillaume is a very talented player and I was rushing quite a bit at the end, because it was sprinkling (with rain) pretty hard."

"So I wanted to go out of court as soon as possible... but I thought I played quite well today," added the 22-year-old.

who needed just under an hour to beat Raoux.

Holm, who eliminated seventh seed Brad Gilbert of the United States Thursday, pulled off five games in a row in the second set and went on to tie the match at one-all when Chang netted his forehead shot.

"From that moment when I was down 1-4 (in the second set), I was taking more time and trying to hit the ball hard and go more offensive on the court," said Holm.

The Swede again jumped ahead 5-1 in the decider and, although he failed to serve out for the match in the seventh game, made no mistakes at his second attempt, charging hard to the net to force backhand errors off his opponent.

"I played very good from the baseline today. He was hitting many unforced errors at important moment and I made a couple of good points with my forehand. I'm very happy with the match," said a jubilant Holm.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 The Silence of the —

6 Supplement, with "out"

9 After-hrs. banker?

12 The Little Mermaid

13 Fabrica-tion

14 Appomat-tox VIP

15 Hereb's a/k/a

16 Never surpassed

18 Mischie-vous youngster

20 En-grossed

21 Enthusi-ast, plus

23 Author Kesey

24 Third pieces?

25 Cassini of fashion

27 Clark's companion

29 "Stan the Man"

31 Save

35 Shakespeare's theater

37 Safe-cracker

38 Julius of golf fame

41 Sweet potato

43 Year-end quaff

44 Autumnal birthstone

45 Obliquely

47 Duelers' aides

49 Drench

52 Where Mindy honey-mooned

53 Ah's mate

54 Quiver occupant

55 More (Sp.)

56 Away from NNW

57 Equivo-cator's response

DOWN

1 — Vegas

2 Jackie's second mate

3 Commit-tee record

4 Tolerate

5 Slippery

6 Mrs. Robinson's daughter

7 Oast

8 Moray, e.g.

9 Police-blotter datum

10 Entice

11 Runs into

17 Having a full coil

19 A conver-

21 Arles ap-pellation

22 Director Grosbard

24 Compete

26 Kept man

28 Inflict

30 Capp and Capone

32 Subdivi-sion of a legion

33 Actor Tognazzi

34 Ingredient in 43

36 Across Percy — Shelley

38 Intimate, as a friend

39 "Norma," e.g.

40 Clothing store furnishings

42 Polite address

45 Fussess

46 Asta's mistress

48 Denials

50 Turn on the water-works

51 Cote mom

Solution time: 26 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

8-6