



Players and officials of the BKSP cricket team who retained the Beximco national youth championship title for the second successive year beating Dhaka DSA in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Linu, Julekha clinch TT doubles crown

Linu and Julekha clinched the women's doubles title of the 20th Karnaphuli national table tennis tournament...

BSJA workshop

The Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) yesterday arranged a day-long workshop on football to brief the sports journalists about the latest laws and technique of the game...

BKSP's second in a row

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishtan (BKSP) retained the Beximco national youth cricket championship title with a convincing five-wicket win over Dhaka District Sports Association (DSA) in the final of the 15th edition at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

ROLL OF HONOUR table listing players and their teams for the BKSP victory.

Davis Cup Bangladesh 2nd in Group-3

Bangladesh secured the second position in the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group Three (B) grabbing four points...

Six teams took part in the group held at Dubai from April 10 to 16.

Bangladesh suffered their only defeat to Saudi Arabia, who became unbeaten group champions with five full points...

The other countries of the group were: Pacific Oceania (third), Lebanon (fourth), Jordan (fifth) and hosts UAE (sixth).

Bangladesh's Hira Lal and Shovon Jamaly played in the first and second singles while Syed Waliullah Jhelan and Nawaz Amin Rumon in the doubles.

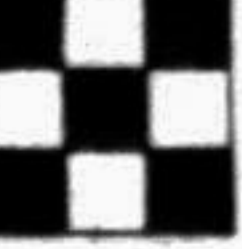
In Group Three (A), Bahrain qualified for the Group Two next year as unbeaten champions. Seven teams took part in the Group Three (A).

The other countries were: Singapore (second), Kuwait (third), Syria (fourth), Oman (fifth), Kazakhstan (sixth) and Brunei (seventh).

Bangladesh finished third in the last year's Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group Three.

Reefat beats Barua

Sports Reporter



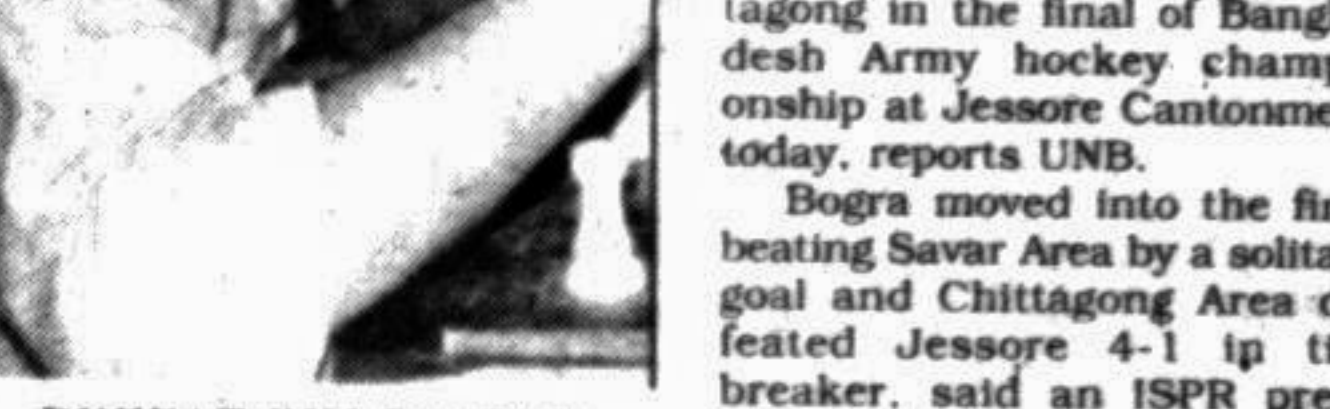
International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar upstaged his more illustrious opponent Indian Grandmaster (GM) Dybendu Barua to maintain a solo lead full three points in the qualifying rounds of the World Championships...

While Reefat was cruising, his fellow IM Zaur Rahman drew with IM D V Prashad of India and had to be satisfied with the second slot collecting two and a half points on completion of the third round.

Niaz Mureshed, the lone GM of the country, who made a disappointing start losing his opener of the ten round Swiss league meet, bounced back into the race after recording his second successive win on Tuesday.

Bogra Area will face Chittagong in the final of Bangladesh Army hockey championship at Jessore Cantonment today, reports UNB.

Bogra moved into the final beating Savar Area by a solitary goal and Chittagong Area defeated Jessore 4-1 in tie-breaker, said an ISPR press release.



REEFAT-BIN-SATTAR

Cloud over Atherton's captaincy

LONDON, Apr 19: Speculation about Mike Atherton's future as England skipper continued here today as the board of selectors decided to delay their announcement of the captaincy for another 11 days...

Atherton must now wait until April 30 for selectors Ray Illingworth, Fred Titmus and David Graveney to make up the mind.

"We would just like a little longer to discuss it," said chairman Illingworth after meeting his colleagues for the first time this season.

The delay could fuel speculation that Atherton is by no means a unanimous choice following England's disastrous 3-1 Ashes defeat in Australia.

But a more likely reason is that the selectors want to remind Atherton that in view of recent results, he should take nothing for granted.

It will still be a surprise if the current skipper is not given at least the first part of this summer's Test series against West Indies to confirm his worth.

Illingworth has already met Atherton once since the end of the Ashes tour and he said today he would be speaking to him again before April 30.

BBF's show cause on 16

The Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) has issued show cause notices upon the 16 shuttlers, who have been boycotting the federation's programmes...

Disclosing this at a press conference yesterday the BBF president, State Minister for Finance M Mojibur Rahman, strongly criticised the players for their "illegal activities" for the last two months.

The rebel shuttlers decided not to join the national camp and trial session for the Beijing ABC Championship which incidentally concluded last month, demanding inclusion of more players for the meet.

The sixteen players are: Mahboob Rab, Khurshid, Rana, Hasib, Sarwar, Kochi, Sumon, Amir, Hamid, Shaheel, Elina, Jyoti, Kanika, Momo, Liza and Noori.

Pepsi national championship

Dhaka DSA in last eight

Sports Reporter



Dhaka DSA moved into the quarter-finals of the 21st Pepsi national cricket championship after eliminating their neighbours Narayanganj by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Electing to bat in the morning, Narayanganj, who were at one stage cruising along at 118 for three capitated, lost 156 in 40.4 overs in the 45 over a-side match.

Azhar Hossain Shantoo, who was responsible for a dramatic middle order collapse of the Narayanganj batting, started the rot removing opener Shahrir Hossain Bidyut for 54.

The young opener, who steadied the Narayanganj innings sharing 79 runs for the third wicket with Zakaria Intiaz, fell for a 79-ball 54 which included five hits to the rope. Zakaria soon followed him

Frazier replaces Davenport

WHITE PLAINS, New York, Apr 19: Amy Frazier, fresh from her victory at the Japan Open, has been selected by captain Billie Jean King to replace ailing Lindsay Davenport on the United States Fed Cup team...

Frazier, whose ranking rose to 16th in the world after claiming her fifth career title, joins Mary Joe Fernandez and doubles team Martina Navratilova and Gigi Fernandez for the first-round tie against Austria this weekend in Aventura, Florida.

The sixth-ranked Davenport withdrew from the team after contracting food poisoning following a bout of pneumonia, the USTA said in a news release.

"Billie Jean and I have selected Amy because she is currently the third highest-ranked American behind Mary Joe and Lindsay and last week had a fantastic win over eighth-ranked Kimiko Date in the final of the Japan Open," said US Fed Cup committee chairman Carole Graebner.

Tyrant coach faces probe

CANBERRA, Apr 19: Parents of several Australian female gymnasts have accused the country's head coach of mistreating the athletes, prompting the federal government to set up an investigation into the claims, reports Reuters.

The parents say Chinese-born coach Ju Ping Tian punished the girls if they put on weight and said the girls were kicked, smacked and forced to run fully clothed in a sauna if they received unsatisfactory competition scores.

Federal Sports Minister John Faulkner announced Wednesday that he would set up an independent inquiry by Hayden Opie, president of the Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association.

Jim Ferguson, executive-director of the Australian Sports Commission, says the accusations may be racially motivated.

"I can't comment on anything specific but I believe some of the allegations have racist overtones," he said.

Ferguson said the claims were related to the Australian Gymnastics Federation's decision that gymnasts selected in the national squad train together at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. It is a decision opposed by the Victorian and West Australian state sports institutes.

With the institute since March 1985, Ju Ping is credited with elevating Australian women's gymnastics from a ranking in the 20s to a high of sixth in the world last year.

Ju Ping denied the allegations and said none of the female gymnasts in her programme was unhappy.

"I am doing my job which is to concentrate on getting together the six best girls to the 1996 Olympics," she said Wednesday. "My heart is in this for all Australia — I don't care where they come from but I want the best for Australia."

Robert Prosser, whose daughter trains at the West Australian Institute of Sport in Perth, said the girls were forced to make themselves sick in order to maintain their weight.

"They were shown how to throw up, that's one of the allegations that's come out," Prosser said. "Other ones were punishing them for not competing well, if they fail a strength test, making them do extra training, given the silent treatment if they don't do well."

"I think it's very cruel," Allen said of the allegations. "Ju Ping's been like my second mom."

"She is extremely hard but she is also very soft. I have an enormous amount of respect for Ju Ping. It's only because she cares that she is so hard."

Czech Republic on a roll

LA MANGA, Spain, Apr 19: The Czech Republic defeated Britain 3-0 in the second day of the Europe-Africa regional qualifying matches for the 1996 Federation Cup women's tennis championship, reports AP.

World No 20 Helena Sukova started the day for the Czech team by defeating Britain's Shirl-Anne Siddall 6-3, 6-2.

World No 5 Jana Novotna then drubbed Britain's Claire Wood 6-2, 6-2.

Novotna and Sukova teamed up in doubles to defeat Wood and Jo Durie by two sets to one.

The win followed the Czechs' 3-0 win over other Pool A team Poland on the first day of play Monday and left the Czech team ahead in the group.

Slovenia, which beat Britain 2-1 on Monday, downed Poland by the same score Tuesday.

4 Aussie hockey WC veterans dropped

SYDNEY, Apr 19: Four members of Australia's bronze-medal World Cup team were today axed from next month's six-match home field hockey series with England, reports AFP.

Selectors discarded Ashley Carey, Greg Corbitt, David Wansbrough and Lindsay Woods in shake-up of the national team.

In the wake of Warren Birmingham's retirement last week after 200 games for his country, 176-game forward Mark Hager has been appointed captain with Stephen Davies, a veteran of 130 games, his vice-captain.

Carey and Wansbrough were also not included in the Australian hockey squad for this year.

Australia's series with England commences in Perth on May 10, with further games in Adelaide (twice), Hobart, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The team named today will also play in the Oceania Cup in Auckland, New Zealand, which they must win to automatically qualify for next year's Atlanta Olympics.



French soccer star Eric Cantona signs autographs for youngsters from Palau XIII, a team from Southwest France, who watched their hero practice with the reserves before starting his first day of community service at Manchester United's training ground on April 18. — AFP/UNB photo

Euro booters axed from SA squad

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 19: South African coach Clive Barker has omitted the country's contingent of European-based players from a 20-man squad to meet Lesotho in a friendly soccer international next week, reports Reuters.

Barker named four uncapped players in the squad today for the match in Aseru on April 26, designed as a warm-up encounter ahead of South Africa's game against Argentina in Johannesburg in May.

The team shows five changes from South Africa's last international outing in a four-nation tournament against Cameroon, Ghana and the Ivory Coast last December.

Returning to the team are goalkeeper Roger de Sa and striker Grant Young, back home after an unsuccessful spell with Belgian First Division club Ghent, while midfielder Clinton Larsen gets his first call-up.

Barker said he intended recalling seven foreign-based players for the match against Argentina, including giant forward Phil Masinga, who plays for Leeds United in the English Premier League.

Bradtke's 15th

PERTH, Apr 19: Nicole Bradtke will play in her 15th Fed Cup women's tennis match when Australia takes on Slovakia in a Group One contest this weekend at Royal King's Park, reports AP.

Bradtke, at 25, the most senior member of the Australian team after making her debut in the competition in 1988, will be joined by Renae Stubbs, Kristine Radford and Rachel McQuillan.

Bradtke boasts singles wins over Slovakia's Radka Zrubakova and Katka Studenikova — a straight-sets win at this year's Australian Open — but has not played the highly regarded Karina Habšudova.

"I've had a good start to the year so hopefully I can perform well," Bradtke said Wednesday. "I've played well in previous Federation Cup matches."

She beat Germany's Steffi Graf 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 in the first round of the 1993 Federation Cup.

The singles begin on Saturday followed by reverse singles and doubles matches on Sunday.