

Labu leads chess board

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka metropolis champion Mizanur Rahman Labu took lone lead in the qualifying round of the 21st national chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Mizan defeated Rajib to earn full five points on the completion of the fifth round.

Meanwhile, ten players, with four points each, were trailing the table leader of the 10-round Swiss League meet. They are — Khandaker Kayes Hassan, Ziaul Qader Tuhin, Hassan Hanif, Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Badrul Alam, Putul Chandra Bose, Arifuzzaman Shikdar, Sheikh Shahadat Hossain, Mahfujur Rahman and Saifuddin Lablu.

Fourteen top finishers will qualify for the final round.

Nat'l gymnastics from today

Sports Reporter

The Afsar 21st national gymnastic championships are scheduled to start at the National Sports Council gymnasium today.

About 75 male and female gymnasts of different district and services teams will take part in the two-day meet.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation, Md Nurul Huda MP will inaugurate the championship.

Johnson retains IBF crown

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas, May 29: Defending IBF featherweight champion Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson retained his title Sunday, using his reach advantage to keep challenger Eddie "Prime Time" Croft at bay for a unanimous decision, reports AP.

Johnson used his 7 1/2-centimetre (3-inch) reach advantage to keep Croft off balance with jabs in the nationally televised fight before 1,100 fans at the South Padre Island Convention Centre.

"The jabs set everything up," said Johnson, who ran his record to 40-2 with one draw while defending his title for the seventh time, the second time this year.

Johnson said he also relied on his counter punching.

"It took him out of his game," Johnson said. "I was able to use my whole arsenal. I'm pretty basic fighter."

Croft kept trying to get inside, but Johnson consistently countered and took the fight to his opponent.

"He was able to jab while he backed up," said Croft, who dropped to 22-2-1. "That's the second time I've been out-jabbed in a fight and I had trouble in that fight."

Judge Ruben Garza called the fight 120-108 in favour of Johnson; Joe Pasquale saw it 120-109 and judge Gary Merritt scored it 119-109.



Glimpse from yesterday's fifth round matches of the 21st national chess championship at the chess room of the NSC.

Sport

Bizarre start for schools badminton

Sports Reporter

The schools badminton tournament got off to a bizarre start at the National Sports Council gymnasium with only 22 players from eight different schools attending the opening ceremony yesterday.

The tournament originally planned to involve 20 teams across the country, collapsed on the first day following a poor turn up of the participants. And the organisers, the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, who failed to prepare the fixture of the five-day meet even after the tournament began at 5:00 pm, were completely in a mess. The situation turned grave when the physical teacher of Vlqarunnisa Noon School, protested the entry of Nuri, a quite familiar figure in the national level.

Nuri, who was among the five girls attended the opening ceremony, was reported to be completed her secondary examination few years back.

But the organisational setback was merely reflected in a feeble press release issued by the BBF yesterday where they claimed 55 players including 15 girls are taking part in the meet.

Furthermore, State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman, who is also the president of the BBF, said, "I'm satisfied with the way my colleagues are organising the tourney."

Gopibagh, Islambagh in final

Sports Reporter

A superb hattrick by Imran enabled Gopibagh Samaj Kalayan Samity moved into the final of the Jadugar Samad juvenile football tournament with a 3-0 win over Bangladesh Boys Club in one of the two semifinals at the Azimpur Community Centre ground yesterday.

Imran scored in the second and 17th minute respectively to give his team a 2-0 lead at the breather.

He completed his hattrick in the 22nd minute of the second half.

Meanwhile, in the other semifinal, Islambagh Rising Star defeated Narayanganj Chandu Sporting Club by a solitary goal.

Khosru Nomar scored the all-important goal with a thunderous shot from thirty yards for the winners.

The final is scheduled on June 6.

Bennett beats Evans

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, May 29: American schoolgirl Brook Bennett upset world record-holder Janet Evans in the 400-metre freestyle on the final day of the Alamo Challenge swimming meet on Sunday, reports AFP.

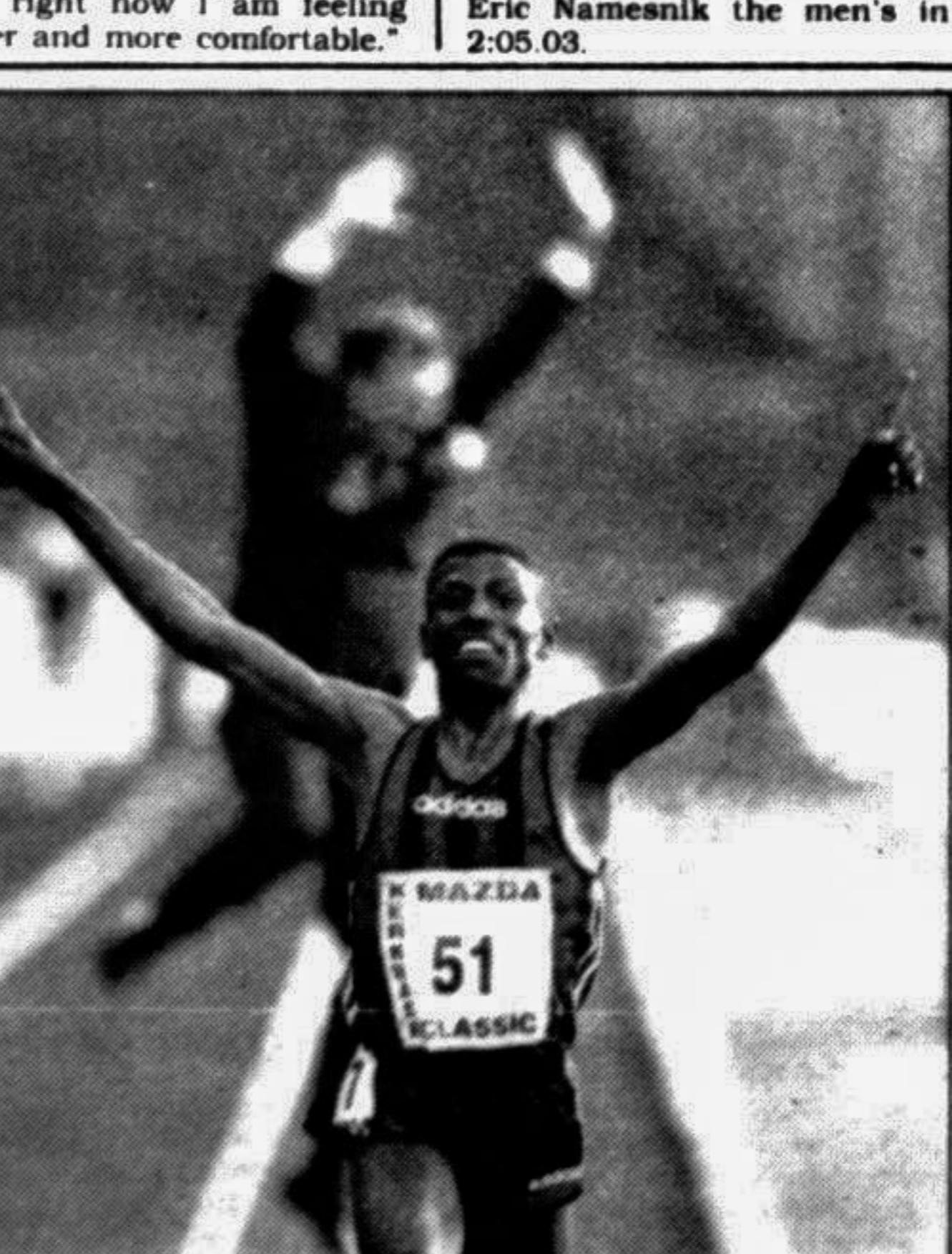
"I had chills through my body when I looked up and saw I won," said the 1500-metre 1988 Olympic gold medalist in three-trial this year. "It was the first time I ever swam her and beat her. It was a really good feeling."

Bennett trailed after the first 100 metres. She made her move in the final 200 metres and finished more than a body length ahead of her famous compatriot in 4 minutes 12.24 seconds.

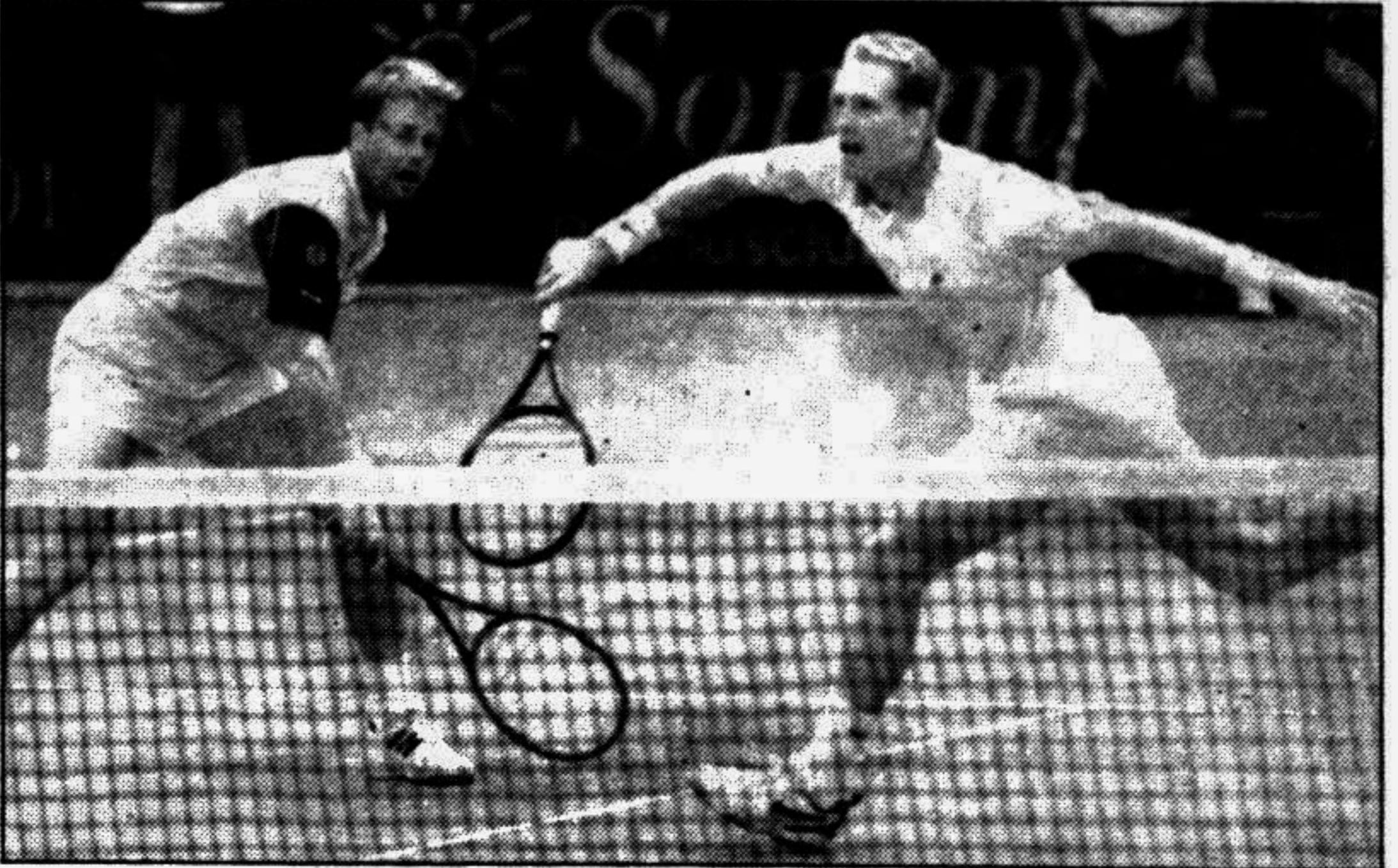
Evans finished in 4:14.12.

Though she was coming off a bout of tonsillitis and was still on antibiotics that weakened her, Evans did not make any excuses.

A pair of Americans took the 200-metre individual medley with Lucy Findlay winning the women's in 2:18.86 and Eric Namesnik the men's in 2:05.03.



Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie exults after setting a new world record for the unofficial 2-mile distance at the track and field event in Kerkrade, the Netherlands on May 28. Gebrselassie clocked 8:07.47 minutes. — AFP/UNB photo



Sweden's Stefan Edberg (L) and Jonas Bjorkman (R) rush to return the ball from Croatians Goran Ivanisevic and Sasa Hirszon duo during their doubles match in the final of the World Team Cup in Duesseldorf on May 28. Edberg-Bjorkman pair beat their Croatian counterparts 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

— AFP/UNB photo

Edberg ensures Swedes' cup



DUESSELDORF,

May 29: Stefan Edberg led Sweden to their third World Team Cup tennis title in a 2-1 win over Croatia in the final on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The Swedes had little time to savour victory, racing from the Centre Court to catch a plane to Paris for the start of the French Open.

Edberg, who began the day by winning his fourth successive singles match to put Sweden 1-0 up, joined forces with Jonas Bjorkman to win the decisive doubles against Goran Ivanisevic and Sasa Hirszon.

Ivanisevic, the highest-ranked player in the eight-nation World Team Cup, carried the main burden for Croatia in Duesseldorf and won all his four singles matches.

Edberg beat Hirszon 6-1, 6-4 in the singles but Ivanisevic levelled the tie with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Magnus Larsson.

Earlier in the week Ivanisevic had warned that the Croatian underdogs were capable of a few surprises and they very nearly pulled off a huge one, forcing the Swedes to go three tough sets in the doubles before succumbing 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

It was Sweden's third title victory in the 18-year history of the event. Edberg played a

part in all three, having also led his country to wins in 1988 and 1991.

The pivotal match, however, pitted world number four Ivanisevic against 10th-ranked Larsson, two strong players and both among the serious challengers for the French title.

The hard-serving Croatian has had a solid build-up to the French Open, reaching at least the semifinals in four of his last five clay-court events.

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"I played okay today, it was a good match for me," Edberg said. "I had to work hard sometimes but I always felt I was in charge of the match.

"Sometimes it's tricky to

play a guy you haven't seen before. But I had already won three matches so I saw no reason not to win four."

Immediately after the match Edberg turned his attention to the French Open, the only major title to elude him.

He has won Wimbledon and the US and Australian Opens twice apiece. But in 11 appearances at Roland Garros he has managed to reach the final only once, losing to Michael Chang in five sets in 1989.

Unseeded for the first time in 10 years, Edberg will nonetheless arrive in Paris full of confidence having won all his four singles matches in the World Team Cup.

In his opening match in Paris, Edberg will take on Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, who beat Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras in the first round of the recent Italian Open.

"I have a tough draw for sure but on the other hand I've had good week here and played plenty of matches," Edberg said. "If I can keep playing the way I played here I think I can do well."

Courier cruises to victory

PARIS, May 29: Jim Courier, a two-time French Open champion but an outsider this year, hammered his way to a solid opening-day victory Monday over fellow American Jeff Tarango, reports AP.

Seeded only 13th, and loser in this only previous clay-court match this year, Courier over-powered Tarango 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in the first Centre Court match of the two-week Grand Slam event.

Earlier in the week Tarango had warned that the Croatian underdogs were capable of a few surprises and they very nearly pulled off a huge one, forcing the Swedes to go three tough sets in the doubles before succumbing 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Tenders documents are obtainable from (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka and (ii) Accounts Department, NGFF, Fenchuganj, Sylhet on cash payment of Tk 400/- till 14.6.95.

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