

Chess board scenario unchanged

Sports Reporter

Though Fide Master Rezaul Huq was not impressive but still he maintained a solo lead in the qualifying round of the 21st national chess championship collecting eight points on completion of the tenth round at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

In the eleven-round, Swiss league meet Rezaul appearing in his penultimate engagement drew with Khandaker Kayas Hassan to hold on to a one point lead from his nearest rivals.

Four players — Abdullah al Rakib, Ali Amzad Mintu, Saifuddin Lavtu and Arman Monir — with seven points each are trailing the table leader at the end of the tenth round yesterday.

Fourteen top finishers from the first phase will qualify for the final round.

Football camp

A month-long football training camp, organised by the Chhagalnaya Players' Welfare Association of Feni district, will begin on Tuesday at the local Pilot High School ground, reports UNB.

Shamsuddoha Chand, a national soccer coach of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), will conduct the camp for under-16 booters.

Swimming course

Sports Reporter

After an interval the Sonargaon Pan Pacific hotel has opened up its swimming pool once again for the learners.

The first batch under the hotel's swimming programme received their course completion award from Yoji Hamano, general manager of Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

England beat Japan

LONDON, June 3: England beat Japan 2-1 (halftime 0-0) in the opening match of the four-nation Unbro Cup soccer tournament at Wembley on Saturday.

Goalscorers: England — Darren Anderton (48th minute), David Platt (88th penalty); Japan — Masami Ihara (62nd). Attendance: 21,142.

Korean Cup kicks-off Seoul gears up 2002 WC bid

SEOUL, June 3: President Kim Young-sam on Saturday kicked off the eight-nation Korea Cup, an expanded international soccer tournament. South Korea hope will help their bid to host the 2002 World Cup finals, reports AP.

Some 70,000 spectators watched as thousands of colourful balloons were released and cheerleaders waved banners that read "2002 World Cup Korea."

South Korea launched an Asian Tournament, called the President's Cup, a quarter century ago. This year, renaming it Korea Cup, Seoul invited national and professional teams from Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Zambia, Belgium, Sweden and Scotland.

South Korean officials hope the tournament, to be held in Seoul and three other cities through June 12, will demonstrate the nation's facilities and the popularity of soccer here.

"The tournament will underline the Korean people's love for soccer," said Chung Mong-jun, head of the Korea Football Association, during an opening ceremony at Seoul's Olympic Stadium.

Kim kicked off the opening match between the South Korean national team and Rio Selection from Brazil. Yoo Sang-chul scored two goals in the first half to lead the South Koreans to a 2-0 victory.

The cup carries a 200,000 dollars prize for the winning team and 100,000 dollars for the runners-up.

Sports Minister Choo Donshik said bringing the World Cup finals to South Korea would help reunite the peninsula, partitioned at the end of World War II.

South Korea hope to jointly host soccer's showcase event with rival Communist North Korea or to field a unified team.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, is looking for an Asian host country for the 2002 World Cup finals. South Korea and Japan, both Asian soccer powers, are running fierce rival bids.

Japan boast economic might and better facilities. South Korea have better World Cup records, qualifying for the finals the past three times.



Siraj Ahmed, a Bangladesh Boys defender, tries to cut off a Wari attack during their first phase engagement of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Boys moved into the final round with a lone goal victory. — Star photo

Beximco 13th Federation Cup

Bapan buries Wari Club

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Boys Club moved into the eight-team final leg of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament with a lone goal win over Wari Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Fitted in the championship deciding match of Group C the Gopabag outfit rode on to their striker Bapan, who netted the match decider in the 55th minute with a spectacular header.

It was Bapan's second successive match-winning goal against two Premier Division outfits in the Dhaka football.

Workshop on soccer

A week-long workshop for the football coaches, referees and organisers will begin in Dhaka on June 21, official sources said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Technical director of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) S Subramaniam, who arrived in city on Friday on a three-day visit to inspect the preparatory arrangement of the workshop, told BSS that four international experts will be in the capital to conduct the programme.

The Bangladesh Football Federation in cooperation with the AFC and FIFA, has organised the workshop to improve the standard of the game.

Subramaniam said a similar workshop will also be held in Kathmandu immediately after the Dhaka programme.

Valencia fire Parreira



MADRID, June 3: Carlos Alberto Parreira, who led Brazil to a record fourth World Cup victory, last year, has been fired as coach of Valencia following his club's draw with lowly Albacete, a team spokesman said Friday, reports AP.

The 1-1 draw Wednesday in the Spanish King's Cup first-leg semifinals came after a disappointing 12-11-12 league season for Valencia, who are in 10th place in a season they were expecting to qualify for the UEFA Cup.

Club chairman Paco Roig informed Parreira of his dismissal Thursday.

The draw, together with the side's record, convinced Roig that Parreira was no longer the coach he wanted, news reports said.

Despite the firing, Parreira may soon find another job. He said he was still interested in coaching US national team, a position he said he reluctantly turned down after it was offered to him last month.

He rejected the offer at the time because he had just agreed to two-year contract extension that would have had him in Valencia through 1997.

To coach the United States would be attractive, Parreira

He had earlier scored the winner in the Boys' 1-0 win over Arambagh 'KC' on his side way to the final.

With this win Bangladesh Boys completed the quartet of one group in the eight-team final round. They have been placed in Group B along with last year's runners-up Abahani Krica Chakra, Mohajmedan Sporting Club and Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society, another first round qualifier.

Bangladesh Boys will take on DMFA Cup champions Mohammedan Sporting Club in their second round opener on June 7.

Meanwhile, the defeat came as a shock for Wari, themselves a traditional giant-slayer in the domestic football, as they rarely flashed in a rather lacklustre affair.

In the first half, the ball was mostly confined to the midfield with players of both sides running listlessly.

It was only in the second half Wari played with some purpose after conceding the goal from a counter-attack.

Bapan after receiving a neat Tipu floater from the right leapt up to send the ball home with a flash of brilliance.

The goal came as a stunner for Wari, who promptly reacted creating two easy chances in the next five minutes.

But the first attempt by Poritosh Dewan, the energetic hill tract midfielder, was brilliantly fisted away by Boys' custodian Selim for a corner in the 57th minute.

Two minutes later Babuzaman shot the ball wide off

the mark from only four yards much to the horror of his teammates.

Wari piled on the pressure in the remaining part of the proceedings but all their efforts were foiled by resolute a four-man Boys' defence.

TODAY'S MATCH
Agrani Bank vs Fakirerpool YMC (6 pm)

Brazil beat Olympic champs

MINNEAPOLIS, June 3: Brazil won a battle of Olympic men's volleyball champions Friday night, beating the United States 3-1 in World League play, reports AP.

Brazil, who still have five of six starters from their 1992 Olympic championship team were 16-14, 15-12, 16-17, 15-2 winners over the United States, who won Olympic titles in 1984 and 1988.

Brazil, the second-ranked team in the world, improved their record to 14-1 against the United States, the only loss occurring in a World Championship match.

Facing match point three times in the third game, the United States converted kills by Brian Ivie and Jeff Stork to force a fourth game.

But Brazil jumped to leads of 7-0 and 12-1 in closing out the match.

"After game three, we kind of relaxed a little bit," Team USA hitter Dexter Rogers said. "And once they got on us, it was kind of like a tidal wave. We couldn't stop it."



ALBERTO PARREIRA was practically unknown.

The 52-year-old Brazilian insisted, however, that for the moment he just wanted to rest.

US Soccer Federation president Alan Rothenberg, reached at a meeting near Washington, said the USSF would

contact Parreira.

"I think we'd be derelict in our responsibilities if we didn't talk to him," Rothenberg said. "Obviously he's a name we have given consideration to. We have to digest this surprising new state of events in his life."

"One of the things we have said all along is we would love to be able to find someone to put in place to coach our national team and be in charge of our national coaching programme. With his background, he's one of only a pretty small group of people who fits that list."

Valencia signed Parreira following Brazil's success in the World Cup in the United States last year. Initially it was hoped he might be able to lead the side into European competition, either by finishing high in the league standings or winning the King's Cup.

News reports said Parreira's conservative style, together with the poor results, had proved highly unpopular with Valencia fans.

The Brazilian, however, told EFE that he had been given too little time to build up the team.

Parreira has coached the international squads of Ghana, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as well as Brazil.

Ebola phobia keeps 'em away

HARARE, June 3: Six more Zimbabwe players withdrew from an African Nations' Cup qualifier in Zaire on Sunday because of fears over the killer ebola virus, reports Reuter.

They joined four others who had already ruled themselves out of a game Zimbabwe must win to qualify for next year's finals.

Goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar told the Zimbabwe Football Association on arrival from England on Friday he would not be going to Kinshasa on advice from British medical authorities, the Herald newspaper said.

Striker Vitalis Takawira, defenders Claudius Zviripayi and Paul Gundani, Turkey-based Norman Mapeza and reserve goalkeeper Ernest Chimbudare also pulled out, according to the report.

The players were adamant they were not going to Zaire despite repeated assurances from World Health Organisation officials in Harare and the health ministry they were not at risk from ebola, which causes uncontrollable bleeding and has killed 153 people in the region.

There was also uncertainty over the participation of three other players — Wilfred Mugenyi and Kennedy Nagoli who arrived from Israel and South Africa on Thursday — who said they could only go to Kinshasa with their parents' permission.

Cantona enters silver-screen

AUCH, France, June 3: Eric Cantona, already a star of the small screen with Manchester United, is launching a new career here this week as a film actor, reports AFP.

Cantona, plays a love-sick rugby player in "Le bonheur est dans le pre" (happiness is in the meadow), which is being shot here in the southwest by French director Etienne Chaillet.

The film, due for release in France in December, is a black comedy about the family drama of a small businessman.

Cantona and his brother Joel, who plays for Olympique Marseille in real life, are meanwhile attracted by the businessman's daughters take them out dancing.

The film is being shot in a beautiful farmhouse, ironically owned by an English couple who have been temporarily



ERIC CANTONA housed elsewhere.

Today, Cantona is to play in his third charity match since being banned until September 30 for attacking a Crystal Palace fan in January. Cantona, playing alongside national soccer hero Michel Platini, will turn out at Fonsorbes, also in southwest France.

Transcom national schools championship Moijuddin move into semis

Sports Reporter



Moijuddin Multi-lateral High School of Faridpur became the first team to earn a berth in the semifinals of the Transcom 2nd national schools hockey championship with a crushing 5-0 win over Muslim Govt. High School of Chittagong in one of the two second round matches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Faridpur school, who hold the defending champions Narayanraj Govt. High School to a goalless draw in their opening Group A engagement on May 31, and recorded a facile 3-0 win over Dhaka Residential Model School on Friday with this win topped the

group collecting highest five points on completion of their three group league matches.

However, in the day's first match, Ashiqur Rahman notched up a hat-trick to give Moijuddin a big win in their last league match.

After Hassan and Arif gave the Faridpur a 2-0 lead midway through the first half, Ashiq completed the Muslim High School rout adding three more with strikes in the 34th, 63rd and 69th minute respectively.

The defeat for the Chittagong school means that they made their exit from the meet collecting two points from three matches.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day, last year's runners-up Ahmed Bawani

Academy kept their hopes of a semifinal berth alive defeating Armanitola Govt. High School 4-1.

Mahmud scored twice. Shabbir and Amanullah added one apiece for the winners while Samad pulled one goal back for Armanitola. All the five goals came in the first half.

With this win Ahmed Bawani, who are leading the other group in the eight-team final leg, collected four points on completion of their three league matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Narayanraj Govt. vs Residential Model (2.45pm)
RMC Campus School vs Maminiganj Model (4pm)



Action from yesterday's Transcom second national schools hockey championship engagement between Ahmed Bawani Academy and Armanitola Govt High School at the Hockey Stadium. Ahmed Bawani won 4-1. — Star photo

World Cup begins tomorrow

It's an all-women affair



STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 3: Female players, referees, police — even a female chaplain. Make no mistake, this is the women's World Cup.

In only its second quadrennial installment, the FIFA women's World Championship is nearly an all-female event.

About 300 Swedish women will perform during the opening ceremonies on Monday in Helsingborg before another woman. Deputy Prime Minister Mona Sahlin, declares the two-week championship open, reports AP.

Stepping away from the male stranglehold on the sport, FIFA decided to introduce female referees and lineswomen during the event. Twelve men and 12 women will officiate the matches.

Except for two male police dog handlers, there will be an all-women's police crew in Monday's opener between Sweden and Brazil at the Olympia Stadium in Helsingborg, southern Sweden.

Not that any hooligans are likely to show up at the championship.

"We expect a big family party and I don't think there will be any trouble at all," says Susanne Karlsson, who is in charge of the all-women police force at Gavle, in central Sweden, where the defending champions United States play two games in the round-robin

stage. Even a female chaplain has been assigned for the players.

"We've set up a special hotline during the tournament," says Lutheran minister Marie Reinsham. "We're just a phone call away. We're like Jesus. We can't be seen — but we exist."

Regardless of some changes, the women's international heirsch remains pretty much the same. The United States come in favoured to retain the crown they won at the inaugural World Cup in China four years ago by beating Norway 2-1 in the final.

"We are capable of beating any team during our best moments, but the United States must be favoured to win the title," says Swedish coach Bengt Simonsson.

Striker Helle Jensen, whose Danish team handed the Americans their only setback this year, a 2-0 loss March 17 in the Algarve Cup in Portugal, agreed.

"The Americans are very powerful," she says. "But playing at home will naturally give Sweden a big advantage."

Sweden were third in 1991 — just like the men in last year's World Cup finals in the United States — and are coming off a strong European Championship campaign, losing the final in late March to host Germany 3-2.

Germany, who avenged a 4-0 loss to Sweden in the 1991 World Cup bronze-medal game, Norway and China are other

strong World Cup challengers in a much improved 12-nation field.

But no other team can match the Americans' preparation. Coach Tony DiCicco brought 26 players into camp in Florida in late February and they've been training on a full-time basis since.

Akers also spent the 1990 and '92 seasons with Tyreso. In 1992, she scored 43 goals and was the leading goal scorer — male or female — from any of Sweden's professional leagues.

Fitness will be a big factor in Sweden. If the US women succeed in defending the title, they will have to play six games in just 12 days. In winning the men's World Cup last summer, Brazil played seven games in a month.

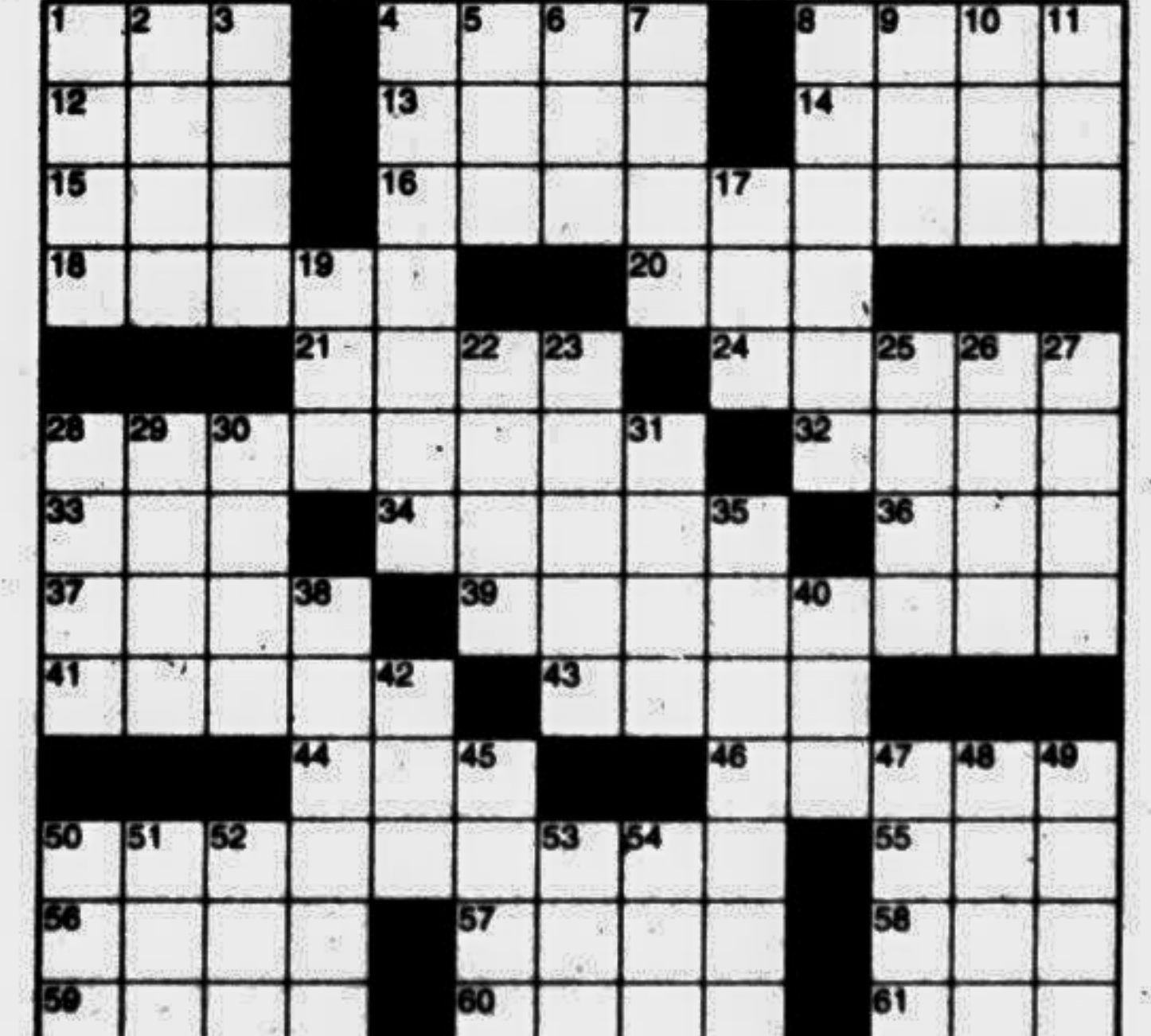
The United States open defence of their title Tuesday against China in Gavle.

The top two teams in each of the three round-robin groups plus the two teams with the best third-placed records advance to the quarterfinals.

Other sites are Vasteras and Karlstad. Rasunda Stadium outside Stockholm will host the June 18 final. Scandinavia's most famous soccer stadium, Rasunda was the site of the 1958 World Cup final between Brazil and Sweden as well as several games in the 1992 European Championship finals.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 "Spring — Sprung"
- 4 Gator bowl?
- 8 Picks up the check
- 12 Ostrich's cousin
- 13 Jam ingredient?
- 14 Sheltered
- 15 Caviar
- 16 It may lead to an interesting story
- 18 "Carmen" composer
- 20 Appomattox VIP
- 21 Hardy hard
- 24 Payola, e.g.
- 28 Library piece
- 32 Earth
- 33 Mountain
- 34 Origins
- 36 Existed
- 37 Potential sculpture
- 39 Grip
- 41 "The Crucible" locale
- 43 Expensive
- 44 Balloon fill
- 46 Tenth president
- 50 Small
- 55 Praiseful verse
- 56 Slightly
- 57 Exam format
- 58 Candle count
- 59 Pen pals?
- 60 Ceraceous
- 61 Government agent
- 1 Flavor enhancer
- 2 Mine, in Marseilles
- 3 Canal zone
- 4 Masonry sealants
- 5 Targeted by the fashion police
- 6 — glance
- 7 Drudgery
- 8 Indiana team
- 9 Lead-in to king or carte
- 10 Undeniably
- 11 Witness
- 17 CSA fighter
- 19 Wapiti
- 22 Ginnie and Fannie
- 23 Pretentious sort, for short
- 25 Mississippi River feeder
- 26 Prejudice
- 27 Differently
- 28 Barber-shop quartet member
- 29 Earthenware pot
- 30 October stone
- 31 Entertainer Adams
- 35 Majestic
- 38 Sires
- 40 Shout
- 42 Ruin the veneer
- 45 Garbage barge
- 47 Goldbrick
- 48 Advantage
- 49 Obol's need
- 50 You can't stand to have one
- 51 Kyoto cum-bund
- 52 False hood?
- 53 Coach Parsiglian
- 54 Clinton's instrument



CRYPTOQUIP

E D R B S W L F D X B S
M B H B E J L U B M Z S B G
H J F W B S B F G U Z X B E D
I G B C I F B E D R J E D C J G E B.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WILD WEST BANDIT WHO PLAYED TRICKS ON PEOPLE WAS BILLY THE KIDDER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals K

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.