

Lablu jolts Zia

Sports Reporter International Master Rezaul Karim Sattar continued his impressive winning streak to consolidate his claim for the national crown with one and a half points lead of his nearest rival on the completion of the eighth round of the 21st chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

A Biman contender Reefat, who took the solo lead from the third round of the meet, recorded yet another consummate win over a less illustrious Aatur Rahman of the Bangladesh Railway.

Playing with black, Reefat, last year's runner-up, adopted Sicilian Defence to outplay his opponent in only 36 moves.

Khondaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars split points with Ziaul Quader Tuhi in the 76th move on his way to trailing the table leader.

Defending champion and International Master Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman, who lost his inaugural match to unseeded Enamul Hossain Rajib of Bobby Fisher Chess Club, suffered his second defeat against Saifuddin Lablu of BTMC.

Lablu forced Zia to concede another defeat in a marathon 104-move match.

Three players, Ziaur Rahman, Enamul Hossain Rajib and Khorshed Alam were now tied in third position with five and a half points each.

In the day's other matches, Rajib of Bobby Fisher Chess Club beat Sumon Malik of Jahangirnagar University, Khorshed Alam of Leonine Chess Club defeated Arifuzzaman Sikder of Ansars, Abdullah-al-Rakib Narayanjan outplayed Tayebur Rahman of Khulna University and Rezaul Hoq of Biman beat Arman Monir of Kishoreganj.

Ali Amjad Minto of Bobby Fisher Chess Club drew with Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna of Bogra in the day's other engagement.



Tayebur Rahman makes a move against Abdullah-al-Raqib during their eight round engagement of the 21st national championship at the NSC chess room yesterday. Raqib won the match. — Star photo

Brisk start by England

LONDON, June 22: A wicket on the last ball before lunch swung an unspectacular morning session the West Indies way on the first day of the second Test at Lord's with England going into lunch at 70 for two, reports AP.

With lunch looming, Graeme Hick prodded at a full length ball from Ian Bishop and found the edge which Brian Lara took low down at first slip.

England looked like having the upper hand after a slow, but steady innings by Alec Stewart following the departure of his opening partner and captain Mike Atherton with the score on 29.

Stewart returned to his favoured opening position, and although he looked laboured at times, was determined to build the base England need to level the series with a dour 33 not out at the break.

Stewart was not completely at ease, edging Otis Gibson through slips for two fours in one over.

He clipped Gibson off his pads for a glorious four to the long on boundary off the Barbados bowler's first ball in Test cricket, but two balls later, Gibson's swing caught Stewart in two minds and a late decision to withdraw his bat almost cost his wicket.

The ball took the face of the bat as he drew it back and just missed off stump on its way past wicketkeeper Junior Murray to the fence for four. Gibson looked impressive

on his Test debut, in for the injured Kenny Benjamin, finding some swing, but at a much gentler pace than his more famed partners Bishop, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh.

Atherton won the toss and elected to bat on a hard and true pitch, but fell to a superb ball from Ambrose.

He appeared in good touch as he dominated his brief stand with Stewart, but when on 21, could not handle a perfect delivery.

A fast inswinging yorker moved just enough off the seam to beat Atherton's bat as he hurried down on it and hit the base of off stump.

All rounder Dominic Cork was selected to make his Test debut for England, with Phil DeFreitas named 12th man.

BCCI backs Shastri & co

NEW DELHI, June 22: India's cricket authorities have pledged their total support to four former Test cricketers in a row over the selection of venues for next year's World Cup, reports AFP.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was promised stern action against one of its affiliates for crying foul over the omission of the north-eastern city of Guwahati as a venue for the mega event.

The Assam Cricket Association (ACA) said the decision to ignore Guwahati was "politically motivated" and hit out against the board's technical committee which was entrusted the job of selecting venues.

Former Test star Ravi Shastri, a member of the technical committee along with three ex-captains Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Srinivas Venkataraghvan, rejected Guwahati because of its inadequate facilities for the players and media.

Gavaskar, Kapil and Venkataraghvan threatened to resign from the technical committee if the ACA did not offer a public apology for its outburst against Shastri.

The ACA refused to apologise, but BCCI secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya came to the players' defence on Thursday, saying the board stood by its technical committee.

"The ACA has insulted the cricketers and this will not be tolerated by the board. We have taken a very serious view of this and action will be taken against the ACA," he said.

"I will also like to emphasise that there will not be any changes in the venues," Dalmiya added. "The decision of the technical committee is final."

Germany beat Italy

ZURICH, June 22: A fourth-minute strike by Thomas Helmer put Germany on the way to a 2-0 win against Italy on Wednesday in the second match of a triangular tournament to mark the Swiss Football Association centenary, reports Reuter.

An own goal gave Germany their second when Italian captain Paulo Maldini deflected a low cross into his own goal in the 38th minute against the run of play.

Germany attacked from the opening whistle. The first corner, taken by newcomer Joerg Heinrich of Freiburg, found defender Helmer whose glancing header flew into the top right-hand corner of the net. It was Helmer's first goal for his country.

Italy, who beat Switzerland 1-0 in the first game of the tournament on Monday, then bombarded the German goal from all angles but were denied by goalkeeper Andreas Koepke who made several brilliant saves.

With the Germans pinned down in defence, a breakthrough started by Heinrich on the left flank resulted in Maldini's deflection into his own goal.

Italy, who had dominated the first half, made several changes after the break as they battled to get on terms.

Pierluigi Casiraghi and Gianfranco Zola found holes in the German defence time and again but could not get past Koepke.

The score remained unchanged with both goalkeepers saving superbly in an action-packed second half.

Warnapura steps down

COLOMBO, June 22: Sri Lanka's first Test captain Bandula Warnapura has resigned as the Sri Lankan cricket board's director of coaching after being sidelined from key meetings organised by his colleagues, reports AFP.

Media cricketers leave for Hyderabad today

A 16-member Bangladesh media team leaves here today for Calcutta to participate in the first SAARC media cricket tournament which begins Monday in the Indian city of Hyderabad, reports UNB.

Six teams from five SAARC nations—Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, including one from host Hyderabad, will compete in the week-long meet.

Partha Tanveer Naved of Daily Sangbad will lead the Bangladesh Jatiya Press Club out-fit in the tourney while Quamrul Islam Chowdhury of BSS and Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury of Bangladesh Times will accompany the team as Manager and Coach.

Date deferred

Sports Reporter Due to unavoidable circumstances both the Dhaka metropolitan First and Second Division volleyball leagues will start from July 1 instead of the earlier scheduled June 23, according to a Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) press release yesterday.

Goalies steal the show

WASHINGTON, June 22: Mexico and Colombia drew 0-0 on Wednesday in a US Cup '95 match dominated by the team's two flamboyant goalkeepers, reports Reuter.

The point earned for the draw by Colombia sets up a deciding game Sunday against the United States for the title in the four-nation tournament.

The United States has won both its matches — against Nigeria and Mexico — while Colombia beat Nigeria.

In a warm-up for next month's Copa America in Uruguay, Mexico was looking to rebound from Sunday's 4-0 loss to the United States, while Colombia seeks to regain prestige after last year's humiliating first-round exit in the World Cup.

In the humid, 82-degree (27c) conditions at RFK Stadium, the goalkeepers, Mexico's Jorge Campos and Colombia's Jose Rene Higuita, proved the deciding factors in an exciting scoreless draw.

Higuita denied second-half substitute Luis Alberto Alves, who broke through on the left for a hard angled shot, then went full length to push a Marcelino Bernal free-kick around the post 10 minutes from the end of the match. At the other end, Campos

dived to hold a Freddy Rincon header in the 64th minute, four minutes after Colombia's Hernan Gaviria headed wide from a Freddy Leon cross in front.

Colombia, which beat Mexico 2-1 in the 1993 Copa America, dominated the early stages, with Carlos Valderama pushing them forward with incisive passes against a hesitant Mexican defence.

After 25 minutes, Mexico could have gone ahead when American referee Raul Dominguez ruled Colombian defender Alexis Mendoza had passed back to Higuita.

Higuita was forced to tip over a Luis Garcia volley in

the 35th minute as Mexico pressed forward.

Niber Arboleda nearly had a dream debut for Colombia, when Miguel Asprilla set him free in the box with a quick flick-on after half an hour. But Campos, who likes to aggressively come out of his goal, charged out to block his angled shot.

Schools h'ball

Sports Reporter Shaheed Nabi High School defeated St Gregory's High School 21-7 in the lone match of the first day of the sixth schools handball tournament at the handball ground yesterday.

The winners led 12-2 at the breather. Priotosh scored highest seven goals followed by Kamol and Khakon with four each, while Gonesh netted three for the winners.

Meanwhile, Palash and Imrul scored two each for the losers.

Chief of General Staff of the Bangladesh Army, Major General Mahbubur Rahman, inaugurated the tournament.

Ten schools of the metropolis are taking part in two groups on round robin league basis.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Raiarbag Police Lines High School vs West End High School at 4 pm. Kamalapur High School vs Raidham High School at 5 pm.

Olympic Day Run today

An "Olympic Day Run", organised by Bangladesh Olympic Association, will be held to celebrate the World Olympic Day '95, reports UNB.

The run starts at 6.30 am from Bangladesh Army Stadium at Banani and will conclude at the Dhaka National Stadium.

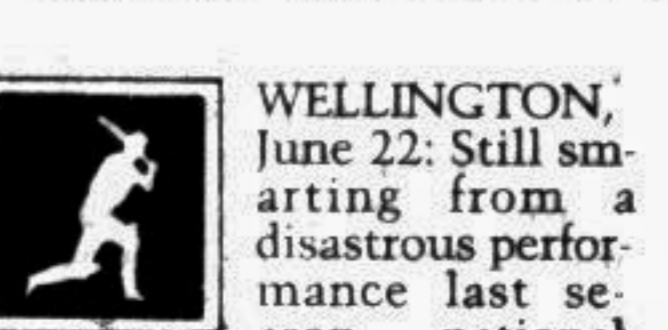
Stich irate

HALLE, Germany, June 22: Organisers of the Halle Open tennis tournament, who have spent millions of marks modelling their new stadium and surface on Wimbledon, have come under fierce criticism from home German star Michael Stich, reports Reuter.



A midfield duel during the match between Colombia and Mexico in US Cup '95 tournament in Washington on June 21. The game ended goalless. — AFP/UNB photo

NZC, Crowe sign new contract Germon replaces Rutherford



WELLINGTON, June 22: Still smarting from a disastrous performance last season, national selectors on Thursday dumped Ken Rutherford as New Zealand's cricket captain.

He has been replaced by 26-year-old Canterbury wicketkeeper Lee Germon, who is virtually untested at the international level, report agencies.

Germon has played only one one-day international for New Zealand, on their tour of South Africa last year.

He had, however, been tipped to get the captaincy for some time, after displaying good leadership and all-round play for his Canterbury Province.

Rutherford skipped New Zealand during its disastrous 1994-95 domestic programme, when New Zealand was beaten in Tests by South Africa, West Indies and Sri Lanka.

Under his captaincy, New Zealand won only two Tests from 17, although the team suffered from injuries to key players.

On the South African tour, New Zealand lost the Test series 2-1 after winning the first Test.

Germon's first assignment as New Zealand skipper will be a tour of Bangladesh and India in October. Next comes a home series against Pakistan and Zimbabwe, the World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and a tour of the West Indies.

Coach and selection panel convener Glenn Turner said Germon's appointment is a big step toward turning around New Zealand's fortunes.

"It's no secret that the recent history of the New Zealand team has been somewhat troubled," said Turner, who last month replaced

former captain Geoff Howarth as coach. "He is an organised individual, and is very competent at communicating," Turner said. "He has a real desire to win. These are the sorts of ingredients we need."

Germon, who is currently playing and coaching in the Netherlands, said he is "thrilled and surprised" at his appointment.



KEN RUTHERFORD

Meanwhile, one time New Zealand captain and ace bat Martin Crowe said he has agreed to a new contract with New Zealand Cricket (NZC) which puts him on the same terms as the other members of

AC may sign Futre

MILAN, June 22: Portuguese international striker Paulo Futre, who was out of soccer for a year with a knee injury, could be joining AC Milan, the club's managing director Adriano Galliano said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Futre resumed playing for Reggina, based in the central Italian city of Reggio Emilia, last November after a successful operation on the injury.

the national team. Crowe's previous contract meant he was paid even if he wasn't playing.

But in recent years he has suffered in different form as he has struggled with a range of injuries.

"I am aware that there has been criticism of the contract system — and mine in particular over the last or so when I have been injured," Crowe said.

"I wanted to be in a situation where I earned money predominantly from playing."

The new contract cuts Crowe's retainer and his earnings are now governed by his appearances on the field and by the New Zealand team's performances.

"That's the way I wanted it, to make sure that I would fall into line with the player payment system that has been proposed by [new chief selector and coach] Glenn Turner and NZC and ensure that I am playing cricket on the same basis as other New Zealand representatives."

Crowe said his right knee, which has caused him considerable trouble in recent seasons, was much improved on last season.

"I am probably the best I have been for two years when it comes down to knee comfort."

"Now it's up to me to get the rest of the body to a stage where I can play a full season," he added.

Crowe confirmed he is keen to tour Bangladesh and India later this year, as well as the end-of-season tour of the West Indies.

"I have never played a Test match in India so that is a real, personal incentive to me."

Turner said Crowe in a positive mood "is a great asset."

"It is obvious he is looking forward to the new season, to a new start and to performing well," he added.



Germany's Ulf Kirsten (2nd L) is in agony after being fouled by Italian skipper Paolo Maldini while Kirsten's two teammates (background) look on during their match in a three-nation tournament in Zurich on June 21. Germany won 2-0. — AFP/UNB photo

Advertisement for Bangladesh government tenders. Title: গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. Content: নিৰ্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তর বিভাগ, সাতক্ষীরা. Title: দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি. নং ৭৪ অব ১৯৯৪-৯৫ইং. Details of tender for road works in Satkhira.

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