

Pepsi nat'l b'ball

Sports Reporter

Dhaka DSA, Bangladesh Air Force, and Jessore DSA won their respective Pepsi 18th national basketball championships held at the Dhanmendi Gymnasium yesterday.

In the day's first encounter, Dhaka spikers outplayed their Brahmanbaria counterparts by a huge margin (136-51). The winners led the first half 71-23.

Fazle Amer (32), Fazle Rahim (30) and Farhan were the leading Dhaka DSA scorers while Robin and Rony collected 17 and 8 points respectively for the losers. It was the second victory for the Dhaka Boys who earlier beat Jessore DSA in their opening match on Thursday.

In the day's other matches, BAF registered a 83-54 win over Rajshahi DSA and Jessore DSA beat Chandpur DSA 47-44.

Miraj (27) and Sharif (24) were the leading BAF scorers against a weak Rajshahi side whose Shohan and Siraj scored 20 and 10 points respectively.

On the other hand, Raihan (12) and Bipu (11) were the highest scorers for Jessore in the day's last match which inflicted Chandpur DSA to their second defeat of the meet.

Rajib one point away

Sports Reporter

Enamul Hossain Rajib, the latest sensation in the country's chess arena, is now one point away from clinching the international Open Rating chess following his eighth victory on completion of the ninth round of the meet at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

The youngster of Bobby Fischer Chess Club, who is also the only unbeaten player in the 11-round Swiss League meet, beat Tayebur Rahman of Khulna University to maintain his solo lead with eight and a half points in this round.

Rajib, who had earlier upset International Master Ziaur Rahman and drew with Zia's arch-rival and defending champion IM Refaat-bin-Sattar, now needs a win from his remaining two matches for his maiden title.

Rajib was followed by a group of pentad, who are trailing the table leader by one and a half points. They are — Ziaur Rahman and Refaat of Bangladesh Biman, Fide Master Rezaul Huq, Sheikh Nasir and junior champion Adnan Faisal.

Donald puts Warwicks on course

LONDON, Sept 9: South African fast bowler Allan Donald put Warwickshire on course for victory with an early two-wicket burst in their rain-delayed country championship match against Derbyshire at Edgbaston, reports Reuter.

Donald, who has rejected Warwickshire's offer to return as their overseas star next season as a stand-in for Brian Lara, had Derbyshire reeling on 35 for three by claiming two for 13 in nine overs as the match finally began one day and one hour late.

And despite a defiant 121 from South African batsman Daryll Cullinan, Derbyshire were bowled out for 268 to leave the reigning champions firmly on top.

Cullinan hit a six, 20 other boundaries and a seven courtesy of four overthrows before Dermot Reeve finally trapped him as Warwickshire, who led the table by 12 points from Middlesex at the start of the day, clinched the maximum four bowling points.

By the close Warwickshire had reached 19 for one with Dominic Cork trapping England teammate Nick Knight lbw for nought on the first ball of the innings.

Indian Test spinner Anil Kumble edged closer to 100 first class wickets as third-placed Northamptonshire made up for lost time against Worcestershire at Northampton.

Kumble removed Tom Moody, David Leatherdale and Steve Rhodes in the space of 26 balls, taking his season's tally to 97 as Worcestershire slipped to 124 for five following the first day wash-out to earn Northants two bowling points.

Mark Ramprakash celebrated his call-up for England's tour to South Africa by claiming his eighth century of the season and helped the championship contenders to 239 for four at the close.

Lankans 23 for no loss at stumps

Inzamam in scoring spree



PESHAWAR, Sept 9: Pakistan declared their first innings at 459 for nine and the visiting Sri Lankans were 23 without loss when bad light stopped play on the second day of the first cricket Test in Peshawar on Saturday, reports AP.

Sri Lankan openers Roshan Mahanama and Chandika Hathurusinghe survived a brief onslaught from Pakistan's speedsters Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram. Mahanama was batting on 18 while Hathurusinghe was unbeaten on five when umpires decided to halt play due to poor light.

In the morning, Pakistan resumed their first innings at the overnight total of 235 for three.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga took the new ball in the 88th over with Pakistan comfortably placed at 261 for three.

Chaminda Vaas struck with the new ball as Inzamam ul Haq missed his fifth Test century by five runs. He was trapped leg before by Vaas in the seventh over with the new ball.

Haq's 95-run innings was came from 12 boundaries and during his six-hour stay at the crease the stock-built middle-order batsman faced 216 balls.

Debutant Ijaz Ahmed looked shaky the moment he arrived at the crease after the fall of Haq's wicket. Although he came to live when he was yet to get off the mark and was dropped by Arjuna Ranatunga at first slip off Vaas, he did not last long and gave a straight forward bat and pad catch to Asanka Gurusinghe at short mid off

from the bowling off Muttiah Muralidharan soon after the lunch interval.

Shoaib Mohammad, who returned to Pakistan's Test team for the first time since playing Zimbabwe in December 1993, scored a disciplined half century before becoming one of Vaas' five victims.

But it was Moin Khan and Akram's enterprising 82-run

beaten on 28 which was aided with some strokeful boundaries when captain Ramiz Raja declared the first innings nearly one hour after the tea interval.

Muttiah Muralidharan bowled 50 overs and claimed four wickets for 134 runs while Vaas took his tally of Test wickets to 31 as he took five wickets for 99 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the first cricket Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 235-3)

Saeed Anwar c Ranatunga b Muralidharan	51
Aamir Sohail c Dunsinghe b Vaas	28
Rameez Raja c Pushpakumara b Vaas	7
Inzamam ul Haq lbw b Vaas	95
Shoaib Mohammad c A Ranatunga b Vaas	5
Ijaz Ahmed c Gurusinha b Muralidharan	5
Wasim Akram c and b Muralidharan	36
Moin Khan c Hathurusinghe b Vaas	9
Qaadir Younis c Mahanama b Muralidharan	0
Aaqib Javed not out	2
Saqain Mushtaq not out	8
Extras (lb-1, lb-4, nb-17, w-1)	23
Total (for nine declared)	459

Fall of wickets: 1-59; 2-102; 3-234; 4-285; 5-318; 6-340; 7-422; 8-422; 9-425.

Bowling: O M R W
Wickramasinghe 32 5 98 0
Vaas 29 3 99 5
Pushpakumara 17 2 89 0
Muralidharan 50 9 134 4
Hathurusinghe 18 10 29 0
Gurusingha 3 1 5 0



INZAMAM ... 95

seventh wicket partnership which sped Pakistan's scoring rate on a track which has become slower and slower. But both fell at the total 422 immediately after the tea break.

Moin enthralled the crowd with his delightful knock of 51 which included eight boundaries.

Aaqib Javed also surpassed his previous Test highest total of 10 and remained un-

SRI LANKA: First innings

R Mahanama not out	18
C Hathurusinghe not out	5
Total (for no wicket)	23

Bowling: O M R W
Wasim Akram 3 0 15 0
Waqar Younis 2 4 1 8 0

To bat: S Ranatunga, A Gurusingha, A Ranatunga (captain), H Tillekeratne, C Dunsinghe, C Vaas, M Muralidharan, P Wickramasinghe, R Pushpakumara.

First gold for USA

Sino natants rule the pool



ATLANTA, Sept 9: The United States won its first gold medal of the IX Diving World Cup on Friday night when Brian Earley and Kevin McMahon captured the men's synchronized 3-metre springboard, reports AP.

Chinese divers, however, continued to dominate the event as teenagers Bin Chi and Mingxia Fu took the gold and silver medals in the women's 10-metre platform.

US divers Eileen Richey finished sixth, and Becky Ruehl was ninth in the field of 12.

The Chinese have won five of the eight events in the meet, which concludes Saturday night with two more finals at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, site of next year's Olympic competition.

The Chinese men had won

the 10-metre synchronized platform and the 1-metre springboard. The women previously won the 10-metre synchronized platform and Fu won the 3-metre springboard Tuesday night.

Earley, 23, and McMahon, 22, had 327.09 points, outdistancing silver medalists Jan Hempel and Alexander Gorski of Germany with 304.98. Mexico's Alberto Acosta and Joel Rodriguez took the bronze with 279.12. China finished seventh with Yilin Zhou and Ni Xiong. The duo had 255.48 points in the nine-team field.

The German duo and the Chinese were considered favourites, although Ron O'Brien, coach of the US team, didn't think there were any clear-cut favourites in the event introduced for the first time this year.

"I knew our guys were good and even though it

won't be an Olympic event (in 1996), I'll take the medal," he said.

Chi, 15, the 1993 world champion in this event, had 512.82 points to 496.47 for Fu. Vyntka Arlow of Australia won the bronze with 487.47.

Fu, 17, the Olympic champion in this event at Barcelona, was leading until a poor dive on the fourth of five dropped her to third. An excellent dive on her last attempt gave her the silver.

"I had a couple of poor dives," Fu said through an interpreter. "The two dives I did poorly are supposed to be my strongest ones. It was not my normal performance."

Chi's was her norm, she said.

"I thought I performed at my normal level," she said. Richelli, 23, began in 12th place and moved up steadily to gain sixth with 435.84 points.

Fide World Championship begins tomorrow

Kasparov puts title on line



NEW YORK, Sept 9: Russian Grand Master Garry Kasparov begins the defence of his World Championship title next week in unfamiliar circumstances — he apparently likes Indian challenger Viswanathan Anand, reports Reuter.

"I'm on very good terms with Vishy," said Kasparov, whose four title defences since 1986 against fellow Russian Anatoly Karpov and

lar respect for the PCA champion, who became at 22 the youngest player to win the world chess crown when he dethroned Karpov in 1985.

"I think we have a healthy professional relationship, nothing more. Nothing less," said Anand, who starts battling Kasparov on Monday in a best-of-20 match on the 107th-floor observation deck of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Organisers say the 1.5 million dollars prize money, a venue billed as chess "on top of the world," cable television coverage and move-by-move broadcasts on the Internet computer network make for something more than a pure chess match.

"It's another significant step forward to make the game interesting and fun for the thousands of people who play on a casual basis," PCA commissioner Bob Rice said. He said spectators will be able to follow the games on video screens with three-dimensional computer graphics and expert commentary.

A soundproof glass booth where Kasparov and Anand will play has been built on the observation deck of the 110-floor twin towers, an area that can hold as many as 1,000 people.

Kasparov, considered by most expert observers as the strongest player in the history of the game, believes Anand will be a tougher opponent than Short, who won only one game in their 1993 joust at the Savoy Hotel in London.

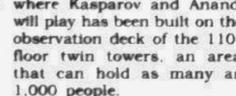
"Anand is much stronger," Kasparov, 32, said. "I expect to see a very well prepared, very strong opponent. I think it'll be a head-to-head contest."



G KASPAROV

Britain's Nigel Short were filled with personal rancour.

Kasparov and Karpov disagreed strongly over politics in the former Soviet Union. And Short called Kasparov a "hairy ape" before their match in London two years ago.



V ANAND

months analysing games in Spain with four assistants and cycling two hours a day to keep physically fit. "He has weaknesses..."

The winner will collect one million dollars and the loser 500,000 dollars put up by the computer chip maker Intel Corp. There is the added incentive of another big payday next year when the victor meets the Fide champion under an agreement signed earlier this year by the rival organisations.

Fide champion Karpov and Gata Kamsky of the United States are the contenders for the title.

Sampras in US Open final

Sports Reporter

Second seed Pete Sampras of the United States moved into the men's singles final of the US Open defeating his compatriot Jim Courier 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the first semifinal at the Flushing Meadow in NY, according to Star TV monitored here in Dhaka late last night.

Woodies win US Open doubles

NEW YORK, Sept 9: Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, Australia's ace doubles team, needed just 68 minutes to win their first US Open title together when they defeated Alex O'Brien and Sandon Stolle 6-3, 6-3 in the final on Friday, reports Reuter.

The "Woodies," as they are known, won their third straight Wimbledon title in July and also won the 1992 Australian Open doubles title. Woodforde won the US Open doubles with John McEnroe in 1989.

The Australians were denied the US Open title in 1994 when they lost in the final to Dutchmen Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis.

"We seem able to both play well at the same time," Woodbridge said. "We're both good instinct players and we've learned through a lot of matches together what each other is going to do."

Second seeded in the tournament, the "Woodies" dropped only one set en route to the title for which they shared the 210,000 dollars winners' prize. O'Brien, an American, and Stolle, son of legendary Australian Fred Stolle, split 105,000 dollars.

The "Woodies" fought back from a break down in the first set to win in straight sets.

Passarella a la junta!

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 9: President Carlos Menem and some of the country's leading celebrities had their say on Argentina's major controversy of the moment on Friday — the length of midfielder Fernando Redondo's hair, reports Reuter.

Redondo, who has not played for Argentina since the World Cup, said earlier this week that he had refused a request by national team coach Daniel Passarella to cut his hair and had been told that he would continue to be left out of the team.

Passarella has banned national team players from having long hair and wearing earrings since taking over last year.

The Redondo affair has dominated the news in South America's second largest nation all week.

Diego Maradona compared Passarella's stance to the military junta which once ruled the country while Gerardo Romano said: "It's fascist and Nazi attitude."

Subsequent comments by Passarella, who said Redondo had been left out for purely football reasons, were described as untrue by the Real Madrid player.

"Passarella is not telling the truth. The only thing we didn't agree on is the hair," he said, referring to the meeting between the two in Spain.

But President Menem took the coach's side, saying Redondo had been excluded because he had been inflexible in refusing to change his role in the team.

Veteran coach Carlos Griguol and former international Ramon Diaz, were among those who said that Redondo should follow the example of goal-scorer Gabriel Batistuta and give into Passarella's demands.

Kawasaki still keep the lead

TOKYO, Sept 9: Verdy Kawasaki kept their lead in the J-League on goal differences Saturday as the Shimizu S-Pulse beat the 1993-94 league champion 9-8 in a penalty shoot out, reports AP.

More than 43,500 spectators watched midfielder Yasuhiro Nagahashi hammer in the winning shot in the shoot-out that came after the Shimizu S-Pulse battled to a 1-1 draw with Kawasaki in regulation time.

Fifteen minutes into the game, Brazilian striker Carlos Dias, headed in a pass from former AC Milan striker Daniele Massaro to put Shimizu in front. Kawasaki's Tsuyoshi Kitazawa tied it with a goal in the 28th minute, setting up the extra time play.

Both team went scoreless in the extra time.

Clash of co-number ones



NEW YORK, Sept 9: The dream final became a reality as rolling Monica Seles and troubled Steffi Graf posted straight-set victories on Friday to set up a championship clash at the US Open, reports Reuter.

Seles, making a glorious return to Grand Slam tennis after a 28-month competitive absence, soared past last year's Wimbledon champion,

ment, Seles, sidelined by the physical and then emotional pain caused by the knife-stabbing attack by a deranged Graf fan during a match in Hamburg, was seen as the underdog hoping to shake off the rust well enough to contend.

Graf was the world beater, winning Wimbledon and the French Open and losing just one match in 33 for the year.

On the National Tennis Centre state, however, Seles has been in full bloom, com-

Open speaks volumes about the stress she has endured since her father's imprisonment.

"I think there's a whole list I would mention on why I didn't think I would be there," Graf said about reaching the final. "It took a lot out of me, the last few weeks. Much more than at any other stage in my life."

"What I've achieved already here means so much more than what I achieved at Wimbledon or Paris," said Graf, who captured both those titles this year. "It's definitely been the most demanding time and the most demanding inside of me."

Sabatini, the 1990 Open champion, demanded the best on court from Graf.

The Argentine battled her evenly in a brilliantly played match in which Graf won 82 points against 79 for Sabatini.

But Graf rose to the occasion with her ferocious forehand at her most critical times to beat the ninth-seeded Sabatini, who had matched her stroke for stroke and charged the net aggressively form most of the match.

The German took the first set with a lone service break in the last game. In the second set, she broke Sabatini at love as the Argentine served for the set at 6-5 to force a tie break.

After falling behind 3-1 in the decider, Graf won four points in a row to take control.

Sabatini saved one match point at 6-4, when Graf netted a backhand, but the German clinched victory when Sabatini came up just short of returning Graf's lunging forehand volley catching it on the second bounce to lose the point, and the tie break, 7-5.

Sabatini, who lost for the 29th time to Graf in 40 meetings, said: "It's very disappointing. I had many opportunities in the first and second set and it's very disappointing to miss."

"I missed shots, I double faulted," said Sabatini, who had lost only 17 games in her five wins but converted only two of six break points against Graf. "You can't afford to do that."

Seles rarely missed anything as she stormed to victory in one hour to stretch her unbeaten record against Martinez to 9-0 without the loss of a set.

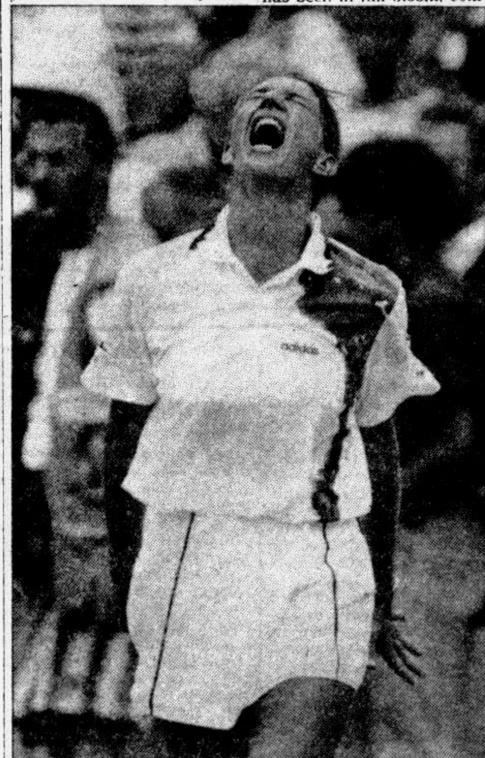
Seles moved Martinez around like a Marionette, dictating the points with her pace and piercing angles.

"I think Monica is playing really, really good," said Martinez. "She is hitting the ball very hard from both sides like she did before when she was number one."

The Spaniard said, Seles may be playing better than ever.

"Today she didn't miss much and I think she has improved her serve," Martinez said rating the new, taller and heavier Seles.

"She is playing unbelievable."



A GRUFFY GLEE: Germany's Steffi Graf, seeded number one, vents her agony and ecstasy to the air after winning a tension-packed semifinal duel with her long-time tennis rival Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina at the US Open in Flushing Meadows on Sept 8. The gritty German registered a 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) win to decimate the pretty Argentine. — AFP/UNB photo

Spaniard Conchita Martinez, 6-2, 6-2.

Graf, hampered by physical problems and emotional traumas of her won, battled fiercely to beat long time rival Gabriela Sabatini 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), to set up today's showdown between the world's co-number ones.

"Playing against Steffi is going to be fun. It's going to be a great day whatever happens," Seles said between bouts of barely controllable giggles.

"Just to be in the final, guess, if someone had told me one year, or two years ago that I'd have a chance to go out and play great tennis tomorrow, it's beyond what I dreamed of."

In a strange twist to this improbable tennis saga, the finalists have virtually swapped roles in terms of favourite and underdog in the year's last Grand Slam.

Coming into the tourna-

menting with obvious relish and smashing success.

Graf, meanwhile, has battled injury and openly admitted to feeling the emotional fall-out of having her father, Peter, imprisoned in Germany on tax evasion charges.

After clinching her hard-fought, one-hour 38-minute victory over Sabatini, the 26-year-old Graf ran to a court-side box to embrace her mother, Heidi, and her Swiss coach Heinz Gunthardt.

"I didn't expect to be able to get to the finals, so it really goes to me," said Graf about her emotional display.

Graf was bothered before the tournament by a chronic back injury and has suffered a bone irritation in her left foot that required attention during the first set against Sabatini.

But the sombre way she has comported herself at the

Monica's mode of life



NEW YORK, Sept 9: After more than two dark years when she could barely bring herself to pick up a tennis racket, a rejuvenated Monica Seles has giggled all the way to the US Open final, reports Reuter.

Basking in the adoration of welcoming fans and frolicking through an unbroken string of success since her come-back last month, Seles

is taking New York by storm and can hardly contain her joy.

"Just to be in the final, it's beyond what I dreamed of," gushed Seles after a 6-2, 6-2 decimation of Conchita Martinez that put her into the final against Steffi Graf.

"It's going to be so exciting to be out there."

The 21-year-old Seles, who lived the life of a recluse while recovering from the emotional trauma of being

stabbed in the back in Hamburg in 1993, has been anything but a shut-in in New York.

She's been to Broadway shows, watched from the sidelines of a New York Giants football game, received an ovation upon being spotted at a well-known departmental store and Thursday night was seen having a grand time at the MTV music video awards at Radio City Music Hall.

"It was great. I stayed there pretty long. I couldn't go to the parties afterwards though," said the two-time US Open champion who had a little matter of a semifinal to think about.

Monica Seles has the same game that once dominated women's tennis, but she surely seems to be enjoying herself more this time around.

"What I try to do is to have a balance in life. I am trying not to be all 100 per cent tennis and not be 100 per cent fun. You can't drink and breathe tennis all your life day in, day out," she said.

After a beaming and giggling contagiously all through a television interview, the commentator said sarcastically, "the trouble with you Monica is you're just not happy enough," to which she again dissolved in convulsive laughter.

Brazil spikers beat Cuba

HAMAMATSU, Japan, Sept 9: Brazil pulled off a four-sets victory over world champions Cuba on Saturday to earn a place in the final stage at the two million dollars women's volleyball World Grand Prix, reports AP.



Number two seeded Monica Seles plays a two handed return against Spaniard Conchita Martinez during their semifinal match at the US Open on Friday. Seles won the match 6-2, 6-2. — AFP/UNB photo