

Sport

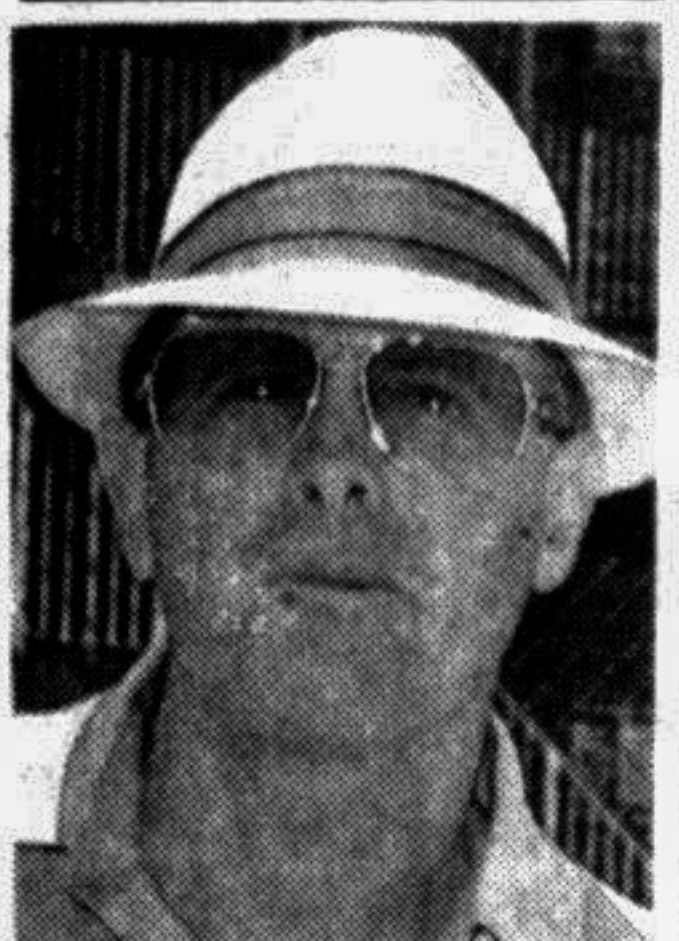
Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT trouser failure is a malady that afflicts cricket players more than most. Trousers of Langley has split during the 1958 England-Australia Test. Again, at The Oval in 1980, during the Surrey vs Lancashire match, the Lancashire keeper, G Fowler split his trousers where it matters most.

SPORTS TALK



Geof Boycott (Famous England batsman)

Everybody can learn to bowl and bat but some people are lucky that they are born with a little more ability than the others, and they learn quicker than others. They are the ones who become great. On his belief that "great players are born".

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday).

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-10

Form with questions about sports facts and a table for answers.

U-14 tennis

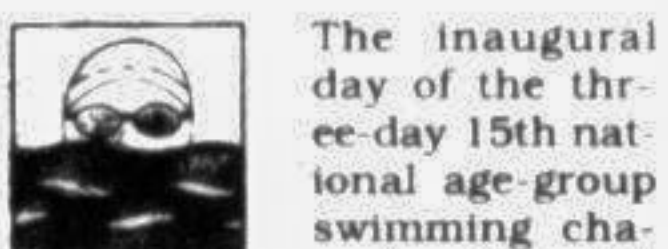
A four-day tennis tournament for the under-14 boys and girls will begin at the Ramna Tennis Complex from October 27.

Arena, US Olympic soccer coach

WASHINGTON, Oct 25: University of Virginia soccer coach Bruce Arena, 44, who led that team to a record four consecutive national championships—five in the last six years, on Tuesday was formally named to coach the US Olympic soccer team, reports Reuter.

Fourteen new marks set up Locals dominate Day One

Sports Reporter



The inaugural day of the three-day 15th national age-group swimming championship which for the time featured foreign natants in any domestic meet offered fourteen records out of twenty events decided at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

The eventful day which was marked by ten foreign boys and girls along with a host of local players saw Monique Avis of American School Club pick up the first gold for them after winning the girls' 50-metre freestyle in style.

Avis, who faced a tough challenge from Tomal Tatum, prevailed over her clubmate by only .03 seconds to win the event in 36.69 seconds.

With the local campaigners dominating the pool Naomi Cookson was the other American, who won 200-metre freestyle in a time of two minutes 54.15 seconds which is a meet record.

But apart from all the records decided on the day, Monira Rahman Dalia of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) created a sensation after winning the women's 200-metre butterfly eclipsing the previous national mark. Monira clocked three minutes 18.95 second to set a new national record in this event.

It was Monira's second gold of the day. She had earlier won the 200-metre freestyle with a timing of 2:40.08 seconds.

The other records set on the day are - Ratna Khatun of Rajshahi Education Board (REB) in girls' 100 metre freestyle (1:25.21) and 200-metre individual medley (3:29.28). Abdul Hamid of Bangladesh Biman in youth groups 200-metre freestyle (2:13.55) and 200-metre butterfly (2:12.60). Monirul Islam of Kushtia DSA in boys' 200-metre breaststroke (2:54.56). Nibedita Das of Biman in girls' 400-metre freestyle (5:59.84). Abdul Halim of BKSP in boys' 50-metre freestyle (32.56). Hasina Akhter of Ansar in girls' 100-metre backstroke (1:28.64). Jewel Ahmed of



Monique Avis of the American School Club exults after winning the girls' 50 metres freestyle of the 15th national age-group swimming competition at the Mirpur Swimming Complex yesterday.

BKSP in boys' 100-metre backstroke (1:13.60) and 200-metre freestyle (2:21.05). Jebeda Khanom of Ansar in girls' 100-metre breaststroke (1:18.57).

Surjit Singh Memorial BHF names 20-man squad

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday announced a 20-member national team for Surjit Singh Memorial hockey tournament, starting in the Indian city of Jalandhar from November 5.

The strong Bangladesh outfit are competing in the prestigious meet as part of their preparation for the forthcoming SAF Games which will be held in Madras from December 22.

They have been placed directly into the second round of the tourney, which will be divided into two groups of four teams each and follow a round robin basis.

The Bangladesh boys are scheduled to play their first match on November 8 followed by two more on November 10 and 11. The names of their opponents are yet unknown as the other members of the group will have to qualify through a first round knock-out which is to precede the second stage. The semifinals and the final will be held on November 13 and 14 respectively.

The Bangladesh contingent will be led by the general secretary of the BHF Shamsul Bari who has been named as the manager of the team. Nurul Amin, a BHF member, will accompany the team as assistant manager while Protap Shonkor Hajra will make the journey as coach.

The seventeen players to set voyage across the border have been chosen from the 22-member SAF training camp which has been in action since May this year. The players have been availing the services of the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) synthetic turf since July.

Abahani left-back Mamunur Rashid has been named as the captain of the outfit. Mamun, who has previously played for an Asian All-star team, was a member of the all-conquering Dhaka University (DU) team which ran away with the national title last month. His DU teammate and the highest scorer of the national meet Alamgir Alam was a significant omission from the team announced yesterday. The mercurial centre forward, best known for his dazzling dribbles, has opted to skip the meet to sit for his final exam.

SQUAD

Mamunur Rashid (captain), Jahangir Alam, Tushar Kanti Howladar, Mahfuzul Alam Nixon, Isa Miah, Robiuddin Ahmed, Zahirul Islam Mitul, Khurshid Alam, Mahbub Harun, Rafiqul Islam, Ehtesham Hossain, Shaikh Ramiz Ahmed, Haider Alam, Tutul Kumar Nugh, Musa Miah, Mohammed Sadeque, Zahid Hossain Raju.

Juninho's debut in doubt

LONDON, Oct 25: Juninho's chances of making Middlesbrough's starting line-up against Manchester United on Saturday looked to be receding on Tuesday when the midfielder said he would not be arriving in England until Thursday, reports Reuter.

The 22-year-old Brazilian player of the year has been granted a work-permit to play in England but may have to settle for a place on the substitutes bench at Old Trafford.

Juninho, who has been tying up loose ends back home in Sao Paulo, was quoted in a newspaper in north-east England as saying, "I will not arrive in England until Thursday and I doubt if I will be able to train on that day."

"To play in the side without training with my partners, and knowing the style of play my coach wants, would not be right for me or for Middlesbrough."

Manager Bryan Robson has said his 4.75 million pounds (7.5 million dollars) signing would have to arrive in England by Wednesday to have the right preparation for such a big match.

Middlesbrough were somewhat taken by surprise when the Brazilian was granted a work-permit on Monday night.

Now they must obtain international clearance, but English F.A. spokesman Steve Double said, "I would hope it would be just a matter of fax here and fax there."

Middlesbrough have already sold more than 6,000 tickets to fans wishing to see live coverage of the United match on a giant screen at their riverside Stadium.

Veterans win TT crowns

Sports Reporter

Eight-time national champion Mosaddequl Haque Rochi of Bangladesh Biman added another feather to his illustrious career when he won the men's singles crown while a seasoned campaigner Julekha Akhter and upcoming youngster Pappu respectively lifted the women's and boy's singles titles respectively of the first ever Prize Money table tennis tournament which concluded at the wooden-floor gymnasium adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday evening.

Rochi, the veteran balding left hander, who has a unique distinction of winning the national men's singles seven times in a row from 1988 to 1994, faced little resistance

Schulz forced to spying!

BONN, Oct 25: German heavyweight boxer Axel Schulz said on Wednesday he had been forced by East Germany's notorious Stasi secret police into spying for them while he was a citizen of the communist country, reports Reuter.

The boxer told German radio he had worked as an unofficial informer for the Stasi under the codename "Markus". "There was no other choice," he said.

Stasi officers first approached the boxer when he was 16, during a training camp for a junior championship in 1986. "They blackmailed me in the classic way — either you help us or you can pack your bags," Schulz said.

The boxer said he passed on reports to the Stasi after trips to tournaments in the capitalist West. But he said he had only documented unimportant details. "I never received any money or gifts," Schulz told the Bild daily.

The paper said Stasi files backed up Schulz's story. His reports covered subjects such as visits to London landmarks during a trip to England and the fact that action and sex films were shown in his hotel.

The Stasi kept a particularly close eye on East German sports stars, as one of the view groups allowed regular foreign travel.

The German is due to fight South African Francois Botha for the vacant title in Stuttgart in December.

from promising paddler Mahboob of Inter Sports Club in the men's final winning three sets to one.

After clinching the first two sets 21-14 and 21-16, Rochi was on course for a straight sets victory when he was on match point (20-18) in third. But Mahboob, the 1992 national junior champion, staged a brilliant recovery to score four successive points and thus take match into fourth set.

However, in the fourth Rochi regained his composure prevail 20-18.

With yesterday's triumph Rochi became richer by Tk 5,000 and Mahboob pocketed Taka 3,000. Another Biman stalwart Nasimul Hasan Kochi who beat Mustafa of Inter Sports in the third place play off 3-1 before the final, earned Taka 1,500.

Rochi his counterpart Mahboob. "He has a lot of promise. What he needs now is just experience. He is a champion of the future if he keeps up his game," he added. Responding to a query how could he dominate the local arena for quite a long time, Rochi thought his devotion played a major part. "I had a poor spell in the last six months. But its over now and I am back in form."

In the women's final, three time national champion Julekha of Mohammedan Sporting Club outplayed her teammate Shamima Tarneem Darothi by straight sets (21-10, 21-18 and 21-16).

Julekha and Shamima earned Taka 4,000 and 2,000 respectively while third placed Eti of Gaibandha was awarded Taka one thousand.

Left hander Pappu of Narail, who plays under the banner of Biman, beat his fellow Narail and teammate Gautam in the boy's final 3-1 (21-11, 14-21, 21-14, 21-15).

Pappu and Gautam also earned Taka 4,000 and 2,000 as prize money. Edison of Biman received Taka one thousand securing the third position.



Winners of the Prize Money table tennis tournament (left to right) Gautam, Edison and Pappu of boys' group (top) and Shamima, Eti and Julekha of eves' group bottom.



Winners of the girls 100-m freestyle (from L to R) Kamala Akhter, Ratna Begum and Fatema Akhter.

FEDERATION feedback Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation



TABLE tennis in Bangladesh officially came into the sporting scene not very long after our liberation. A sport widely followed and easily picked up, the bat-and-ball game prospered initially after the formation of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) about 24 years ago. In the last decade or so, the popularity of table tennis in Bangladesh has reduced significantly. One of the reasons its survival is that unlike other sports, which are centralised in the capital, table tennis is practiced almost throughout the nation.

But despite this fact, the standard of the game is anything but improving and we are not being able to groom new talents.

This failure in producing new prospects can be corroborated by a quick glance at the roll of honour of the national table tennis Championships since 1974. Four names — Mosaddequl Haque Rochi, Saidul Haque Sadi, Nasimul Hassan Kochi, and Zobera Rahman Linu — fall common in the list of top players in almost all the nationals since the late 70 until today, a clear indication of their unchallenged domination in the sport during the decade and a half.

Current men's singles champion Sadi won his first title way back in 1981 and prospers still. Rochi, who has been playing for the last 20 years, began with the boys' singles title in 1977 and has his name safely in the record books for winning the men's title seven times in a row from 1989 to 1994. Kochi, the 1994 beaten finalist opened his account with the national boy's singles title in 1979 and clinched the men's singles championship twice in a row in 1982 and 1983. Although he has lost his rhythm, he is still one of the few front running table tennis players. While Sadi, Rochi and Kochi had to share the top spot of the men's singles Linu was little disturbed in the eves' wing. She began her run in 1977 and never looked back since. This year she won her record 14th national women's singles title and retired from the limelight. This is the true picture of our table tennis arena these days.

There are many reasons why table tennis is not improving in this country. Lack of equipment and planning are the major causes. To know further about the state of sport, The Daily Star had a cordial cogitation with the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation general secretary Quazi Moinuzzaman this week at his office at the Dhaka Stadium. Following are the excerpts of the conversation between The Daily Star (DS) and Moinuzzaman:

DS: What are your plans for the future? Moin: We have very little scope to plan something on long term basis. Our boys can only give five to six months for this game because of their school exams. Moreover boys are also not concentrate at the expense of keeping studies away. Even then we have worked out a programme from next year. It will continue for four years. We are going to pick up 25 to 30 boys next year who will go through a yearly six-month training in Dhaka. In the subsequent years new talents will be included in the course while poor performers will be sent back. We are also planning on sending promising players abroad for three to six months training from next year.

DS: What are the sources which are providing the funds? Moin: We received Taka three lakh as NSC grant this year. Besides the grant, we enjoy corporate sponsorship.

DS: In the past there has been no election in the Federation. How long will this continue? Moin: It is not only in the TT Federation, this is happening in every sports federation of the country. We do not have a democratic sports infrastructure in Bangladesh. Until and unless the National Sports Council takes steps for this, we have nothing to do and this will continue.

DS: During the last four years, what have we achieved in international competitions? Moin: We participated in the sixth and seventh SAF Games in 1991 and 1993. In Colombo we earned the bronze in men's singles and fourth position in the eves competition. The result was the same in Dhaka two years before. Besides, Bangladesh also participated in the 11th Asian TT Championships in Delhi 1992 where we did not achieve any positions.

DS: Well it's a long story. I can not tell you in one sentence. This is a game which you should learn to play in your school life. But the parents are not encouraging their kids to play the game these days. A table in school is the one where boys and girls learn table tennis. Now a days schools are also not providing tables and a room to their students. Same with the players. Most of our top players are good students as well. So when the time comes to decide which one to continue, they go for the studies, because in Bangladesh you can not be well established by only playing table tennis. Moreover we do not have proper long term planning in this regard. We can only arrange a maximum of four-months' training for the boys because of their academic commitments.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Date deferred

Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) has deferred the prize awarding ceremony of different championships ranging from 1990 to 1994 for a couple of days. In a press release issued yesterday, the BCF, who had earlier fixed the date for October 27, have now decided to give away prizes on October 30 at the federation office at 6 pm.

Cryptquip puzzle with a grid and a key for deciphering the message.