

Column One SPORTS TALK

Mokhles, Bulbul best sportsmen for '93-94 BSWA awards distributed

The sports writers and reporters have a very important role to play in the process of developing sports in the country.

This was stated by President Abdur Rahman Biswas while addressing as the chief guest at the biennial prize distribution ceremony of the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday.

President Rahman Biswas further said, if the people of our country can face every situation with sportsman spirit, we can overcome all the complications prevailing

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ing a poor nation, the standard of our sports is quite satisfactory. Recently our boys have won the quadrangular football tournament in Myanmar which is a positive sign of improvement," the President added.

Besides, the President, Mohammad Hanif, the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports and Major General Mahbubur Rahman, the president of Bangladesh Volleyball Federation were also present on the occasion as special guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor said that he will try his best to create playing fields in the capital. The Mayor also paid his tributes to the Bangladeshi footballers and cricketers who had recent successes. He also said that construction work on a new mini-stadium at Golapbagh in Dhaka will commence soon.

Addressing on the ceremony, the State Minister for Youth and Sports thanked the BSWA for arranging the award ceremony which he said would help in improving the standard of sports in the country.

BSWA president Raquibul Hasan chaired the award giving ceremony sponsored by Karnafuli Limited. Bata Shoe Company was the sponsor of the prizes.

Acc swimmer Mokhlesur Rahman, who won the 100m breaststroke gold in the sixth

SAF Games in Dhaka in 1993, and national cricket vice-captain Aminul Islam Bulbul were honoured as sports personalities of the years 1993 and 1994 respectively.

Following are the other sportsmen who were awarded yesterday: 1993 Jahangir Alam (cricket), Rahmat Ali Asir (hockey), Karar Mizanur Rahman (swimming), Bimal Chandra Tarafdar (athletics), Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinky (shooting), Mozammel Haque (boxing), Professor Golam Rasul Mollah (organiser), and National Bank Ltd (sponsor).



MOKHLESUR RAHMAN in our socio-economic life.

The President thanked the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) for encouraging the sportsmen with their awards.

"We have a long tradition of sports. Both rural and modern sports are being simultaneously played here. Be-



AMINUL ISLAM BULBUL 1994

Poniruzzaman Ponir (football), Athar Ali Khan (cricket), Mahbub Harun (hockey), GM Hyder (shooting), Tariqul Islam (kabaddi), Aslam Omar Belim (tumbling), Abdur Rahman (organiser), and Bangladesh Biman (sponsor).

Even chance for finalists

MOSCOW, Dec 2: Pete Sampras and Yevgeny Kafelnikov both won their singles on Friday to leave the United States and Russia all square after the first day of the Davis Cup final, reports Reuter.

World number one Sampras overcame Andrei Chesnokov in a five-set thriller, then Kafelnikov put the Russians back in the match by beating Jim Courier in straight sets.

Wimbledon and US Open champion Sampras defeated 90th-ranked Chesnokov 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4.

With injured teammate Andre Agassi among the spectators, Sampras threw his arms in the air to celebrate his victory but then collapsed with cramp and was helped off the court.

Despite Kafelnikov's 7-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory, he and Courier looked evenly matched — trading powerful shots in a series of long rallies which delighted the near-capacity crowd in Moscow's Olympic Stadium.

Kafelnikov took time to settle in the first set, double-faulting three times, before convincingly winning a tie-break 7-1.

The second set went with serve to 6-5 when Courier

dropped his service after the Russian initially squandered two set points.

Courier trailed 3-0 in the third, broke back to 3-2 but eventually lost 6-3.

Kafelnikov and Andrei Olkhovsky face Todd Martin and Richey Renberg in today's doubles.

Kafelnikov told a news conference after the match he felt Courier was the stronger of the American singles players.

"Maybe he saw the state Sampras was in and thought it could all be over tomorrow and there was too much psychological pressure on him," the Russian said.

Kafelnikov said the hardest moment in his match was when he led 3-0 in the last set and, realising victory was in sight, lost two games in a row to Courier.

"I remember clearly as we passed each other at the change-over," Jim said, "I'm gonna get you right here and at that moment I sensed that the critical point of the match had come and had to collect myself and give 100 per cent."

Courier conceded he had not played his best, "I'm going to re-group and come back on Sunday and show a little bit more than I showed today."

US captain Tom Gullikson

said later he was still undecided about the composition of his doubles team, "we will talk about a few things tonight and come up with a really good doubles team."

Asked if Sampras could play, he said, "anything's possible." Chesnokov fell just short of a repeat of his decisive win over Michael Stich of Germany in the semifinals and afterwards Sampras conceded it had been a very tough match.

"I just immediately went down to the ground and my leg started cramping. It was an emotional match. It just goes to show that in the Davis Cup there is a lot of pressure," Sampras said.

"I just lay down and immediately put ice on my leg. I took a couple of pills to get rid of the cramp and now I feel fine," Sampras said he would be fit for Sunday's reverse singles. Much pre-match attention was focused on the temporary clay-court laid for the final.

Asked about the court, Sampras said, "the conditions were very, very difficult for me. It's a slow court and the balls are very heavy."

Russia were fined 25,000 dollars after the start of the semifinal against Germany had to be delayed because the court was damp.

Tyson keeps on ticking

PHILADELPHIA, Dec 2: Mike Tyson, remembering the fans' disappointment with his 89-second mismatch against Peter McNeeley in August, said on Thursday he hopes to put on a good show against Buster Mathis Jr next month, reports Reuter.

The former heavyweight champion also said he had recovered from the broken thumb his doctors said forced the postponement of his first fight with Mathis on November 4.

"My hand, it's ok. I'll be all right."

Tyson said after a news conference at the Spectrum Sports Arena where he will

fight Mathis on December 16 in a scheduled 12-round bout, not expected by many ringsters to go anywhere near the distance before Tyson stops Mathis.

"I'm prepared," said Tyson, adding that the recently has resumed sparring. When Tyson pulled out of the original fight on October 31, his Las Vegas doctors said he would need 4-6 weeks before he could fight again.

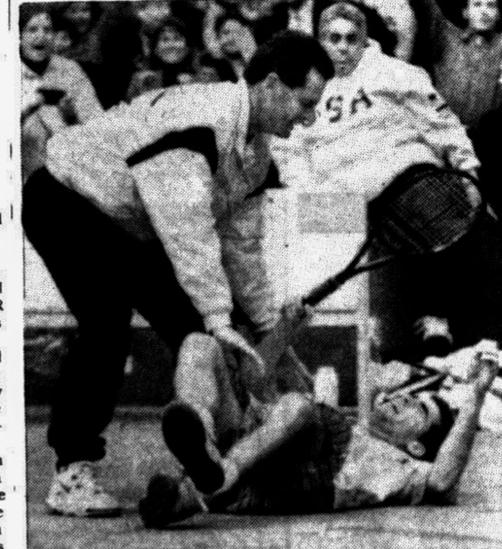
"Just maybe I'll break his other thumb," said the light-hitting Mathis, expected to be relatively-stationary target for Tyson. I plan to win this fight.

In what very well could have been a search for a tune to whistle past the graveyard, Mathis (20-0) said, "Mike is a man who intimidates a lot. As long as Mike doesn't intimidate me, I've won half the battle."

Tyson, said the change in sites did not bother him. "I'm just happy to be here... and I hope you guys will be enjoying my performance and I will try to make it very stimulating," he said.

The fight is scheduled to be broadcast on the free home television on the Fox network and will be blacked out in the Philadelphia area. Tickets will sell for 25 to 500 dollars.

The rescheduled Mathis fight had been set for Atlantic City, but the New Jersey Casino Control Commission on Wednesday upheld its original ban on Tyson's promoter, Don King, and rejected the fight.



US team captain Tom Gullikson extends his helping hand to world number one Pete Sampras, who collapsed with cramps following his hard-fought victory over Russia's Andrei Chesnokov in the Davis Cup final on Dec 1. Sampras overcame Chesnokov 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4.

— AFP/UNB photo



President Abdur Rahman Biswas seen with the recipients of trophies and certificates of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association at a prize giving ceremony at Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday. — PID photo

BD officials for SAF Games

Sports Reporter

Ahbab Ahmed, additional secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, will be the chef-de-mission of Bangladesh contingent in the forthcoming Seventh South Asian Federation Games while two renowned former sportsmen Kazi Abdul Alim and Zakaria Pintu will act as deputy chef-de-mission.

This was officially announced by the Bangladesh Olympic Association on Friday.

According to the BOA, Wing Commander Mahiuddin Ahmed will be the secretary-treasurer and Fazlur Rahman Khan will perform the duty of general manager in the Games to be held in the Indian city of Madras from December 18. Inamul Haque, the acting president of BOA, and Bashir Ahmed, the BOA secretary general, will go to Madras as National Olympic Committee (NOC) delegates while Capt (rtd) Siddique Ahmed BN, Zafar Imam and Akhter Hossain Khan will join the Games as SAF delegates.

V-Day cricket tourneys from Dec 5

Sports Reporter

Three cricket tournaments — Bijoy Dibash, Shaheed Jewel-Mushtaq Memorial and Shaheed Smriti — will begin in the capital simultaneously from December 5. This was announced by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), the organiser of the tournaments, on Saturday.

The top four teams of Navana Premier Division cricket league including joint champions Abahani Kriya Chakra and Mohammedian Sporting Club will participate in the Bijoy Dibash meet to be held at the Dhaka Stadium while the remaining eight Premier league teams will feature in the Shaheed Jewel-Mushtaq Memorial tournament which will be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

On the other hand, the ten First Division cricket league teams will compete in the Shaheed Smriti tournament scheduled to be held at the City Club ground, Mirpur. Meanwhile, the BCCB also announced that the Navana Premier Division and Yamaha First Division leagues will begin in the capital from December 18.

NBA live on Star TV

Basketball fans from all over also get ready as Star TV's 24-hour sports channel, Prime Sports begins weekly live broadcast of the world's best basketball league, the National Basketball Association, says a press release.

Live coverage commences on Sunday, December 3 at 7:30 am (BST) with the Phoenix Suns taking on the San Antonio Spurs in a key Western Conference match-up. Each and every week throughout the regular season, Star TV will bring you high-flying action live from all the top teams in the NBA.

With the exception of the first week, Prime Sports basketball anchorman Tom McCarthy along with Georgina Chang of Channel [V] will host the broadcast from the Hong Kong studios presenting a pre-game, half-time and post-game show including in-depth analysis of the weekly match-up and league.

The Phoenix Suns are led by 11 year NBA veteran Charles Barkley who is currently leading the team in points per game. But Charles will have to find a way to stop the last seasons NBA Most Valuable Player, David Robinson. Robinson, entering his ninth season with the Spurs, is also leading his team in scoring and has over 40 blocked shots this year.

SAF Games deliberations Swimmers hold promise

Sports Reporter

And finally, some words of hope.

The sports arena of the country seemed destined to enter a permanent domain of gloom according to the nagging bickerings by no-hopers during the SAF Games deliberations over the past three days. At least the pressmen, tired of hearing only about imminent failures, were fed up.

But the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) office was filled with an almost unfamiliar air of optimism yesterday as two more of the national sports federations spoke to the press about their preparations and prospects for the forthcoming seventh SAF Games to be held in Madras from December 18. And this time, for a change, there was more talk of confidence than pessimism, a welcome relief for the all present and a firm reminder to the nation that we, too, can hope.

On the fourth day of the parley organised by the BOA, it was the turn of the shooting and swimming authorities to inform the nation of their progress. The two sports being the traditional "medal-getters" for our nation, the officials of both went to the extent of raising hopes for a combined tally of eight golds.

The general secretary of the Bangladesh Shooting

Federation M Meherul Islam said that he is hopeful bringing home of at least six gold medals from Madras, by far the highest aspiration among all the federations. Notably, we bagged seven golds in the previous SAF Games held in Dhaka in 1993.

The 23 shooters included in the Bangladesh outfit will take part in 12 of the 15 events being offered this year. Of them, both Islam and coach Quazi Selim seemed to have the most confidence on the talents of Saiful Alam for the individual air rifle title and on the Feroz Hossain-Sabah Ali-Saiful Alam trio to clinch the air rifle team title.

The two officials also placed their hopes on the free rifle (3x40) team of Nasiruddin, Saiful Alam and G M Haider. An individual title in the same category also would not be unlikely, Islam informed.

The other two categories the officials are hopeful about are the women's standard rifle (pawm) and the women's standard rifle (3x20) events, although Selim expressed guarded optimism about the former.

Islam told the press that preparations for the Games began on June 10 with 42 shooters in the camp and by July 16 the list was shortened to 28. The second stage of the training began on July

22 and, after four internal competitions, the final selection was made by September 16.

The shooters have been trained by two American coaches since the end of October and Uwe Reischer, a world class German coach, will arrive on December 4 for a week's training programme. Islam said that with Reischer's help we may even throw a challenge for the skit event.

General Secretary of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation Mosharrar Hossain said, he is hopeful of at least two golds, both in the individual breaststroke categories. Mosharrar, who himself had won five golds in the second SAF Games in Dhaka in 1985, said, he has two swimmers, Karar Mizanur Rahman and Mokbil Hossain, competent of winning both the 100 and 200 metres breaststroke.

The strong 11-swimmer Bangladesh team will participate in all 16 of the men's events in Madras. The team had been chosen from an initial list of 23 who have been in training under Chinese coach Liu Si Sing since early February.

Mosharrar expressed his disappointment at the exclusion of a women's swimming team from the SAF contingent.

Old rivals reach semis

SINGAPORE, Dec 2: Players from traditional rivals Indonesia and Malaysia will fight out both semifinals of the men's singles World Grand Prix badminton finals after winning through from the last round-robin stage on Friday, reports Reuter.

Malaysia's Rashid Sidek little fancied at the start of the tournament will face Indonesia's Ardy Wiranata, while Malaysian Ong Ewe Hock meets Indonesia's Joko Suprianto.

Rashid whose last major title was at the 1992 World Grand Prix finals in Kuala Lumpur advanced with an easy 15-8, 15-5 victory over Sweden's Jes Olsson in less than half an hour.

Rashid started slowly and trailed 1-5 in the first set but then regained the form which upset world champion Heryanto Arbi on Thursday.

With good stroke selection and judgement, Rashid played controlled badminton and ran Olsson into the ground.

"I've trained very hard in the last few months Rashid said mentally I'm much stronger now. This is definitely my best form of the year."

"The victory over tourna-

ment favourites, Arbi was a big morals booster," he said. "Frankly, I didn't know I had

Italians the invincible

TOKYO, Dec 2: World champions Italy taught African champions Tunisia a lesson in the sport and completed a clean sweep of 11 matches in the World Cup men's volleyball tournament on the final day today, reports AFP.

"We are very happy, because we won all the matches, losing only three sets in the World Cup. I'm very proud of my players," said Italy's coach Julio Velasco after a 15-5, 15-5, 15-9 thrashing.

The Netherlands, who were runners-up in the Barcelona Olympics, World Championships, European Championships and Grand Champions Cup, again had to be satisfied with the same place.

They used their height advantage in the front in full swing to beat Egypt 15-3, 15-9, 15-8, ending the 12-team round-robin with nine wins against two defeats.

it within me to beat Arbi and having beaten him my chances are as good as anyone in the semifinals."

Denmark's Poul Erik Hoyer-Larsen was denied the chance of a place in the semifinals when his win over H Hendrawan was discounted when the Indonesian was forced to pull out of his Group D Match against Ong because of an ankle injury.

Officials ruled that all matches involving Hendrawan were null and void.

Although his hopes, of qualifying had already been dashed, Hoyer Larsen played superbly to beat Indonesia's Hermawan Susanto 18-16, 8-15, 15-10 in a spirited 45-minute battle.

"I was hugely disappointed when I learnt what Hendrawan had to pull out. Although I had nothing to play for I gave of my best. That's life I guess," Hoyer Larsen said.

Wiranata beat fellow Indonesian Allan Budi Kusuma 11-15, 15-8, 15-12 after along struggle while Suprianto beat China's Dong Jong 15-8, 14-17, 15-9.

In the ladies singles China's Wang Chen will face Sweden's Lim Xiaoping in the semifinals while Camilla Martin of Indonesia, will meet China's Ye Zhaoying.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer and CRYPTOQUIP puzzle with solution