

Masuda upsets Tania's cart

Sports Reporter

An unheralded Masuda Bemun recorded an upset win over former national champion Tania Parvin in their sixth round engagement of the 17th national women's chess championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Masuda, one of the four qualifiers in the final round of the 9-round Swiss league meet, with this sensational victory put a spoke in Tania's smooth sailing in her bid to regain the title.

Tania, one of the two rated players in the fray, who was strongly poised with four wins from her first four matches, with this shocking defeat lost her sole lead following her disappointing show in the last two engagements.

The bespectacled youngster from Chittagong, who lost her first half point against Jahanara Haq Runu in their fifth round match on Sunday, now jointly share the top slot along with veteran Rani Hamid, both having collected four and a half points each.

In this round Masuda, playing with black pieces, took full advantage of a suicidal move from Tania and enjoyed an upperhand till her more illustrious opponent surrendered after 39 moves.

Meanwhile, reigning champions Nipa, who was going through a lean patch, recorded a morale-boosting victory over Zakkia Sultana to raise her collection to three points from six encounters.

BCCB makes them play at night

Sports Reporter

A day-night cricket tournament involving the six Premier league outfit is expected to begin at the Dhaka Stadium from April 20.

Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has almost finalised the necessary arrangements for holding the tourney to mark the 25th anniversary of our independence.

Champions Mohammedan Sporting Club along with Bangladesh Biman, Brothers Union, Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Wari Club have confirmed their participation while Abahani Krira Chakra, one of the two most crowd-pulling outfit in local sports, is expected to confirm their participation within the next few days, disclosed a reliable source.

Nat'l youth cricket results

The first phase of the 16th national youth cricket championship began at different zonal venues yesterday, featuring three walkovers in the inaugural day, reports UNB.

Five teams — Munshiganj, Dinajpur, Barisal, Pabna and Patuakhali DSA — won their respective matches to reach the second round.

Munshiganj recorded a massive 135-run victory against Narsingdi in Zone F match played at the Dhaka Stadium.

BRIEF SCORES
MUNSHIGANJ DSA: 289 for 9 in 45 overs. Iqbal 80. Mushtaque 66. Shamaptha 24. Majedur 21. Shaheen 20. Extras 41.

NARSINGDI DSA: 154 all out 44.5 overs. Jantu 45. Ratan 45. Extras 35. Shamaptha 3/19. Kawser 3/33 and Masud Rana 2/16.

In a Zone B match at Pabna, Dinajpur earned a narrow one-wicket win over Jhenidah.

BRIEF SCORES

JHENIDAH DSA: 174 for 9 in 45 overs. Munna 56. Lebon 24. Manju 17. Extras 34. Monir 2/27. Pantha 2/28 and Shimol 2/28.

DINAJPUR DSA: 175 for 9 in 42.3 overs. Manik 43. Zakkia 25. Shimol not out 16. Extras 34. Nuruzzaman 3/37 and Bijon 2/28.

Pabna DSA got walkover against Panchagarh in a Zone A match at Dinajpur. Patuakhali DSA got walkover over Meherpur in a Zone C fixture at Barisal and Barisal DSA got walkover against Jhalakathi at Jhenidah.

Forty-nine teams split into six zones are taking part in the first phase of the meet.

Diego dashes Boca's hope

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 15: Diego Maradona missed a first half penalty and then hobbled off injured as Boca Juniors lost their unbeaten record in the Argentine Clausura championship at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Maradona, who limped off before haltime with a knee injury, saw his 23rd minute penalty hit the post in the game away to Newell's Old Boys, the team where he made his comeback after the first of his two worldwide bans for drug abuse.

In almost the very next move, Hernan Franco scored the only goal of the game for lowly Newell's, who had not won any of their four previous matches.

Worse was to come for Boca when defender Fernando Gombo was shown the red card for treading on a rival as the two fought for a loose ball.

Boca missed a golden opportunity to take a clear lead in the tournament, the second of the two championships held in the Argentine season, and are level on points at the top with "upstarts" Lanus and Espanoles.

FEDERATION feedback

Bangladesh Badminton Federation

A Star Special

Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) easily symbolises how politics can play foul in our local sports arena. Irregularities, unfair means, and grouping are currently common in the Federation and among some players, creating animosity among players and Federation officials. As a result, there have been no notable

said. "I have been targeted in this regard. Their (players) request was not accepted by BBF and I had no individual role in it." Dana also questioned the wisdom of the agitating players who are putting the blame squarely on her, a joint secretary, when there is a president. Vice President, General Secretary, etc in the BBF.

After the negative response from BBF, the players went for greater movement against the officials. In a press conference held on March 11, 1995, the players made several demands including the removal of all the BBF officials immediately.

The BBF reaction further frustrated the players as it issued show cause notices to eight male and six female shuttlers of the country for breach of discipline. And, after an inquiry the BBF on October 22, 1995 suspended three national players, Rana and Shakil, the

pointments and till the filing of the report late Saturday, he avoided this reporter.

C Treasurer: Mustafa Mak-sudur Rahman was a vice president of the National Bank. According to reliable sources, he was involved with financial irregularities in the bank. But that didn't bother him or NSC as he kept his post intact in

the second set both play-

ers broke serve but Muster, grunting from the huge effort he put into every shot, had an easier time against the 22-year-old, 36th ranked Italian.

The 28-year-old Austrian, who beat Spaniard Alberto Costa in last year's final, felt he had worked very hard to beat Guandenz.

Enqvist ends

Byron's dream

NEW DELHI, Apr 15: Top seed and world number nine Thomas Enqvist of Sweden quelled a late rally from third seed Byron Black of Zimbabwe on Sunday to win the Indian Open, reports Reuter.

Enqvist, 22, fired 18 aces as he held service throughout the match to prevail 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) in 75 minutes.

It was the eighth title of his career and the first this year and it denied Black his maiden ATP Tour victory.

Black, having lost the final at Adelaide three months ago, was swept off his feet by Enqvist, whipping forehand strokes.

"I served unbelievably well and it fetched me a memorable win," Enqvist said. "This is the first time I've won a title dropping a set in the entire tournament."

Crusade against dress code!

PESCARA, Italy, Apr 15: Star player Sabrina Moretti has declared war on Italy's table tennis federation over her right to play in an alluring body-stocking, reports AFP.

Judges at a national tournament here this weekend have been scandalised by the 27-year-old's skin-tight outfit, and ordered her to change into something more respectable.

The trouble started when Moretti, sixth in the national rankings, appeared for a pre-match warm-up on Saturday in a lurid orange body stocking — to the delight of an expectant horde of newspaper and television reporters.

When the judges intervened, the Italian grudgingly added a pair of shorts and a see-through bikini top.

"It's a matter of principle," Moretti insisted. "I will continue to fight this everytime because I want the rules changed."

Moretti insisted that the body-stocking is more comfortable to play in, is more fashionable and also brings in more spectators.

Sino natants reign supreme

BANGKOK, Apr 15: China emerged overall champions with a total of 15 golds, 11 silvers and 7 bronzes in the fifth Asian Swimming Championships concluded here today, reports AFP.

Japan finished runners-up with a total tally of 13 golds, 10 silvers and seven bronzes. Far behind were South Korea with 2-2-12, Thailand with 2-1-1 and Uzbekistan fifth with 1-1-4.

As a result, none of the national-rated players participated in the Bogra national meet. This could only happen due to the BBF president who has a soft corner for her. There are lot of other complaints against her by the players but none seemed good enough to NSC to remove her from her post.

In reply to the allegations, Dana told The Daily Star that these were all conspiracies made by some of her rivals in the badminton arena. She said she never allowed anyone to take undue advantage in the Federation activities for which people are after her. She also said that people were jealous of her potentials and that is the reason behind everything that has happened so far. She said, "some players want to emigrate at the expense of BBF. Once they wanted my recommendation to send someone abroad who's ranking was even below 30. I didn't allow them to do that. That's why they want to remove me."

The players don't represent all the players of the country. There is another players' association but we don't have any problem with them.

The players who are in the movement against me and the BBF, are violent. They have misbehaved with lot of persons including the junior players who abide by the rules of BBF," Dana said.

Regarding the boycott of the players, Dana said, "that is their affair. That will not stop the BBF from its regular programmes. At present we are holding a under-21 camp at Mirpur Indoor Stadium with 60 players. If we bow our heads to a few known activists who don't want our badminton to go on, our badminton arena will be absolutely ruined."

There are other officials in the federation but these are the four who have controlled every affair of the federation for the last two years, claimed Dana.

The problem is still unsettled. The players want to play badminton but not under the control of the present BBF. Can the interim government help the Federation and its players keep sports clean of politics?

The last record was shattered in the women's 4x100-metre medley relay. The Chinese quartet set a gold at 4:08.97, breaking the record of 4:09.13 set by China in 1992.

Christian Laettner (C) of Atlanta Hawks tries to score under challenge from two New Jersey Nets defenders during an NBA fixture in East Rutherford NJ on Apr 14. The Hawks won 99-90.

—AFP/UNB photo

Some solace for Muster

LISBON, Apr 15: Austrian Thomas Muster, who lost his world number one ranking to Pete Sampras won the Estoril Open for the second straight year when he beat Italian Andrea Gaudenzi 7-6, 6-4 on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Muster, who lost just one set on his way to the final of the Estoril clay court event, wasted two set points before taking the first set in a tie break which he won 7-4.

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ers broke serve but Muster, grunting from the huge effort he put into every shot, had an easier time against the 22-year-old, 36th ranked Italian.

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—AFP/UNB photo

Sport



Thomas Muster of Austria plays a forehand return against Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy during their final match of the Estoril Open in Lisbon on April 14. Muster won 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

—AFP/UNB photo

Sampras back at No 1

HONG KONG, Apr 15: American Pete Sampras jumped back to number one in the world thanks to hard-fought 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 victory over defending champion Michael Chang in the final of the Hong Kong Open on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Sampras trailed Austrian Thomas Muster in the world rankings by just 72 points