

Asian U-16 soccer
Bangladesh open
against Malaysia

Bangladesh will take on Malaysia in the inaugural Group 9 match of the seventh Asian Youth Under-16 football championship on May 1 in the Japanese city of Nagoya, reports UNB.

The Football Association of Japan, the organisers of the prestigious Asian junior meet, partially changed the fixture due to the withdrawal of Brunei from the tournament, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh will face the hosts in their second match on May 3 while Japan will play Malaysia on May 5 in the last match of the three-nation competition.

Meanwhile, a 25-member Bangladesh team is likely to leave the capital for Japan on April 29 headed by treasurer of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Hairul Anwar Puri.

**National TT
begins in
Rajshahi May 18**

Sports Reporter

The 21st national table tennis championships will be held at the Rajshahi District Sport Association (DSA) gymnasium from May 18 to 24 next, says a press release.

A total of 12 events — men's team, women's team, boys' team, men's singles, women's singles, boys' single, girls' singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, boys' doubles, girls' doubles and mixed doubles — will be held during the week-long meet organised by the local DSA in association with the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation.

Interested teams will have to send their entries to the Table Tennis Federation office by May 14, the press release added.

**Brolin left
out**

STOCKHOLM, Apr 17: Sweden forward Tomas Brolin, already enduring problems with English club Leeds, has now been dropped by his national team, reports Reuters.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson, naming his squad on Tuesday for a friendly against Northern Ireland in Belfast next Wednesday, said: "Brolin is not (playing) at 100 per cent at the moment and it is difficult to say when he will be."

Brolin, who was influential in helping Sweden reach 1994 World Cup semifinals in the United States, said in a statement issued by the Swedish news agency that being omitted was best for both him and the national team.

"Right now I need to recover in order to get to the capacity needed to add something to the National team," he was quoted as saying.

Brolin's future at Leeds is under a cloud because the Premier League side are apparently concerned about his commitment to them.

Leeds paid a club record 4.5 million pounds sterling (6.79 million dollars) to Italians Parma last year for Brolin, who has been unable to secure a regular place with the English side.

**One more for
Holmes**

BAY ST LOUIS, Miss., Apr 17: Larry Holmes, 46 years old and showing little mobility, neared the end of a great boxing career Tuesday night with a 10-round unanimous decision over Quinn Navarre, reports AP.

The former heavyweight champion, unable to land a bout with George Foreman, intends to fight one more time before retiring.

"It is a good time to get out," Holmes said. "Foreman doesn't want to have anything to do with me. But I've never closed the door to a comeback."

Holmes was the heavyweight champ from 1978-85, first winning the title at 28, the age of his latest opponent.

Holmes, 243 1/2 pounds (110 1/2 kilograms), won by scores of 96-94, 96-94 and 97-93 at Casino Magic in one of the closest decisions in his five-year comeback.

"It was a tough fight. The kid kept coming," Holmes said. "I hit him with some good shots, but I don't train every day like these guys. It's hard to stay focused."

He consistently flashed the jab, rarely mixing it with other shots. But it was enough to improve to 64-5, with 41 knock-outs.

Navarre, 226 pounds (102 1/2 kilograms), an obscure fighter from nearby Metairie, Louisiana, dropped to 17-4-1 with his third straight loss.

Holmes set the tone toward the end of the first round when Navarre walked into a left and took a standing 3-count.

In the third round, Navarre rushed at an off-balance Holmes and connected with solid punches. Holmes, who has been knocked down only three times in his career, went to the mat, but referee Elm Adolph ruled it a slip.

"I'm easier to hit than my younger day," Holmes said. "The best thing I've got going is my left hand. I haven't lost that."

Later in the third, Holmes used a combination of shot after backhand Navarre in the corner, leading to another 3-count. Holmes then slowed the

Niaz Murshed's *

PAPERCHESS

IMAGINE a tournament has where some chess games are going on. All the participants are male except for one, which happens to be a computer. Now, all of a sudden, a stunningly beautiful girl walks into the playing hall. Everyone turns their head to look at her. Well almost everybody, the machine is not

distracted, it remains focused on the board.

Do you think the computer has an undue advantage over its human opponents? Well, FIDE (Federation Internationale Des Echecs), the official world chess body, does think so. They say that it is not fair for humans that machines are not unmoved by events outside the

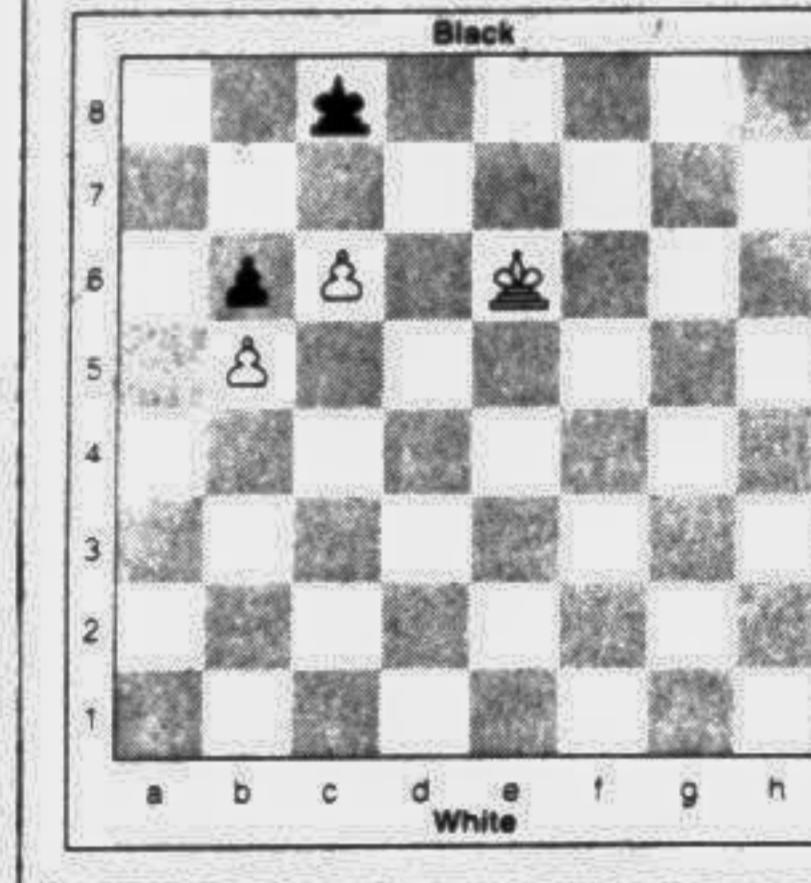
board. Therefore, any player may refuse to play a machine if he or she pleases.

However, the reason used against the machine, most players know, is bad excuse, since the real difficulty in playing the computer lies elsewhere. It is in fact the machine's calculating abilities that the tournament player fears most. Towards the end of the game when there are less pieces a computer's accuracy becomes deadly. While you can hope for a mistake from a human, against a computer it is better to resign and go home.

Take a look at the diagram. The position being very simple, a computer will calculate a forced winning variation in a fraction of a second. Let's see how long it takes when you try to win with the white pieces.

Solution: White plays 1 c7! Black replies 1... K-c7 and now 2. K-e7 K-b7 3.K-d7 K-a7 4. K-c7 K-a8 5.K-b6 K-c7 7.b6 K-b8 8.b7 K-a7 9.K-c7 and white wins.

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Japan's instant reprisal



TOKYO, Apr 17: Japan has said that South Korea's allegations that the head of the world football governing body is helping Japan's bid for the 2002 World Cup are aimed at drawing European support, a report said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Japan's Olympic bidding committee thought that South Korea were "highlighting their anti-Havelange colour to woo European vote," the Asahi Shimbun daily said.

Chung Mong-Joon, vice president of the international football federation (FIFA) and head of the South Korean committee said recently that FIFA president Joao Havelange was abusing his position to muster support for Japan's rival bid.

FIFA's 21-strong executive council will decide on June 1, in Zurich, Switzerland, which of the two neighbouring candidates will host the first football World Cup finals in Asia.

The FIFA president from Brazil has come under fire for his alleged high-handed control of world soccer for the first time since he took office 22 years ago.

Sweden's Lennart Johansson, president of the European

football union (UEFA), has declared his challenge to Havelange in the next election to the FIFA presidency.

Chung himself backs Havelange. The system must be changed. FIFA must become more transparent," Chung said.

The wealth and depth of Latin American stars in Japan's professional football league are seen as a factor in the selection of the 2002 World Cup hosts.

Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso reassured his country's support for Japan's World Cup bid when he visited here in March and won massive un-tied loans for infrastructure projects.

In February, visiting Argentine foreign minister Guido Di Tella declared his country was behind Japan for 2002.

Brazilians account for a half of the 64 foreigners on the J-League payroll in its fourth year. There are also eight Argentines.

Chung wished that Havelange re-members "what neutrality means."

His allegations showed a stance quite different from ours. We don't want to compare it with ours," he said. "Japan for its part will keep on honouring fair play in every aspect."

Botham poses no threat

LONDON, Apr 17: English cricket officials insisted on Thursday they were not worried at the prospect of Ian Botham being voted onto the national selection panel by the counties this week, reports Reuters.

Botham's nomination earlier this month set alarm bells ringing at Lord's who warned against candidates like Botham with extensive media interests. But with Botham's campaign gathering pace in the run-up to tonight's voting deadline, Test and County Cricket Board chief Executive Alan Smith said there was "no problem" with any of the eight candidates to join Ray Illingworth's panel.

"I'm perfectly happy with all of them," said Smith. "All eight are very good people and I don't find it unhealthy to have that many candidates. It has created a lot of public interest, which is good."

Smith, who will announce the result on the Thursday, seemed less sure two weeks ago about the wisdom of the 40-year-old Botham's nomination for one of two vacancies.

In a letter to the counties, the chief executive reminded members that selectors have traditionally relinquished any media responsibilities upon their appointment.

"That is a general perception that has existed in the game for 4-50 years," said Smith. "Having said that, the counties can vote for who they wish."

Botham, though, just wants to help revive English cricketing fortunes.

"I would love to serve on the panel because the big challenge now is to turn England into a world power again," said Botham. "I have never been more serious about anything in my life."

Graham Gooch, Kim Barnett, Brian Bolus, John Edrich, David Graveney, Geoff Miller and Chris Cowdrey are the other nominees. All 18 first-class clubs plus MCC and minor counties are entitled to cast two votes apiece.

Army b'ball

Savar, Bogra, Mymensingh and Comilla won their respective robin league matches in the army annual basketball championship at Mirpur Cantonment yesterday, reports UNB.

Savar Area defeated Rangpur Area by 93-85 points. Bogra Area outplayed Dhaka Signals by 101-41. Mymensingh Area beat Local Area team by 85-58 and Comilla Area edged past Jessore Area by 96-91 points.

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Belarus steal the show

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Apr 17: Belarus' Ivan Ivanov and Vitaly Scherbo had the best all-round day

at the World Gymnastics Championships on Tuesday, reports AP.

"I've been working hard," Ivanov, the 1994 all-around World Champion said. "This is the last chance before the Olympics."

Scherbo, a gold medalist in the floor exercise and parallel bars at the 1995 World Cham-

semifinals. Scherbo scored a 9.650 to lead the rings competition. He placed second in the floor exercise and the pommel horse, third in the parallel bars and fifth in the high bar.

"At the completion of the preliminaries, Italy's Yuri Chechi finished first in the rings with a 9.750 score while Russia's Alexei Voropaev led the floor exercise competition at 9.687."

In the pommel horse, North Korea's Gil Su Pae led the way with the highest score of the night at 9.837 while teammate Hon-Chul Yeo led the vault at 9.712.

Americans Chaney Umphrey and Bill Roth finished a respectable 11th and 12th place, respectively, in the high bar, while Stephen McCain advanced in the floor exercise with a 13th-place finish.

The biggest surprise, however, was Chris LaMorte, who finished tied for third in the rings with a 9.650 score.

There's tremendous pressure out there and we came here to try to win," said Umphrey, a former UCLA gymnast bidding for an Olympic spot. "We want to be world champions and get some respect. We're hosting the Olympics this year."

The last time the United States held the Olympics — in 1984 when the Soviet Union led a boycott that included most of Eastern Europe — the US team walked away with 14 medals.

Since then, only three have been won by American Gymnasts and only one by a member of the men's team — Trent Dimas' gold medal in the high bar at the 1992 Barcelona Games. The US Olympic trials are in June in Boston.

Among the surprise semi-finalists were Cuba's Abel Driggs Santos, a newcomer who finished third in the vault, and Puerto Rico's Diego Lizardi, a 13th-place finisher in the floor exercise and 16th in the rings.

"It was a thrill to compete at home," Lizardi said. "I'm extremely happy about the fact that I get to go out there and do it all over again."

The tournament continues Wednesday with the women's preliminary round.

Hwaing retires

SEOUL, Apr 17: Hwaing Yong-Cho, the Barcelona Olympics marathon champion, announced his retirement from the sport on Monday after failing to qualify for the Atlanta Games, reports AFP.

— AFP/UNB photo

Naturalised Swiss Dorighua Li displays his skills on the parallel bars at the World Gymnastics Championships in San Juan, Puerto Rico on April 16.

tition as the Eastern Europeans again showed their dominance of the sport.

But the United States, trying to prove the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics was no fluke, saw four gymnasts reach the

finals.

"I didn't push it and that was the key. It's a long tour-

recovery," he said.

Applications in prescribed form are invited from Medical graduates intending to be admitted to MS Ortho/Diploma Ortho course at RIHD (Orthopaedic Hospital), Dhaka during 96-97 session. Application form shall have to be collected from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk 300/- (three hundred) only (non-refundable) for Admission Form, conduct of Test & Supply of Information by 9-5-96 and the application should reach the office of the undersigned by 11-5-96.

1. **MS Ortho course duration 3 (three) years:**
A) The candidate must be a graduate from any Medical College approved by Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council.

B) The candidate should complete one year internship.

C) Should have at least 2 (two) years residential training in general surgery from Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council approved Medical College; prescribed 6(six) months Internship in general surgery without training or 1 (one) year residential training in general surgery & 1(one) year residential training in orthopaedic surgery or any one after passing MBBS examination may apply for admission to MS Ortho course.

The result ended an 18-year wait by France to have a team in the UEFA Cup final. The only previous French team to achieve the feat was Bastia in 1978.

Bordeaux, a modest 15th in the French league this season, had the ball in the back of the net twice in the last 10 minutes but each time the goal was disallowed for offside.

Thierry Henry scored his first goal in the 80th minute after a goalmouth scramble and playmaker Zinedine Zidane scored with a superb chip after running through on his own from just inside Slavia's half with only three minutes to go.

The linesman's flag went up several seconds after Zidane received the ball, provoking loud jeering from the 32,000 Bordeaux fans in the Parc Lescure Stadium.

Slavia went close to scoring only once in the match when Vladimir Smicer's direct free kick in the 53rd minute forced Bordeaux keeper Gaetan Hurst to punch into the air before Geoffroy Toyes headed the ball to safety for a corner.

Bordeaux's outstanding player was striker Christophe Dugarry who kept the Slavia defence constantly stretched with his brilliant first-time flicks and runs down both flanks.

France are looking for a hat-trick this week with Nantes playing Juventus in a European Cup semifinal on Wednesday and Paris St Germain meeting Deportivo Coruna of Spain in the Cup Winner's Cup on Thursday.

Bordeaux trainer Gernot Rohr said: "It may not have been as thrilling as our match with AC Milan but it was more important because it has put us into the final. Now I believe we can win the trophy."

Dutch midfielder Richard Witschge said reaching the final was the end of a long road. "In all, we've beaten 11 teams to get this far. I would never have thought that possible," he said.