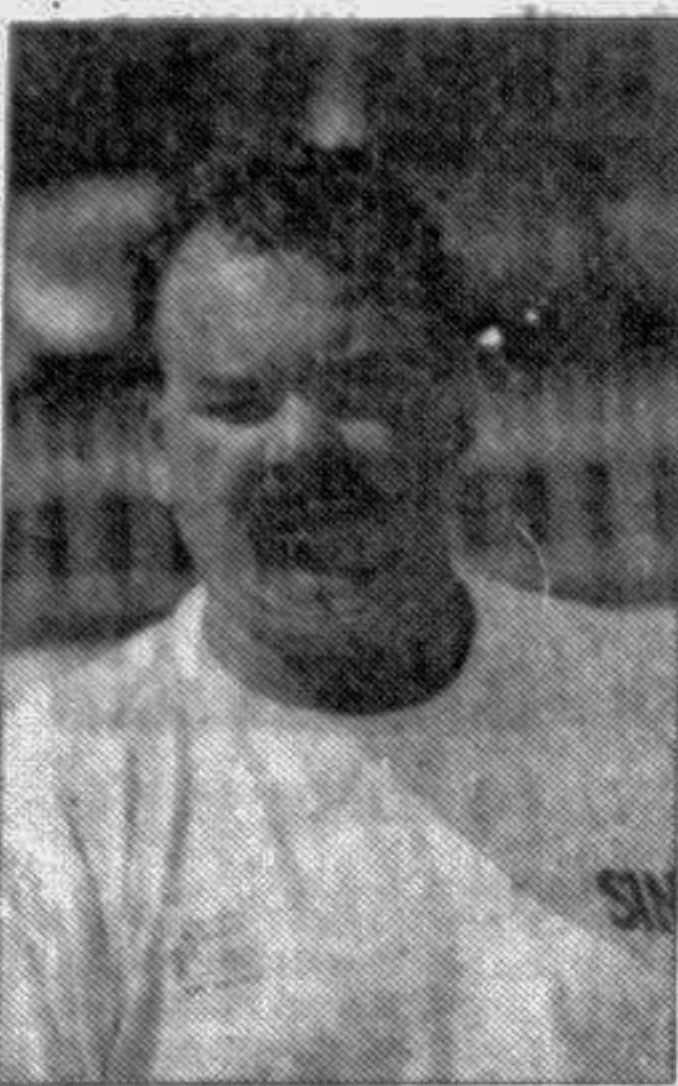


SPORTS TALK



Davenell Whatmore

(Sri Lanka's Australian cricket coach)

"Sri Lankans are different to most others. I think I don't think they will be able to match people with the month. The only way they can match people is with the bat and by fielding aggressively, taking half-chances, stopping the really hard hit ball, that sort of thing."

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT Croatia will be taking part for the first time when the finals of the European soccer gets underway in England from June 8.

Their run up to the qualification has been more than impressive. Beginning in September, 1994 they blanked Estonia 2-0, beat Lithuania 2-0, stunned Italy 2-1, drubbed Ukraine 4-0, held Lithuania goalless, tamed Slovenia 2-0, went down to Ukraine 0-1, humiliated Estonia 7-1, shared honours with Italy 1-1, had the better of Slovenia 2-1.

Suker, their key player, has 16 goals in 15 matches for Croatia. He has scored in every Euro 96 qualifying game, including two against Italy.

So, watch out for Suker and his Croatia.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-40

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. June 7, 1996)

1. Grand Master Gata Kamsky is a
Russian American Swedish
2. Indian batting genius Sachin Tendulkar once played county cricket for
Somerset Nottinghamshire Yorkshire
3. Who won 100m women's hurdles in the 24th national athletics championship?
Piriza Rahma Lovely
4. In the 14th Nirmal schools cricket championship final Schoolastica beat Naitradab Govt High by
23 runs 7 wickets 8 wickets
5. In the 1996 Euro football championship, Bulgaria will be coached by
Puskas Maradona Anand

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

TODAY'S MATCHES

7th School Girls handball tournament

Venue: Women's Sports Complex, Dhanmondi.

Dhanmondi Govt. High School vs Maghbazar Girls School (3 pm)

Banani Bidya Niketan vs BAF Shaheen School (4 pm)

Holy Cross School vs Dhanmondi Tutorial (5 pm)

7th School Boys' handball tournament

(Semifinals, Venue: handball court)

Bangladesh Police Lines High School vs Motijheel Model School (3 pm)

Shahid Nabi High School vs Ansar and VDP High School (4 pm)

School Badminton Championship '96

(Opening day, venue: National Indoor Stadium, Mirpur)

Asian Games in 2001?

SEOUL, June 3: The 14th Asian Games, to be staged in South Korea in 2002, may be held a year earlier because South Korea has been named co-host of the World Cup with Japan that year, reports AP.

"To avoid conflict with the World Cup, it is advisable that the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan be rescheduled to be held a year earlier in 2001," said an official at the (South) Korea Olympic Committee.

The official, requesting anonymity, said the Olympic Council of Asia, Asia's sports governing body, is expected to approve the rescheduling if requested to do so.

Pusan, 320 kilometres southeast of Seoul, is among a dozen South Korean cities bidding to be a venue for some of the 2002 World Cup finals.

Bangladesh's late stumble

Sports Reporter



The soaring spirit of the national in the third Junior Asian hockey championship suffered a severe jolt when Malaysia ended Bangladesh's surprising yet impressive all-win record with a squeaky 4-3 victory in Singapore yesterday.

Bangladesh, who had earlier scored a poem of a win over giants India (2-1) on their way to top Group A in the 10-team meet, with this dampening defeat are now left with the daunting task of beating Japan in their last group league match on June 5 for a berth in the semifinals.

According to a telephonic message received here last night, Bangladesh were trailing by a lone goal at the breather, but produced a brilliant display in the latter half and held on to a 3-3 score four minutes from the final whistle. But, the strong Malaysians, aided by some bizarre umpiring decisions, stole what would have been yet another feather in their cap after their historic win over India last week.

For Bangladesh, backed up by a strong vocal support from a couple of hundred expatriates, centre-forward Ehtesam, defenders Isa Miah and Mahabubul Alam Nixon scored one goal apiece against Malaysia's quick reprisals in a

see-saw second-half battle.

In the absence of defender Mamun, their ever-dependable captain and a member of the all-Asia star eleven, sidelined due to an appendicitis operation, Bangladesh were completely off-colour in the first 35 minutes with the Malaysians dominating the proceedings.

However, their manner of taking the lead in the 17th minute through a controversial penalty stroke, surprised the two thousand-strong crowd at the Delta Sports Complex.

"We played badly in the first half, but I must say the South African umpire had no business to call it a PS (penalty stroke)," said Shamsul Bari to this reporter over telephone last night.

Expressing his sheer disgust, Bari, the BHF general secretary now in Singapore with the team, confirmed that they have lodged a protest against the poor handling of the match.

There were two umpires in the match, one from Germany and the other one was from South Africa. But among the two, the South African was hardly competent to officiate matches at this level," said a dejected Bari.

The BHF general secretary further added that "if there had been neutral umpiring our worst result on the day would

have a draw. But let bygones be bygones. We are looking forward to the semifinals despite the defeat. Our boys are ready to take up the final challenge against Japan."

Replying to a query Bari said, "Japan are not mean opponents. I think they are better than Malaysia. Besides, it was unfortunate for them against Malaysia."

Japan, who were thrown out of the race conceding a 3-2 defeat at the hands of India, had earlier drawn with Malaysia 2-2 despite playing like winners, revealed Bari.

"We will miss Mamun for the remaining matches. That is obviously a minus point for us. But the way the boys played today I'm hopeful about Tuesday's match which is a do-or-die encounter for us."

Besides, we will play after the India-Malaysia match on the concluding day of the first round which is obviously advantageous for us," said Bari who further added that the players are fit and kicking for the final showdown.

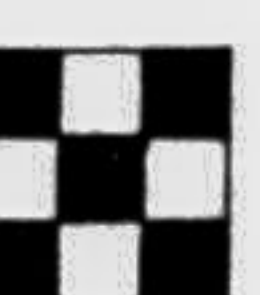
India, who recovered from their stunning defeat at the hands of Bangladesh with two successive wins, will have to beat Malaysia for a place in the last four while Malaysia, the only unbeaten team in the group with two wins and a draw, need only a draw, to finish at the group.



International Master Ziaur Rahman (R) matches wits with youngster Enamul Hossain Rajib during their tenth round engagement of the national championships at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star photo

Reefat uncheckmatable

Sports Reporter



Defending champion IM Reefat bin-Sattar continued with his dream winning run in the ongoing 22nd national chess championship when he defeated FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman in their tenth round encounter at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Playing with black pieces against the Catalan opening of Tahmid, Reefat, the top seed who plays for Biman in local chess, won the board after 30 moves. This was the tenth successive victory for Reefat in the 16-player meet which kept him atop the table with full 16 points, two points ahead of his nearest rival and last year's runner-up IM Ziaur Rahman.

Zia, the former champion and seeded second in the

championship, beat Abdullah Al Rakib in yesterday's round. Playing with black pieces and adopting Chigorin defence, Zia also of Biman took only 24 moves to check-mate Rakib and earn his seventh victory of the meet.

Saifuddin Lovlu of BTMC, who fell from the race after a defeat and a draw in previous rounds, also returned to winning form yesterday. In this round, Lovlu, playing with white pieces, tamed his teammate Abul Kashem Bhuiyan after 29 moves. The win raised his collection to seven and a half points from ten matches and kept him third in the standings.

In other matches, Enamul Hossain Rajib of Mohammedan SC beat Mizanur Rahman Labu of Chuadanga. BTMC's Hasibul Hasan Hanif overcame Annuil Islam of Chittagong, Rafiqul

Islam of Chittagong won against Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Dhaka University while Fide Master Rezaul Haque defeated Sawkat Hossain Pallab of Farashganj SC.

The remaining match of the day between Biman's Kayes Hasan and Tanima Parveen of Chittagong ended in a draw. There will be a break in the championship today and the eleventh round will begin tomorrow from 3 pm at the same venue.

Points Table (after tenth round): 10 points — Reefat, 8 points — Zia, 7.5 points — Lovlu, 6.5 points — Rajib, 6 points — Rakib, 5.5 points — Kayes, Hanif and Reza, 5 points — Tahmid, 4.5 points — Nasir, 4 points — Rafique, 3 points — Tanima and Pallab, 2 points — Kashem, 1.5 points — Labu and Annuil.

Ecuador abase Argentina



QUITO, June 3: South American minnows Ecuador stunned Argentina on Sunday, beating them 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier played at altitude, reports Reuters.

Ecuador, who have never qualified for the World Cup finals, downed the two-time world champions with second half goals by Alberto Montano and Eduardo Hurtado.

Argentina had grumbled about the altitude of the Atahualpa Stadium before the game and their fears of playing in the rarified air at 2,800 metres above sea level appeared justified.

Midfielders Hugo Morales and Ariel Ortega, an inspiration in Argentina's 3-1 win over Bolivia in their opening qualifying match in April, both looked lethargic and never got into their stride.

In attack, Claudio Caniggia produced a few good runs but was let down by his passing while Gabriel Batistuta never had a real sniff of goal.

After a poor first half, Ecuador went in front in the 52nd minute when Montano got his head to an off-target shot by Hurtado and diverted it into the goal.

Hurtado buried Argentina in the last minute when he ran on to a long through-ball and scored with a powerfully hit, right-foot shot.

Ecuador, whose victory followed a 4-1 thrashing of Peru in April, were inspired by the creativity of midfielder Alex Aguinaga, who plays for Mexican champions Necaxa.

Argentina once again suffered at the hands of Francisco Maturana, the Colombian coach of Ecuador.

Maturana was in charge when Colombia beat Argentina

5-0 in a qualifying match in Buenos Aires three years ago, one of the darkest days in Argentine soccer history.

In Montevideo, Uruguay's hopes of reaching the World Cup finals suffered a blow when they were surprisingly beaten 2-0 by Paraguay.

Francisco Arce and Aristides Rojas scored in each half but Paraguay's real hero was burly goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert.

The self-styled best goalkeeper in the world made a series of top class saves as Uruguay threw themselves into attack during a frenzied first half.

Arce, who plays for Brazilian side Gremio struck an early blow when he curled a free kick into the top corner of the Uruguayan goal in the 10th minute.

The rest of the first half was one-way traffic as Uruguay surged forward.

But a combination of poor finishing by strikers Sergio Martinez and Gustavo Poyet, superb goalkeeping by Chilavert and pure bad luck they twice struck the woodwork — kept Paraguay in front.

Paraguay defended with their usual tenacity but playmaker Reberto Acuna also produced some artistry in midfield during the second half.

Uruguay's attacking became more and more reckless and they were caught out in the 89th minute when Rojas scored from a counter-attack.

Away in Lima, in a bid to cure their country's ailing soccer fortunes Peru's witch doctors cast spells to send rivals Colombia to sleep during a vital World Cup qualifier.

In the run up to the big game the 'shaman of the Andes' Juan Osco led throngs of

his medicine men in rituals that included kicking, stabbing and spitting at miniature dolls of top Colombian players Fredy Rincon, Faustino Asprilla and Carlos Valderrama.

His efforts appeared to have paid off when Peru took a surprise 1-0 lead after half-time, but Colombia shook off their early lethargy to pull a goal back and earn a crucial 1-1 away draw.



PARTING KISS: World number one Steffi Graf of Germany renews friendship after ending rivalry on the court with American Mary Joe Fernandez at the French Open on June 20 Graf recorded a 6-1, 7-6 (9-7) victory on her way to quarterfinals. — AFP/UNB photo

Nat'l youth football in July

Sports Reporter

The national youth under-16 football championship will be launched in the second week of July, according to the Bangladesh Football Federation.

It appears from the BFF Press release that it is yet to finalise the venues of the final as well as the qualifying zonal rounds.

Schools badminton

Sports Reporter

School badminton championship, organised by the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, will commence at the National Indoor Stadium Mirpur this afternoon.

ASM Shahjahan, secretary for youth and sports, will inaugurate the competition at 5 pm as chief guest of the opening ceremony.

A total of 69 participants including 15 girls will take part in the championship.

School girls h'ball

Sports Reporter

Vikarunnissa Noon, Maghbazar Girls High, Dhanmondi Government Girls High and Adarsha Balika Bidyalaya of Narayanganj won their respective matches of the 7th school girls handball tournament at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Vikarunnissa, in the day's first outing, recorded a big 18-1 win over Dhanmondi Tutorial while in the next encounter Maghbazar Girls beat Banani Bidya Niketan 9-0.

In the day's other two matches Dhanmondi defeated BDR Public School & College 8-1 while Adarsha earned a 52-2 win over Holy Cross School.

Schools h'ball

Sports Reporter

Shahid Nabi High School recorded their third win in the 7th schools handball tournament with a 17-8 victory over Motijheel Model High School at the handball court of Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 11-5.

With yesterday's win, Shahid Nabi earned top slot in the first round Group B standings. They will now face Ansar and VDP High School in today's second semifinal at 4 pm.

The first semifinal will be held between Bangladesh Police Lines High School and Motijheel Model High School at 3 pm.

Bosses bow to players

ISLAMABAD, June 3: A week-long hockey crisis in Pakistan ended here Monday when both manager and coach of the national team conceded to the demand of rebel players and agreed to step down, officials said, reports AFP.

Manager Mudassar Asghar tendered his resignation at a meeting of 24 rebel players with the senate standing committee on sports, the officials said.

Coach Manzoorul Hassan, who was not present at the meeting, was also removed, they said.

The striking players had accused them of mishandling their jobs.

Air Vice Marshal Farooq Umer, president of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, told reporters, the 24 players who revolted against the team's manager and coach had decided to resume camp training at Karachi from Tuesday.

A new manager and coach will be appointed in a couple of days, he added.

"Our demands have been accepted" said Tahir Zaman, a senior player.

The trials to select a national team for the coming Atlanta Olympics were twice put off because of a boycott by top players, including Pakistan's celebrated former captain Shahbaz Ahmad.

'King of clay' bites dust



PARIS, June 3: Fifth seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia was knocked out of the French Open on Monday.

Sampras, who will be hoping for warmer conditions which will make the red clay courts faster in the second week of the championships, now plays Jim Courier, the 1991 and 1992 champion, for a place in the last four.

Courier earlier put out tenth-seeded South African Wayne Ferreira 4-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 and then finally laid to rest the theory that superstition makes him wear a cap.

"There's no superstition to it," said the American, "if it's sunny I'm going to wear the cap. Because otherwise I get sunburn. If it's not sunny, then I'll probably take the cap off because I have a great new haircut - I'm looking good and I want all the chicks to be able to see my head."

"But don't quote me on that. My girlfriend will kill me," he grinned.

Courier, who said he was looking forward to playing Sampras, said: "I have been feeling good and my level of play has got better and better last week. I'm feeling more and more comfortable every time I go out and play."

Sixth-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who has yet to drop a set at the tournament, produced another ominous warning to future opponents when he beat Spain's Francisco Clavet 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Btg-serving, 13th seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands is next in line to tackle the fair-haired Russian Davis Cup star who reached the semifinals last year.

The 24-year-old Krajicek, runner-up to Thomas Muster at the Italian Open, also scored a comfortable victory when he defeated Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

In the other women's singles, Novotna, who suffered a humiliating loss to American Chanda Rubin when she was last at Roland Garros twelve months ago, kept her nerve when the going got difficult in the second set to beat Irina Spirlea 6-1, 7-5.

The 27-year-old Novotna, beaten by Rubin in the third round in 1995 despite leading 5-0, 40/0 in the third set.

World Number One Pete Sampras took another step towards the only Grand Slam title he has never won by beating plucky left-handed Scott Draper of Australia for a place in the last eight.

Sampras, despite the heavy conditions which slowed his serve and made volleying difficult, scored a 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 win — a welcome change from being taken the distance.

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In his previous two matches the top-seeded American had to go five sets — first against Spain's twice-champion Sergi Bruguera and then against fellow American Todd Martin.

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