

FPWA donation for Tangail

Sports Reporter Football Players Welfare Association will today hand over a cheque for Taka one lakh thirty thousand to the Chief Adviser, Mohammad Habibur Rahman, for the tornado victims of Tangail.

Schools h'ball

Sports Reporter Viquarunnissa Noon and Dhanomdi Government Girls High will vie for the 7th Bata School girls handball trophy after winning their respective semifinals at the Women's Sports Complex, Dhanomdi, yesterday.

In the first semifinal, Viquarunnissa Noon girls ousted Maghbazar Balika Bidyalaya by a big margin of 14-2 while in the next match Dhanomdi eliminated Adarsha Balika Bidyalaya of Narayanganj 11-9.

The winners will face each other in the final billed for tomorrow afternoon (4:30 pm) at the National Indoor Stadium, Mirpur.

Meanwhile, in the boys tournament Razabagh Police Lines High moved into the final with a 22-11 victory over Motijheel Model High in the second semifinal yesterday at the handball court of Dhaka Stadium. The winners led the first half 8-6.

Razabagh will take on Shaheed Nabi High School in the final tomorrow scheduled also at the Indoor Stadium at 3 pm.

Nat'l Bank v'ball

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Power Development Board defeated Dhaka Green Club 15-2, 15-4, 15-10 in their National Bank Premier Division volleyball league clash at the National Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Earlier on Tuesday night, BDR beat Water Development Board 15-2, 15-11, 15-3, Teesta Club outplayed Bangladesh Police 15-9, 15-8, 17-15 while PDB recorded a 15-1, 15-4, 15-0 win over East End Boys Club.

In the First Division league, Dilkusha SC and Azad SC won their respective encounters yesterday.

Dilkusha beat Nabajgarani Sangha 8-15, 15-9, 15-6, 15-2 while Azad outgunned Chand Textiles 15-10, 15-6, 15-8.

Schools badminton

Sports Reporter Nurul Amin, Rabel Akhter, Shaiful Alam and Maruf Ahmed moved into the third round of the schools badminton tournament after they won their respective second round matches at the National Indoor Stadium yesterday.

In the day's encounters, Nurul beat Tajbir Rahman 15-10, 15-7, Rabel tamed Majedul Haque 15-4, 15-7, Shaiful defeated Swapan Ahmed 15-9, 15-3 while Maruf ousted Raisuddin 15-0, 15-0.

In the girls' singles, Sheikh Shahjadi beat Shahnoor 11-6, 11-1, Sabina Yasmeen eliminated Shahrika Haque Mou 11-2, 11-2, Ruzmilla tamed Fahmina Haque Mita 11-4, 11-10 and Rubana defeated Zeba Rashid 11-0, 11-0.

The following are the results of the other matches played yesterday:

Boys' doubles: Sabir and Reza beat Noor and Tuhin 15-6, 15-3

Kayum and Reza beat Tajbir and Nazmul 15-2, 15-2

Arif and Atique beat Erfan and Ayatullah 15-5, 15-6

Ataul and Sanchai beat Moti and Raju 14-15, 15-4, 15-6

Girls doubles: Sabina and Sonia defeated Shahrima and Zeba 11-3, 11-0.

TODAY'S MATCHES

22nd national chess championship (Round Twelve, Venue: NSC chess room)

Refaat vs Rajib, Zia vs Lovlu, Nasir vs Hanif, Tahmid vs Rafique.

Rakib vs Aminul, Reza vs Labu, Kayes vs Kashem and Tanima vs Pallab.

National Bank Premier Division Volleyball league (Venue: Indoor Stadium, Mirpur)

East End Boys Club vs Dhaka Green Club (4:15 pm)

Titas Club vs Sonali Club (5:45 pm)

Water Development Board vs Bangladesh Bank (5:45 pm)

National Bank First Division Volleyball league (Venue: Indoor Stadium, Mirpur)

Chand Textiles vs Nabajata Majlish (3:15 pm)

East End Club vs Nabajgarani Sangha (4:15 pm)

Dilkusha SC vs Madartek Mittal Sangha (6:30 pm)

Fire Service vs Wari Club (6:30 pm)

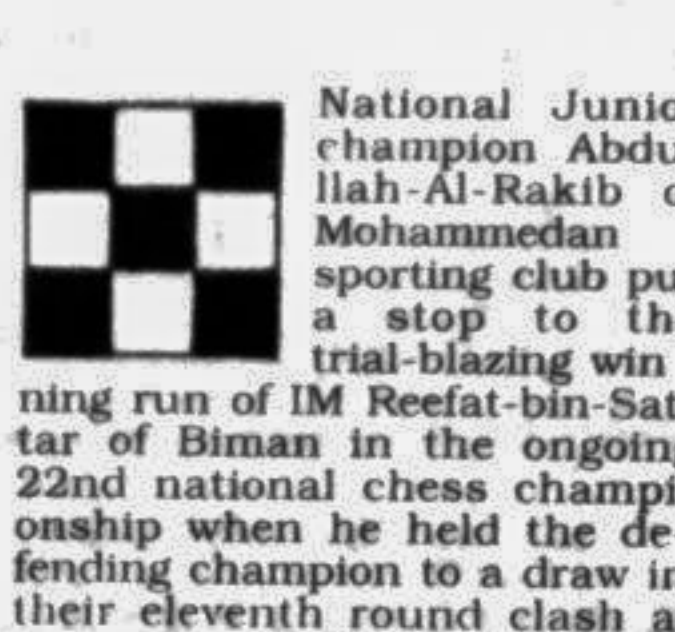
7th School boys handball tournament '96 (Third place playoff, Venue: handball court)

Ansar and VDP High School vs Motijheel Model High School (3 pm)

7th School girls handball tournament '96 (Third place playoff, Venue: Women's Sports Complex)

Maghbazar Balika Bidyalaya vs Adarsha Balika Bidyalaya (3:30 pm)

Rakib snaps Reefat's run



National Junior champion Abdu-lah-Al-Rakib of Mohammedan sporting club put a stop to the trial-blazing winning run of IM Reefat-bin-Sattar of Biman in the ongoing 22nd national chess championship when he held the defending champion to a draw in their eleventh round clash at

Sports Reporter the NSC chess room yesterday. Playing with black pieces and adopting Caro-can defence, Rakib made a confident start and forced his much superior counterpart to offer him a draw after only 13 moves.

This was the first draw for Reefat in the 16-player Swiss league competition after he won all his previous ten rounds in a row. But the defeat could not unseat the top seed who still remains atop the standings with ten and a half points.

Second seed and last year's runner-up IM Ziaur Rahman of Biman also won his yesterday's round against the national sub-junior champion Enamul Hossain Rajib of Mohammedan SC. Playing with white pieces, Zia overcame the King's Indian defence of Rajib after 21 moves. The win kept Zia in second place with nine points.

Saffuddin Lovlu of BTMC remained in the third position with eight and a half points. In this round, Lovlu, playing with black pieces and adopting Sicilian defence, defeated Mizanur Rahman Labu of Chuadanga after 24 moves.

Biman's Kayes Hasan improved his position with promotion to fourth place after he won his eleventh round encounter against Sawkat Hossain Pallab of Farashganj SC. In a marathon clash, Kayes, playing with black pieces, forced Pallab to surrender after 58 moves. With yesterday's win, Kayes raised his account to seven and a half points from 11 matches.

Besides, two FIDE Masters from the national airlines - Rezaul Haque and Syed Tahmidur Rahman - and Hasibul Hasan Hanif of BTMC also won their respective boards yesterday.

In this round, Reza tamed Abul Kashem Bhuyan of BTMC. Tahmidur outplayed Aminul Islam of Genus Chess club while Hanif defeated Rafiqul Islam of Chittagong.

The day's remaining match between national eve runner-up Tanima Parveen of Chittagong and Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Dhaka University was going on till the filing of this report.

The next round will begin from 3 pm today at the same venue.

Points table (after round eleven): 10.5 points - Reefat; 9 points - Zia; 8.5 points - Lovlu; 7.5 points - Kayes; 6.5 points - Rakib, Rajib, Reza and Hanif; 6 points - Tahmid; 4.5 points - Nasir (10 matches); 4 points - Rafique; 3 points - Tanima (10 matches); Pallab; 2 points - Kashem; 1.5 points - Labu and Aminul.



IM Reefat-bin-Sattar pondering his move during his eleventh round match at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star photo

Some solace for Weah

MONROVIA, June 5: Vigilantes armed with knives and machetes guarded the burnt-out Monrovia home of world footballer-of-the-year George Weah on Tuesday, vowing to protect the gutted house from looters, reports Reuter.

Guns set fire to the 100,000 dollars house on May 26 after Weah supported a call for his war-torn country to become a UN trusteeship. Witnesses said, the attackers flogged relatives in the house and Weah said, one of his cousins was raped.

"The perpetrators have shown their true colours despite efforts by (Weah) to portray a positive image of the country through his soccer," one of the vigilantes told reporters.

"Things the government should have done for the national team, he has done," he said, vowing to help protect the sea-front mansion day and night.

Weah had led a campaign to keep Liberia's 1998 World Cup dreams alive, funding and helping assemble a national side to play a qualifier in the Gambia on Saturday.

Eut his views on UN Trusteeship, aired in an interview with The New York Times last month, provoked anger in some quarters in Liberia, which has been ripped apart by bitter fighting between rival factions.

Lalas wants to play in Olympics

BOSTON, Massachusetts, June 5: Alexi Lalas departed the Italian League to play football in his homeland for the fledgling Major League Soccer. Now he wants a release to join the US Olympic team, reports AFP.

"If I am asked, I am going to play," said Lalas, now a defender for the New England Revolution. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity that is not likely to come along again."

Lalas is being considered as one of three over-23 players each team is allowed in the Games.

"If I'm going to play on the Olympic team, I'm not going to just show up and play in the Games. I would want to play in some exhibitions too. There is a lot more to forming a team. You have to train together and get to know each other."

But the man who would decide which players will be asked to become Olympians is Bruce Arena, who doubles as Olympic mentor and coach of DC United of MLS. That rubs Revolution coach Frank Stapleton the wrong way.

"If Alexi were under 23 and called up to the Olympic team, that's fine," Stapleton said. "But this over does it. Playing internationally for your country is one thing. This Olympics is a different thing altogether."

BBC World Service gears up for Atlanta Games

1996 is the 100th anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. This year they will take place in Atlanta, USA from July 19th to August 4th.

To celebrate this special sporting event BBC World Service is offering readers a free Guide to Olympics '96. The Guide includes a glossy folder packed with pictures and profiles of some of the world's top sportsmen and women; full colour poster-sized events diary, details of Atlanta Live! and Olympic Sportsworld the special daily results service offered by the BBC during the Games and complete worldwide BBC frequencies and global time chart.

To receive their free guide, readers should write to BBC Olympics '96 Guide, BBC World Service, Bush House, PO Box 76, London, WC2B 4PH, UK, according to a press release.

In addition, BBC World Service is sending a team of twelve experts to the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. Head of BBC World Service Sport, Linda Spurr said:

"These will be the biggest Games ever with more than 10,000 sportsmen and women taking part from a record 197 countries. New Sports have been introduced and I think the world will enjoy the biggest and most spectacular sports extravaganza they've ever experienced."

From June 9th listeners will be able to tune into The Landmark Games a feature series which examines the politics culture and economics of past Modern Games including Hitler's racist 'Nazi' Games, the Black Panthers' controversial salute in 1968, the murder in Munich of the eleven Israelis (1972), the political boycotts of 1976, 1980 and 1984, financial disaster for Montreal in 1976 and the future of the Olympics.

Going for Gold starts June 30th and looks at the science of perfect mental and physical fitness, technological advances and developments in training.

During the Olympics, itself listeners can keep up with the Games by tuning into the special programmes featuring latest results, interviews and sports commentary. Olympic Sportsworld is broadcast daily at 0305-0330 GMT from July 20th of August 5th. Atlanta Live! aims to make the most of the field and track events and will broadcast live for five days only at July 30th and August 1st-4th at 0130-0330 GMT.

PAPERCHESS advertisement by Niaz Murshed's. Includes a chessboard diagram and text about chess strategies.

'Cry baby' scrapes thru'

PARIS, June 5: Monica Seles and Petr Sampras, the two Americans topping the world tennis rankings, had contrasting fortunes on an emotional day at the French Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Seles, women's joint world number one with Steffi Graf, lost her first match at Roland Garros in seven years, bowing out in the quarter-finals to 10th seed Jana Novotna 7-6, 6-3. It was the Yugoslav-born player's worst-ever result in Paris.

Sampras, in contrast, reached the semifinals for the first time in the one Grand Slam tournament he has never won, beating compatriot Jim Courier in a tense match 4-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

The intense battle, which lasted three hours and 31 minutes, was the third five-setter Sampras had played since the start of the tournament.

"It was very emotional," said Sampras as he was leaving the court before bursting into tears as he was asked about his coach Tim Gullikson, who died recently of brain cancer.

"In the fifth set, my mind was kind of a blank. I was very

tired," added the American, who did not even try to return Courier's serves in the end to concentrate on his own service.

"The crowd helped me along. Fortunately I have a couple of days before my next match."

The Wimbledon champion suffered from cramp at the end of the fifth set and limped behind the baseline as Courier, winner here in 1991 and 1992, tried to hammer him out of the tournament by striking aces - 28 in all.

Sampras could not have had a worse start. He conceded the first set in a tie-break, which he lost 7-4, and dropped his serve early in the second. It was not until the third set that the match really started for him.

"I decided I would make life difficult for Jim. I was a little bit too anxious at first but he let me back into the match. My serve helped too," said Sampras, who meets Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the semifinals.

The Russian, seeded sixth, qualified for his second French Open semifinal in a row at the expense of Dutchman Richard Krajicek, a semifinalist in 1993.

Kafelnikov, who had not dropped a set in the earlier



Czech Jana Novotna celebrates her stunning victory while world co-number one, Monica Seles walks away with dejection after their quarterfinal clash at the French Open on June 4. Experienced Novotna caused the major upset sending the Yugoslav-born American packing 6-7(7-9), 3-6. — AFP/UNB photo

Parisians see Seles off

PARIS, June 5: Her return to clay behind her, Monica Seles will now turn her attention to Wimbledon and the only Grand Slam title she has never won, reports Reuter.

In the aftermath of her straight-sets quarter-final loss to Jana Novotna at the French Open on Tuesday, Seles confirmed she will play at Wimbledon and perhaps one tune-up event at Eastbourne.

Seles' exact schedule will depend on the condition of her left shoulder which she injured at the Australian Open earlier this year.

Diagnosed as tendinitis, the injury has continued to hamper Seles, limiting her to appearances in just five tournaments so far this season.

Stabbed in the back during a change-over at a tournament in Hamburg three years ago, the Yugoslav-born American returned to action last season and had lost just one match before she ran into shoulder problems.

Open in Japan and was forced to pull out during last month's Spanish Open in Madrid, throwing her participation at the French Open into question.

Seles hinted that the troublesome shoulder, which she said would eventually require surgery, might force her out of Eastbourne but remained adamant she would be at the All-England Club for Wimbledon, which starts on June 24.

"Right now I want to forget this and move on to Wimbledon," said Seles, co-ranked

Germany win

MANNHEIM, Germany, June 5: Germany beat Liechtenstein 9-1 (halftime 4-0) on Tuesday in a warm-up match for the European soccer championship finals, reports Reuter.

Goalscorers: Germany - Andy Moeller (4th and 64th minutes), Stefan Kuntz (18th, 90th), Oliver Bierhoff (22nd), Christian Ziege (38th), Matthias Sammer (48th), Juergen Kohler (53rd), Juergen Klinsmann (85th). Liechtenstein - Marco Perez (69th). Attendance-24,000.

rounds, was far too fast and clever from the baseline for serve-and-volley specialist Krajicek in a 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-2 victory.

He now has every chance of becoming the first Russian to reach a Grand Slam final since Alex Metreveli in Wimbledon in 1973.

Seles' return to Paris for the first time since she was stabbed by a Steffi Graf fan in Hamburg in 1993, was also emotional. But it did not last the distance.

Her defeat by Novotna was only the second of her career at Roland Garros. The other was in 1993 when she was beaten by Graf in the semifinals of her first French Open.

"I just played very scared. It was just one of those days," Seles said. "Maybe rustiness was part of it out there but Jana was playing better."

Seles bravely saved three set points in the first set break before losing it 9-7. Novotna, a semifinalist here in 1990, took a 3-0 lead in the second set and held that advantage until the end.

But Novotna is often jittery when it comes to finishing off an opponent and this was once again the case on Tuesday as Seles had three break points when the Czech was serving for the match.

But Novotna recovered to win in one hour and 28 minutes. "Mentally I was well prepared and I knew I was playing well," said Novotna, who won the Spanish Open final 10 days ago.

Novotna now meets Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who struggled to make the semifinals for the sixth consecutive time.

The 24-year-old Catalan, winner here in 1989 and 1994, had to fight for the three hours of another nervous contest to dismiss unseeded Slovak Karina Habsudova 6-2, 6-7, 10-8.

"It was a fight to the finish. But when it mattered I managed to score and finish her off," said Sanchez, a losing finalist here last year against Steffi Graf.

Olympic torch's train ride CHICAGO, Illinois, June 5: The Olympic torch found its way through the midwestern United States here Tuesday after its first-ever journey by rail, reports AFP.

The torch concluded more than 6,400 kilometres of its trip from Greece to Atlanta for the Centennial Games on a train ride that ended here.

Among the 51 runners that took up the trek from there were the children of former American football star Walter Payton, 15-year-old Jarrett and 12-year-old Brittany.

"He gave me the Torch for a minute and everybody was looking at us," Brittany said. "I think I will always remember just my brother and I running."

world number one with Germany's Steffi Graf. "I'm still thinking about Eastbourne and I'll make a decision early next week."

"But I do think some early matches would be good for me. "I'll be doing Eastbourne then going on to Wimbledon, Japan, Atlanta and Montreal."

"If I don't play Eastbourne then it's two weeks of practice on grass and the same thing." Although this was Seles' first Grand Slam tournament on clay in three years, she looked at home on the slow surface having already claimed three French Open titles at Roland Garros.

Bangladesh lose first half lead

Japs ride on German ref

Nation's hopes of a maiden semifinal berth in any international hockey tournament were shattered when Japan thrashed a demoralised Bangladesh team 4-1 in a highly controversial match, the last in the preliminary round of the third Junior Asian hockey championship in Singapore on Wednesday.

At the tiny Delta Sports Complex, Bangladesh, who were leading at the breather by a lone goal, suddenly found everything against their way in the second session as the

German umpire unfairly helped the beleaguered Japanese to pump in four goals for a passage into the last four along with India from Group A.

C Sigbrecht, the controversial German umpire who had earlier come under strong Bangladesh protest in their penultimate group league engagement against Malaysia on Monday, first awarded two short corners much to the disbelief of Bangladesh within the first ten minutes of the second half. Japan duly converted those to take a 2-1 lead.

The man-in-black then awarded Japan a penalty stroke in the 47th minute leaving the Bangladesh players in a state of bedlam along with a couple of hundred boisterous supporters in Singapore, forcing the proceedings to be suspended for about four minutes.

Most of the Bangladeshi players crowded the German in protest against what they termed a ridiculous decision which, according to them, deserved not even a penalty corner. The obvious outcome was that three Bangladeshi players - Nixon, Haider Alam and Musa Miah - got marching orders. And, when the match resumed, Japan took a 3-1 lead by converting the penalty stroke.

Bangladesh, who had to play with eight men for the next 12 minutes, conceded another goal during that time and eventually left the ground dejected at a loss they perhaps did not deserve.

Earlier, a 17th minute

strike from centre-forward Alamgir Alam put Bangladesh on the right track.

With this defeat Bangladesh, who made a magnificent start with a historic 2-1 win over fancied India, finished in a distant fourth position in the group with four points.

The win enabled Japan to pip Malaysia for a place in the last four along with India, who emerged as Group A champions defeating Malaysia 4-2 in the first match of the day.

India will meet South Korea in the first semifinal while Pakistan, who finished top from the other group, will play Japan in the second semifinals.

On the other hand, Bangladesh will meet China on June 7 in a series of matches to decide the other positions.

2002 World Cup

ROK rules out any games with DPRK

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5: North Korea won't be allowed to stage any of the 2002 World Cup games awarded to South Korea, the South's top soccer official said Wednesday, report agencies.

Chung Mong-joon, president of the South Korean Football Association, contradicted a South Korean newspaper report that his group had received permission to hold six of its 24 games in the North.

South Korea is sharing the World Cup matches with Japan.



Action from yesterday's schools handball match between Viquarunnissa and Maghbazar High. — Star photo