

Column One SPORTS TALK

Zia ascends the throne

Sports Reporter



International Master Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman regained the national chess title after winning his final round clash of the 22nd national chess championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the concluding day of the 16-player meet, Zia, champion in 1988 and 1994, playing with white pieces, needed only 13 moves to tame a lowly-rated Tanima Parveen of Chittagong on his way to dethrone his arch-rival I M Reefat-bin-Sattar.

This was Zia's tenth win the 15-round Swiss League meet. He had earlier drew four matches and suffered his only defeat at the hands of Sattar, who after a flying start with ten wins under his belt lost his way in a maze collecting only one point from his last five engagements.

The win helped raised Zia's points tally to highest 12 points from 15 matches, one point clear from his nearest rivals Reefat and Saifuddin Lovlu. Talking to The Daily Star after the match an elated Zia said, "I am very happy today. I really played well this time. Though I draw a couple of matches but I tried not to lose so much. That helped my cause."

Rakib, Eamul Hossain Rajib and Kayes Hasan - jointly finished third, all collecting ten points each at the end of the final round. All the three will also participate in the play-offs this afternoon for the fourth, fifth and sixth spots.

In the days round, Rakib and Rajib, the national junior and sub-junior champions, drew their boards against FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman and Hasibul Hasan Hanif respectively.

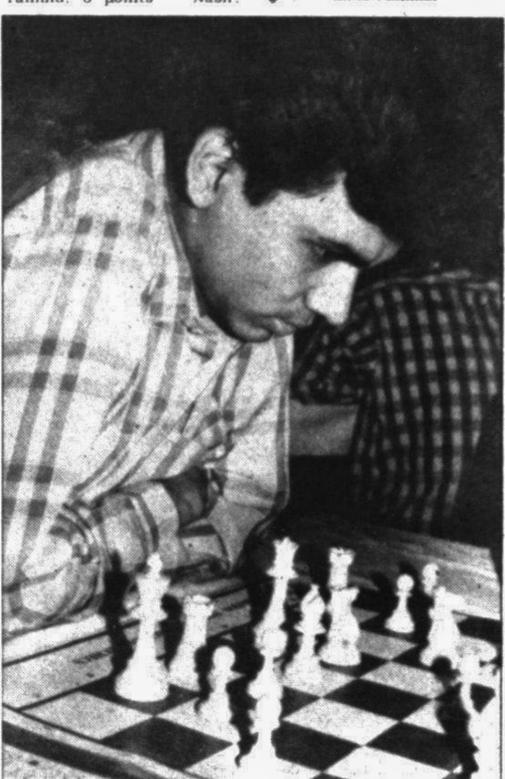
Besides, former champion and FIDE Master Rezaul Haq claimed a distant seventh place with nine and a half points while Hasibul Hasan secured the eighth place with as many points. FIDE Master Tahmidur Rahman got the ninth position with seven points and Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Dhaka University finished tenth with six points.

Final standings: 12 points - Zia, 11 points - Reefat and Lovlu, 10 points - Rakib, Rajib and Kayes, 9 points - Reza, 8 points - Hanif, 7 points - Tahmid, 6 points - Nasir.

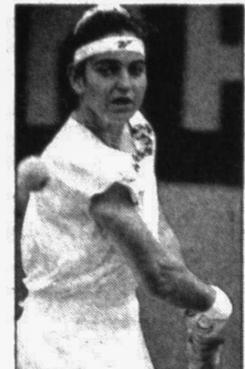
Rafique and Pallab, 5 points - Tanima, 4 points - Kashem, 2.5 points - Labu and 1.5 points - Aminul.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Table with columns: Year, Champion. Lists winners from 1974 to 1996.



ZIAUR RAHMAN ... reclaimed the national title. - Star photo



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario

Spanish tennis superstar Again you beat me, but I hope, like you say, I will see you next year again.

After losing to world No 1 Steffi Graf in the French Open final on June 8.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-41

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes: 8 p.m. June 14, 1996. Questions about tennis, golf, and sports events.

Name, Class, Roll No, School Address, Phone fields.

'Der Spiegel' smells a rat

BOONN, June 10: German weekly 'Der Spiegel' is to publish new fraud allegations against Steffi Graf in its Monday edition, claiming that she knew about the illegal tax schemes that landed her father in jail, reports AFP.

The German world women's tennis champion, who won her fifth French Open title on Saturday, had always denied any knowledge of the 41 million Deutschmark (27.3 million dollars) tax fraud allegedly engineered by her father Peter.

But according to 'Der Spiegel', which has devoted this week's cover to the 26-year tennis star, Horst Schmitt, a former advisor to the Graf's informed both Steffi and her family of a special 'family fiscal plan' in 1990.

It is alleged he then deposited 20 million Dm (14 million dollars) of undeclared earnings belonging to Steffi in a Liechtenstein bank account. Steffi Graf has earned an estimated 180 million Deutschmarks in her 14 years professional career.

The magazine also accuses Graf of participating in a front company scheme under the name of Sunpark, a fictitious Dutch company allegedly used by the Grafs.

'Der Spiegel' also reproduced a copy of a faxed contract, apparently signed by Steffi, between Sunpark and a pasta company promoted by the tennis star.

The world champion was unable to be contacted for comment on the latest allegations.

German prosecutors dismissed similar allegations made by another German magazine at the end of April, indicating that during questioning, Horst Schmitt said Steffi knew nothing of her father's illegal financial dealings.

Peter Graf, 57, has been in prison since last August awaiting trial. The family's economic advisor Joachim Eckardt was incarcerated a month and a half later.

Feelings in frame ATLANTA, Georgia, June 10: An assembly of diverse art pieces, aimed at evoking dramatic emotional responses, has organisers at the Cultural Olympiad here defending their selections, reports AFP.

'Rings' passions in world art' debuts here July 4 at a cost of 3.2 million dollars. Some wonder about bringing together Rodin's 'Kiss' sculpture, Edward Munch's 'Scream' painting and Henri Matisse's 'The Dance (II)' at a ceremony celebrating sport.

Graf-Vicario clash on the cards?

PARIS, June 10 (AP): Don't be surprised if Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario meet in another Grand Slam final on July 6.

That's the date of the Wimbledon championship match, and there's no reason the two won't renew their rivalry there again. Graf needed a record 40 games and 3 hours and 3 minutes to beat Sanchez-Vicario, 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 10-8 in the French Open title Saturday.

Even the return of Monica Seles to Wimbledon might not stop another Graf-Sanchez-Vicario meeting. Seles went out in the quarter-finals at the French Open, which she won three times before her stabbing in 1993. She has never won at Wimbledon, making the finals once, losing to Graf.

Last year's Wimbledon was the scene of an epic final between Graf and Sanchez-Vicario. Graf won only after a spectacular game in the third set that lasted 20 minutes and 32 points.

Graf said the French title was bigger. "It's probably the most spectacular one than we've had," Graf said after her victory. "Not to mention the one at Wimbledon last year. But this time it was even more incredible."

Spain wrap series up PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa, June 10: Striker Xavier Arnaiz scored a hat-trick of second half goals to help Spain beat South Africa 6-2 in their third and final men's hockey international on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The 23-year-old scored twice from open play and once from a well-worked short corner. South Africa, playing their best hockey of the series, had established a 2-1 half-time lead through winger Murray Anderson and Greg Clark, but the visitors finished the match in style with five goals in 33 minutes.

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South Africa, playing their best hockey of the series, had established a 2-1 half-time lead through winger Murray Anderson and Greg Clark, but the visitors finished the match in style with five goals in 33 minutes. The Spaniards won the opening international on Thursday 4-1 and the second 2-1 on Saturday.

The last person to beat Graf in a Grand Slam final was Sanchez-Vicario at the 1994 US Open. Graf's 19th Grand Slam singles title moved her into a tie with Helen Wills Moody for second place on the all-time list, five short of Margaret Smith Court.

Graf has now won the French Open five times, the Australian Open four times, Wimbledon six times and the US Open four times. But Graf doesn't think that will mean anything the next time she meets Sanchez-Vicario with a major title at stake.

"We have been there so many times to that stage, experience won't make a difference," Graf said. "It's getting to be a habit with the German and the Spanish player. They have met five times over the last two years in Grand Slam finals."

Graf beat Sanchez-Vicario at both Wimbledon and the French Open last year, while they split their Grand Slam meetings in 1994. After Saturday's title match, Sanchez-Vicario told Graf: "Again you beat me, but I hope, like you say, I will see you next year again."

Kathmandu to host Eighth SAF Games

The seven-nation eighth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, the biggest sports carnival of the region, will be held in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu from September-October, 1997, reports UNB.

Fourteen sporting disciplines - athletics, swimming, football, volleyball, kabaddi, judo, karate, boxing, wrestling, shooting, weightlifting, soft tennis, table tennis, taekwondo - has been proposed to include in the games.

Ten disciplines including two mandatory sports - athletics and swimming - will be selected for the prestigious Games. The decision was taken at a meeting of the South Asian Federation held in Kathmandu with its president and Nepalese Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs, Bal Bahadur KC in the chair.

NOC representatives from all the SAARC countries attended the meeting. Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) acting president Mohammad Inamul Hoq and secretary general Bashir Ahmed represented Bangladesh at the meeting.

The meeting was informed that some new sports facilities, including two indoor stadiums, one multi-purpose covered stadium, shooting range and swimming pool, will be constructed. It also finalised the logo, mascot, and allocated Tk 19,29,648.00 for the Games.

MSC against MSC man!

Sports Reporter Mohammedan Sporting Club is purely a non-political organisation and it is solely involved in sports, not in politics, said a press release issued by the public relation secretary of the popular club in domestic sports yesterday.

The statement came following the appearance of an advertisement featuring the electoral campaign of Tanvir Haider, club's additional secretary, in a number of national dailies recently. Tanvir, who is contesting in the forthcoming parliamentary polls from Dhaka-7 constituency, made a liberal use of the reputed club in his election campaign, a fact that has caused consternation and resentment among other officials.

Regensea, Acme Office cricket's Jt-champs

Sports Reporter Regensea Lines and Acme Laboratories were declared joint-champions of the third Office cricket league. This was decided in a league committee meeting at the BCCB office on Monday.

With the torrential rain playing foul, the fate of the final match between last year's champions Regensea and Acme Lab, which was earlier suspended thrice, was finally decided off the field satisfying both the teams. Titas Club, Bangladesh Police AC, Water Development Board and Sonali Bank won their respective National Bank Premier Division volleyball league matches at the Indoor Stadium yesterday.

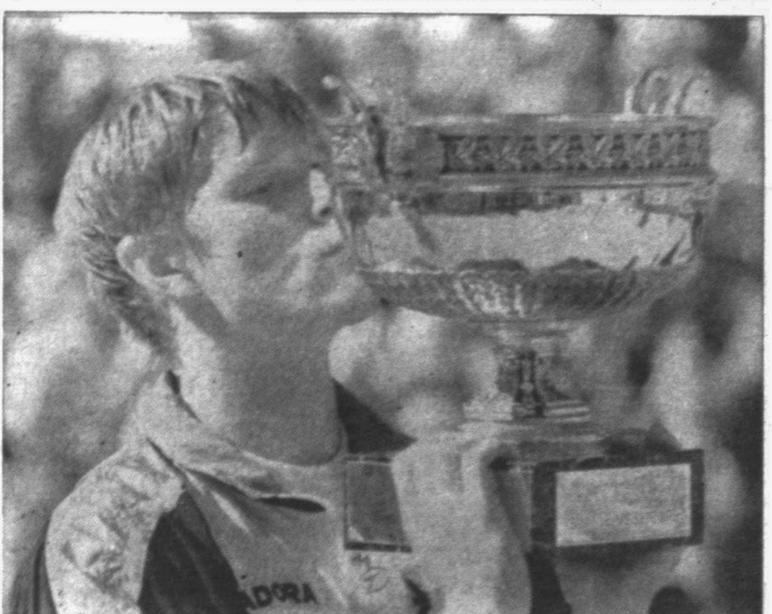
Nat'l Bank volleyball

Sports Reporter Titas Club, Bangladesh Police AC, Water Development Board and Sonali Bank won their respective National Bank Premier Division volleyball league matches at the Indoor Stadium yesterday. Titas Club outplayed Power Development Board 15-11, 15-9, 15-4 while Police beat Brothers Union Club 15-5, 15-13, 15-4. In the day's other engagements, Water Development Board defeated East End Club 15-5, 15-4, 15-6 while Sonali Bank recorded a 15-6, 15-8, 10-15, 15-2 win over Bangladesh Bank.

Earlier on Sunday night, Police beat Bangladesh Bank 15-4, 15-5, 12-15, 15-13 and Dhaka Green Club defeated Brothers Union Club 6-15, 15-3, 9-15, 15-8, 15-12. Olympic Karate Bangladesh 2nd in Nepal Bangladesh became runners-up in the kids Olympic Karate Championship 1996 held at the Nepalese capital Kathmandu from June 4-8, reports UNB.

Some 1,750 karatekas from Finland, Bhutan, India, USA, Japan took part in the tournament organised by the Nepal Karate Federation. The hosts emerged champions securing 13 gold, 10 silver and 16 bronze medals followed by Bangladesh bagging two gold, two silver and five bronze medals. Nasrin Parvin Nila of Bangladesh own gold medal at 35-kg weight category while Kaniz Fatima in kata event.

Former Prime Minister of Nepal Girija Prasad Koirala distributed trophies among the winners. MEDALS TABLE Country Gold Silver Bronze. Nepal 13 10 16. Bangladesh 2 2 4. India 1 2 4. Bhutan 0 1 6. Finland 0 1 1.



FEW KISSES CAN TASTE SO SWEET: Yevgeny Kafelnikov celebrates with the French Open trophy after becoming the first Russian ever to win a Grand Slam event on June 9 at the historic Roland Garros in Paris. - AFP/UNB photo

Kafelnikov comes of age

PARIS, June 10 (AP): Yevgeny Kafelnikov is no longer just a can't-miss prospect with a catchy nickname. He's a Grand Slam champion.

Fulfilling the great expectations that have burdened him for two years, Kafelnikov made his breakthrough Sunday by beating Michael Stich in straight sets to win the French Open and become the first Russian to capture a Grand Slam singles title.

He came from behind in each of the last two sets to win 7-6 (7-4), 7-5, 7-6 (7-4) in 2 1/2 hours, ending the match with a blistering forehand passing shot that handcuffed the 15th-seeded German at the net. "It is just a dream," the sixth-seeded Kafelnikov said. "I never felt I could do it, winning a Grand Slam at age 22 - I never felt I could make it."

The first Grand Slam title really means everything," he said. "For Russia, it means very much. I know I have many supporters in Russia. I'm going to bring that wonderful trophy back to my country." Kafelnikov established another milestone, becoming the first man to win both the singles and doubles titles at the French Open since Ken Rosewall in 1968. Kafelnikov teamed with Daniel Vacek to win the doubles final on Saturday.

The doubles yesterday really helped me," he said. "I got used to playing a Grand Slam final on center court." Hooper hits hurricane hundred LONDON, June 10: A dazzling career-best 145 from West Indian batsman Carl Hooper helped Kent to a record-breaking win over Leicestershire in the English Sunday League, reports Reuters.

Mid-table Leicestershire appeared to have done more than enough to win the match, rattling up 311 for four off their 40 overs in their biggest ever one-day score. But the title holders, inspired by Hooper, raced to 314 for six - a record total for a side batting second in 40 overs match - and won with nearly two overs to spare after needing 96 to win with 10 overs go.

Hooper took the crease in the fourth over with the score on 19 and finally surrendered his wicket with Kent needing just three runs to win. His elegant 145 came off 109 balls and included 12 fours and three sixes. Hooper's knock overshadowed a 139 from fellow West Indian Phil Simmons, who cracked 16 fours and five sixes from 105 balls for the home side before finally falling to IBW to Graham Cowdrey.

Kafelnikov also broke the mold of recent French Open champions, who were pure clay-court specialists and baseliners. Although he's not a serve-and-volleyer, the Russian is the first all-court attacking player to win the men's title since France's Yannick Noah in 1983.

Great things have been predicted for Kafelnikov ever since as a 19-year-old he extended eventual champion Pete Sampras to five sets in the second round of the 1994 Australian Open. At the time, Sampras predicted Kafelnikov could become No. 1 some day.

Nicknamed "Kalashnikov," after the Russian-made assault rifle, he broke into the top 10 but failed to go all the way at the Grand Slams, earning a reputation as the best player never to win a major. Kafelnikov said he was thinking of those expectations Sunday.

"Everybody, especially after now, everybody would expect me to become the No. 1 player in the world," he said. "But it doesn't mean that after winning here I will become No. 1. Now for me it is a completely different life beginning because after winning the Grand Slam I will become a huge, huge target for the other players."

Sunday's victory will push him from No. 7 to No. 5 in the next world rankings. Kafelnikov said there would be no big party to celebrate. "I am not going to go any wild" - and he would fly home to Sochi, a Black Sea coastal resort, to be with his family.

Kafelnikov wasn't sure what kind of reception he would receive, noting that he has been criticised in the past by the Russian media for his introverted personality. "I don't know - maybe I will be a hero tomorrow when I step into the airport," he said. "Or maybe I will be the same person."

Kafelnikov is the most active player on the men's circuit, having played 167 matches last year, including 105 in singles. Sunday's final was his 89th match of 1996. With his 6-foot-3 (1.9m) frame big serve, powerful ground strokes and solid volleys, Kafelnikov has the game that could win on all surfaces.

On a perfect spring day, with blue skies and temperatures reaching 26 degrees (82 F), he and Stich played a final of styles not seen for many years at Roland Garros. The match had it all: aces, drop shots, lobs, passing shots and ground strokes of slice and top spin.

There were no breaks in the first set, which went to a tiebreaker. Stich missed two drop shots in a row to go down 6-2. He saved two set points but netted a backhand on the third to lose the set. Stich went up two breaks at 5-2 in the second set but couldn't convert. Kafelnikov broke back twice, saved a set point a 5-4, and won five straight games to take the set. "I felt so bad," he said. "I felt like maybe I would never have a chance to win it. I felt really, really tired."

But the Russian saved a break point at 6-5 and forced another tiebreaker. Stich saved a fourth match point at 6-4 with a backhand drop shot. But on the next point, Kafelnikov drilled a forehand pass that bounced off Stich's racket and off his body to end the match. Kafelnikov tossed his racket high into the stands and held his arms aloft as his fiancée, Maria, and coach, Anatoli Leshchin, cheered from the players' box.

"I didn't serve well at all," Stich said. "I allowed him to dictate the match. I played two very bad tiebreaks. I had chances in all three sets, but I blew them all." Getting to the final was an improbable achievement for Stich, who nearly skipped the tournament after recent ankle surgery.

Speaking to the crowd in French, he said, "Maybe I lost a match but I found my love for the sport again."

Pakistan pocket Jr Asia Cup hockey title

SINGAPORE, June 10: Pakistan completed a hat-trick of wins in the Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament when they defeated India 7-6 via sudden death in the final of the third edition here yesterday, reports PTI.

After both the teams failed to break the 2-2 deadlock during regulation time and in the penalty shoot-out (3-3), sudden-death was applied and Pakistan clinched the match as Brojen Singh's attempt was off target.

In the fast-paced game fortunes changed hands frequently. Pakistan took the lead with almost the opening whistle when Yousaf Inran converted a penalty corner and India came close to scoring five minutes later but failed to convert a penalty corner that came their way.

However, the miss did not prove much as the Indians got the equaliser in the 12th minute off a stroke. The referee pointed his finger towards the dreaded spot as the Pakistani goalkeeper sat on the ball. Sarbjit Singh was bang on target.

Today's Cryptogquip clue: A equals L. The Cryptogquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

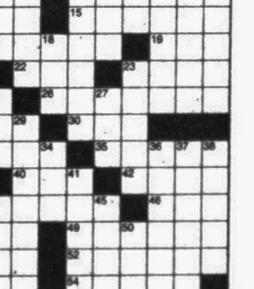


Youth and Sports Secretary ASM Shahjahan speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of the annual sports competition of Dhaka Commerce College yesterday. - Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Sand bar 6 Residues a rifle 11 Iberian harbor city 12 Fly 14 She's just one of the guys 15 Restaurant employee 17 Color 17-Im Adam 19 AP counterpart 20 Cornerstone abbr. 22 Sports-caster 23 Peel 24 Tend a stubborn squeak 26 Tub activity 28 More, to Manuel 30 Vast quantity 31 Emulsiest Hitchcock 35 Inspired people

DOWN 1 Mate originally? 2 You'd Be So Nice to Come... 3 Sphere 4 Teensy bit 5 Trustworthy 6 Poolside bath-houses 7 Egg 8 Opposite of "trans-" 9 Japanese drama 10 Visit to propose 11 Different 13 Keeping watch 18 Society newcomer 21 Small change 23 Lamb Chop's mouth-piece 25 Ford du - , Wis. 27 Sen. Kennedy 29 Wandered away 31 Points unskillfully 32 African antelope 33 No longer sleepy 34 Command to an attack dog 36 Sirford of "The Jeffersons" 37 Conditional release 38 Vacillates 41 Supports 44 Inlet 45 Eugene's daughter 46 Foundation 50 Entanglement



CRYPTOQUIP U E M V Z D R M T S D L D T R U L M E R S U Z M E M O R U L O E C Q U A M O H U A M U Q U O R C H U S M O D A R D L U V C. Yesterday's Cryptogquip: POPULAR BASIC DRINK SOLD AT THE HOSPITAL SNACK BAR IS THE NURSES' ADE. Today's Cryptogquip clue: A equals L.