

Alfaz receives Sanyo trophy

Sports Reporter

Mohammad Alfaz Ahmed, ace striker of Mohammedan Sporting Club, formally received the AFC Sanyo 'Footballer of the month' (August 1996) award in the capital yesterday.

Alfaz was presented the Sanyo trophy for his outstanding performance against Laos Electricity in an Asian Cup Winners' Cup first round match at the Dhaka Stadium in August. Including a magnificent hat-trick, Alfaz scored four goals — twice in each half — to help his side register a comfortable 8-0 win.

Kazuo Segawa of Sanyo Electronics, Japan and Latifur Rahman, Managing Director of Transfin Trading Company Limited — sole distributors for Sanyo products in Bangladesh — gave away the glittering trophy to Alfaz at a simple ceremony held at the Sanyo Centre in Gulshan.

Obaidur Rahman Khan, Executive Director, Transfin and Bangladesh Football Federation joint secretaries — Sirajul Islam Bachchu and Badal Roy were also present on the occasion.

It may be mentioned that Alfaz, also the leading goal scorer of the ongoing Danish Premier Division football league with eight goals, is the first Bangladeshi booter to receive such a prestigious award given by the Asian Football Confederation each month.

South Asian long haul swim meet

The six-nation first South Asian long distance swimming championship will be held on Friday in the river Buriganga, reports UNB.

The day-long first ever regional meet will begin at 8:30 am from Pagla Mary Anderson ghat at Narayanganj, and is expected to be completed by 2 pm at Munshiganj launch ghat.



Mohammedan striker Alfaz Ahmed (L) receives the AFC Sanyo Player-of-the-Month Award for August 1996 from Kazuo Segawa (R) of Sanyo and Latifur Rahman (2nd from R) of Transfin at the Sanyo Gallery yesterday. Obaidur Rahman Khan of Transfin (2nd from L) also seen in the picture.

Monica down in dumps

NEW YORK, Nov 12: "My confidence has been shaken," admits Monica Seles.

Shock losses the last two weeks and trouble with her serve have Seles heading into next week's season-ending Chase Championships unsure of her game from day to day.

"The way I am playing I'm taking it a match at a time at this point," Seles said on Monday about her chances at the 2 million dollars tournament next week at Madison Square Garden. She won the event three years in a row from 1990-92.

Last Sunday, Seles, who has

slipped into a co-ranking of number two in the world with Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, was surprised by 16-year-old Swiss Martina Hingis 6-2, 6-0 in the final in Oakland. It was the first love set Seles had lost in six years.

The previous week in Chicago, Seles lost in the semi-finals to Jennifer Capriati, who is in the midst of a comeback after two tumultuous years off the court including drug rehabilitation and run-ins with the law.

"The last two weeks have not been good at all and not what I would have liked them to be," Seles said in a telephone news conference from a New York airport en route to her home in Florida.

Seles said that Hingis and Capriati had played well, but she could not say the same about her own game.

"Every game was close but they played better on the key points," said Seles. "It was a combination that the two played very well and I couldn't do anything. That's all I could figure from those two losses."

While Seles has ruled out surgery on her left shoulder for the rest of the year and denies the shoulder is bothering her, she has had trouble serving since winning the Australian Open in January.

"My shoulder is fine," she said. "I just started missing serves and lost some confidence. I couldn't hold my serve."

Seles, 22, is playing the championships for the first time in four years. She was out from 1993-95 after being stabbed in the back during a match early in 1993. Last year she pulled out the week before the event with knee and ankle problems.

"I would be nice to end the year off well, but it would not compensate for the way the year went," Seles said of her early-round exits at the French Open, Wimbledon and the Olympics.

"At the big ones, I would love to play my best tennis and I didn't. So it wouldn't make that much difference the way I look back at '96 how I did next week," said Seles, the US Open runner-up to Steffi Graf.

"This is not one of the years I want to remember too much," said Seles.

WTA Tour officials announced Monday that three more players, Irina Spirela of Romania, Karina Habsudova of Slovakia and Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of Holland, have qualified for the championships.

The final three sports in the 16 player field was to be determined at this week's tournament in Philadelphia.

Diego at a dead end!

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 12: Diego Maradona, who admits he is still addicted to cocaine, says he is 'dead' as a player.

"The spring has broken, there is no way out. I'd thought of killing myself but I won't do it because I love my two daughters," the hero of Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph told local television, reports AFP.

"As a footballer I'm dead. I don't have the strength to keep on fighting," added Maradona who had resumed training with Boca Juniors on his 36th birthday two weeks ago.

He said he had been devastated by the arrest of his boyhood friend and agent Guillermo Coppola on a drug charge.

Maradona said he would like to leave Argentina but he is prevented by an impending trial for shooting at journalists in 1994.

He dispelled rumours of his marriage breaking up by saying his wife Claudia was one hundred per cent behind him.

Maradona and three women were alleged to have left Coppola's apartment shortly before half a kilogram of cocaine was discovered by the police on October 9.

A report in September suggested Maradona could be killed by brain damage caused by his cocaine addiction.

The medical report revealed his condition was irreversible and he was responsible for his aggressive behaviour.

Maradona, who recently underwent psychiatric treatment in Spain, has admitted he took cocaine for almost 10 years.

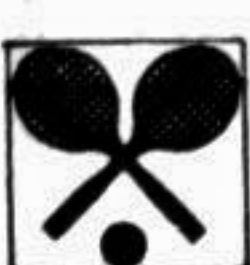
He was arrested in Buenos Aires in April 1991 for cocaine possession, and five months later was given a 14-month suspended prison sentence by an Italian court for the same offence.

Graf remains top earner

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Nov 12 (Reuters): Leading money (in dollars) winners in women's tennis as issued by the WTA Tour on Monday:

1. Graf	2,127,206
2. Sanchez Vicario	1,444,444
3. Seles	1,124,499
4. Novotna	879,847
5. Conchita	843,251
6. Hingis	833,996
7. Davenport	636,533
8. Iva Majoli	581,355
9. Anke Huber	558,685
10. Jose Fernandez	434,626
11. Helena Sukova	406,479
12. Irina Spirela	389,009
13. Kimiko Date	384,181
14. Meredith McGrath	373,713
15. Larisa Neiland	370,058
16. Natasha Zvereva	348,175
17. Gigi Fernandez	343,144
18. Amanda Coetzer	340,532
19. Karina Habsudova	336,362
20. Chandra Rubin	327,539

Graf, matured & motivated



NEW YORK, Nov 12 (Reuters): After all the miles and strokes and titles, and with nothing left to prove, the competitive fires still burn bright in tennis superstar Steffi Graf.

While other elite players, such as Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras, complain that the sport needs more of an off-season, a break from the globe-trotting grind, the women's world number one can't wait to get back on the tennis court.

"I love travelling, I think it's one of the things that I enjoy most," Graf said during a recent lunch with a group of reporters to promote the WTA Tour's season-ending Chase Championships at Madison Square Garden starting November 18.

"I was in Germany since the (US) Open, which is probably seven weeks now. I was getting so restless, I was so excited to be on the plane. It was such a beautiful feeling actually."

Graf has not played since losing a semifinal in Leipzig the first week of October due to a nagging left knee injury, one of the many aches and pains that have plagued the 27-year-old in recent years.

"During the period that I didn't play the last few weeks, I missed being able to compete," said Graf, who returns to the tennis wars this week for a tournament in Philadelphia.

Graf is looking forward to testing her incomparable skills against all comers, but admitted to being somewhat disappointed by the level of competition out there today.

"I am very surprised that with the physical problems that I've been having over the past two and a half years, with as little as I've been able to practice, to still have this kind of success," she said.

"Obviously I'm thrilled to have the results... but I do have to say that the competition is not as strong as it should be and I am sometimes disappointed that there isn't a higher standard."

"I know I'm not training as much as I could. I'm not very well prepared at most tournaments and still they can't beat me, it is strange," said Graf.

She does like the fresh attitude and touch of arrogance she has seen in some of the rising, young stars like Martina

Subaru's superb double

The 555 Subaru World Rally Team are celebrating a victorious double on the Catalunya Rally in Spain, the final round of the 1996 FIA World Rally Championship. Team mates, Colin McRae and Piero Liatti, romped home in a superb first and second position and in doing so have won the World Rally Championship for Manufacturers for 555 Subaru with a commanding 79 point advantage over Japanese rivals, Mitsubishi, says a press release.

Today's closing five stages have seen a two-way fight between the 555 Subaru team-mates — a mere 7 seconds finally separating Colin and



Piero after 393 stage kilometers. And, with no team orders, the duo had everything to play for. Successive fastest times on Stages 15, 16 and 17 finally gave Colin and co-driver, Derek Ringer, the lead they had been looking for and on the final stage, the Scot set another fastest time to clinch overall victory.

Piero Liatti has without doubt been one of the stars of the season: a year in which he has only previously contested two of the nine events in the Championship. The Italian led this year's event for 13 of the 18 Special stages and looked set to claim his first World Championship victory before the flying Scot snatched victory from under his nose. He has finished his first full World Championship season in a superb fifth position overall.

Hingis. "I think that's very good to see, it will definitely help the sport."

Graf insisted that she never thinks about records, her ranking or her place in tennis history.



STEFFI GRAF

"When I turned number one the first time (in August, 1987) it was awesome... but after that I never had the same feeling again."

But she does continue to amaze herself with her ability to win big tournaments despite injuries and the personal anguish from her father being imprisoned and on trial on tax evasion charges.

"I feel awkward talking about it because I'm still in the sport too much to look at what I've achieved already."

"But obviously with the numbers that came up this year, winning 21 Grand Slams, more than 100 titles, these are numbers that I'm astonished that I've achieved," said Graf, who won the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open, marking the fifth time she has claimed at least three of the four majors in a single year.

Graf said she has never had specific goals or a sense of history, that a pure love of tennis

keeps her going.

"It's just the game itself. The motivation is still really high. It's still a pleasure to play and why I am still in the sport, because it means so much to me."

She was surprised and a little saddened by the sudden retirement of her contemporary and longtime rival Gabriela Sabatini, who no longer shares Graf's desire to compete.

"She's somebody that I've had so many competitive years with that it's sad to see somebody leave before you... especially since she's younger," Graf said laughing.

"It definitely made me look back on the matches that we've had. We've played each other 30 or 40 times, something like that. We had a lot of close three-setters," recalled Graf who holds a 29-11 career record against the Argentine.

"I think she had a career that she can be proud of and if she thought it was the right time (to retire), I respect her."

Graf last year called the 1995 season the most personally satisfying of her career. But after duplicating her three major titles while dealing with the emotional roller-coaster of her father's situation, Graf rated 1996 even higher.

"Obviously, I had a lot of injuries and problems last year, but I think this year probably was the limit that I could go to," she admitted.

Graf talked about coming into Wimbledon and the US Open "tense and nervous" because of lack of practice due to injury, but somehow finding a way to win.

And she enthusiastically recalled the roar of the crowd during the classic French Open final, which she won from Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 10-8 in the third set.

"To be in a match like that, I've never been in a match that the people got so strongly into it."

"These are memories that I will always treasure and I think that's what makes this year so special."

Notice of RHD Inviting Tenders

1. Tender Notice No : 15 of 1996-97 of Jessore Road Division.
2. Name of work : Supplying shingles, pea gravel, stone chips Sylhet sand at different (RHD) stack yard for repair and maintenance of different road under Jessore Road Division during 1996-97.
3. Estimated Cost : Tk 6,94,922/-
4. Earnest money : Tk 14,000/-
5. Time allowed for completion of work : 45 (Forty-five) days.
6. Eligibility of contractor : "A" to "E" class under general category of RHD.
7. Name of Officers of availability of tender documents : Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Division, Jessore/Jhenidah/Kushtia/Magura/Planning & Design (RHD) Divi Boyra, Khulna/Planning & Programming (Road & Bridges) Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/ Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Divi Jessore/Jhenidah/ Kushtia/Magura/Road Sub-Division-III Jessore/Narail.
8. Name of Offices by whom tender will be received : Additional Chief Engineer (RHD) Khulna Zone Khulna/ Superintending Engineer (RHD) Road Circle, Jessore/Superintending Engineer (RHD) Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/ Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Divi Jessore/Jhenidah/ Kushtia/Magura/Road Sub-Division-III Jessore/Narail.
9. Last date & time for selling tender : Up to 5:00 PM on 20-11-96 Eng/6-8/1403 Beng.
10. Last date & time for receiving tender : Up to 12:30 PM on 21-11-96 Eng/7-8-1403 Beng.
11. Last date & time for preparing of list of sealed tender : At 12:45 PM on 21-11-96 Eng/7-8-1403 Beng.
12. Date & time for opening of sealed tender : At 10:30 AM on 25-11-96 Eng/11-8-1403 Beng.
13. Date & time of lottery : At 11:00 AM on 28-11-96 Eng/14-8-1403 Beng.

Eng Md Mossarrar Hossain
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Jessore.

DFP-25465/9/11

G-1505

Money makes difference

FLORENCE, Nov 12: Italy's top footballers are heading to England for a mixture of money and pride.

Italian coaches decided at a high-level meeting here on Monday, reports AFP.

Gianfranco Zola became the last export last week, leaving Parma for five million pounds (7.5 million dollars) to join Gianluca Vialli and Roberto di Matteo at Chelsea, while Fabrizio Ravanelli leads the forward line at Middlesbrough.

Perugia coach Giovanni Galeone said: "We can see that the new heavens are in England and Germany. The main reason for the departure of players like Vialli, Ravanelli and Zola is, in my opinion, financial."

"In the past, our players never went abroad because Italy paid the best wages in the world. Today, however, there wages in England, for example, that not even Italian clubs can match."

Sampdoria's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson agreed: "Today, English clubs can afford to play higher wages than in Italy."

"I can't believe that players like Vialli, Ravanelli and Zola would have left if they had been able to get the same financial conditions here."

However, Napoli's Luigi Simoni said the trend was not merely being fueled by the desires of Italian players — but also by those of Italian clubs.

"The financial argument counts for a lot — whether it is

for the players or the clubs," he said.

"Transfers abroad always start with the club's attitude towards a player, an attitude which no longer considers them a vital part of the squad."

"At this stage, money has a role to play, both in terms of the salary offered to the players and the free offered to the club. Sell players abroad because they can get a price they would never get in Italy today."

But Fiorentina's Claudio Ranieri and Nevio Scala, the currently unemployed former coach of Parma, said the players' decision was not just based on a sudden passion for sterling.

"I don't think it's just a question of money," Ranieri said.

Women's v'ball Brazil do it again

TOKYO, Nov 12: Atlanta Olympic bronze medalists Brazil took revenge for the second time in two months against Olympic champions Cuba in the opener of the World Super Challenge women's volleyball tournament on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The Brazilian spikers, who first avenged their Olympic semifinal loss to Cuba with a five-set win in the World Grand Prix final round in September, repeated that performance with a lopsided 15-3, 15-5, 15-5 victory.

Lippi toast of Italy

FLORENCE, Nov 12: Juventus boss Marcello Lippi was voted Italy's top coach for the second year running on Monday, but promptly turned the spotlight on embattled Arrigo Sacchi, reports AFP.

Lippi, who masterminded Juventus' European Cup triumph in May, was voted the "golden bench" award by Italy's Serie A and B coaches, who were meeting at the national training camp near here at Coverciano.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Wednesday 13th November
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:10 Newsnight 7:00 BBC Newsroom
World Business Report/Asia Today/24 hours 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 World Focus: Wheeler On America
11:00 BBC World News 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 Horizon 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Film '96 4:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC World News 6:15 Panorama 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 World Focus: Wheeler on America 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Time Out: The Travel Show 12:00 The World Today 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 World Focus: Around the World in 80 Days 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Top Gear 4:00 BBC

World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

CHANNEL V

6:30am Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 10:30 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 3:00 First Day First Show 3:00 Fashion Police 3:30 Soul Curry 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 By Demand VJ Trey 5:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 6:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 8:00 Planet Ruby 9:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 9:30 Videcon Mangia Hai 10:00 First Day First Show 10:30 Soul Curry 11:00 House Of Noise VJ Luke 12:00am Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Haysan 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 V Spot 5:30 Speak Easy

STAR PLUS

6:00am Home and Away 6:30 The Sullivan 7:00 Aerobics Oz Style 7:30 Star News 8:00 Sky News 8:30 Star News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 Graham Kerr's Kitchen

10:30 El Extreme Close Up Def Leppard 11:00 Kate & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Chicago Hope 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 3:00 Bunniyad 3:30 Reporter 4:00 Home and Away 4:30 Lost in Space 5:30 The Adventures of Black Stallion 6:00pm Kate & Allie 6:30 Graham Kerr's Kitchen 7:00 The Road Show 7:30 Star News 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 9:00 Tehnikat 9:30 Star News 10:30 Baywatch 11:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Beverly Hills 2:00 Picket Fences 3:00 Quincy 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00 Barnaby Jones

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Romance: Two For The Road PG (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Comedy Bachelor of Hearts 12:30 Classic: Some and Lovers 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Family: Free Willy PG 3:30 Classic: The Cruel Sea 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Family: The Swans G (Hindi Subtitles) 7:00 The Previews 7:30 Double Bill: Bob Hoskins: Mermaids 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 The Movie Show 9:30 Double Bill: Bob Hoskins: Heart Condition 18 (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Music: Movies Great Balls of Fire 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Film Club: My First Wife 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 After Dark: Big Bad Mama 18 (Arabic

STAR SPORTS

6:00am Live Masters Card Grand Slam of Golf Day 3 from Hawaii, USA 10:30 Spark 11:00 Live Singer Champions Trophy 1996 New Zealand vs Pakistan From Sharjah, UAE 2:30 Cricket Hall Of Fame 3:00 Lunch 3:30 Live Singer Champions Trophy 1996 New Zealand vs Pakistan From Sharjah, UAE 7:00 Gillette World Sports Special 7:30 Asia

Road Racing Champs Philippines 8:30 Masters Card Grand Slam of Golf Day 3 H/L 10:30 Spanish Fbail League HL 11:00 Gulf Cup Match 4 UAE vs Saudi Arabia 12:30 History of the Macau Grand Prix 1:30 The Asian Football Show 2:30 Asia Road Racing Champs Philippines 3:30 1996 Omega Tour Alfred Dunhill Masters H/L 4:30 Trans World Sport 5:30 World Windsurfing H/L

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Double bill : Bob Hoskins on Star Movies, Mermaids (Above) at 7:30PM & Heart Condition (Bottom) at 9:30PM

Subtitles 5:30 Horror Repulsion 18 (Arabic Subtitles)

ZEE TV

6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 A to Z Computer 8:30 Through the Gear 9:00 Helping 9:30 Gaane Anjaane 10:00 Lakme Khubsurat 10:30 No Problem 11:00 Shayed 11:30 Hum Paanch 12:00 Sur Taal 12:30 Nafrat 1:00 A to Z Computer 2:30 Tara 3:00 Kurukshestra 3:30 Celeste 4:00 Suno Bhai Sadho 4:30 Namaste India 5:00 A to Z Computer 5:30 Hum Zameen 6:00 Cartoon 6:30 All Out 7:00 Khana Khazana 7:30 Gaane Anjaane 8:00 Ek Minute 8:30 Beeli ke PG 9:00 Aap Ki Pasand 9:30 Banegi Aapki Baat 10:00 Parampara 10:30 News 11:00 The Dream Marchant 11:30 Aap Ki Adalat 12:00 Sailab 12:30 Campus 1:00 Hazareen 1:30 Tumhare Lye 2:00 Zee Arabic Pro 2:30 Zee Arabia Infainment-TMM

EL TV

6:30 Devotional 7:30 Tarane 8:30 Hanste Hanste 9:30 Aajeb Dastaan 10:30 Dance Mania

11:00 V3+ 11:30 Kam 12:00 People's Club 12:30 Upanyas 1:00 Chalo Cinema 1:30 Tanhaiyan 2:00 Special 3:00 Film Cha'Ai 3:30 Kal Bhi Aaj

PTV

6:00am Liberty Public Demand 5:30 Special 6:30 Kal Bhi Aaj 7:30 Hafta Hafta 7:30 Intezar 8:00 Song Yatra 8:30 Teri Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup 9:00 The Moov Usha Uthup Show 9:30 Amar Prem 10:00 Top Of The Tops 10:30 Naam Gum Jayega 11:00