

## Sport

Nat'l chess  
Three top  
the table

Sports Reporter

Syed Ruhul Kabir Shipilu joined Muniruzzaman Khan and Mohammad Javed atop the standings in the preliminary phase of the 23rd national chess championship after defeating Ahmed Jahangir Babul in the penultimate round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

The win raised Shipilu's tally to six and a half points, levelled with Munir and Javed who drew their respective matches yesterday.

In the eighth round of the nine-round Swiss league format, Munir was held by Rezaul Haque while Javed shared point with Tabeur Rahman Sumon.

Eight players Enamul Hossain Rajib, Ruhul Islam Bobby, Rezaul Haque, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Saidul Islam Masum, Tabeur Rahman Sumon, Ali Anjad Mintu and Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa — were in the second round at the end of yesterday's round.

In the round, Rajib drew with Bobby, Nasir split points with Masum while Mintu and Nipa beat Mizanur Rahman Labu and Shahadat Hossain respectively.

The final round will begin at the same venue 3 pm this afternoon.

## Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

A brilliant hat-trick by Piar Ahmed guided Gandaria Famous Sporting Club to a comfortable 4-2 victory over Lalmitia Football Club in a Second Division football league engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In an one-sided affair, Piar scored three goals for the winners in the 10th, 60th and 61st minutes respectively while Swapan added the other in the 25th minute. On the other hand, Shukur and Monwar reduced the margin for Lalmitia scoring one each in the 73rd and 79th minutes respectively.

With yesterday's win, the old Dhaka outfit raised their tally to 25 points from 12 matches and remained third one point behind of second placed Dhaka Wanderers Club, in the 16-team meet.

Earlier in the day's first match at the same venue, Avjatrik Malibagh recorded a 2-1 victory over Mahakkali Ekadash.

Sabbir scored both the goals for the winners and Hamidul netted the lone goal for Mahakkali.

Away in Mirpur, Muslim Institute outplayed Adamjee Sports and Cultural Club by three goals to nil.

Raul rewrites  
Spanish record

MADRID, Apr 10: Real Madrid's teenage sensation Raul Gonzalez became the highest paid player in Spain here on Wednesday when he signed a new contract worth two million dollars a year, reports AFP.

And to ensure the 19-year-old remains with the club, Real have written in a transfer price of 42 million dollars into the new contract, which runs until 2000.

Barcelona, Paris St Germain and Juventus have all shown an interest in Gonzalez, who has scored 44 goals for the Spanish league leaders since he joined them as a 17-year-old.

Previously Gonzalez was earning one million dollars a year.

Zimbabwe soccer  
coach to quit

HARARE, Apr 10: Zimbabwe national soccer coach Ian Porterfield said on Wednesday he would quit at the end of this month because of unwarranted criticism of his team, reports Reuter.

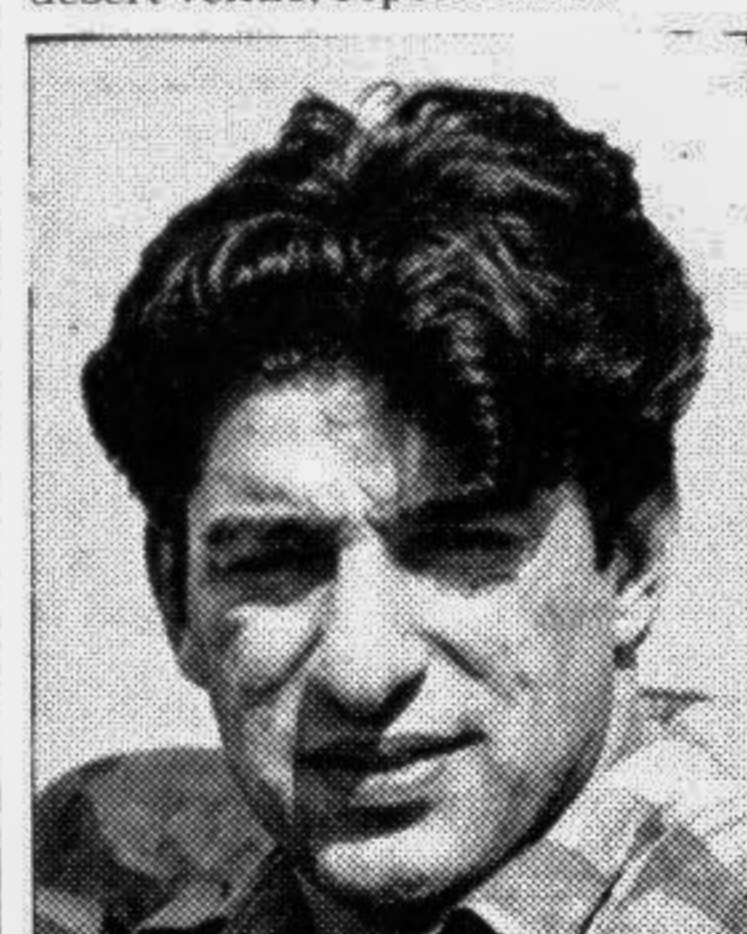
The Scottish coach told state media he would not extend his six-month contract with the Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) when it expires at the end of April because he had enough.

Porterfield — who helped rebuild the national team in neighbouring Zambia when their squad perished in a plane crash in 1993 — has undergone heavy criticism since taking up the Zimbabwe job.

Local media have accused him of transforming the Zimbabwe side from an attacking outfit into an ultra-defensive team. But he dismisses the attacks saying although he has some good players he needs time to rebuild and to do a decent job.

## Pak-SL final showdown

SHARJAH, Apr 10: World champions Sri Lanka and Pakistan clash in the Sharjah Cup final here on Friday hoping to end a long drought of titles at this popular desert venue, reports AFP.



WASIM AKRAM

Pakistan, who in the past considered Sharjah as their second home, winning eight of their 13 finals in 18 tournaments so far, have not won here since April 1994.

Sri Lanka, whose fairy-tale success in last year's World Cup in the Indian sub-continent is part of cricket folklore, have won a Sharjah tournament just once, against the West Indies in October 1995.

Arjuna Ranatunga's World Cup heroes would have been the overwhelming favourites to add another feather to their cap on Friday — they defeated Pakistan twice in the round-robin league — except for a minor hitch.

Sri Lanka have never beaten Pakistan in a final here, losing three in 1989, 1990 and 1993.

One man, though, could set the record straight.

Aravinda de Silva, the batting wizard whose magical skills place him among the world's best, has enjoyed a terrific scoring spree during the tournament with 323 runs in four matches.

He is capable of rising to the occasion, like his magnificent domination of last year's World Cup final against Australia where he hit an unbeaten century, took three wickets and held two catches.

"Aravinda is in a class of his own," said Pakistani captain Wasim Akram, himself man-of-the-match in the previous World Cup final in Australia in 1992 against England.

"He is capable of anything, with the bat, ball or in the field. There are few better match-winners than him."

But Akram, one of the game's leading all-rounders, said his team was confident of winning on Friday. "We play well at the crunch and that's very important in a final," he said.

Pakistan, who won the 1992 World Cup after being a match away from elimination, showed their legendary fighting qualities against Zimbabwe on Wednesday when they recovered from a hopeless 51 for seven to qualify for the final.

The good thing is that we never give up," said Akram approvingly. "The boys enjoy fighting back. Sri Lanka are a tough side, but I am confident we will do well."

Winning the toss will be vital, since victory in five of the six league matches — including Sri Lanka's two wins against Pakistan — went to the team batting first.

Sri Lanka rattled up 243-8 after Akram put them in the first time, and restricted Pakistan to 224-9. In the return game, Sri Lanka compiled 251-7 after winning the toss and bowled out Pakistan for 200.

The wicket tends to hamper strokeplay in the afternoon session," said Sri Lanka's veteran captain Ranatunga. "Some balls keep low from the cracks that develop."

Both teams are well-equipped to tackle the barren wicket where the ball has tended to dominate the bat.

Pakistan's bowling attack of Akram, Waqar Younis, off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and leg-spinners Mushtaq Ahmed

and Shahid Afridi is rated by many as the most dangerous in modern cricket.

Sri Lanka, however, are not lagging behind with two capable left-arm seamers Chaminda Vaas and Sajeeva de Silva and two equally devastating spinners in Muttiah Muralitharan



ARJUNA RANATUNGA

and Kumara Dharmasena. Friday's winner will pick up a cheque of 40,000 dollars, while the runners-up will collect 25,000 dollars.

BGMEA donates  
Tk 10 lakh for  
WC preparations

Sports Reporter

The Daily Star Sport swept with messages bearing greetings and declaration of awards for the victorious national cricket team. We, considering space, could not be able to publish all of them.

But, we felt tempted to publish a few of them citing their novelty and merit. The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), in a press release issued yesterday, announced to donate Taka 10 lakh to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) which will be spent in providing training facilities to Bangladesh World Cup team.

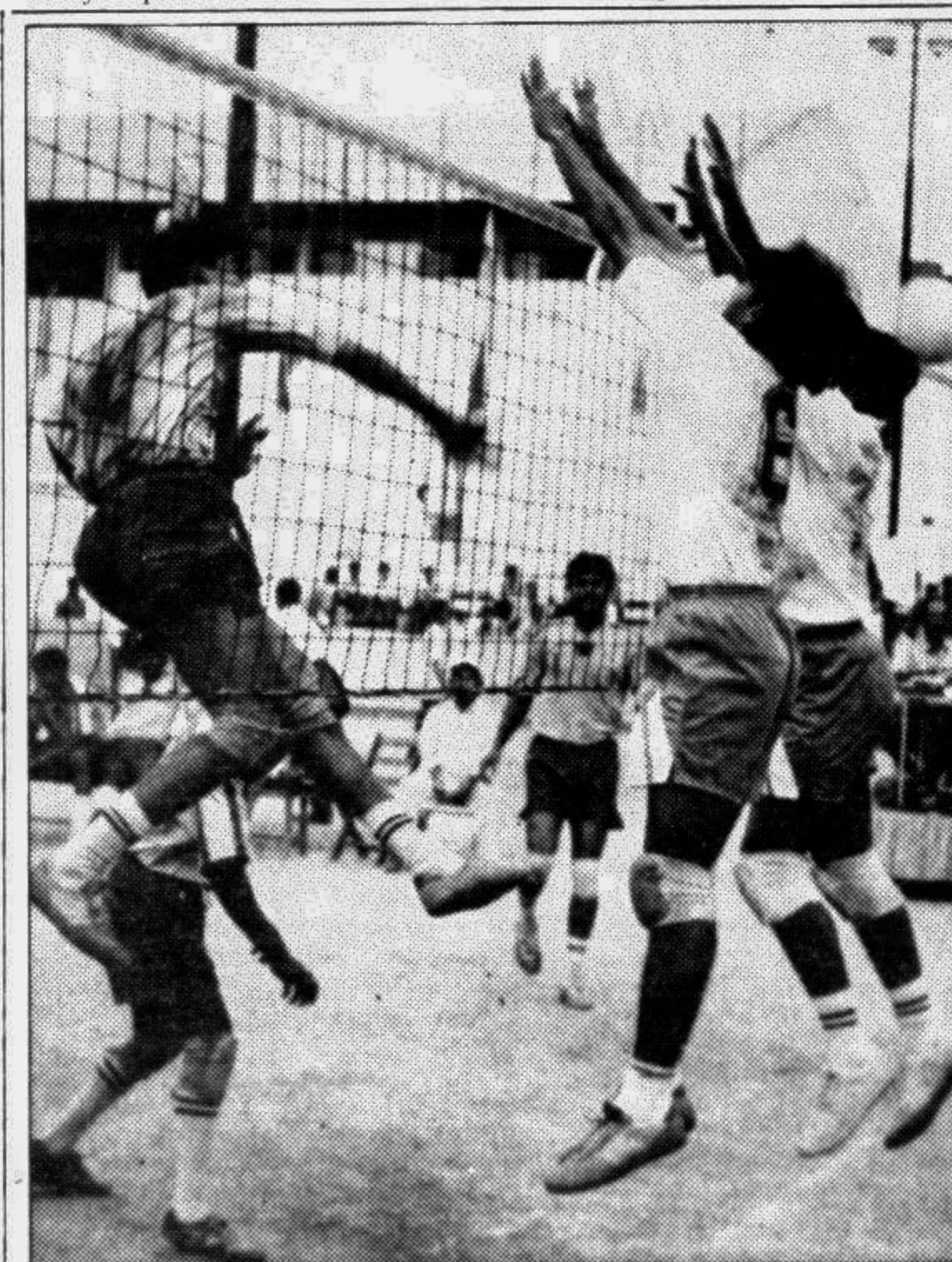
BSS adds: Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States KM Shehabuddin congratulated the players, coaches and officials of the Bangladesh cricket team on their resounding feat to take the country to bask in the golden glow of the World Cup glory.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh S B Atugoda congratulated Bangladesh cricket team on its inclusion in the next World Cup cricket tournament for the first time through successive victory in the ICC Trophy in Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel has planned to host a grand dinner for the victorious Bangladesh cricket team, who are scheduled to arrive in the capital on April 14.

## SA 284/7

PRETORIA, Apr 10: South Africa scored 284 for seven off their 50 overs in the sixth one-day international against Australia at Centurion Park today, reports Reuter.



Action from yesterday's Incontrad inter-district tournament match between Khulna and Dhaka at the volleyball court.

Plea to uphold  
sporting spirit

Cricketers urged the countrymen to uphold the true spirit of sports while celebrating the success of the national team in Kuala Lumpur, reports BSS.

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, MP, team manager Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, coach Cuthbert Gordon Greenidge, skipper Akram Khan, vice-captain Aminul Islam Bulbul and the members of the team in a joint statement yesterday expressed their deep gratitude to all back at home.

"We are extremely happy as everyone in the country congratulated us for booking a berth in the World Cup cricket 1999 in London by beating the Scottish team," they said.

The statement said, "We observed that some sporadic, unfortunate and rowdy incidents occurred at a few places in different parts of the country."

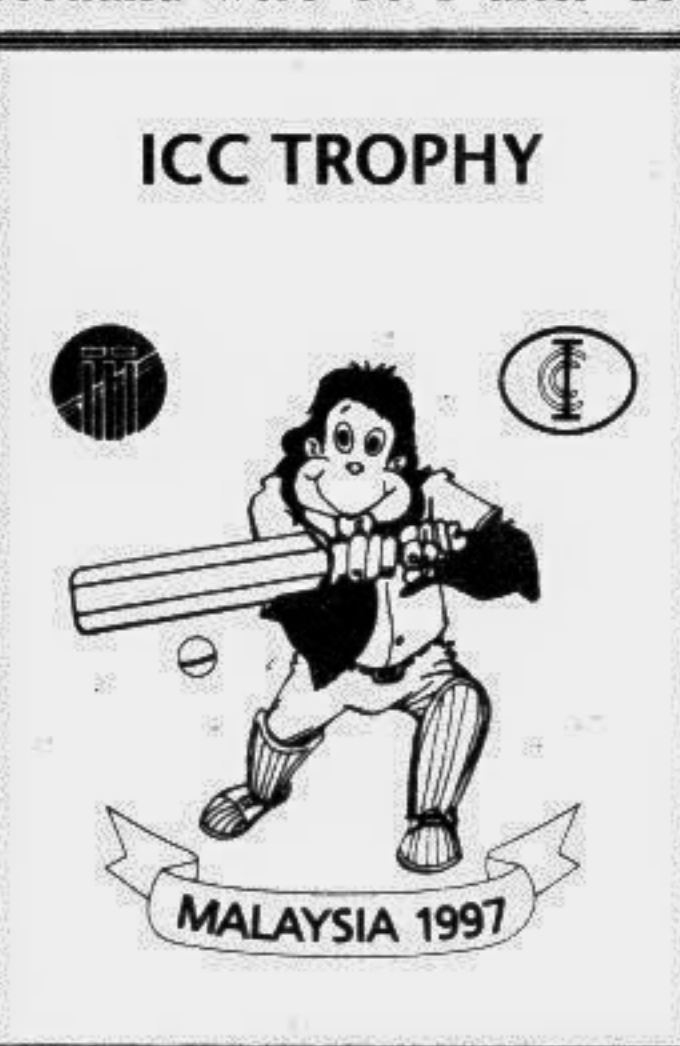
The cricket team regretted and felt, these incidents created a negative impact on the minds of the players.

They urged the nation for not to repeat such unwanted activities and resist such happenings in future.

The cricket team said, "We firmly believe that by the grace of the Almighty we would return home after winning the ICC Trophy."

Rain keeps  
players out  
of pitch

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 10: Scotland were 56-1 after 19



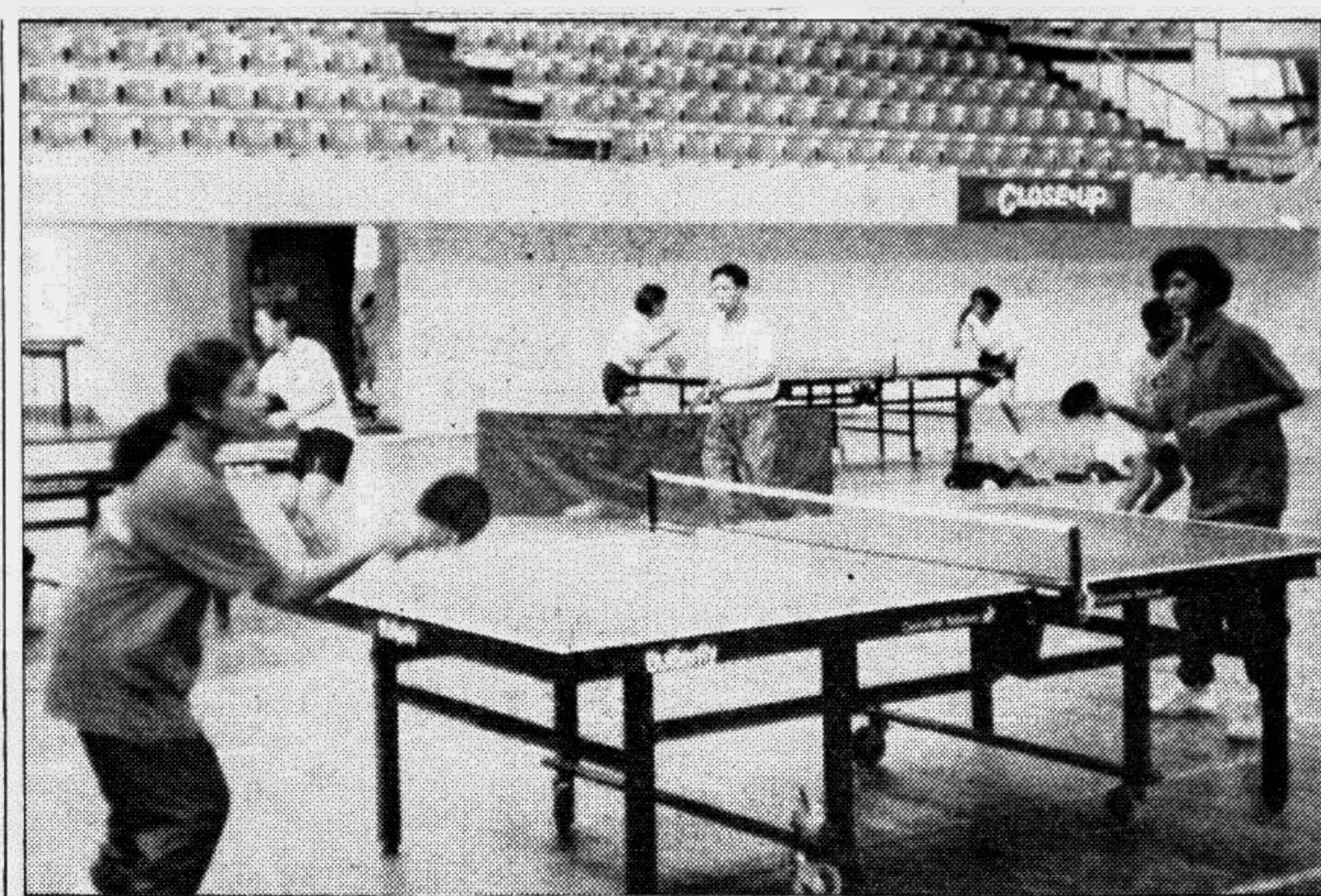
overs in their International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy third-place match against Ireland today when rain stopped play, reports Reuter.

Ireland won the toss and sent Scotland to bat. Scotland were off to a sound start when the rain started. Play was later called off for the day. Organisers hope to finish the match on Friday.

Scotland opener Ian Phillip was caught by Ireland's Neil Doak after scoring 11 runs with 19 on the board.

At the close of play, the two Scottish batsmen at the wicket were Douglas Lockart (19) and Michael Smith (13).

The final match between Bangladesh and Kenya will be held on April 12.



Participants of the Close-up first SAARC-ASEAN youth table tennis championships seen at a practice session at the National Indoor Stadium yesterday. The 12-nation meet begins this afternoon.

## RU in zonal final

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi University moved into the Pabna Zone final in the preliminary phase of the 23rd national cricket championship defeating Jessore by superior run-rate in a rain interrupted match at the Pabna Stadium yesterday.

Electing to bat, the winners collected 187 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs with Babu hammering highest 50 followed by Shaheen with 46.

In reply, Jessore, who's target was reduced to 162 in 37 overs to win after rain delayed the start of the second session

Quader leaves  
for Malaysia

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader left Dhaka for the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur yesterday to be with the Bangladesh cricket team fighting for the 6th ICC Trophy in the final match against Kenya tomorrow, reports UNB.

'Charm school'  
therapy?

LONDON, Apr 10: England's cricketers will attend a 'charm school' next week in an attempt to improve their battered image before the Ashes Series starts, reports Reuter.

Following criticism of some players' appearance and conduct on the winter tours of Zimbabwe and New Zealand, the course will cover all aspects of public and media relations, among the key areas targeted by new English cricket board chairman Lord MacLaurin.

"If people feel the image of English cricket is not right then so be it," said wicketkeeper Alec Stewart. "I'm not entirely sure what the course is all about but we'll find out next week."

Incontrad  
v'ball on

Sports Reporter

The Incontrad inter-district volleyball tournament got underway at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Six matches were decided on the inaugural day of the six-day meet, which involved eight districts in the men's section and eight in the distal side.

In the men's section, Rangpur, Noakhali, Comilla and Khulna won their respective group matches.

Fancied Rangpur, who are leading Group A, defeated Kushia by three sets to one in their first match of the day before rolling up a hapless Lalmonirhat 3-0 in their second match on the same day.

Noakhali recorded a 16-14, 15-2, 15-4 win against Jhalakathi; Comilla beat Tangail 3-1 in a marathon encounter while Khulna blanked Dhaka 3-0.

Meanwhile, in the women's section only one match was decided on the opening day with Rajbari defeating Comilla by 3-0.

Earlier, Yousuf Abdullah Harun, the chairman of the sponsors Incontrad Limited who is also the president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), declared the meet open.

SAARC-ASEAN  
TT begins today

Sports Reporter

The first SAARC-ASEAN youth table tennis championships, organised by Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, will begin at the National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur this afternoon. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Mohammad Nooruddin Khan is expected to inaugurate the five-day meet at 5 pm, which conclude April 15.

A total of 72 participants, including 30 girls from five ASEAN and seven SAARC countries, are to compete in the seven disciplines — team, singles and doubles for boys and girls and mixed doubles.

Bangladesh will field two boys teams in the meet under the banner of Bangladesh Red and Green while two out of 12 participating nations — Brunei and the Philippines — will participate in the girls events.

The participating nations are: Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

## MLS expands

NEW YORK, Apr 10: Major League Soccer (MLS) officially announced expansion franchises in Miami and Chicago for the 1998 season on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The expansion will raise the number of teams in the league to 12.

"We are pleased to announce that Miami and Chicago will join Major League Soccer in 1998," said MLS commissioner Doug Logan.

An ITALIAN way of  
"Fine Arts" in  
Functional Crafts  
and  
Make your Home and  
Business still nicer  
with  
Antiquated Wooden  
Curves,  
Gold leaf gilded and  
painted

Showroom:  
Srijani  
6/8 Lalmitia, Block A  
Dhaka, Tel - 9127158

## The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

## Friday 11th April

(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

## BTV

Morning Session  
8:00am Opening Announcement, Al Quran, programme summary  
8:10 News in Bangla Alor  
Dishari 8:40 Sports 9:10 Pre-scription 9:30 Jao Kids 10:00 The News 10:05 Natun Kurri 11:30 Open University  
12:30 Programme summary of the evening session, close down

## BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show  
7:00 BBC World News inc. World Business Report/Asia Today  
8:40 News 10:00 BBC World News 10:05 World Focus  
10:20 BBC Newsday 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus  
Assignment 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Film 97 3:00 BBC Newsday inc. World Business Report/Asia Today  
4:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight

Pacific 8:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Top Gear 11:00 The World Today 12:00am The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus

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## CHANNEL V

6:30am Malibu Jammin' VJ  
Sophiya 7:00 Rewind VJ  
Sophiya 8:00 Frame by Frame  
11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 Liberty First  
First Show 3:00 Videocon Flashback 3:30 Soul Curry 4:00 Frame by Frame 4:30 Big Bang

VJ Alessandra 6:00 Billboard US Countdown 8:00 The Vibe VJ Luck 9:00 The Indian Top 10 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 V Spot 1:00 Haysah 2:00 Over The Edge VJ Sophiya 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Top Of The Pops 5:00 The Ride

6:30am Nanaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Aerobics 10:00 The Urban Peasant 10:30 Fashion Top 11:00 Charles in Charge 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30noon Space: Above And Beyond 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Ghan 3:30 Hindi Serial: Bunyad 4:00 Hindi Serial: Tu Tu Main Main 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 New Adv. Of Black Beauty 6:00pm Charles in Charge 6:30 The Urban Peasant 7:00 Awaz 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Meri Pasand 8:30 Jeene Bhi Do Yaaro 9:00 Kaleidoscope 9:30 Star News 10:00

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## STAR PLUS

6:00am ISF World Tour 6:30 Omega Tour 1997 Vietnam Open Highlights 7:30 Australia Vs South Africa 6th One Day Int'l Hits 8:30 Indian Football Nehru Cup 1st Quarter Final 10:30 Live 1997 Sharjah Cup Final 1st Session From Sharjah Cricket Stadium 8:00 1997 Masters Day 1 From Augusta, USA 9:30 Cricket Week 10:00 Sports India 10:30 Sharjah Cup Hits 11:00 Indian Football Nehru Cup 2nd Quarter Final 1:00 The Asian Football Show 2:00 Live 1997 Masters

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## STAR MOVIES

7:30am Family: Best Shot PG (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Family: The Great Land Of Small PG (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Western: Django 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Comedy: Big 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 Classic: The 39 Steps 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 Adventure: Shoot At The Devil 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 7:30 Romance: That Night 15 9:30 UK Top Ten 10:00 Gold: The Glass Shield 15 12:00 Friday Fury: Rolling Thunder 18 2:00 After Dark: Stripped To Kill 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 Action: Dinger 15 5:30 Family: Eggs From 70 Million BC 12 (Hindi Subtitles)

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## ZEE TV

6:00am Jagran 6:30 ZED 7:00 ZED

## Day 2 From Augusta, USA 5:00 US PGA Tour 1997 Freepress McDermott Classic Final Day

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6:00am Jagran 6:30 ZED 7:00 ZED

## 7:30 Insight 8:30 Dream Merchants 9:00 Disney Hour 10:00 Gaane Anjaane 10:30 Aap Ki Aadaat 11:00 Haste Khetle 11:30 Hasratine 12:00 Roshani 12:30 Chutki Baja Ke 1:00 Manasi 1:30 Silsila 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Khana Khazana 4:00 Ek Aur Mahabharat 4:30 Low Cal Show 5:00 Hi Zindagi Bye Zindagi 5:30 Daak Ghar Apna Ghar 6:00 Bournvita Quiz Contest 6:30 Disney Hour 7:30 Raahat 8:00 Gaane Anjaane 8:30 Close up Antakshi 9:30 Philips Top 10 10:00 Aur Shama Jalti Rahe 10:30 The News 11:00 Kodak Klix 11:30 Mast Mast Hai Zindagi 12:00 Banegy Apni Baat 12:30 Hindi Feature Film 2:30 TMM 4:00 Zee Horror Show 4:30 Shapath 5:00 Surilal 5:30 Suno Bhai Sadho

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## ZEE TV

6:00am Jagran 6:30 ZED 7:00 ZED

## Khabrain 8:45 Beauty Care 8:50 Fun Kadha 9:10 Dhanak &amp; Health Tips 10:05 Har Taan Heli Deepak 10:30 English Film: Home Improvement 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Tena (Pakistan) Video Countdown 12:30 Dr. Quim: Medicine Women (Jean Sanyor) 1:35