

Sport

Inter-div eves' h'ball May 22-24

Sports Reporter
The inter-division women's handball championship organized by Bangladesh Women Sports Federation will be held at the Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex at Dhanmondi from May 22 to 24, says a press release.

Cricketers honoured in Noakhali

The ICC Trophy champions Bangladesh team was accorded a reception in Noakhali yesterday, reports UNB. State Minister Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader attended the reception as chief guest while BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP was present as special guest.

Biman take a firm grip on Dhaka

Sumon, Rafique run riot

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman took an almost unassailable 96-run first innings lead in the first semifinal of the 23rd national cricket championship against Dhaka DSA on completion of the second day's play at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

commanding 309 before being all out in 97.1 overs. To win the match Dhaka will have to meet a near-impossible task when play resumes today, the last day

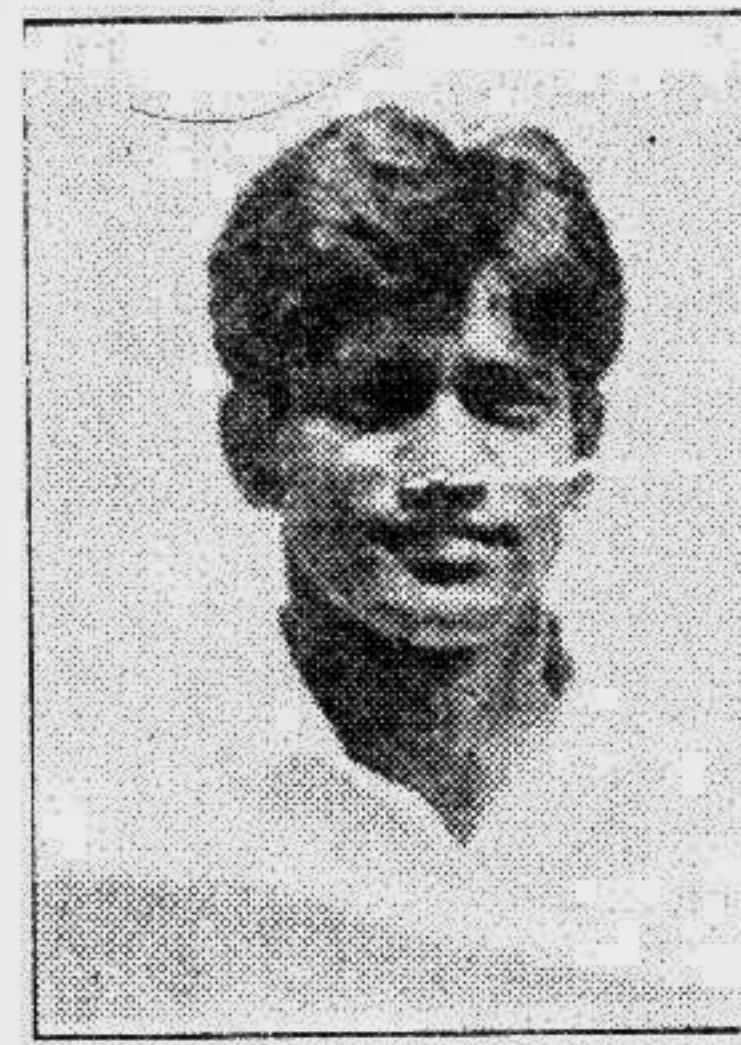
Biman suffered a quick blow when they lost their middle-order batsman Halim Shah, who returned for a duck. Wicketkeeper Atiar and Z-

BRIEF SCORES

DHAKA DSA: First innings 213 all out (Mehrab 94, Sujon 31; Rafique 3/49, Plabon 3/50)
BIMAN: First innings 309 all out (Sumon 78, Rafique 46, Shovon 44; S Shahed 4/57, Rafiqui 3/105)



SUMON... 78



RAFIQUE... blitzkrieg

of the three-day match. The Dhaka outfit need to bowl Biman out after taking a convincing lead in their second innings today.

The huge Biman total was built around a dazzling 78 by Habibul Bahser Sumon and a rapid-fire 46 from national left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique.

Sumon, unbeaten on 18 at stumps on the first day, clubbed eleven fours in his 161-ball vigil at the crease. The young right-hander and a firm contender for a slot in Bangladesh's Asia Cup squad shared 50 runs for the second wicket with opener Athar Ali Khan before the latter departed for a patient 75-ball 22.

After the dismissal of Athar, former national skipper Faruque Ahmed then joined forces with Sumon to keep the Biman wheel in full-swing, putting on 68 runs for the third wicket.

Faruque clobbered five hits across the rope in his 69-ball 37 before being castled by Rafiqul Islam who then went on to end Sumon's nearly four-hour domination at the crease.

With the departure of Sumon

and Jahan Ahmed Shovon, then combined together to ensure Biman cross the 200-mark featuring 40 odd runs for the sixth wicket. Atiar made a sedate yet useful 30 while Shovon, one of the outstanding performers in the domestic season last year, contributed an invaluable 44 off 85 balls inclusive of five fours.

But it was a marauding Mohammad Rafique whose pyrotechnics throttled Biman cross the 300-mark. The hard-hitting left-handed batsman, coming into bat at number ten, plundered 46 runs off only 38 balls. His little gem of a knock included three huge sixes and a quartet of fours. Besides, Mozibur Rahman Munna, who played the perfect foil at the other end, chipped in with 27.

Among the Dhaka bowlers, skipper Selim Shahed returned most successful with four for 57 in his 21.1 overs. While Rafiqui, the most expensive of the lot, gave away 105 runs in 28 overs for his three scalps.

National right-arm seamer Khaled Mahmood Sujon, who opened the Dhaka attack, finished with two for 49 in his 21 economic overs.

NSC's bizarre lease!

Sports Reporter

Abahani Limited was allowed to take a ninety-nine year lease on the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium by the National Sports Council (NSC) last month. But, quite surprisingly, this sensational news was not made public by the governing body of local sports as well as the reputed Dhanmondi Club till to date.

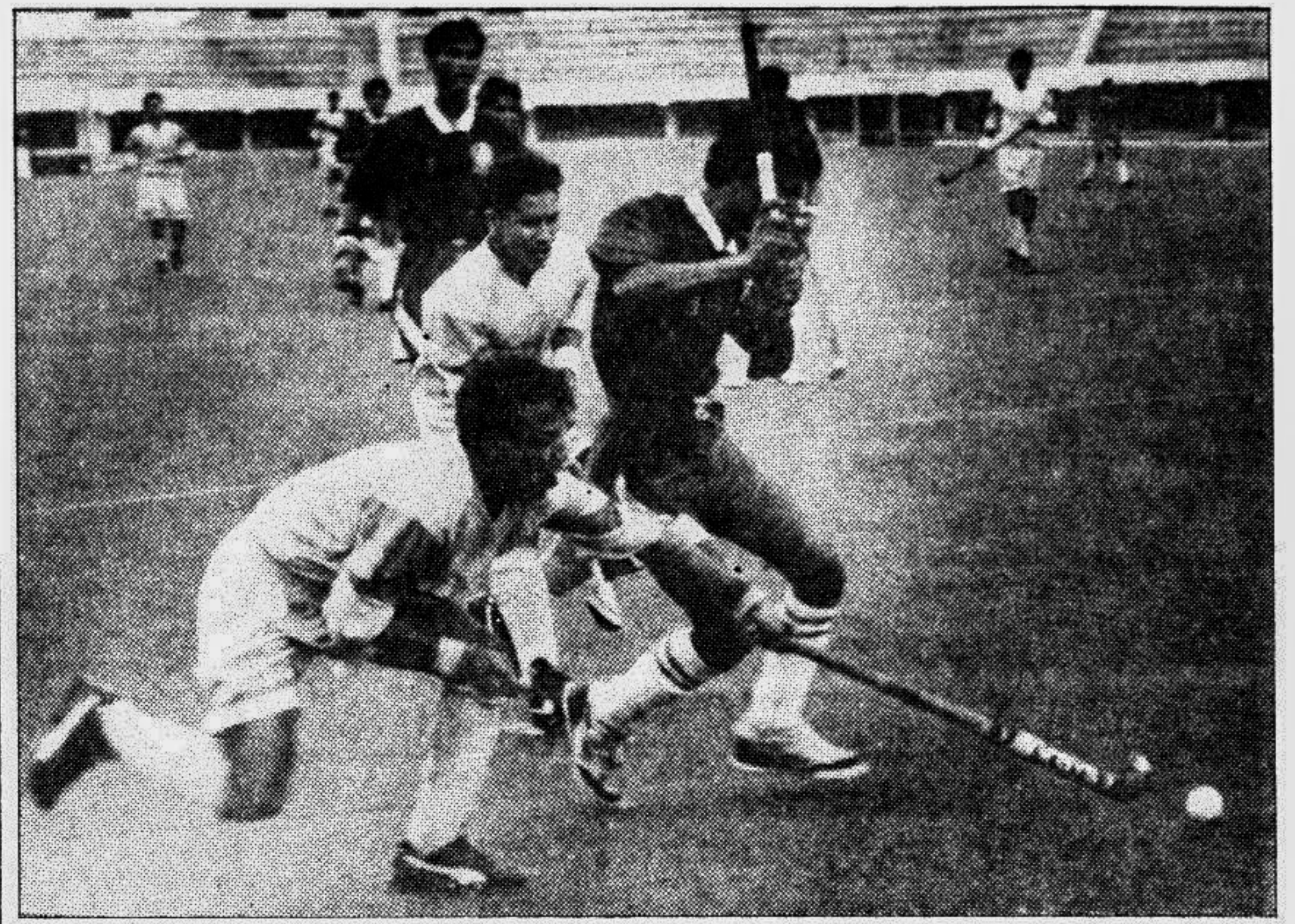
The Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, one of the few venues of the NSC in the capital which is widely used for holding cricket matches round the year, is located beside Abahani Club tent. With the facilities of a one-story gallery at the southern end, the big meadow can accommodate two matches at the same time.

While contacted, A S M Ali Kabir, the secretary of the NSC, confirmed the news but failed to provide any detail on the agreement.

However, the decision to allocate the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium to any club is quite unprecedented and apparently contrary to the policy that the NSC used to practice. Although the governing body had earlier allocated space to different clubs in the city hubs to build club tents, but this was for the first time that NSC showed surprisingly liberal attitude by leasing a whole venue to a club. Moreover, the question is that what makes NSC to keep the issue in the dark?

The decision, however, will enable Abahani, one of the two giants in the domestic sports circuit, to enjoy an exclusive privilege to have a giant city venue of its own.

It was learnt that the governing body of Abahani Limited is now busy in contemplating plans to modernise the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. But under the existing rules, space allocated by the NSC to any club, can not be used for commercial purpose.



Action from the Green Delta Insurance First Division encounter between Abahani and Victoria SC at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Abahani's second on trot

Sports Reporter

Experience stole the march over the raw talents as title aspirants Abahani recorded their second successive victory in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league when they trounced promotes Victoria Sporting Club by four goals to nil in the day's second match at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, veteran defender Jumman Lusal, and forwards Lulu, Khokon and Liton struck one each for the winners.

With yesterday's win, Abahani, who earlier beat Dhaka Ansars 6-0 in their league opener, joined Mohammedan Sporting Club atop the 16-team table with full six points from two matches. On the other hand, it was the second successive defeat for Victoria in as many outings.

In a one-sided affair, Abahani had the ball in their possession throughout but due to a cautious Victoria outfit who

remained contained inside their own half, the Dhanmondi boys could not make any room to score in the first session. However, they had a good opportunity to break the deadlock as early as in the ninth minute when midfielder Tapan got the ball unguarded close to the net. But his powerful hit was brilliantly stopped by Victoria custodian Saiddullah.

The match was stopped for 18 minutes early in the second half due to brief shower.

After the unscheduled break, Abahani began firing all their four cylinders and kept Victoria under constant pressure.

Jumman Lusal, the former national player and one of the most senior members in the side, put Abahani ahead in the 41st minute through a penalty corner while after four minutes Lulu doubled the margin capitalising on a brilliant Alamgir pass from the right.

Khokon made it 3-0 in the 62nd minute when he flicked the ball home from a Haroon pass and Liton, also a former national team player, sealed the Victorians' fate with the fourth goal in the 66th minute.

The winners will take on Bangladesh Sporting Club in their next match scheduled on May 8.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Asir, Shamim, Mamun, Shipu, Jumman, Haroon, Tapan, Khurshid, Ijaz, Liton, Lulu, Raju, Khokon, Ramji, Rabi and Alamgir.

VICTORIA SC: Saiddullah, Shamsuddin, Faruque, Al-Mamun, Ramjan, Laif, Mozammel, Fazlu, Mozammel, Danesh, Sadeq, Rashid, Rakib, Noor Mohammad and Tuhin.

Umpires: Mir Monwar Ali and Maksudur Rahman.

WARI WIN Earlier, in the day's first

match, Wari Club registered their first victory handing neighbours Azad Sporting Club a 2-3 defeat.

After a goalless first half, Rubel, Shamim and Taleb netted one each for the winners while Kabir and Rajib reduced the margin for Azad.

With yesterday's win, Wari Club, who earlier in their first match shared points with Railway in a 2-2 draw, raised their tally to four points from two matches. On the other hand, the defeat kept Azad glued to their previous collection of three points.

Int'l ladies' Karate Cup in July

Bengal School of Shotokan will represent Bangladesh in the second International Ladies' Karate Cup competition to be held in Tokyo in July this year, reports UNB.

The meet will bring together the national champions from 30 countries to participate in the preliminary rounds to select a new world champion.

The Dhaka-based Bengal School of Shotokan is the only school from Bangladesh to be invited to the prestigious competition.

TODAY'S MATCHES

23rd National Cricket Championship: (Semifinals) Dhaka vs Biman (DCS) Chittagong vs Dhaka University (DS) Green Delta First Division Hockey League: (Venue: Hockey Stadium) Sonali Bank vs Farashganj SC (2:15 pm) Usha KC vs Bangladesh SC (3:45 pm).

County cricket roundup

LONDON, May 5: Barry Hyam stood in as Essex wicket-keeper when Robert Rollins was ruled unfit and promptly equalled a club record in the Sunday league defeat of Middlesex at Chelmsford, reports Reuter.

Hyam, 21, held five catches to equal the most taken by an Essex wicketkeeper in a limited overs match.

After reaching 256 in their 40 overs, Essex bowled out Middlesex for 190, Ashley Cowan taking four for 31.

Yorkshire, with Darren Gough, Richard Stemp and Craig White each taking three wickets, crushed Hampshire by 71 runs at Southampton.

Hampshire, chasing a modest 227-run target, lost their last nine wickets for 23 in just seven overs to lose by 71 runs.

Adam Hollis' five-wicket haul for Surrey was not enough to save his side from a 12-run defeat by Kent at Canterbury.

Kent set the visiting side 193 but Dean Headley's four for 27 helped restrict Surrey to 181 for eight.

Lancashire avenged last week's Benson and Hedges Cup defeat by Derbyshire after Graham Lloyd, with 81 from 74 balls, and Neil Fairbrother had hammered 128 from 18 overs to take Lancashire to 262 for seven at Derby.

At Hove, Nottinghamshire beat Sussex by 6 wickets in a match reduced to 28 overs because of rain. Sussex 160-7 in 28 overs (K Greenfield 69 not out, K Evans 4-26) Nottinghamshire 162-4 in 26.5 overs (P Johnson 60, T Robinson 51).

Czech Open Pioline's

PRAGUE, May 5: Fourth seed Cedric Pioline of France ousted last home favourite and third seed Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic in three sets Sunday to win the 365,000 dollars Czech Open men's tennis tournament, reports AP.

Pioline needed 2-1-2 hours to beat Ulihrach 6-2, 5-7, 7-6. (7-4). By his victory, the 27-year-old Frenchman gained 150 points in the ATP rating and 48,200 dollars.

Co-hosting put to the test

ZURICH, May 5: South Korean and Japanese football officials will have their first real chance to prove they are capable of successfully co-hosting the 2002 World Cup when they meet here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Ever since FIFA's executive committee staged a dramatic U-turn last year by suddenly agreeing to co-hosting, there have been rumblings that the showpiece of world football is heading for a humiliating disaster.

FIFA's outspoken secretary general Sepp Blatter warned late last year of an impending nightmare — claiming the two sides were not even talking to each other.

"The countries are not coming closer, it's quite the opposite. They are moving further apart. This is not the marriage we want," he complained.

His remarks angered both the Koreans and Japanese but Tuesdays' meeting with the FIFA planning committee set up to deal with 2002, is their opportunity to show that not only are they talking but they are working together.

The battle between Korea and Japan to win the 2002 World Cup was the bitterest in FIFA's history and left the executive committee reeling.

Members complained about both sides going to unacceptable limits to win the vote and they were angered by the millions of dollars spent by both sides in their campaigns.

Outgoing FIFA president Joao Havelange made no secret of his support for Japan and openly canvassed for them.

But as last June's vote for who should get the showpiece tournament neared it was clear that the Korean bid, led by their FIFA executive vice-president Chung Moog Joon, was gathering more and more votes.

Havelange, fearing a humiliating defeat for Japan, suddenly reversed his stance and decided to support co-hosting.

The executive committee agreed but since their historic vote several members have privately voiced fears that they had created a monster.

"Looking back I do not think we should have agreed on co-hosting. We blundered and I am worried at what the price will be," said one member recently.

But Chung and his Japanese counter-parts are determined to prove the critics wrong. Chung recently pushed to have Japanese J-league president Saburo Kawabuchi voted onto the FIFA executive committee as one of the Asian members.

His bid failed, Kawabuchi losing out to Thailand's Worai Makudi, but new elections next year before the World Cup in France gives Kawabuchi another chance to get on to the executive committee and he is strongly tipped to win his place.

When Chung and Kawabuchi sit down together here on Tuesday, the FIFA committee will be hoping the progress report will show progress with a capital 'P'.

Stoltenberg stoops to Filippini

DULUTH, Georgia, May 5: Marcelo Filippini used the wind and a big advantage on first serves to beat Jason Stoltenberg 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 for the AT&T Challenge championship Sunday, reports AP.

The victory was worth 43,000 dollars for Filippini, who had earned only 38,655 dollars this year and wasn't seeded in the 32-player field.

With winds gusting to 20 mph (30 kph) at the Atlanta Athletic Club, the Uruguayan seemed to have the wind at his back at the most crucial times.

Down 6-5 with Stoltenberg serving for the first set, Filippini used a tricky crosswind to break serve and send the first set into a tiebreaker.

Tied 4-4 in the second set, Filippini again had the favorable crosswind when he broke serve to lead 5-4. He ended the match one game later, beating the No. 7 seed on the second serve of triple match point.

"I had the wind with me," Filippini said, after winning for the fourth time in his career, but only the first in the United States.

Stoltenberg was good on only 28 of 43 first serves. That allowed Filippini to take charge on both ends of the court.

"I played well until it was 6-5 (in the first set)," Stoltenberg said. "That's when I lost my concentration."

"I was having a little trouble with the wind on my serve. When you tossed the ball up, it blew away from you. We both had the same wind, but he handled it a little better than I did."

Filippini, who entered the match ranked 92nd on the ATP Tour, sensed his opponent was losing his concentration in the difficult conditions.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate of Environment Paribesh Bhaban, Plot: E-16, Agargaon Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 Invitation of Poster Designs on the Occasion of World Environment Day

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate General of Food Office of the Project Director, PMU EEC-II Project 16, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000 Letter of Invitation for Short-Listing of Local Consultants

South Korean team, which clinched the Asian women's basketball championship title, pose with the trophy after the final against Japan in Bangkok on May 5. The Koreans defeated Japan 74-61 to become champions for the 10th times and first since 1988. — AFP/UNB photo

রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড জুবিলী রোড শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম। টেন্ডার নোটিশ নিম্নলিখিত মালামাল 'যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে' ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয় করার জন্য নিম্নোক্ত শর্তনুযায়ী অর্থদারী ফ্রেডারেল কাছ থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।