

Sport

Multidrive
youth v'ball
results

Sports Reporter

Gazipur, Comilla, Gaibandha and Rajshahi moved into the semifinals of the Multidrive 16th national youth volleyball championship after winning their respective quarterfinals held at the National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

In the day's first quarterfinal, Gazipur trounced Rajbari DSA by 15-8, 15-5 and 15-6 points (3-0). Comilla upset holders Naogaon DSA by 15-7, 15-4, and 15-8 points (3-0).

Gaibandha tamed their opponents Jhenidah DSA easily by 15-7, 16-14 and 15-5 points (3-0) in the third quarterfinal.

In the last quarterfinal, Rajshahi beat Chittagong DSA by 3-2 sets after a hard fight. They scored 15-13, 4-15, 15-8, 1-15 and 15-13 points to enter the last four.

Last year's runner-up Gazipur will meet Gaibandha in the first semifinal while Comilla will play against Rajshahi in the other on Tuesday.

The final match will be held on Thursday while the third-place deciding match will be held on Wednesday.

Office cricket
suspended

Sports Reporter

The ongoing Office cricket league has been suspended for an indefinite period due to the inclement weather prevailing over the country for the last couple of days. This was disclosed by the organisers Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in a press release yesterday. With the seasonal shower playing foul, the authorities were forced to call off both the Cup and Plate semifinals and finals sine die.

Juninho sold
to Spurs?

MIDDLEBROUGH, England, June 30: Relegated First Division club Middlesbrough confirmed Monday they had agreed to sell Brazilian star Juninho to Tottenham for 11 million pounds (£17.93 million dollars), reports AP.

But Juninho reportedly wants to leave England and head for Spain, possibly to Atletico Madrid, and he is yet to discuss terms with the London-based Premier League club.

"We have informed Juninho of the fact that we have accepted the bid and have invited him to open talks with Tottenham," said to begin negotiations.

"I have been monitoring the Juninho situation since the end of the season," Francis told the Sun tabloid.

"I tried to buy him two years ago but at that stage did not have the finances. Now our offer has been accepted by Middlesbrough, and I desperately want to fly to Brazil to talk to him."

Juninho's agent, Pino Pagliari, said the Brazilian would be back in England by Wednesday, when Boro start pre-season training.

Atletico Madrid and Real Betis are also playing in the Spanish league. "Playing for my country means more than money," Juninho said last week. "If I want to be noticed by the Brazilian coach, Mario Zagallo, I have to be playing in Spain."

"If you play for a small club in Europe, particularly England, few people will see you play. Zagallo will be able to watch me every week. If I stayed in England, even with Manchester United 7.74 million in October 1995."

Pete enters round of 16

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

LONDON, June 30: Three-time Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras must have been very pleased with himself the way he softened up his Zimbabwean opponent Byron Black at the Centre Court today.

The scores 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 do show the sort of tennis Pete played today. But it definitely points to the fact that the world's best player did not drop a game in this third round match. As Pete himself said "I got off to a great start and played very well ... I am very pleased with the way I'm playing right now, so I hope I continue my good form."

Sampras was conversant with Black's tennis because he had played him before but that did not make him complaisant. On the contrary he unleashed a great game before the capacity crowd that was definitely backing Sampras the whole hog. It must have been nice feeling for him to feel at home away from home. This was Sampras's first match at the Centre Court this year of which he said, "Centre Court is a little bit softer, I mean, the grass seems a tad

longer". But that did not deter him from exhibiting the two facades of his tennis today — the harder and the softer sides. As he sent down 14 aces, so did he played a number of soft volleys and delicate cross-court shots punctuated with tremendous

forehand drives. It was an indication for his opponent in the fourth round — the 16th seed Petr Korda — who beat O'Brien of the US in a grueling 5-setter that lasted 3 hours and 13 minutes — what was coming.

The sky was again overcast and with a wind blowing it was awfully chilly in the courts. But the matches continued without interruption. In court No 1, former champion Boris Becker, seeded No 8, despatched a wild card Mark Petchey of Great Britain without much ado.

Jana Novotna, the No 3 ladies' seed, beat Leon Garcia of Spain rather comfortably to move into the 4th round. The scores were 6-4, 6-2. She thought it was a much better match than Sunday's when she beat Likhovtseva of Russia 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

Two-time finalist here in 1995 and 1996, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, seeded 8, was having a great tournament in this year of rains. She moved into the 4th round by sweeping away F. Labat of Argentina in straight sets 6-1, 6-2 in just 44 minutes. The Spanish flagship here at Wimbledon was yet to drop a set.

But Alexel Klishin quickly restored Kazakhstan's two-goal advantage in the 61st with a blast from midfield into the upper left corner.

Kazakhstan join
qualifiers

ALMATY, Kazakhstan, June 30: First-half goals by Nurken Mabayev and Vladimir Loginov sent Kazakhstan to a 3-1 victory over Iraq on Sunday, and put them into the second round of Aszian World Cup qualifying as the 10th and last team to advance, reports AP.

Kazakhstan, who played the final 21 minutes with only 10 men, finished with an unblemished 4-0 record and 12 points atop Group Nine, outscoring opponents 15-2. Iraq finished second in the three-team group with a 2-0-2 record and six points. Pakistan (0-0-4) was the other team in the group.

Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan who qualified earlier Sunday, joined Saudi Arabia, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, China, and Qatar in the second round. The draw to set the two second-round groups is scheduled for July 22 in Zurich, Switzerland.

Mabayev gave Kazakhstan the lead in the fourth minute and Loginov doubled it in the 36th.

Neither side dominated, with both teams wasting several scoring opportunities.

Iraq appeared to be invigorated by Sadiq Sadoun's goal in the 56th minute.

But Alexel Klishin quickly restored Kazakhstan's two-goal advantage in the 61st with a blast from midfield into the upper left corner.

Steven stuns
Norman

LONDON, June 30: Tired Magnus Norman failed to build on Saturday's impressive Wimbledon victory over Goran Ivanisevic, bowing out in four sets against New Zealand's Brett Steven on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Steven won 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 and in the third round will now face Frenchman Cedric Pioline who knocked out number 15 seed Wayne Ferreira in straight sets.

Norman needed court-side

control for a racing heart-beat in Saturday's marathon clash with big-hitting Ivanisevic.

But the Swede said it was tiredness rather than his heart which was to blame for his sluggish performance.

The heart didn't affect it (his performance), but the length of the match did, he said.

Norman could not reach his Swedish doctor last night, but after seeking advice from a British doctor was convinced there would be no danger to his health if he played.

"I didn't feel very good but I took the decision to play because the doctor said it was not dangerous," Norman said. "But, of course, I did think about it."

Steven lost the first set in a tie-break, but looked the stronger and fitter.

Essex move
on top

LONDON, June 30: Essex moved top of the English Sunday League with a last-day victory over Derbyshire, reports Reuters.

Previous leaders Lancashire crashed to a 114-run defeat by Worcestershire.

Derbyshire, with all their wickets intact, needed 66 to win in 11 overs at Southend but failed to keep their nerve and Paul Aldred was run out attempting the winning run off the last ball.

Replaying to Worcester's 235 for seven at Worcester, Lancashire tumbled out for 121. Phil Newport and David Leathdale took three wickets each.

Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis grabbed four for 14 to fire out Sussex for 135 as Glamorgan charged to an eight-wicket victory at Swansea.

In a rain-reduced 15 overs contest at Leicester, a speedy 46 by Bell Smith carried Warwickshire to an eight-wicket win over Leicestershire.

Taekwondo
championship

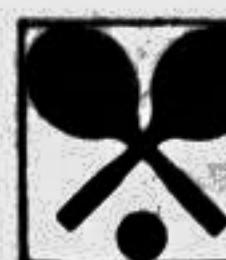
Sports Reporter

The first Bangladesh taekwondo championship under the aegis of Taekwondo Association of Bangladesh (TAB) will begin at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium from July 11.

Interested district sports associations and clubs have been asked to complete their entry formalities with the TAB office located at the first floor of the National Hockey Stadium.

The two-day meet will conclude on July 12.

Seles becomes history



WIMBLEDON, June 30: Monica Seles blew a 5-2 lead in the third set and was ousted by France's Sandrine Testud in the third round at Wimbledon, becoming the seventh women's

There were points I played really aggressive and points where I stopped doing that for no reason.

"All the matches I've lost this year I've been up 5-2. It seems like it's been a magic number for me. I need to close out the matches."

cost her a point in that game. "I shouldn't have let it bother me as much and carry it with me," Seles said. "I was mumbiling to myself a little that game and the next game too."

She did reach match point on Testud's serve at 6-5 but sailed backhand pass long.

Testud broke in the next game on another Seles backhand error, then served out the match in the next game, opening with an ace on the first point and finishing with another ace down the middle.

The loss marked another disappointment for Seles at Wimbledon, the only Grand Slam championship she has never won.

"I would love it if I could win it," she said. "Gosh. Hopefully I have a few more years to try it."

Despite her seeding, Seles seemed particularly vulnerable this year. Her game has been below par and she has been struggling emotionally with her father-coach Karol back in Florida being treated for stomach cancer.

Two other women's seeds fared better Monday, as No. 3 Jana Novotna moved into the fourth round with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Gala Leon Garcia, and No. 11 Mary Joe Fernandez beat Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn, 6-2, 6-4.

On Sunday, Anna Kournikova, the 16-year-old Russian star who has been at centre of tabloid attention here, pulled off one of the biggest wins of her career when she upset the No 7 Anke Huber of Germany in the third round.

Huber, the 1996 Australian Open finalist lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

If the young Russian with the supermodel looks can beat veteran Czech Helena Sukova in the last 16, she may attract more attention than Martina Hingis.

Also losing were No 14 Brenda Schultz McCarthy of the Netherlands and No 16 Austria's Barbara Paulus.

Belgium's Sabine Appelmans put paid to Schultz-McCarthy's hopes, downing the Dutch woman on Court Three 6-2, 6-3.

Appelmans, 25, is ranked only four places below Schultz-McCarthy at 19 and reached the fourth round here last year.

Austria's Paulus was sent packing 5-7, 6-3 by Naoko Kijimura of Japan.

IOC stands
by HK

HONG KONG, June 30: Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), reaffirmed that Hong Kong will remain independent and autonomous for Olympics and other major international competitions after it returns to China, reports Xinhua.

Samaranch is to meet with A de O Sales, president of the Hong Kong Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee (HKF and OC) and other local sports leaders for detailed discussions on related sports issues after the handover, when Hong Kong have become a special administrative region of China.

"For me, the most important thing is that the youth of Hong Kong can take part in Olympic Games and all other major international competitions in the future in an independent and autonomous way," he said.

Samaranch made these comments upon his arrival here this morning for ceremonies for the Hong Kong handover and the inauguration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government around midnight today.

The IOC chief is visiting Hong Kong at the invitation of the local sports community for celebrations marking Hong Kong's return to China.

Samaranch is scheduled to fly back to Hong Kong Wednesday to attend the Reunification Cup soccer match on Thursday in Hong Kong Stadium, where an all-star team of the international Football Federation (FIFA) plays their counterpart from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Joao Havelange, president of the FIFA, is scheduled to arrive here who is also to attend the handover ceremonies and the Reunification Cup.

Sepp Blatter, FIFA's secretary-general, had assured the game's local governing body, the Hong Kong Football Association, on an earlier visit to Hong Kong that the association would keep its FIFA membership as well as its independent status after the handover.

Sandrine Testud of France plays a forehand return against American Monica Seles in the third round of the Wimbledon Championships yesterday. Testud won 0-6, 6-4, 6-2. — AFP/UNB photo

seeded in complete control after sailing through the first set without dropping a game, but the Frenchwoman recovered in the second to force the decisive third set.

Seles moved out to a 5-2 lead and served for the match at 5-3 but couldn't convert. She seemed to lose her way after the umpire made an overrule that

THE ACES CHART

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

LONDON, June 30: Following are the combined men's and ladies' aces served at Wimbledon so far:

RANK	ACES	PLAYER	CTRY	MATCHES
1	22	Brenda Schultz-McCarthy	NED	3
2	21	Irina Spirlea	ROM	3
3	14	Nicole Arendt	USA	2
4	14	Monica Seles	USA	2
5	12	Yayuk Basuki	INA	2
6	11	Helena Sukova	CZE	2
7	11	Sandrine Testud	FRA	2
8	10	Elena Makarova	RUS	2
9	9	Anke Huber	GER	2
10	9	Gigi Fernandez	USA	2
11	8	Lindsay Davenport	USA	2
12	7	Radka Zrubavova	SVK	2
13	7	Andrea Glass	GER	2
14	7	Barbara Paulus	AUT	2
15	7	Jana Novotna	CZE	2
16	7	Kristie Boogert	NED	1
17	7	Kerry-Anne Guse	AUS	2
18	7	Mary Pierce	FRA	2
19	6	Conchita Martinez	ESP	3
20	6	Corina Morasut	USA	2
21	6	Karen Cross	CZE	3
22	6	Larisa Neeland	LAT	1
23	6	Miriam Oremans	NED	1
24	6	Maria Luisa Serna	ESP	2
25	6	Nathalie Tauziat		