

## Sheltech schools badminton ends

### Sports Reporter

Maruf Alam of Dhaka Ali Ahammed School emerged boys' under-16 champion of the Sheltech schools badminton tournament defeating Hamid of Sylhet Aided School in the final at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

In the boys' under-14 final, Ahsan Habib Parash of Sunrise Pre-Cadet School, Bogra clinched the title taming Raisuddin of Pallabi M R Model School.

Asheda Khatun Rumai of Savar Cantonment Board High School won the girls' singles trophy with an easy victory over Tuhin Akhtar of Kamalpur High School.

In the doubles finals, Alamin and Osman of Kamargram High School, Joypurhat beat Maruf and Anis of Ali Ahammed School in the under-16 group, Raisuddin and Ahsan Habib defeated Ifat Uddin and Dewan Tareq in under-14 group while Asheda and Tuhin won the girls' doubles final against Subarna and Anika.

ASM Shahjahan, Secretary of Youth and Sports, witnessed the finals and distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest. Bangladesh Badminton Federation president Kutubuddin Ahmed and Dr Towfiq M Siraj, MD of Sheltech (Pvt) Limited, were also present.

**Chilavert misses the target**

**Buenos Aires, Oct 6:** Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert missed a penalty on Sunday as Velez Sarsfield lost 3-2 to San Lorenzo in an explosive Argentine championship match which saw four players sent off, reports Reuter.

Chilavert, who has scored three penalties in the championship, this time saw his effort saved by rival Oscar Passer in the 65th minute, with San Lorenzo leading 3-1.

Earlier, Chilavert had been on the wrong end when Nestor Gorosito converted a penalty to fire San Lorenzo in front. Martin Posse equalised but Uruguayan Sebastian Abreu put San Lorenzo back ahead before half-time and Gabriel Montenegro increased their lead early in the second half.

Damian Manuscovich and Eduardo Tozzi of San Lorenzo and Martin Gomez and Federico Dominguez of Velez were the players shown the red card.

**Leaders** River Plate beat Gimnasia-Salta 2-0 while on Saturday Boca Juniors, playing their third game without injured Diego Maradona, won 3-0 at Gimnasia-Jujuy.

**Hoddle lets Owen train with the boys**

**LONDON, Oct 6:** Liverpool's teenage sensation Michael Owen joined up with the England squad's training session today as coach Glenn Hoddle began the countdown for the crunch clash with Italy in Rome next Saturday, reports AFP.

The 17-year-old boy wonder has made an enormous impression on the England coach since his arrival on the premiership scene in the final two weeks of last season.

He has continued to impress this term, initially filling in for Robbie Fowler and then keeping German striker Karliheinz Riedle out of the team until Sunday's 4-2 win over Chelsea.

## ATP rankings

**PARIS, Oct 6 (AFP):** Leading ATP Tour rankings in points published Monday:

1. Sampras	4,291
2. Chang	3,385
3. Rafter	2,889
4. Rusedski	2,511
5. Moya	2,451
6. Kafelnikov	2,438
7. Bruguera	2,357
8. Rios	2,301
9. Ivanisevic	2,291
10. Corretja	2,251
11. Kuerten	2,230
12. Muster	2,229
13. Bjorkman	2,182
14. Mantilla	2,127
15. Korda	2,029
16. Enqvist	1,905
17. Krajcik	1,900
18. Philippoussis	1,887
19. Becker	1,882
20. Costa	1,819



Members of the victorious French Federation Cup team proudly hold aloft the trophy after beating host Holland in the final in Den Bosch on Oct 5.

—AP/UNB photo

## France's first Fed Cup



**DEN BOSCH, Netherlands, Oct 6:** France won the Fed Cup for the first time on Sunday here beating the Netherlands 4-1 after sharing the reverse singles and winning the doubles, reports Reuters.

It was France's first appearance in a Fed Cup final and also a personal triumph for the flamboyant Yannick Noah who was named Fed team coach earlier this year after having led his country's men's team to Davis Cup triumph.

It was the second defeat for the Dutch in two finals. They were beaten by Australia in 1996.

The French had won both opening singles on Saturday but hard-hitting Brenda Schultz-McCarthy revived Dutch hopes by toppling France's leading player Mary Pierce 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.

World number 14 Testud, who had also won all four previous encounters with world number 50 Oremans, fought back from a torrid opening set to win 0-6, 6-3, 6-3.

"She started unbelievably strong and I was not playing at all. It was no match but I told myself 'it will all come back' and the match really only started for me in the second set," Testud said.

Oremans swept through the first set in 23 minutes but Testud came out more aggressively in the second set, setting the tone with a service break in the first game.

"It was very important for me to get the break early in the second set," Testud said.

Testud kept her cool despite several disputed line calls in the eight game and broke again.

### '98 Davis Cup

#### Sweden, USA top seeds

**LONDON, Oct 6:** Sweden and the United States, who will face each other next month for the Davis Cup title, were named joint top seeds Monday for the 1998 competition, reports AP.

Australia and Spain shared the next two spots followed by the Czech Republic and Italy sharing the fifth and sixth seeds, with the last two seeded positions going to Germany and the Netherlands.

The other eight countries in next year's Davis Cup World Group are: Belgium, Brazil, India, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland and Zimbabwe.

The draw for 1998 will be made Wednesday in London by the Davis Cup Committee of the International Tennis Federation.

The top seeds in other Davis Cup groups are:

**Euro/African Zone 1** — France and Britain (joint top seeds), Austria, Romania (joint third and fourth).

American Zone 1 — Chile, Mexico (joint top seeds).

**Asia/Oceania Zone 1** — South Korea, New Zealand (joint top seeds).

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She said Schultz's booming serve had made it difficult for her to find her rhythm.

Pierce held break-point in the sixth and eighth games of the final set but saw them go to waste either through Schultz-McCarthy's thunderous serves or her own lacklustre play on some crucial points.

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