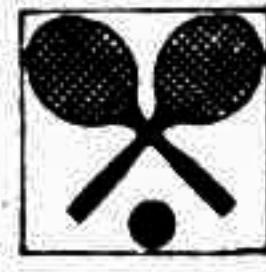


**CCDM plans one-day tourney**

**Sports Reporter**  
The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) is all set to introduce a limited-over tournament involving all the twelve Premier League outfit as well as a number of foreign teams.

The tourney, first of its kind, is likely to start immediately after the League.

"We have already got the permission from the BCB to organise the meet," said the CCDM secretary Mahmud Ul Haque yesterday, adding that the tournament will be a day-night event.

While elaborating, Mahmud, who is also a joint-secretary of the BCB, said: "We are working hard to bring a few club sides from neighbouring India and Pakistan to make the tournament more colourful."

But Mahmud said that the final decision regarding the tournament will be made after the CCDM meeting to be held on February 11.

Replies to a query, the CCDM secretary said that they will also hold the Damal Smriti cricket tournament sometime in March. The season's curtain-raiser and an annual event in the domestic calendar was earlier postponed by the BCB for a smooth completion of the League this season.

**2nd Mayor Cup v'ball begins Feb 12**

**RAJSHAHI**, Feb 2: The second Mayor Gold Cup volleyball tournament will begin at the Rajshahi Collegiate School ground on February 12, reports UNB.

City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Mintu will inaugurate the tourney organised by Rajshahi City Corporation.

Five teams, including the Dhaka league champions Bangladesh Rifles and runners-up Titas Club, will take part in the five-day meet.

Other teams are: Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and a local team.

The local side will selected through a group match, beginning on February 6.

**Rajib stays on top**

Enamul Hossain Rajib of Titas Club maintained his solo lead in the 20th national junior chess championship securing full six points by beating Ruhul Islam Bobjy in the sixth round match at the NSC chess room yesterday, reports UNB.

He was followed by Debraj Chatterjee of Barisal, who bagged five and half points after defeating Abdul Bari of Tangail in the round, while Firoz Ahmed earned five points beating Khaled Mahmud.

The seventh round matches will start today at the same venue.

**WOMEN'S CHESS**

Meanwhile, Zakia Sultana, Masuda Begum and Afzana Parveen Nira jointly led the points table of the 20th National Women's qualifying chess championship securing five points after yesterday's sixth round at the same venue.

Three players — Nazrana Khan Iva, Farzana Khan Aava and Fazlynna Polly — followed the leaders with four and a half points.

In the round, Iva drew with Zakia, Masuda shared points with Aava. Nira outplayed Ferdousi and Polly overpowered Fahmaza.

The seventh and last round matches will be held today at the same venue.

**Kournikova tames Huber**

**TOKYO**, Feb 2: Russian teenager Anna Kournikova came through a tough first round match against Anke Huber at the opening day of the Toray Pan Pacific Open tournament today.

The sixth seed, fresh from her doubles victory at the Australian Open with Martina Hingis, just won a nervy first set packed with double faults and service breaks to score a 7-6, 6-0 win.

"Of course, I gained a lot of confidence, we beat a lot of good players with Martina, I feel great, it definitely helps a lot," Kournikova said on her victory in Melbourne.

Kournikova, who achieved notoriety with her double faults at the Australian Open, committed two double faults in each of her first two service games and neither woman could hold serve, until the Russian kept hers for 4-2 lead.

Huber held her own in the seventh game, but it appeared to be her only game the German held throughout the 70-minute match.

Kournikova, although she lost her serve in the eighth and 10th games, stopped double-faulting and held her rhythm after taking the tie-breaker 7-4 as Huber continued to struggle with her own serve.

"It's my first time to play on this (fast, indoor) surface and it's difficult to hit an overhead and a high ball because of the lights, so I had to get used to it. But other than that, I served very, very well," said Kournikova.

"Anke played fast, so you have to go for a shot. Otherwise, she'll hit a winner. I was feeling great out there, I was really relaxed, not nervous at all. I was just going for the shots," added the Russian, 17.

Amanda Coetzer stayed in form as the seventh seed from South Africa raced to a straight-forward 6-2, 6-1 victory over Magui Serna of Spain.

"I've played her a few times in the past, I knew what to do," said Coetzer. "I think on this surface, top spin normally doesn't bother that much. But with her being lefty and with her slice, shots of spin, I stroked over."

Russian Anna Kournikova playing against Anke Huber at the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.

— AFP photo



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The comments sparked a furious reaction and the Football Association is consulting over what to do next. It has refused to rule out sacking Hoddle.

**Robson not interested**

**LONDON**, Feb 2 (Reuters/Internet): Bryan Robson has ruled himself out as a successor to Glenn Hoddle should the England coach resign or be sacked.

Robson, 42, a former England captain and currently the Middlesbrough manager, said he had signed a five-year contract with the premier league club last year and was "quite happy".

"If he said what he is reported to have said in the way he is reported to have said it, then I think that was very strong," Blair said on television.

Hoddle was quoted by the Times as saying that disabled people were paying for the sins of a previous life.

"You and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and a half-decent brain," he said.

Some people have not been born like that for a reason. The karma is working from another lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. It is not only people with disabilities. What you sow, you have to reap.

"You have to look at things that happened in your life and ask why. It comes around."

Bookmakers had quoted him as 7-4 favourite to succeed Hoddle.

Hoddle is facing the sack after reported comments about disabled people. Officials at the English Football Association are currently discussing his future.

"But if he did repeat these comments I think we would need to talk very seriously with the FA about the implications."

Surveys in several national newspapers and on television have shown that most callers want Hoddle to quit.

— AFP photo

**Pressure mounts on Hoddle**

**LONDON**, Feb 2: British Prime Minister Tony Blair waded into the row Monday over Glenn Hoddle's reported remarks about disabled people, saying the England coach should go if it was proved he had made them, reports AFP.

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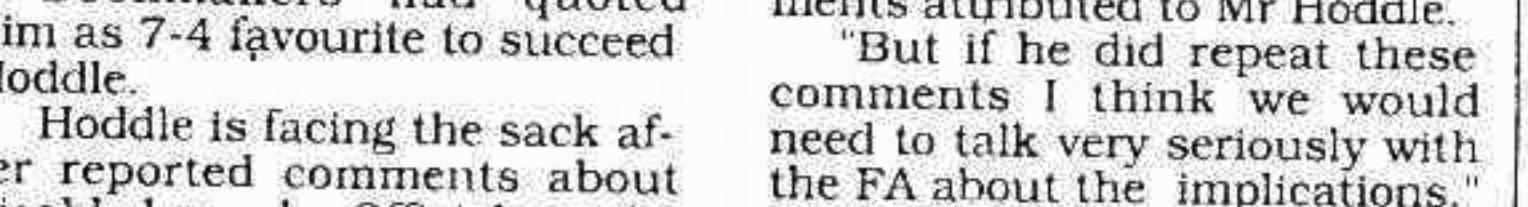
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Its acting chief executive

David Davies said: "There's a considerable need for urgency and there is also a need for considerable thought to be given on this matter."

Hoddle has already been asked to explain himself to acting FA chairman Geoff Thompson.

On Sunday Margaret Hodge, the government minister with responsibility for the disabled and one of Blair's inner circle, said it was "inappropriate" for Hoddle to be England coach.

"Those were not remarks off the cuff made once. We learn today that he has held similar views and expressed them in the past on the radio," she said.

"I think it is inappropriate that he should hold that place and I think his bosses should look at that seriously."

The England team's new sponsor Building Society Nationwide, Monday joined Hoddle's critics, warning that its backing could be withdrawn if he repeated his remarks.

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