

Nat'l chess result

International Master Reefat Bin Sattar of Bangladesh Biman became runner-up in the 25th national chess championship beating Enamul Hossain Rajib of Titus Club by 2-0 games in a position-deciding play off yesterday, reports UNB.

The playoff through active chess in the afternoon was needed as both Reefat and Rajib finished joint second securing eleven and half points on completion of the 15-round matches.

Rajib, who lost both the games in the playoff session, was placed third.

Earlier, International Master Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman securing 12 points emerged champion of the prestigious national meet for the fifth occasion.

M'singh hockey

MYMENSINGH, May 8: Monami Kirra Pathshala and Surjomukhi Niketan won their respective matches in the Mymensingh First Division hockey league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

In the first match, Monami beat Al Helal Club 2-0 while Surjomukhi also defeated Siraj Boys Club by identical margin in another match in the afternoon.

Palash scored both goals for Monami while Sumon netted the two goals for Surjomukhi.

UEFA confirms Bologna's punishment

GENEVA, May 8: Bologna saw UEFA confirm their punishment on Friday for their role in the April 20 fracas which marred the end of the Italians' UEFA Cup semifinal second leg against Marseille, reports AFP.

Bologna were told their 100,000-dollar fine stood, as do bans for Roberto Mangone, who received a five-match suspension, while Giancarlo Marochi remains banned for four games.

However, Gianpiero Maini had a three match suspension cut to one.

Marseille, who play next Wednesday's final against Parma in Moscow, were fined 80,000 dollars and withdrew a planned appeal earlier this week.

The French side's World Cup-winning striker Christophe Dugarry had a five-match ban slapped on him and Hamada Jambay received a four-match ban, meaning they both miss the final.

Marseille coach Roland Courbis was fined 3,000 dollars for describing the referee as an "idiot" in a post-match interview.

Bologna were eliminated after Marseille's Laurent Blanc converted a highly-controversial 88th-minute penalty following an innocuous challenge by Bologna goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli on Marseille striker Florian Maurice.

Marochi was sanctioned for his outrageous tackle on Marseille's Titi Camara that resulted in his dismissal just after Blanc's penalty whereas the other Italian players were banned for incidents during the brawl that marred the end of the game.

The Marseille players were pelted with missiles by Bologna fans as they left the field and some responded by making gestures to the Italian fans.

Keegan a traitor?

LONDON, May 8: Supporters of English Second Division champions Fulham accused former coach Kevin Keegan of betraying the club by leaving to take up the England post fulltime, reports AFP.

Ken Myers, editor of Fulham's independent fanzine 'From the Terrace', lashed Keegan for his walk-out a year from the end of his contract, fearing it might spark a mass exodus of players from the club.

"Many Fulham fans feel betrayed by Keegan," Myers said. "He promised not once but several times that he would stay to fulfil his contract but he's done what he always swore he would never ever do and that's hard to accept."

"He has chosen to run away from the chairman, the club, the team and the fans who have backed him to the hilt."

"What really concerns the fans is the players. Were they only here because of Keegan and do they really want to play for Fulham without him?"

Fulham, who through Egyptian owner Mohammed Al-Fayed are one of the ggeest spending clubs outside the Premiership, had been hoping that Keegan would see out the remainder of his contract.

But the former England and Liverpool star striker admitted

on Thursday that combining the two roles was not feasible. "I think the way it's going, it possibly will be a clean break," said Keegan.

"I think what we've got to get back to is that you can't do the two jobs, that's what I've found,

erating officer and I took a manager in and then because that didn't work, I've gone in for a year and I've really enjoyed that year, I think the fans, and I know the players have."

"I've thought about it long and hard - I haven't just come out. "If I had gone straight away and taken the England job with 12 games left for Fulham and Fulham hadn't got promoted, that would have been the biggest disservice that I could have done to the people who work at Fulham and the players and the fans."

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"But having had it for two games, my heart tells me to take it and if the Fulham fans do not understand that, and I'm sure there will be plenty who don't, then I have to say to them well I'm sorry, that is the way I feel. I can't be more honest than that."

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