

## StanChart school chess starts today

Sports Reporter

The Second Standard Chartered Bank School chess tournament 2000 begins at the NSC chess room from Sunday.

Around 200 students including seven from neighbouring India will take part in the nine-round Swiss League competition, organised by the Chess Federation. The mega school level event offers 20,000 taka cash awards.

A press conference in connection with the tournament was held at the NSC conference room yesterday. BCF general secretary Syed Sujauddin Ahmed, Setu Vekateshwaran, the Chief Executive of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, and tournament committee chairman Saleh Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

The federation has estimated a budget of Taka one lakh for the tournament. Sujauddin revealed.

"Similar tournaments will also be arranged in Chittagong and Sylhet next month," he added.

## Cricket coaching

Sports Reporter

A long-term cricket coaching for the youngsters gets underway at the Dhannondi Indoor cricket centre adjacent to Abahani Krira Chakra tomorrow.

Bangladesh Cricket Coaching (BCC) will impart training to the interested cricketers. Willing participants have been asked to contact Halim Babu and Khokon at the venue from 9 am to 12 noon.

## U-14 cricketers named

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-member national team that will take part in the Under-17 Asia Cup Cricket Championship, to be held in Pakistan July 15.

Nafis Iqbal, who scored a century for Chittagong in the National League, will lead Bangladesh in the first of its kind meet that will also feature India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan.

The young right-hander is a nephew of former national captain Akram Khan and plays for Wari Club in the Dhaka League.

The final fourteen are: Nafis Iqbal (captain), Nasiruddin Faruq, Shariful Alam, Ashraf, Shariful Islam, Ali Arman Rajon, Kuntal Canda, Anwar Hossain (wicketkeeper), Prosenjit Bosh, Monjurul Islam, Sabuj Islam, Mahabubul Islam, Sharif and Talha Jubair.

Stand-by: Iftihaq Javed, Sajid Hasan, Gazi Salahuddin and Sazidur Rahman.

## U-15 cricketers off to Malaysia

Sports Reporter

A 16-member Bangladesh team left the capital for Malaysia yesterday to take part in the inaugural Asian Cricket Council Under-15 Cricket tournament, starting in Kuala Lumpur today.

The seven-nation tournament, to be played on round robin league format in the first, also involves India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Thailand and hosts Malaysia begins in Kuala Lumpur today.

## TEAMS

Kamrul Hasan Imou (captain), Kazi Hasibul Haque, Nafis Ahmed, Mahbubul Islam, Mahmudullah Riad, Arafat Sunny, Alangir Rana, Golam Rahman, Anwar Hossain, Rubaiyat Haque, Arif Hossain, Safaq Al-Zabir, Tayebur Rahman and Ibrahim Sagar.

Officials: Alam Chowdhury (manager) and Alok Cakravarty (coach).

## Under-16 booters returning today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh under-16 football team, which won the Group Four qualifying round of Asian Youth (U-16) Championship in Jamshedpur on June 26 returns home in the morning today.

In the four-team qualifiers, Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka and hosts India by an identical 1-0 margin and drew with Pakistan 2-2 to finish atop the table with seven points.

With the success, Bangladesh have qualified for the ten-team final round, which begins in Vietnam next September.

The team is expected to reach Zia International Airport from Calcutta at 10 am.

## Obscene cricket!

HUDDERSFIELD, England, June 29: A full cricket team was caught red handed, or possibly red-faced, playing a naked midnight game in the Scholes Cricket Club near Huddersfield in northern England, reports AFP.

The cries of joy from the players, aged between 30 and 40, woke up people in neighbouring houses, who, after watching the match, called the police.

A West Yorkshire police spokesman said: "A member of the public reported naked men apparently playing cricket. An officer spoke to the men, who were suitably advised regarding their conduct."

No arrests were made after the incident, which apparently was a celebration of the club's victory in a league.

## Rivaldo rescues Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 29:

Brazil salvaged a 1-1 draw with Uruguay in their South African World Cup qualifier on Wednesday thanks to an 85th minute penalty scored by Rivaldo, reports Reuters.

The Brazilian captain saved his team from their first ever home defeat in a World Cup qualifier when he fired home from the spot after substitute Guilherme had been pulled down.

The penalty ended 79 minutes of agony for Brazil, who fell behind to a Dario Silva goal in the sixth minute in front of a hostile 70,000-strong home crowd.

Brazil dominated most of the second half but were repeatedly denied by Uruguay goalkeeper Fabian Carini who made a string of fine saves, each seemingly more miraculous than the previous one.

The result left Brazil with eight points from four games and Uruguay 10.

Silva's early strike brought back ghosts from the past for Brazil, who suffered their most famous defeat almost exactly 50 years ago against the same opponents in the same stadium. On that occasion, Uruguay's 2-1 win in the decisive match of the 1950 World Cup silenced a 200,000 crowd and left Brazil in a state of near mourning.

Silva, based with Spanish side Malaga, was gifted his goal thanks to a blunder by veteran Aldair. The AS Roma defender slipped while trying to control the ball on his chest, allowing Silva to steal the ball and finish by placing his shot wide of Dida.

The Brazilian crowd quickly got on the backs of their team, in particular Aldair who was jeered every time he touched the ball and greeted with chants of "Aldair, leave the pitch" after another miscue in the 16th minute.

Uruguay coach Daniel Pasarella gave his Brazilian counterpart Wanderley Luxemburgo a tactical lesson in the first half. Brazil's players appeared unsure of their position and role on the pitch and frequently passed the ball straight to their

opponents.

Brazil had lost their previous match at the famous stadium, when they were beaten 1-0 in a friendly by an Argentina team coached by Passarella in 1998.

The Brazilians became nervous as the first half went on and full-back Roberto Carlos should have been sent off for an awful sliding tackle on Fabian O'Neill in the 43rd minute but escaped with a yellow. Emerson Ferreira and Antonio Carlos were also involved in several off-the-ball elbowing and pushing incidents.

Half time was greeted with



another resounding jeer and when coach Luxemburgo decided to bring on Alex and Guilherme for Ronaldinho Gaucho and Savio after the break, the crowd chanted "idiot, idiot."

But Brazil took control in the second half, laying siege to the Uruguay goal and forcing over a dozen corners.

Carini made diving saves at the feet of Francia and Alex and in the 55th minute a Roberto Carlos free kick was deflected wide by a defender's toes. From the corner which followed, Uruguay cleared the ball off the line with Brazil claiming handball.

Carini made another flying

save to turn away a long-range drive by Vampeta and further miraculous reflex saves at point blank range to deny Rivaldo, saving the latter with his knees.

Rivaldo's goal saved Brazil a point but did not prevent them from getting another chorus of jeers as they left the field.

### VENEZUELA BEAT BOLIVIA

In Maracaibo, underdogs Venezuela earned their first points — and scored their first goals — in the World Cup qualifiers with a resounding 4-2 victory over Bolivia.

Bolivia, who have only one point from four matches, started the game brightly with Erwin Sanchez's free kicks threatening the Venezuela goal several times.

But Venezuela, whose last world Cup qualifying win was against Ecuador seven years ago, forced their way into the game and took the lead when Miguel Vitali scored from close range in the 23rd minute.

Venezuela increased their lead in the 39th minute when striker Ruberto Moran forced in a cross by Edson Tortolero.

Bolivia's attacking options increased when Jaime Moreno came on for Joaquin Botero at halftime. Five minutes after coming on the US-based striker received the ball on the right and scored with a shot which went in off the crossbar.

Bolivia equalised in the 59th minute when Julio Cesar Baldi scored a shot after a goalmouth scramble.

But two minutes later, Venezuela were gifted a third goal when goalkeeper Carlos Fernandez threw the ball straight to Moran. His shot was parried by Fernandez, only for Giovanni Savarese to slide in the rebound.

Moran was then sent off for not moving back at a free kick, but in the 69th minute the ever-troublesome Gabriel Urdaneta won a penalty and Edson Tortolero scored from the spot.

Bolivia were also reduced to 10 men when Luis Cristaldo was sent off for elbowing Urdaneta.

Carini made another flying

## WICB finds Lara clean

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 29: The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has dismissed allegations by a South African businessman that former West Indies captain Brian Lara bet on matches seven years ago, reports Reuters.

After reviewing allegations that Lara bet and supplied information to a bookmaker during a 1993 triangular tournament in South Africa, the WICB issued a statement saying it was satisfied the stories were false.

"In the light of evidence in possession of the WICB, which directly contradicts these allegations, the WICB is satisfied that Lara is innocent of any wrongdoing in this matter," the WICB statement said. The WICB said a key piece of evidence that led to their conclusion was an affidavit in which the South African bookmaker who was alleged to have placed Lara's bets and received information from him denied that this occurred.

"We are satisfied that no further action by the Board is warranted and our conclusions will be submitted to the International Cricket Council (ICC)," the statement said.

"We commend Lara for the dignity and composure that he has shown in the face of these allegations and media scrutiny. The WICB will continue to give him and the rest of the West Indies team our fullest support," the WICB said.

Earlier this month Lara, who is due to play against England in the second Test at Lord's which starts today, dismissed the allegations as rubbish.

"I get very frustrated," said Ferreira whose verbal assault on the umpire, after he overruled a serve on set point, could be heard clearly by television viewers.

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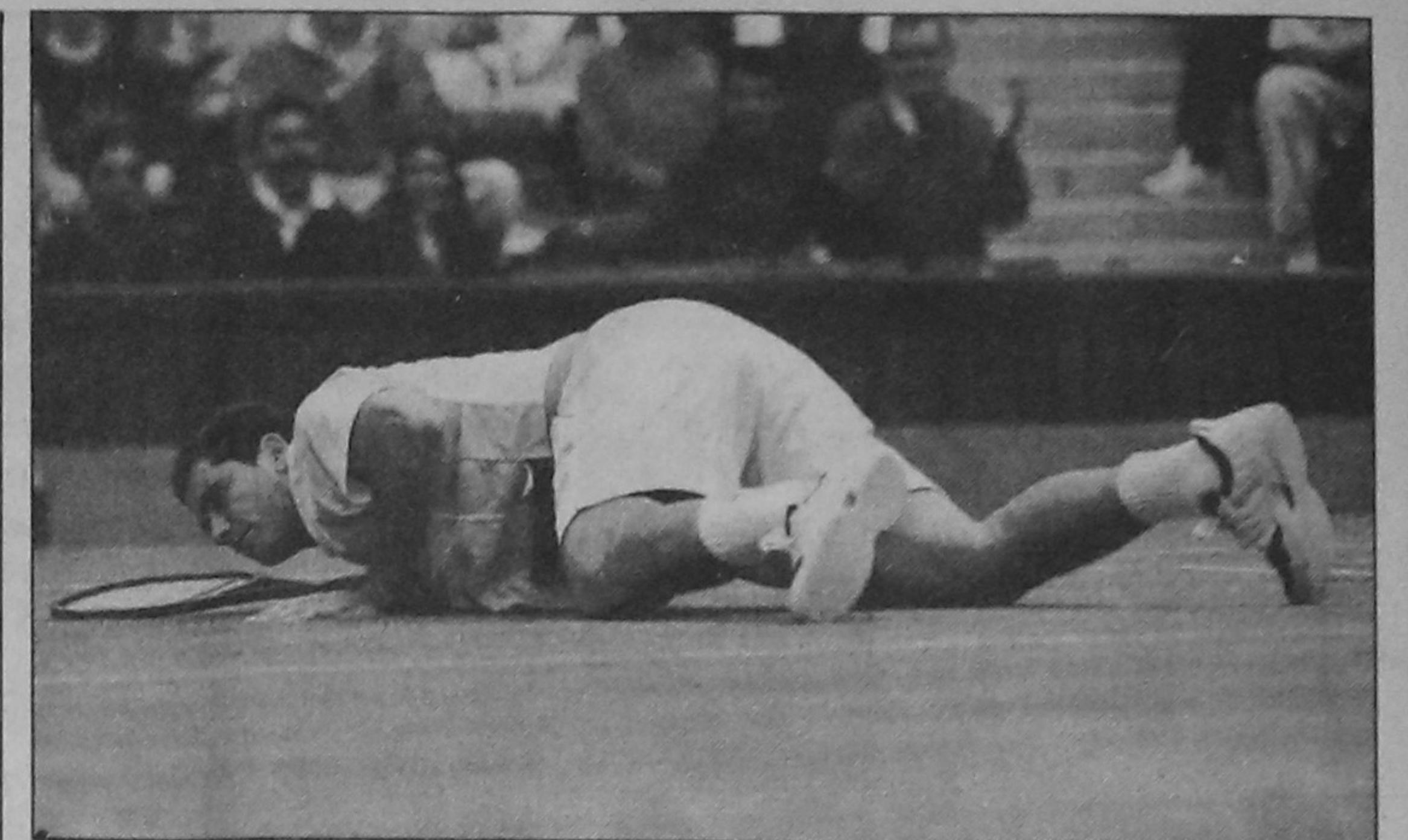
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FAILS AND FALLS: American superstar Pete Sampras in on the ground after failing to reach for a return against Karol Kucera of Slovakia during their Wimbledon second round engagement on June 28.

—AFP photo

## Krajicek, Martinez stumble



LONDON, June 29: Former champions Richard Krajicek and Conchita Martinez were knocked out in the second round at Wimbledon on Wednesday while world number two Magnus Norman was battered into submission by a complete unknown, reports Reuters.

Krajicek, champion in 1996, was beaten by Wayne Ferreira 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 after the South African pumped himself up by swearing at the umpire after an overrule cost him the first set.

"I get very frustrated," said Ferreira whose verbal assault on the umpire, after he overruled a serve on set point, could be heard clearly by television viewers.

The Swede, playing his 55th match of the year, was so dispirited by the penultimate game of his 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 defeat that he asked a ball girl to play a rally for him.

Seven men's seeds have now fallen in the first three days of the championships — six of them in the top half of the draw which means defending champion Pete Sampras has only one seed, Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, between him and the final.

Sampras, going for a record 13th Grand Slam title, beat Slovakia's Karol Kucera 7-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in falling light on Centre Court after having his left ankle strapped heavily in the third set.

The 28-year-old American was taken to hospital after the match where his inflamed foot was given a scan. His injury will be "re-evaluated" on Thursday morning. Organisers said.

Martina Navratilova, outplayed Martinez who looked sluggish, committing uncharacteristic errors especially in the second set when her opponent

rushed to a 5-0 lead.

"It's almost too hard to believe," said the Canadian. "It's Wimbledon and she's coming off the final of the French Open ... it hasn't sunk in yet."

Jeyeselan, just 1.57 metres tall, has never progressed beyond the second round of a Grand Slam tournament before.

Former men's finalist Cedric Pioline, seeded sixth and ranked 231 places above unknown Belarusian Vladimir Volchikov, lost 6-3, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 to the qualifier.

Enqvist won a place in the third round by beating Spaniard Francisco Clavet 7-6, 7-6, 5.

The Williams sisters were both on court, but not for very long as they swept into the third round in superlative form.

Fifth seed Venus demolished world number 20 Ai Sugiyama 6-1, 6-4 in 65 minutes on court one, about twice the time it took eighth seed Serena to pummel Wimbledon debutante Yvette Basting into submission, 6-1, 6-0.