

National TT Ansars grab boys' crown

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Ansars clinched the boys' team title of the 26th National Table Tennis Competition beating Narail DSA 3-0 in the final at the Jessore Gymnasium yesterday.

Earlier Ansars outplayed Gaibandha 3-0 while Narail DSA defeated Dinajpur DSA also 3-0 in the semifinals.

Soma and Lopa of Bangladesh Biman won the girls' doubles crown defeating Tinni and Tania pair of Narail DSA 3-0 in the final at the same venue yesterday.

The Biman's pair eliminated Jasmine and Soheli pair of Narail 3-0 in the first semifinal while Narail's pair defeated Nimia and Tithi of Joypurhat 3-0 in the other semifinal to book seat in the final.

Bangladesh Biman confirmed women's doubles semifinal berth as Group A champions beating Gaibandha DSA 3-0 while another pair of Bangladesh Biman moved into the semis as a "Group B" champions defeating Bangladesh Ansars 3-2.

In the men's team event, Bangladesh Biman outplayed Joypurhat 3-0. Rajshahi brought down Jessore DSA 3-0 in "Group A" matches while Dhaka DSA beat Feni DSA 3-0 while Ansar overpowered Munshiganj 3-0 in Group B affairs.

Shabbir owes it to Holding

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan paceman Shabbir Ahmed, who claimed a five-wicket haul on Saturday on his Test debut against Bangladesh, has paid tribute to West Indies fast bowling great Michael Holding for reviving his career.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board sent me to Holding to work out any deficiency in my bowling action four years ago, and his advice helped me a lot," said Shabbir, who took figures of five for 48 as Bangladesh were bowled out for 274 in their second innings.

"If I had not gone to get Holding's help, perhaps my career would have been affected."

Shabbir was reported twice by International Cricket Council (ICC) match officials for a suspect bowling action in 1999 after taking part in one-day international tournaments in Toronto and Sharjah.

His case was referred to the ICC bowling action review committee in November of that year.

"Even when I was reported for my action, I never gave up hope and worked hard on modifying it," said the 27-year-old, who made his one-day international debut at Toronto in 1999.

"I lost a couple of yards of pace because of the modification process, but I have covered that with my height," added the six-foot four-inch bowler from Khanewal in Punjab.

Shabbir ripped through the late Bangladesh batting on Saturday with a spell of 3.1-0-7-4 as the last five wickets fell for 23 runs in 33 balls.

One day

FROM PAGE 13 have set a certain standard that can be improved. I think they all know that", he said.

When Whitmore dominated the briefing his captain Khaled Mahmud had little to offer in terms of words after his own disappointing performance with bat and ball.

"I didn't perform which was expected of me. I didn't bowl well and my batting also went wrong somewhere. But without considering that, I think my team played very well," said Mahmud.

Tennis will never be the same without him

AFP, New York

Pete Sampras will go out a winner. Ending the greatest career in men's tennis history, the 14-time Grand Slam champion will formally retire here Monday at the US Open in a ceremony at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Two weeks beyond his 32nd birthday, the American legend will serve up an emotional farewell on the same hardcourt surface where he beat arch-rival Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 last year for his fifth US Open crown.

"That's a fitting place for him to end it," said retired US great John McEnroe. "To me, Pete is right up there with the greatest who ever played."

Sampras won his 64th career title and rose to 20-14 against Agassi in their rivalry, including a 4-1 mark when the two met for Grand Slam titles.

"Pete was the best I have ever played," Agassi said.

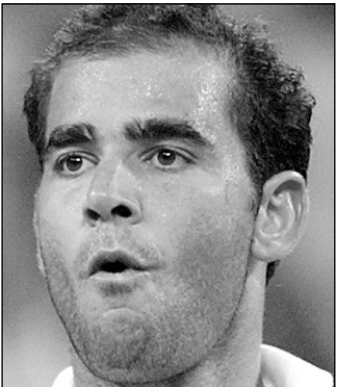
"I will always miss that. I don't think anything could ever live up to that for the rest of my career."

The victory snapped a two-year title drought for Sampras, who had not won since breaking Roy Emerson's career Slam singles title record at 13 in 2000 at Wimbledon, dumping Australian star Pat Rafter in the final despite tendinitis in his left foot.

"To pull off what he did, break Emerson's record, not win a tournament for two years and win an Open, it's hard to imagine you can go any higher," McEnroe said. Sampras married actress

Brigitte Wilson shortly after the 2000 US Open and became a father last November when she gave birth to son Christian.

While Agassi's career featured extreme highs and lows, Sampras



PETE SAMPRAS

stayed at a stunningly high level for most of his 15 years on the ATP Tour, finishing atop the rankings for an unprecedented six consecutive years from 1993 through 1998.

With a powerful serve and volley style and a gentleman's manner on and off the court, Sampras matched Ken Rosewall as the only men to win Slam titles in their teens, 20s and 30s.

"He was just one of the most graceful players of all time," said rising star Andy Roddick, the 20-year-old American whose power game makes him the most Sampras-like of the new breed.

"The bigger the match, the better he played."

No player owned Wimbledon like Sampras, who captured seven titles on the hallowed grass of the All-England Club. From 1993 to 2000 he was 53-1 at Wimbledon, failing to capture the crown only in 1996.

The first US Open crown for "Pistol Pete" came at age 19 and included victories over Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe and Agassi. Sampras won the 1994 and 1997 Australian Open titles and the US Open crown in 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1996.

But Sampras never captured the French Open, the red clay of Roland Garros working against his big-serving game to deny him a career Grand Slam.

In 13 tries, Sampras' best French Open result was a 1996 semi-final run that included three five-set triumphs before a loss to Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Sampras lost only four Slam finals, two of them here in 2000 and 2001 after valiant battles to the final. Russia's Marat Safin stopped Sampras in 2000 and Aussie Lleyton Hewitt ousted him in 2001.

But Sampras won an epic encounter with Agassi here in a 2001 quarterfinal, outlasting his rival 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/5) in a match that inspired standing ovations and neither man could muster a service break.

Sampras triumphed over adversity, the greatest being the death from brain cancer of his coach and friend Tim Gullikson, to whom Sampras dedicated his 1995 US Open finals triumph over Agassi.

College b'ball semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinals of the First Europa College Basketball Championship take place at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium today.

Mastermind College faces St Joseph's College in the first match at 4 pm and Notre Dame College meets with Khulna College in the second semifinal at 5.30 pm.

St Joseph's edged past Scholastica College 63-60 to reach in the last four yesterday. The keenly-contested match was locked 30-30 in the first half.

Munna caged 29 and Imran 19 for St Joseph's while Mamdu scored 17 for Scholastica.

In the other match, Notre Dame College handed Academia College a crushing 83-22 defeat after dominating the first half 26-9.

Faruque was the top-scorer for the winners with 22 while Rashedul contributed 18 and Rocky 15. Wahid scored seven and Mahub six points for the losers.

Nipa can't win

SPORTS REPORTER

National women's champion FIDE Master Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa lost her eighth round game in the Asian Women's Chess Championship at Calicut in India yesterday.

She lost to Lakshmi Praneetha of India and remained on 1.5 points.

Davenport hands Capriati title

AFP, New Haven

There was a lot of pain involved in Jennifer Capriati ending her title drought -- mostly other people's pain.

Capriati won her first title in more than a year Saturday when Lindsay Davenport retired with a foot injury in the second set of their final at the 625,000-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament here.

The third-seeded Capriati was leading 6-2, 4-0 when Davenport, who was limping, ended the match. Seeded No. 1, Davenport has been bothered by a painful nerve problem in her left foot, a condition called Morton's Neuroma.

Super 6 brace

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"Even without Parvez I think we have taken adequate steps to prepare for the battles ahead," he said.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the meet where 18 recipients of the National Sports Award will be led without the ground by the players of Dolaipar and Residential Model schools.

Bangladesh Television will provide live coverage of all the matches.

The sponsors Nitol-Tata group will provide fifty buses everyday to carry the fans free of charge to the venue from the Bangabandhu National Stadium. However before boarding the buses they must have in their possession a stadium ticket.

Moulvibazar Wanderers has been billed along with Abahani Krira Chakra and Chittagong Mohammedan in Group A while Mukti-jodha Sangsad, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Arambagh Krira Sangha are featured in Group B. After the round robin league, the Group A champions will take on Group B runners-up in the first semifinal on September 1 while the second semifinal will be take place the following day between the Group B champions and Group A runners-up. The final is on September 5.

His tons

FROM PAGE 13

Miandad's nephew, Faisal Iqbal, has not performed.

"Number three is a pressure position but the more pressure I feel the more I do," said Hameed, 25, a consistent performer from the northwestern city of Peshawar.

"I want to be a match winner for Pakistan and play for a long time."

PAKISTAN DIARY

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when he scored 133 and 121 not out against Sri Lanka at the Ghaddafi Stadium in 1998-99.

Overall it was the 53rd instance of scoring hundreds in both innings of a match.

For the record former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar stands alone. The little master has done it thrice.

US Open starts

FROM PAGE 13

Lleyton Hewitt, who has sunk to sixth in the seedings, wants to revive his once-mighty form.

Agassi, at 33, is the oldest man here and ever atop the ATP rankings. He also has the speed, stamina and return skills to capture a third US Open crown.

"It doesn't matter how old you are. It matters what you bring to the game," said Roddick, who has overtaken Agassi and Federer to lead the season-long ATP Champions Race.

Roddick, one week shy of his 21st birthday, has been the ATP's hottest player over the past five weeks, winning 20 of 21 matches and titles at Indianapolis, Montreal and Cincinnati to bolster his confidence.

"I probably didn't go into the last two Opens to win the tournament. I probably went in to make a good run," Roddick said.

"I definitely want to try to take this title. I know that's big talk but I've played pretty well."

"I feel like I kind of deserve my place as one of the top players, and hopefully it will translate into this some good tennis. I definitely want to try to step up to the occasion and play well."

Roddick is 30-2 since naming ex-Agassi coach Brad Gilbert as his new coach. But one of those losses came in a Washington semi-final to Britain's Tim Henman, who again stands in Roddick's path here in the



PHOTO: AFP

Former Olympic champion Gail Devers (C) of the US finishes second, ahead of Jamaican Judyth Kitson (L) and South African Geraldine Pillay in heat one of the women's 100m quarterfinals at the ninth IAAF World Athletics Championships in Paris on Saturday.

Kluft, Adere shine in Paris

Athletics

AFP, Paris

Sweden's Carolina Kluft and Berhane Adere of Ethiopia were in record-breaking form on the first day of the world athletics championships on Saturday but while the latter already has gold the former has a hard day ahead of her on Sunday if she is also to be crowned world champion.

While Berhane won the women's 10,000m in a championship record of 30min 04.18sec, 20-year-old Kluft set four personal bests in the heptathlon to take a lead of nearly 200 points over local heroine Eunice Barber in the decisive day.

Ecuador's Jefferson Perez was also in record-breaking form as he set a world best in the men's 20 kilometre walk but there is to be no 100,000 dollars bonus as it is only given out for a world record.

Later a man with a darker past, 27-year-old Belarussian Andrey Mikhnevich, found some form of redemption when he won the shot title 20 days after returning from a doping ban imposed after he finished 10th in the 2001 final.

Another controversial male athlete was also to the fore.

The man formerly known as Stephen Cherono, until he changed

nationality from Kenyan to Qatari and assumed the name of Saif Saaeed Shaheen with the promise of 1,000 dollars a month for life, displayed little brotherly love after his sibling Abraham finished fourth in the same heat of the 3,000 metres steeplechase.

The 30-year-old Adere beat home compatriot Worknesh Kidane while Yinglie Sun of China took bronze with both running personal bests.

Adere, who took silver in the event in the 2001 championships, seized the lead on the back straight of the final lap from Sun and quickly ensured there was no comeback from the 25-year-old Chinese woman.

Kluft looks set to become the next pin-up of world athletics after setting four personal bests in the four events of the heptathlon.

Barber's hopes of regaining the heptathlon world title she won in 1999 looked good after the morning session but by the end of the first day Kluft seemed to have the title in the bag.

Britain's Olympic champion Denise Lewis lost all chance of winning when she had a dreadful high jump but had improved from 17th to seventh by day's end.

The women's 100m looks like being as open as previously thought after all the favourites made Sunday's semifinals as reigning

champion Zhanna Block edged out home favourite Christine Arron in her quarter, though the French girl was delighted.

They were joined by the in-form Bahamian Chandra Sturrrup and Kelli White of the USA as well as two evergreen veterans Gail Devers and former Jamaican turned Slovenian Merlene Ottey, though the 43-year-old gave a dismissive shake of the head as she came off.

Sturrrup, a former training partner of absent star Marion Jones, was forthright about who was going to win.

Shaheen eased through his 3000m steeplechase heat and brazen as ever declared he had switched allegiance because he felt the job market was better in the Gulf state.

MEDAL TABLE				
Medals table after the first day of the World Athletics Championships on Saturday:				
Country	G	S	B	Total
Ethiopia	1	1	0	2
Belarus	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Spain	0	1	0	1
USA	0	1	0	1
China	0	0	1	1
Russia	0	0	1	1
Ukraine	0	0	1	1

CA goes tough on doping

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Melbourne

Cricket Australia (CA) decided on Sunday that Shane Warne and any other player serving a drug ban would be prevented from training with the state and national squads.

The decision came two days after Warne, Australia's leading wicket-taker, pre-empted any CA Sangha by announcing he would not take part in any formal training for the remaining six months of his ban.

Warne said he would train by himself and with friends but those friends cannot be any of his Australian teammates. His 12-month suspension ends next February.

"In the light of legal opinions from a number of sources, we have reviewed our interpretation of that part of our (anti-doping) policy which says that suspended players should not receive assistance," CA chairman Bob Merriman said in a statement.

"Our previous view had been that attending training, particularly to give help to members of the team, was consistent with both the world-

ing and intention of our policy.

"However, on consideration of argument that attending is a form of assistance, we have reviewed and agreed we should take a broad rather than narrow interpretation of the wording of the policy.

"As such, directors have

teered to not attend training. But the directors believed there was still a principle that needed addressing hence the resolution made at the board meeting.

"This is not an issue about an individual player. This is an issue about getting the ideal right, and the ideal is for drug-free cricket."

CA is continuing to examine a closer alignment with World Anti Doping Authority (WADA) policy, Merriman added.

WADA chairman Dick Pound had described a bid by the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) in July to allow Warne, 33, to train with the national team during his ban as "against the spirit of the game".

Warne, the second highest wicket-taker in Tests with 491 victims, was banned for 12 months after testing positive for diuretics in February, missing Australia's World Cup campaign.

However, the federal government, in support for the WADA, put the squeeze on Cricket Australia by threatening to withhold more than one million (650,000 USD) in funding unless it changed its drug policy.

The government said that practising was tantamount to receiving assistance, which was not allowed under the terms of Cricket



BOB MERRIMAN

resolved that players suspended under the anti-doping policy should not attend training with the national, state or territory or affiliated club teams, and should not train with any Cricket Australia-contracted players.

"In the case of Shane Warne, we note that he has already volun-

opening round.

"He's a very good player. That's where my focus is," Roddick said.

"He did a great job. He just played a solid match. He hit his forehand very well. That was one thing that really surprised me. He was dominating with his forehand."

Dutch delight

FROM PAGE 13

Pakistan won the bronze medal 4-3.

India took the 1-0 lead in the 27th minute through a Jugraj Singh goal (penalty-stroke) which was equalised within the next three minutes by the Pakistan's penalty-corner specialist Sohail Abbas.

In the last minutes of the first period India reclaimed the lead with a brilliant Prabjot Singh goal.

If the first half belonged to the Indians, the second belonged to Pakistan.

In the second half, Kashif Jawad equalised via a penalty-corner.

Deepak Thakur took the Pakistani goalkeeper by surprise in the 48th minute of the game to take the lead again.

With just 23 minutes to go India were 3-2 ahead. But Pakistan snatched victory through first Sohail Abbas in the 61st minute and then Rehan Butt six minutes later.

Earlier in the day, Argentina defeated Germany 2-1 to take fifth place.

Now Angela episode

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Disgraced cricketer Shane Warne has jettied out of Australia with his family ahead of a new sex scandal involving the crisis-prone leg-spinner.

A Melbourne stripper is about to tell all about an affair she claims to have had with 33-year-old Warne, according to the television station that is set to premiere her story.

Warne, his wife Simone and their children left Melbourne late Saturday, apparently bound for London.

He left as exotic dancer Angela Gallagher is due to appear on television's Channel Seven Monday claiming she began an affair with him in May this year.

The fresh controversy follows

South African Helen Cohen Alon's claims that Warne bombarded her with lewd text messages.

Cohen Alon's story prompted Gallagher, 38, a mother of two, to come forward with her own allegations, Channel Seven said.

In claims to be aired by Channel Seven and New Idea magazine, Gallagher alleges Warne pursued and romanced her with mobile phone messages of a sexual nature she described in a promotion for the programme as "pretty full-on".

The relationship ended after three months, she claims.

Gallagher has told Channel Seven she only agreed to go public with the story to save her own marriage.

Previewing the programme, Seven said Gallagher was put through a polygraph test to test her allegations.

Warne on Friday broke his silence to declare he would withdraw from all official training until his

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Evilbird
4 Hailco
7 woon call
7 Part of a Santa costume
12 Spokesman
13 Fleischer
13 Name in Burma's history
14 Monastery
15 British
16 "Inc."
16 Every Brothers hit
18 Dead heat
19 Close-grained wood
20 Pizzazz
22 Appomattox VIP
23 Tibetan monk
27 Under the weather
29 St. George's foe
31 Lauer's show
34 Zoo howler
35 Puts on a pedestal
37 Insana of CNBC
38 Lawless role

39 Gorilla
41 Foot or Shaw
45 Gap
47 Rogret
48 On-third of a Cahn/Slyne song
52 Idaho county
53 O. Henry's twist
54 Fury
55 Yang's opposite
56 Where a cheer isn't a cheer?
57 LP's descendants
58 Farm structure

2 Barnloadment
3 Polygonal bowlds
4 Symbol of an idea
5 "Marco Millions"
6 Bizarre
7 Dog owner's chore
8 Recede
9 Copper head?
10 Dream acronym
11 Eastor purchase
17 On the rocks
21 Pageant winner's accessory
23 Singer Joy

Solution time: 25 mins

DOWN
1 "Shall We Dance?"
22 Singer Joy

WOC TIANJA URGE
ARLA AGUE SOUN
WILLILLES
GORE DEB ASHES
WISH TUB SARTI
NAINAL NOIR
ARTIFESS HALEN
LURE SHOELICES
SEES AURA SEA
ODES MEAT CITY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
18					19					
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			27		28			29	30	
31	32	33						34		
35					36			37		
38					39	40		41	42	43
					45			46		47
48	49	50	51						52	
53						54			55	
56						57			58	

CRYPTOQUIP

S Z F M E U D P Y E K S S Z P M
N Q G X F U V K J P M M P G L N V
M Q L F U X P S M G C S S C P M

" M K E J K E J F N P D F U I "
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN I WAS A LAD I RESIDED ON A FARM. I LIKE TO THINK OF THAT AS MY HAY DAY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals R

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.