

Labrooy, Ratnayake give Lanka flying start

WELLINGTON, Jan 31: Impressive bowling by pacemen Graeme Labrooy and Ramesh Ratnayake gave Sri Lanka the advantage on the first day of a wind-swept first cricket Test with New Zealand today, reports Reuter.

Labrooy and Ratnayake each took four wickets as New Zealand were dismissed for 174 runs. At stumps Sri Lanka were reasonably comfortable at 41 for two.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga won the toss and did not hesitate in sending New Zealand in to bat on a moist grassy wicket in fine but windy conditions.

The wind reached gale force levels in the afternoon, with gusts of up to 135 kph (85 mph).

Balls were blown from the

stumps several times, forcing the umpires to remove them in the hour's play before tea.

The Sri Lankan bowlers quickly took advantage of the conditions, getting the new ball to move both ways off the slow pitch which provided little bounce.

New Zealand were in early trouble, with opener Trevor Franklin falling to a close in catch off Labrooy for just three and his replacement at the wicket, Andrew Jones, being caught behind off Ratnayake for five.

New Zealand were 18 for two and never recovered.

Experienced opener John Wright looked to be settling in well, but he was out to a good catch at second slip by Asanka Gurusinha off Labrooy for 15.

Captain Martin Crowe also made a sound start, but like all the New Zealand batsmen, failed to build a big score as he was caught behind for 30 off 44.

Ken Rutherford (25) and Ian Smith (28) compiled short, entertaining innings in the middle order. But without a large individual contribution, New Zealand were restricted to a modest total.

Wicketkeeper Hashan Tilkeratne took four catches, indicating how well the Sri Lankan bowlers used the conditions. They were supported by good all round fielding.

Sri Lanka began batting without opener Roshan Mahanama, who was forced from the field early in the day after injuring his right hand while fielding at slip. He is expected to bat on Friday.

Although Charith Senanayake was caught behind off Willy Watson without scoring, the Sri Lankans batted fairly comfortably through to stumps.

Tilkeratne, promoted to open the batting, scored a bright 21 off 37 balls before falling to Danny Morrison just before end of play.

Neither Watson nor Morrison seemed to get as much assistance from the drying wicket as the Sri Lankans.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand
Wright c
Gurusinha b Labrooy 15
Franklin c sub (Ajayasingh) b Labrooy 3
Jones c Tilkeratne b Ratnayake 5
Crowe c Tilkeratne b Ratnayake 30
Greatbatch c Gurusinha b Labrooy 13
Rutherford c Tilkeratne b Ratnayake 25
Bradburn c Tilkeratne b Ramaniyake 14
Smith c Senanayake b Ratnayake 28
Pringle lbw b Labrooy 0
Morrison b Ratnayake 13
Watson not out 10
Extras (B-1, LB-7, NB-9, W-1) 18
Total (from 58.2 overs) 174

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-18, 3-33, 4-75, 5-78, 6-108, 7-124, 8-131, 9-150.

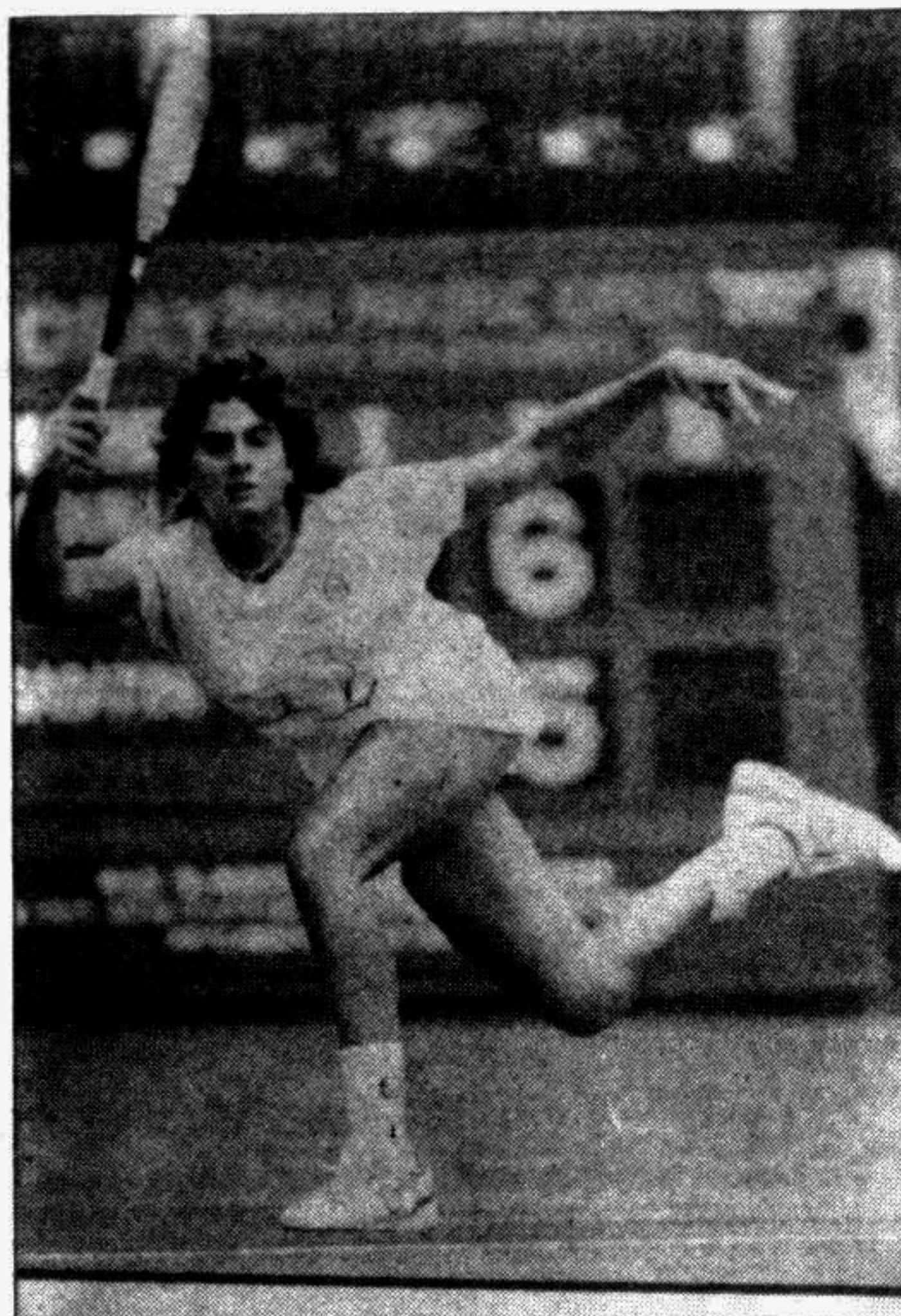
Bowling: O M R W
Ratnayake 18.2 6 45 4 (NB-1)
Labrooy 23 5 68 4 (NB-2, W-1)
Ramaniyake 11 3 39 2 (NB-4)
Warnawera 6 1 14 0 (NB-2)

Sri Lanka
Senanayake c Smith b Watson 0
Tilkeratne c Greatbatch b Morrison 21
Gurusinha not out 17
Aravinda De Silva not out 0
Extras (NB-2, LB-1) 3
Total (for two wickets off 14 overs) 41

To bat: R. Mahanama, A. Ranatunga, Asoka De Silva, R. Ratnayake, G. Labrooy, C. Senanayake, J. Warnawera.

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-41.

Bowling: O M R W
Morrison 7 1 17 1 (NB-2)
Watson 6 0 23 1
Pringle 1 1 0 0



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina balances after returning the ball to Rachel McQuillan of Australia in the first round match of the Today Pan Pacific Open women's tournament, Jan 30. Sabatini won the tough battle, 6-7(5/7), 7-6(7/3), 6-3.

Sabatini stretched

TOKYO, Jan 31: World number one Steffi Graf cruised into the quarter-finals on Wednesday, but US Open champion Gabriela Sabatini struggled through the second day of the Pan Pacific women's indoor tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Seles opted out

TOKYO, Jan 31: Monica Seles, who became the youngest Australian Open women's champion last week, on Thursday withdrew from the Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis Tournament due to shoulder pain, reports AP.

Seles, 17, seeded No. 2, had tears in her eyes as she spoke to reporters.

"I felt pain in my left shoulder when I started to practice this morning. Nothing was wrong yesterday," she said.

She said she hopes to resume play within two or three weeks but will skip exhibition matches in Japan and some other tournaments.

Seles said she had a similar injury in January, 1990.

She was scheduled to meet Kathy Rinaldi of the United States in the second round match of the 350,000 US dollar tournament.

Seles opts out Seles sidelined

Graf, deposed as Australian Open champion last week, showed no ill effects, outlasting 16-year-old fellow German Anke Huber, dubbed "the young Graf", 6-2, 6-3 in a second round match.

Top seed and defending champion here, Graf took just 51 minutes to beat Huber, ranked 24th in the world, in their first ever encounter.

"We have different styles. I thought she (Huber) played better than I expected," Graf told reporters.

Graf will be idle today while her successor as Australian Open champion, Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, plays unseeded American Kathy Rinaldi in her second round match.

World number four Sabatini had a tougher time reaching the second round.

The fifth seed fought for 155 minutes to beat unseeded Australian Rachel McQuillan, ranked 45th in the world, 6-7, (5-7), 7-6 (7-3), 6-3.

Sabatini had easily beaten McQuillan in straight sets in the Australian Open.

"She did not make too many mistakes like she did in the other match," the Argentine said. "She served very well. I was very up and down."

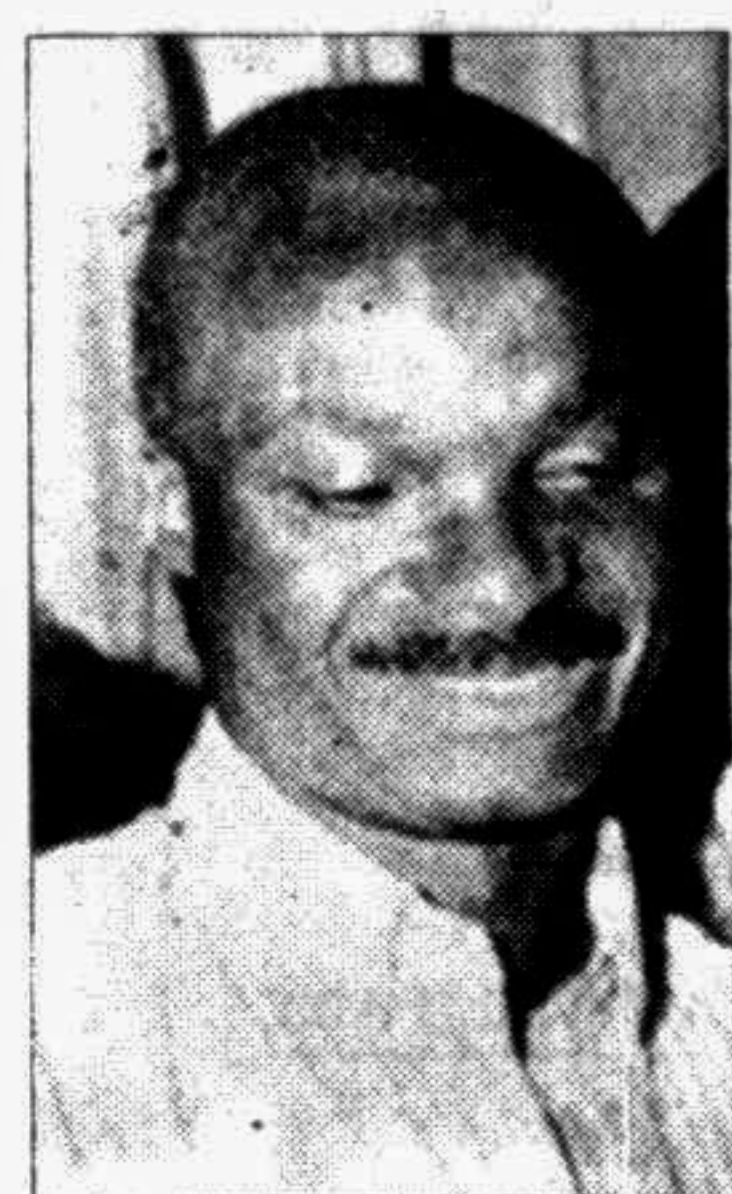
Milla to play at Wembley

LONDON, Jan 31: Roger Milla, one of the most inspirational players at last year's World Cup finals, is making a comeback for Cameroon against England at Wembley next week.

The 38-year-old striker, who obeyed a presidential order to come out of retirement for the World Cup and played a major part in Cameroon's progress to the quarter-finals after scoring four times as a substitute, has been lured back once more.

Milla, who failed to find a European club willing to pay his asking price this season, had said he would not play for his country again. But he was included in the 18-man squad named on Wednesday from the Cameroon training camp in France.

The glamour of playing at Wembley and the prospect of revenge for England's 3-2 extra time victory over Cameroon in the World Cup quarter-finals was enough to persuade Milla



ROGER MILLA to pull on the green, yellow and red stripe one more time. Earlier this month, Milla, whose hip-wiggling dances by the corner flag after scoring during the finals were almost

as delightful as his subtle ball skills, became only the second player to be voted African player of the year twice.

He is likely to play at most 15 minutes against England on Wednesday as he has not played seriously since the World Cup.

Also in the squad is striker Oram Biyik, scorer of the goal which beat defending champion Argentina in the opening match of the World Cup, and Emmanuel Kunde and Eugene Ekeke, scorers of the two goals which took Cameroon to within seven minutes of a semifinal place in Italy.

The only top player missing is Cyrille Makanaky who is injured.

Squad: Joseph-Antoine Bell, Thomas Nkono, Victor Akem N'dip, Bertin Ekwelle, Emmanuel Kunde, Stephen Tawlaw (captain), Benjamin Masing, Jules Onana, Roger Futumba, Thomas Lbith, Andre Kana Biyik, Jean Claude Pagal, Eugene Ekeke, Roger Milla, Louis Meedde, Oman Biyik, Emile Mbouh, Guy Tapoko.

Gower can't appeal

LONDON, Jan 31: Former England cricket captain David Gower has been told he cannot appeal against the 1,000 Pounds Sterling (1,900 dollars) fine imposed on him for a aeroplane joy ride during an Australian tour match last week, reports Reuter.

English Test and County Cricket Board spokesman Peter Smith said on Wednesday: "Under the terms of the England contract which Gower fully accepted when he signed the agreement last September to tour Australia and New Zealand on behalf of his country, he has not right of appeal against the fine."

Gower had said he was alarmed by the size of the fine and felt justified in appealing.

Gower and team mate John Morris were each fined 1,000 Pounds by tour manager Peter Lush for "buzzing" the Carrara Oval

Nissan Cup tennis begins

Sports Reporter

The fourth Nissan Cup tennis championships got underway at the Gulshan Club court yesterday with a dozen men's singles qualifying matches being decided on the opening day.

The men's singles first round matches begin today at the club courts while the boys' under-12 and under-16 qualifiers will start at the National Tennis Complex this morning.

One hundred and fifty-five players are taking part in the eight-day meet which offers a total prize money of Tk 60,000 for the various categories.

Organised by Gulshan Club, the meet is sponsored by Pacific Motors Ltd.

Tejgaon runners-up

Sports Reporter

Tejgaon Agragami became runners-up beating hapless Shishu Kishore XI 2-0 in the Delta Ice Second Division hockey league match yesterday at the hockey stadium.

But Tejgaon's win came in a most bizarre manner. Shishu Kishore had to forfeit the match after only 20 minutes of play. Once again they started the match with only seven players, and were reduced to six man after twenty minute as one of the Shishu Kishore player was forced to leave the field through injury. The umpires had to abandon the same in Tejgaon's favour because under the by-laws of the league, a side must have a minimum of seven of the regulation eleven players for play to continue.

Twice before in the super league Shishu Kishore faced similar situations. Against Rak-

BSJA workshop on volleyball

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA), as part of its programme to familiarise its members with the finer points of various games and sports for improving the general standard of sports reporting in the country, yesterday organised a workshop on volleyball at its Dhaka Stadium premises.

Former national star Khandker Abul Hossain and volleyball organiser-cum-umpire Munirul Haq gave lectures and answered queries regarding different aspects of the game.

A week ago the BSJA arranged a similar workshop on cricket.

Nissan Cup tennis begins

Sports Reporter

The semifinal matches of First and Second Division volleyball leagues will be held this afternoon at the volleyball stadium.

Bangladesh Rifles will take on Power Development Board in one of the First Division semifinals, while in another, Titas Club will meet Bangladesh Police. Both semifinals start at 3:30 pm.

East End Boys and Dhaka Wanderers Club will be clashing in one of the semifinals of the Second Division league. Victoria Sporting Club and Jiban Bima Krira Sangha will face off in the other semifinal.

The Second Division semifinals begin at 5:30 pm.

T & T sports ends

Sports Reporter

The annual two-day athletics competition of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (T&T Board) concluded yesterday at the Board's Mohakhali playground.

Revenue and Accounts team became champions bagging 19 medals. Dhaka Telecommunication Zone team were second with 18 medals.

Shahnaz Begum Parveen of the Revenue and Accounts team established a new T & T record in the women's 200 metres race.

Volleyball semis today

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Fifth Test begins today

PERTH, Australia, Jan 31: The Ashes have been won and lost in the 65th series between cricket's oldest rivals, Australia and England, but plenty remains at stake in their fifth and final Test, starting here Friday, reports AFP.

Australia, holding a 2-0 lead in the series, are keen to finish the summer with an emphatic 3-0 advantage before flying to the West Indies on February 13 to take on Viv Richards' team in what is being dubbed the unofficial world championship.

England, meanwhile, are desperate to salvage some pride and complete one of their least productive missions 'Down Under' with a victory.

The heatwave of the past few days is expected to ease by the start of the match, but shade temperatures which have topped 43 degrees centigrade (109.4 degrees Fahrenheit) several times, have created huge problems for ground staff and it remains to be seen if the pitch will be up to Test standard.

A storm of criticism was directed at the pitch prepared

for the last first class match at the ground two weeks ago.

Huge cracks had developed in the wicket, with one big enough to accept the base of a cricket bat.

Very hot weather just before and during that game was blamed for the state of the pitch, which had been strongly criticised by Australian vice-captain Geoff Marsh and Simon O'Donnell, who were leading Western Australia and Victoria respectively in a Shield game.

England will go into the final match of their tour feeling heartened by their free-scoring batting performance in the Adelaide Test earlier in the week when, for just a fleeting moment or two, there seemed to be a very outside chance of an England win.

Coupled with the exhilarating performances of Graham Gooch, young opener Michael Atherton and the beefy Allan Lamb, there are question marks over several of the Australian bowlers.

Lean left-arm champion Bruce Reid has a sore left heel. Merv Hughes has seriously bruised buttocks and Craig McDermott has a sore right knee as well as influenza.

The good news for Australia is that veteran fast-medium bowler Terry Alderman, who has been suffering from a strained groin and was named 12th man in Adelaide, is now 100 per cent fit.

He is a definite starter on his home ground where he has such a superb record.

England also has problems in the pace bowling department. Big Angus Fraser still has a hip injury and Martin Becknell has torn chest muscles.

These troubles appear to boost the prospects of replacement pace bowler Phil Newport, who arrived here only two days ago after answering an SOS call from Adelaide.

Newport was in Sri Lanka with the England A side.

He has played in two Tests for England, including one against Australia in 1989, and has captured 9 wickets at an average of 37.67.

Because of the injury complications, both teams are expected to be finalised late today or early Friday.

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Becker faces a new task

LONDON, Jan 31: Boris Becker, proudly carrying his new status as world number one, will have to deal with the pressure of his position when he leads Germany into the Davis Cup tennis world group first round against Italy this weekend, reports Reuter.

Becker, who led the former West Germany to cup triumphs in 1988 and 1989, did not take part in the competition last year to concentrate on his pursuit of the number one ranking.

He achieved it with his victory in the Australian Open final over Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia on Sunday.

German team coach Niki Pille fears the tie may be too soon and that Becker may be under pressure playing in front of a demanding German public in Dortmund.

The match may be even more difficult than before, because what Boris needs after the strain of Melbourne is a bit of peace and quiet and I fear that is exactly what he won't get in Dortmund," Pille said.

The Italians are not an easy draw and showed how good they are with their 3-2 victory over Sweden last year.

Michael Stich is expected to play the second singles for Germany, whose other team members are Carl-Uwe Steeb and Eric Jelen.

They are stronger on paper than the Italian squad of Omar Camporese, although he took Becker to a mammoth five-setter, in Melbourne, Australian Open quarter finalist, Cristiano Caratti, Paolo Canè and Diego Nargiso.

The United States, holders of the Cup following their December triumph over Australia in the final, have had the start of their defence delayed by the Gulf war.

The tie against Mexico in Mexico City has been provisionally reset for March 29-31, as has the match between France and Israel in Marseille and six regional ties.

Australia are at home to



BORIS BECKER pose a problem for both teams so soon after the Australian open. Edberg is expected to team up with Peter Lindgren in the doubles.

For Yugoslavia, who have dropped Slobodan Zivojinovic, Goran Ivanisevic and Goran Prpic are likely to play all five matches between them. The squad also includes Bruno Oresar and newcomer Sasa Hirazon.

Austria, surprise semifinalists last year, will be without their number one Thomas Muster because of an elbow injury for the tie in Prague against Czechoslovakia.

In his absence, Horst Skoff and Alex Antonitsch are expected to carry the burden against a Czechoslovak team comprising Karel Novacek, Petr Korda, Milan Srejber and Marian Vajda.

If world rankings are a home advantage mean anything, Spain should coast to victory over world group newcomers Canada on clay in La Manga.

Emilio Sanchez, Sergio Bruguera, Juan Aguilera and Sergio Casal should be far too strong for a Canadian team comprising Martin Wolstenholme, Grant Connell, Andrew Sznajder and Glenn Michibata.

New Zealand should beat Argentina on grass in Christchurch despite their selection of Kelly Evernden, who threatened to quit the game after a first round loss in the Australian Open.

"I've got no feeling for the game any more," he said after that defeat, adding that he hoped the Davis Cup might restore his hunger.

Argentina, who will be led by Martin Jaffe will have their work cut out for them on grass, much preferring the slow clay surfaces they pick when they play at home.

Cup rules have been altered slightly this year in a bid to make ties more competitive. The top players from each side cannot meet until the final day, to make it tougher to build an unassailable 3-0 lead after doubles.

Edberg, deposed as world number one by Becker, opted out against Italy last year and as a result of their first round defeat Sweden had to win a qualifying tie to remain in the world group.

Edberg and Jonas Svensson will play singles for Sweden on the Zagreb clay, which could even less."

Sweden who reached every final from 1983 to 1989 and won three of them, at last have Stefan Edberg back to face Yugoslavia in Zagreb.

Ansars boys, men in TT finals

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars paddlers enjoyed a great day yesterday in the Mariners table tennis tournament at the National Coaching Centre, making it to the finals of both the boys' and men's team events.

Azimpur Young Stars and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) will take on Ansars in the boys' and men's finals respectively, starting at five this afternoon.

In the boys' semifinals, Ansars outplayed Azimpur Young Boys in straight sets 3-0 while Azimpur Young Stars fared better and disposed of host club Mariners Young, also in straight sets.

In the men's team semifinals, Ansars beat Wari Club 3-0 sets while BTMC registered a similar victory over Village Defence Party.

Matches in the other individual events resume from 2:30 pm this afternoon.

Yesterday, Kamal and Tareq of Mariners, Ashit, Aminul and Mithu of Victoria Sporting, Hamlet, Selim and Rubel of Ansars, Rumman, Tanmoy, Sagar, Monir, Shoun and Monir of Azimpur Young Stars, Jewel of Wari and Palash made it to the pre-quarterfinals after winning their respective matches.

Jansher triumphs over Jahangir

LONDON, Jan 31: World squash champion Jansher Khan edged ahead in his personal battle with Pakistan rival Jahangir Khan by beating him 3-1 in the British premier squash league here on Tuesday night, reports AFP.

Jansher scored an 8-10, 9-2, 9-2, 9-1 victory over the nine-times British Open champion, who had the consolation of seeing his side, Lambs, beat Jansher's team, Stars and Stripes, 3-1.

Jansher's 74-minute success was his sixth consecutive victory over Jahangir and nudged him 18-17 ahead in their head-to-head duel

Vital tie for Bima

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima will take on Amarjyoti Club today in the last encounter before the super league of the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Bima needs to win this match in order to be in contention for the super league. Three teams Wari, FWD and Bangladesh Railway with 12 points each are already assured of the super league.

MSC-Tarun tie begins today

Sports Reporter

The rescheduled match of the Navana Premier Division cricket league between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Surja Tarun Club begins today at the Dhaka Stadium.

The match was supposed to be held last Monday, January 28 at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium but could not be played as Mohammedans refused to play because of a change of the venue from the originally scheduled Dhaka Stadium.

Mohammedan Sporting have won both their two day matches inside a day, while Surja Tarun have lost both their matches today.

Reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra and Bangladesh Biman are jointly leading the league table with full six points from three matches each.

Bazlu memorial cricket today

Sports Reporter

The Bazlu Memorial friendly cricket match between the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association and the BUET Teachers' Club, will be held at the Engineering University playground today Feb 1.

A BSWA press release issued yesterday said Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr. Mosharraf Hossain Khan will inaugurate the match at as chief guest at nine in the morning.

The match, an annual feature, is arranged in memory of late Bazlu Rashid, a distinguished cricket coach and umpire who was also a member of the BSWA.

Tangail cricket

Sports Reporter

Title contenders Renaissance Club scored a big 124-run victory over Masjid Road Club in the Tangail cricket league yesterday at the Tangail stadium.

Twelve teams are taking in this year's league, of which six will qualify for the super league.

Renaissance, batting first, scored 196 for five wickets. Chandan Sarkar top scored with a polished 62, followed by Rajib 47, Parvez 26 and Lulu 23.

Ruhul and Shahinor bagged two wickets each for Masjid Road.

In reply, Masjid Road Club were bundled out for a meagre 72 runs. James and Shahinor scored 13 each.

Liton with three wickets for seven and Narayan with two for three runs were the leading Renaissance bowlers.

NAVANA STANDINGS

| Abahani | M | W | L | P |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|
| Abahani | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Biman | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Mohammedans | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Brothers | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Lalmatia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Kalabagan | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Gulshan Youth | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Surja Tarun | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Rupali Bank | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| G. MCC | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |