

Sport

NSC fetes nat'l sports awardees

Sports Reporter
The recipients of National Sports Awards in the years 1976 to 1981 were feted by the National Sports Council at a reception at its conference room last Sunday.

Winners drub Azad Boys

Sports Reporter
Dhaka Winners and Josephites recorded impressive victories in their respective matches of the Partex First Division basketball league yesterday at the wooden floor basketball gymnasium.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter
Makim Bazar Kirta Chakra posted their second win in the Group 'B' match of the ground robin league of the Pioneer football beating MSPCC by a solitary goal yesterday at the Outer Stadium.

Shaheed Anwar annual sports

Sports Reporter
The annual sports competition of the Shaheed Anwar Girls College was held yesterday at the college playground.



Sophia Khan, wife of Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. M. Noor Uddin Khan, gave away the trophies at the annual sports competition of the Shaheed Anwar Girls College, Dhaka Cantonment, yesterday.

Cricket resumes today



The local cricket programme resumes today after a four-day suspension following the crisis precipitated by the sudden en masse resignations of the officials of the ad hoc Bangladesh Cricket Control

Rain the spoiler

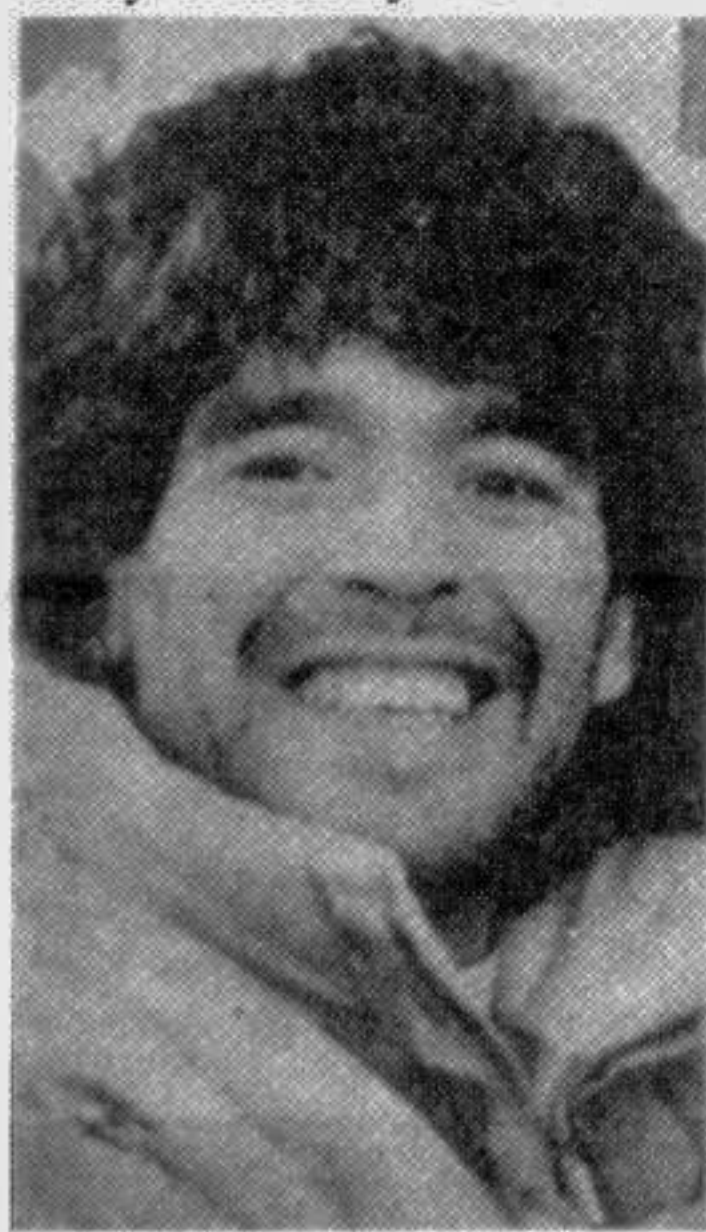
CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 18: Rainwashed out play on the third day of the four-day match between Sri Lanka and Canterbury at Lancaster Park here Sunday, reports AFP.

At close of play Saturday, Sri Lanka had scored 153 for two in reply to Canterbury's first innings total of 297 for six declared.

Maradona's passport seized

NAPLES, Feb 18: Naples magistrates investigating soccer star Diego Maradona's possible links with a drugs and prostitution ring have asked for his passport to be confiscated, judicial sources said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

league will feature professional referees for the first time in the 1993-94 season.



DIEGO MARADONA
Council on Saturday after a long and detailed study of the question.

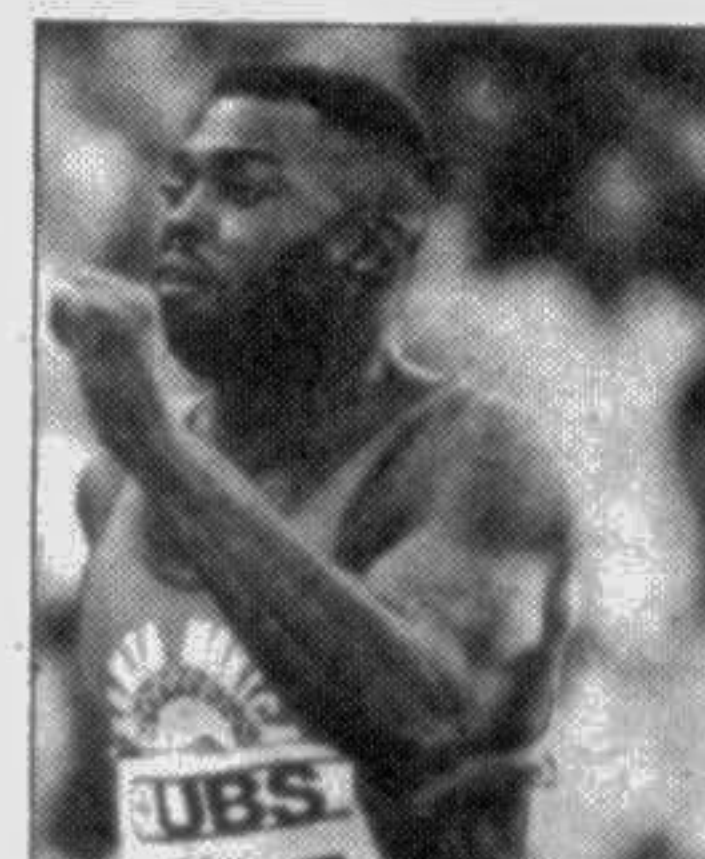
controls and could earn from 50 to 100 million lira (from about 50,000 to 100,000 dollars) a year depending on experience and efficiency.

The number of referees will be reduced from the present figure of 40 to 35, the council decided.

Antonio Matarrese, football federation president, said: 'We have taken an historic decision today and shown our determination to move with the times.'

Burrell, Christie feud

COSFORD (England), Feb 18: A bitter feud between world indoor 60m record-holder Leroy Burrell and European number one Linford Christie exploded here on Sunday with the American claiming that the Briton and threatened to kill him, reports AFP.



LEROY BURRELL

him just before the 30-metre mark. 'I've run against Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson and they've never done anything like that,' he said.

Just not true.' Later, after tempers had begun to cool, the pair shook hands with each other near the presentation rostrum.

Kiwis recall Dipak Patel

WELLINGTON, Feb 18: The recall of all-rounder Dipak Patel was the only surprise in New Zealand's squad for the second cricket Test against Sri Lanka which was announced here Sunday by the national selectors, reports AFP.

Patel, a spin bowler and a useful batsman, has been included at the expense of Grant Bradburn. Patel last played for New Zealand in Pakistan last year and was dropped for the one-day series in Australia.

Dexter blames inexperience, injuries for England's failure

COLOMBO, Feb 18: England cricket supremo Ted Dexter has blamed inexperience, injuries and lack of preparation for England's failure in Australia and New Zealand, reports Reuter.

Dexter, in Colombo watching the England A team, spoke to reporters on Saturday after England had crashed to a second defeat in the senior tour of New Zealand in Auckland.

The England chairman said: 'One of the main problems in Australia was that the side is relatively inexperienced. About eight of the side do not have 100 Tests between them. That is short in Test match terms, and it showed.'

'Last year we had a successful time because we were mainly injury-free and able to pick solely on merit for the series against the West Indies, New Zealand and India.'

'This winter the injuries to (captain) Graham Gooch, Allan Lamb and Angus Fraser — to name only a few — hit us hard.'

Swadhin Bangla torch relay tomorrow

Sports Reporter
The Swadhin Bangla football team's three-day torch relay, for the establishment of democracy in the country and world peace, begins tomorrow, Feb 20 from Mujibnagar in Meherpur, Kushtia.

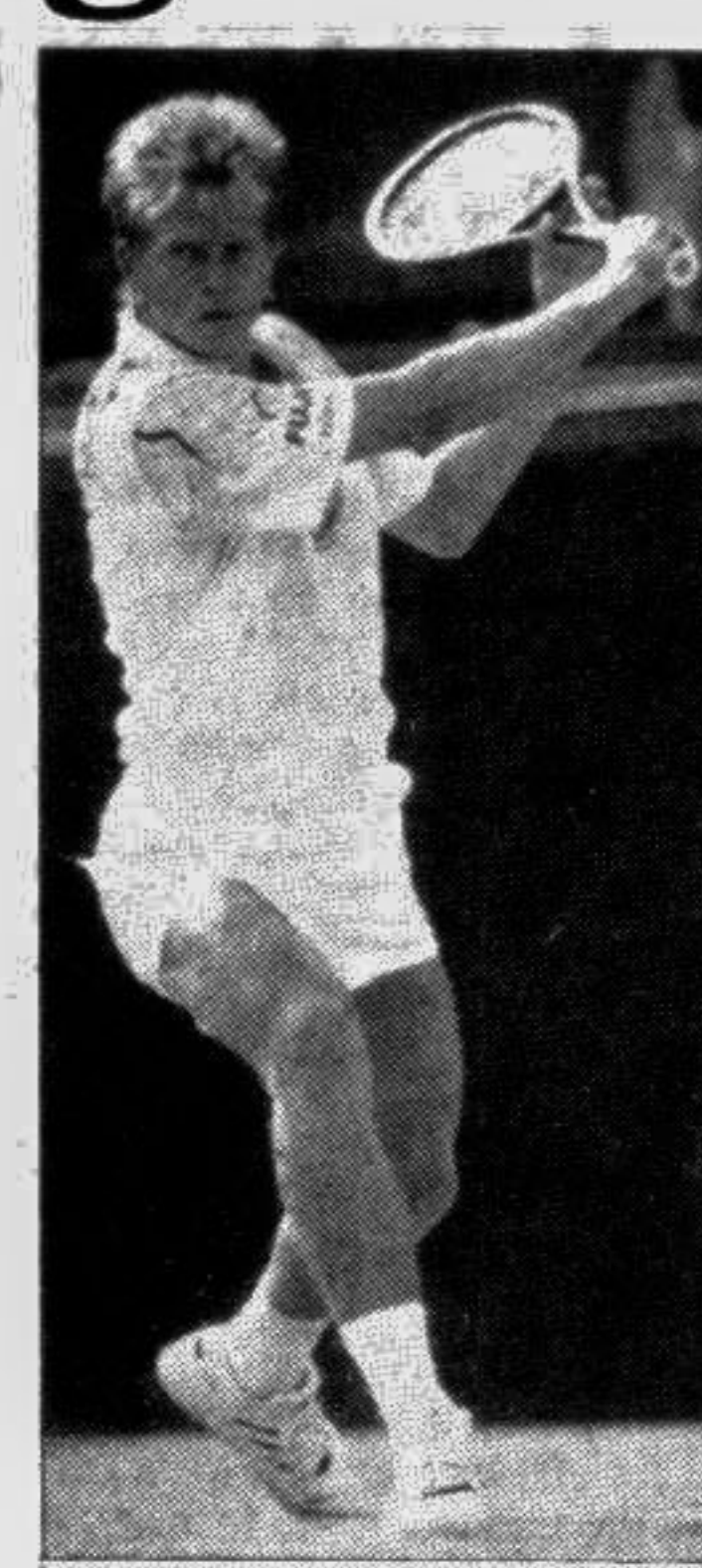
The torch, carried by members of the football team which was formed at Mujibnagar during the Liberation War to mobilise support and funds for the independence struggle, will reach Dhaka Stadium at seven in the evening on Friday, Feb 22.

The programme also includes the laying of a foundation stone and wreathlaying on the occasion of Ekushey February at Mujibnagar.

A press release of the team yesterday requested all members of the team living in or around Dhaka to assemble at the Sonali Ott Club pavilion at five this afternoon and those living near Mujibnagar to assemble at the provisional capital of Bangladesh on Feb 20.

Edberg No 1 again

BRUSSELS, Feb 18: Boris Becker ceded his world number one spot to Stefan Edberg on Saturday after retiring hurt in the semifinals of the Belgian indoor tennis tournament, reports Reuter.



EDBERG... No. 1 again

But Edberg, the second seed, had little cause to celebrate. He was upset by fourth-seeded Frenchman Guy Forget 3-6, 6-0, 6-3 in the other semifinal.

'Edberg will be the new number one on Monday,' said Richard Evans, ATP's director of communications.

The new rankings will show Edberg 17 points ahead of Becker, who led the Swede by 133 points before the Brussels tournament.

Becker, facing world number 25 Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union, played his best tennis of the week as he took the first set 6-2.

But after losing his service in the second game of the second set, things began to go wrong.

After losing the next game, Becker examined his right thigh during the changeover. His play became increasingly ragged and he checked his thigh again at the next break.

The German, normally one of the fastest movers on the court, repeatedly struggled to reach Cherkasov's groundstrokes or simply did not reach

for the tournament there was a good chance that this week I would be number two,' Becker said.

'I hope my leg is not too badly hurt. My leg concerns me the most.'

Becker laid the blame for his leg problem on the ATP tour.

'I think that's the fault we have with this new tour. You have to play almost every week,' he said. 'I have to play 18 or 19 tournaments in order to stay on top and that is too much.'

Edberg also saw his game go downhill after winning the first set 6-4 against Forget.

Forget fine-tuned his powerful service and broke Edberg three times in a row to take the second set 6-0.

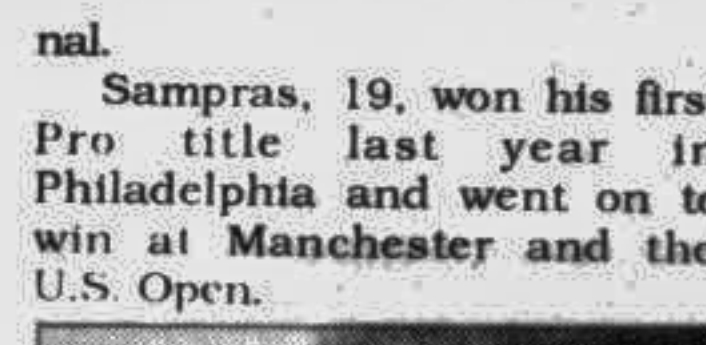
The Frenchman, who possesses the fastest service of the whole field here, kept the momentum going and inflicted a decisive mental blow to Edberg when he broke the Swede in the second game of the final set.

Forget, number 11 in the world, broke again in the eighth game and converted his second matchpoint with a volley past a helpless Edberg.

'He will be an interesting guy to follow in the next months,' Edberg said of the Frenchman.

Lendl has lot left in him

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 18: Three weeks shy of his 31st birthday, Ivan Lendl says he's a long way from being through with tennis, reports AP.



IVAN LENDL

'I think this is the first year of the second half of my career,' the former top-ranked player said Sunday after beating U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the 1-million-dollar U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis Championships.

Sampras said he expected to see Lendl around for some time.

'I think he's capable of being No. 1 again, but who's to tell,' Sampras said.

Lendl, now the world's third-ranked player, served 23 aces during the 3-hour, 20-minute match, the last three finishing Sampras in the ninth game of the fifth set.

'I'm starting to feel finally that I'm beginning to understand the game a little bit,' Lendl said.

Lendl has won every Grand Slam tournament but Wimbledon at least twice and holds 89 career singles titles, including two in this event. He won in 1986 when Tim Mayotte withdrew from the fi-

nal.

Sampras, 19, won his first Pro title last year in Philadelphia and went on to win at Manchester and the U.S. Open.

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Forget emerges from shadows

BRUSSELS, Feb 18: After spending years in the shadows of more famous Frenchmen, Guy Forget's biggest tournament win yet was overshadowed by the fight atop the world rankings, reports AP.

said, relaxed as ever after his second tournament title this year propelled him into the top 10 on the ATP Tour computer.



GUY FORGET

Forget defeated Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5) Sunday to capture the Donny Indoor Championship but found tennis fans still talking about Boris Becker's injury that boosted Stefan Edberg back into the No. 1 spot in the world rankings.

Fortunately, Forget does not seek the limelight.

'Fame is not my goal,' he said, relaxed as ever after his second tournament title this year propelled him into the top 10 on the ATP Tour computer.

Forget has never reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal in nine years of trying.

Leconte made the final of the 1988 edition of the French Open and he still has a love-hate relationship with the French public, mainly because of his hot temper and unpredictable form.

Considering his sterling streak at regular ATP Tour events, Forget said 'Now I have to do this at a Grand Slam' to emulate Noah and Leconte. 'It is possible; it is not a dream.'

Forget has never reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal in nine years of trying.

Leconte and Noah both sprang onto the scene as confident teenagers, while Forget has slowly nurtured his talents.

'Some players mature early,' he said. 'At 23, I was not an athlete yet.'

There also have been persistent questions about his mental toughness, but he has disproved critics over the last year by winning. And, he says, his best years are still ahead of him.

'Let me continue playing like I have since January and they'll get to know me better

Johnson wins photo-finish

SASKATOON (Saskatchewan), Feb 18: Ben Johnson leaped across the finish line to register a narrow victory in the 60 metres at the Canadian indoor athletics championships on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Johnson accelerated steadily down the track to clock a time of 6.65 seconds, short of the Canadian record of 6.61 and nowhere near the world record of 6.48 turned in by American Leroy Burrell on Wednesday in Madrid.

Johnson was stride for stride with Bruny Surin and Atlee Mahorn all the way to the finish line before leaping to victory.

DU athletics conclude

Sports Reporter
The two-day 30th annual inter-hall athletics competition of the Dhaka University concluded at the DU central playground Sunday.

Sgt. Zahurul Haq Hall annexed the men's championship with five golds while Shamsunnahar Hall clinched the ladies' championship bagging eight gold medals.

Shahidullah Hall was the men's runners-up with three golds while Rokeya Hall's two golds made them the women's runners-up.

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Vice Chancellor Muniruzzaman Miah gave away the trophy to the Dhaka University inter-hall sports women's champions Shamsunnahar Hall captain yesterday at the DU central playground.