

Mark Waugh's debut ton revives Aussies

ADELAIDE, Jan 25: A superb debut by Mark Waugh changed the course of the fourth Test between Australia and England on the first day here today, reports AFP.

Australia were 124 for 5 half an hour before tea, but at the close Waugh's unbeaten 116 had taken them to 269 for 5.

His century came with his 15th boundary and the crowd of 17,333 spectators stood to applaud his three-hour innings long before the ball reached the ropes.

Waugh's knock not only marked him down as a batsman with a great future but sealed his place in the squad for the West Indies and the Test series already being billed as "the cricket championship of the world."

It was the first debut Test hundred on the ground for 40 years and the 15th by an Australian against England.

Waugh's performance was a contrast with his twin brother

Sievie, whose place he took in this Test and who needed 28 Test to reach his first century.

"I guess playing against these guys for Essex helped," he said.

When captain Allan Border won the toss he confidently elected to bat on a pitch that looked of typical Adelaide design-flat, hard and full of runs.

But he reckoned without the overhead cloud which made the ball swing all day.

That had nothing to do with the dismissal of Mark Waugh, although he was disturbed by a vicious ball from Devon Malcolm which he turned past short leg, hesitated over a single and was easily run out by a sharp return from Robin Smith.

Geoff Marsh was soon driving easily through cover point for five fours in his 37 but at 62 he was caught off a careless shot to a wide ball.

David Boon, who was lucky to escape being run out at six, and Border, who survived a confident appeal for a catch behind the wicket off his first ball, went to lunch at 74 for 2 but at 104 Phil DeFreitas removed both Border and Dean

Jones.

Border was beaten by the bounce and Jones by an inswinger without scoring but there was worse to come when Boon's dogged 49 ended as he upper cut a short ball from Malcolm and saw Gus Fraser take a running catch at third man.

But Waugh and Greg Matthews, the century maker in Sydney put an anonymous junior partner in their stand of 145 for the sixth wicket, turned the game Australia's way.

SCOREBOARD

Australia 1st innings:

Marsh c Gooch b Small	37
Taylor run out	5
Boon c Fraser b Malcolm	49
Border b DeFreitas	12
Jones lbw DeFreitas	0
Waugh not out	116
Matthews not out	29
Extras (17lb, 1w, 3nb)	24
Total (5 wkts)	269
Fall: 1-11, 2-62, 3-104, 4-104, 5-124.	

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Malcolm	23	4	67	1
Fraser	19	6	39	0
Small	20	7	60	1
DeFreitas	14	3	36	2
Tuinell	5	0	38	0
Gooch	4	1	12	0

BTMC tops the tally in nat'l gymnastics

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) clinched both the men's and women's team championship title on the concluding day of the National Gymnastic competition yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

BTMC gymnasts secured 404 and 224.95 points in the men's and women's events respectively. They secured six gold, eight silvers and four bronze medals.

Bangladesh Ansars become the runners up in both the men's and women's group with 391.10 and 165.50 points respectively. Ansar's gymnasts bagged four gold, four silver and six bronze medals.

Bangladesh Jute Mills corporation and Dinajpur followed in the third and fourth place in the medal tally respectively.

Dewan Nazrul Hossain and Rokeya Hossain of BTMC National Sports Council distributed the prizes among the winners.

Final Medal standings

BTMC	G-S-B
Ansar	6-8-4
BJMC	4-4-6
Dinajpur	0-1-0

were adjudged best gymnasts in the men's and women's group respectively.

Fifty-one gymnasts including 22 girls took part in the four-day meet.

Major General Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman of the

Volleyball results

Sports Reporter

Police defeated Brothers Union 15-6, 5-15, 15-8, 15-11 in the First Division volleyball league match yesterday at the Volleyball Stadium.

Three other matches were also decided yesterday at the same venue. PDB beat Madartek in straight sets 15-7, 15-2, 15-7. BDR and Titas also defeated their opponents in straight sets.

BDR dominated Dhaka Sabuj 15-3, 15-6, 15-10 while Titas overpowered BJMC 15-2, 15-9, 15-2.

In the Second Division matches held also at the same venue Jiban Bima got a walkover from Bangladesh Bank.

In the only match of the day Victoria Sporting Club registered a 15-5, 15-6 victory over Partners Club.

Handball results

Sports Reporter

Junior Moishundi United kept their championship hopes alive with a convincing 15-7 win over bottom placed Farashganj in the Second Division handball super league match yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Moishundi: led 5-4 at the breather.

Abu netted seven goals for Moishundi while Kota with three goals was to highest scorers for Farashganj.

Junior Moishundi recorded their fourth win in six matches while Farashganj in the same number of matches crashed to their sixth defeat in a row.

Jagoron Sanskritik Sangha beat Kurmitolla Apollo Coub 27-15 in the second encounter of the day at the same venue after leading 10-3 at the breathers.

Saiful with 12 and Tuhin with six goals were the leading scorers for Jagoron and Kurmitolla respectively.

LEAGUE TABLE

	M	W	D	L	P
Jr Moishundi	6	4	2	0	14
W. Jatanbari	5	4	1	0	13
Nicecop	6	3	1	2	10
Jagoron	5	2	3	0	9
Christian Club	5	2	1	2	7
Arunayson	5	1	1	3	4
K. Apollo	5	0	1	4	1
Farashganj	6	0	0	6	0

Edberg squanders and Lendl keeps date with Becker

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Stefan Edberg squandered two points here today and allowed Ivan Lendl to advance to the final and shoot for his third straight Australian Tennis Open title, reports AFP.

Edberg, the world no. 1, botched two match points in the fourth set the second with a double fault to bring on a Lendl rally to a tense five-set victory.

The defending champion won a four-hour flawed semi-final 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 to set up a date with Boris Becker in Sunday's final.

But although centre court was gripped by the excitement and lost opportunities, Lendl later underlined his priorities: "The job is not done yet. I don't come here to beat Stefan and be in the final. I came here to win the tournament."

It is 30-year-old Lendl's 19th Grand Slam final, and he is vying for his ninth Grand Slam title.

Yet today's semi-final, the pair's 21st meeting and a replay of last year's final cut short by a stomach muscle injury to Edberg, will be remembered more for Edberg's inability to nail Lendl on two match points at advantage and 5-4 in the fourth set.

Edberg, at the net, attempted a bold passing shot only to find the net on his first match point after two hours and 55 minutes' play, and then double-faulted on his second. It was the closest he was to come to victory.

Rarely has Edberg's serve looked so vulnerable. The Swede served a total of 11 double faults, an incredible six in the pivotal fourth set, which he lost with yet another double fault on the second of Lendl's four set points in tie-break.

Lendl, whose motivation



Lendl said that winning would help him overcome any lingering fatigue from today's semi-final. "After a match like this, the same amount of running makes you feel more tired and exhausted if you lose."

Lendl displayed bewildering mental arithmetic when asked whether Edberg had ever served as many double faults in their previous encounters.

The world no. 3's mind became a computer as he whirled through the number of Edberg's service games before replaying: "It's 53 divided by two.....it's one every second service game, not counting the tiebreaker.... I don't think it's that bad."

Lendl said he could sense Edberg slowing during the fourth set.

"When he had that bad game at 2-1, he was 40-0 before I took him to deuce and I felt he missed a few volleys there because he relaxed mentally and was getting slower."

Edberg said the key to his defeat was losing his rhythm at the start of the fourth set.

"I hit a lot of double faults today as I've done all week. I'm sure it's happened to me before, but not in a semi of a Grand Slam."

"When you have a match point you put pressure on getting your first serve in court, but I never did on both occasions.... I've lost the timing a little bit."

The world no.3 may have career earnings approaching 17 million dollars, but he sees tennis revolving around the four Grand Slam events.

"I prepare especially for the Slams," Lendl said. "As I have said many times some people like hearing it, some people don't for me tennis the four Grand Slam tournaments."

The rest of it, whether it is an exhibition, special event or a Grand Prix tournament, it's



STEFAN EDBERG

just one big exhibition tour, but it's just preparation for the Grand Slams. That's where I try to peak."

Edberg was critical of the length of time Lendl took between points, saying that the match became too slow.

Lendl's response: "I don't like that (25 seconds) rule myself. I don't care how long they give you, but if they're wanting you to play within the time, they have to give something to measure it."

"If I had been going over (time), the umpire should have kept it shorter, but my concern is how can I know how long I'm taking. If he doesn't tell me anything, I assume everything's fine."

Abahani struggle, but Rumi hits ton

Sports Reporter

A devastating opening spell by Ashfaq and Subrata put Gulshan Youth in a commanding position against reigning league champions Abahani Krira Chakra on the opening day of the two-day match of the Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

In another match, despite a brilliant 100 not out by Kalabagan's skipper Omar Khaled Rumi, the game between Kalabagan KC and Rupali Bank was evenly poised at the end of the first day's play at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Abahani's skipper Rafiq, after winning the toss, decided to bat.

His decision proved to be an unwise one when Abahani started losing their wickets in succession and were eventually bundled out for a paltry 163 runs in only 61 of the stipulated 75 overs.

Gulshan Youth, in reply, were 58 for one in 23 overs at the end of the day.

Abahani lost their first four batsmen with only 19 runs on the board at the end of the seventh over. They never recovered from the shock and found themselves reeling at nine wickets down for 73 runs. Thanks to a brave last-wicket partnership between Pappu and Effe, Abahani reached some respectability in the end. The pair added 90 priceless runs for the last wicket. Pappu, keeping his cool, stroking and taking advantage of every possible ball, top-scored with a superb 51 runs off 107 balls. His knock included eight hits to the fence. Effe remained unbeaten with an invaluable 28 runs. Captain Rafiq with 13 was the only other Abahani batsman to reach double figures.

Ashfaq with five wickets for 26 and Subrata with four for 57 were the chief destroyers for Gulshan Youth. Shabbir captured the other Abahani

wicket.

Gulshan Youth made a spirited reply, cruising at 58 for one with Tito and Indian Test discard Arun Lal batting on 22 and 20 respectively. They need a further 106 runs for victory with nine wickets in hand.

In the other match, a brilliant unbeaten century by skipper Omar Khaled Rumi enabled Kalabagan Krira Chakra score an imposing 250 runs for the loss of eight wickets in their 75 overs.

Rumi's knock included eight fours and a towering six.

Alam with 55 and Munir with 24 were the other notable Kalabagan batsmen.

Babu and Nripen took two wickets each for Rupali Bank.

In reply, Rupali Bank too made a flying start, finishing the day at 83 for no loss.

Qader on 49 and Partha on 25 remained unbeaten at the end of the day.

Rupali resume their innings today with 168 needed for victory with all their wickets

Seles-Novotna showdown today

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Will Jana find the atmosphere to her liking, or will her chances of a first Grand Slam singles title blow through the open roof?

Will Monica be able to stop grunting, practicing and offering opinions on everything from bubble gum to the Gulf war long enough to do as expected and win?

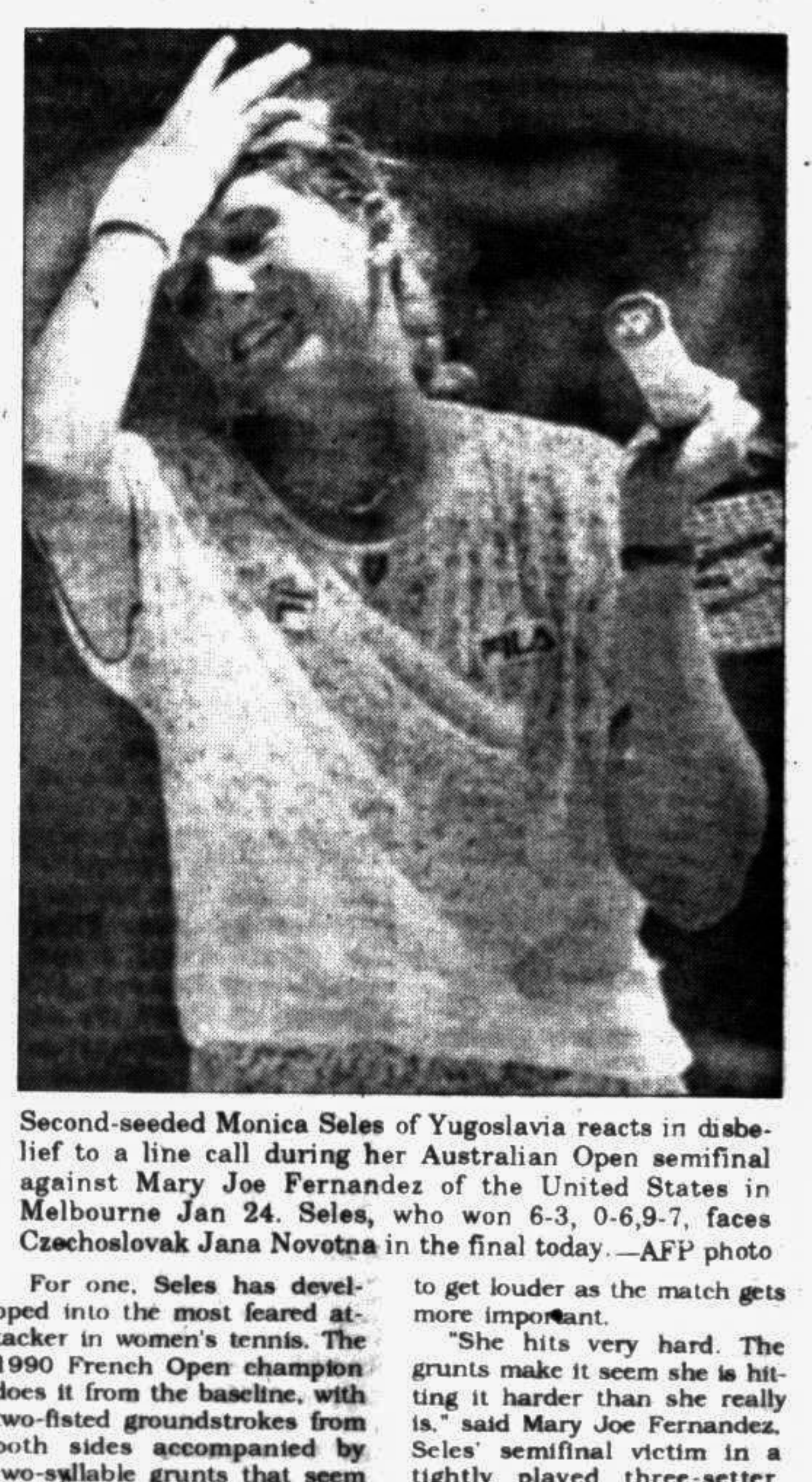
Will the women's championship at the Australian Open fall to one of the last products of the old Czechoslovakian tennis factories or to a giggling 17-year-old with the hardest shots in the game?

For the answers to these questions - and possibly THE question facing women's tennis - keep tabs on Saturday's match, reports AP.

The final under the retractable roof of the National Tennis Center has second-seeded Monica Seles going for her second Grand Slam title against Jana Novotna, a surprise finalist and the producer of the tournament's biggest upset - a quarterfinal beating of defending champion Steffi Graf.

Graf's elimination means Seles can close the gap on the No. 1 spot to a handful of points with a victory. That would add to the debate over who is the best women's player - Graf, on top for a record 180 weeks, or Seles, who then would have won two Grand Slam titles in the last eight months?

Novotna has won the only match the two have played, at the 1989 European Indoors in Zurich, Switzerland. But since then, many things have changed.



"She goes out there and tries to beat you as bad as she can."

Seles had not lost a set - and had dropped just 12 games - before the 6-3, 0-6, 9-7 victory over Fernandez, who had a match point in the 12th game of the third set but netted a backhand.

The heat, about 100 degrees Fahrenheit on the court, got to both players, and Seles - already tired from a gruelling doubles match the day before - just wanted to get it over with.

"It would have been a relief if I would have lost, just to get out of there," Seles said.

Novotna was bothered by the court conditions, too - not by the heat so much as the sky overhead.

She and semifinal foe Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario warmed up with the roof closed and assumed it would be that way for the match. That had her thinking serve-and-volley, a major part of a restructuring of her game under coach Hana Mandlikova and the key to her upset of Graf.

But when she went out for the match, the roof was open and Novotna's strategy flew out the window.

"With the roof open, I didn't feel like coming in at all," she said. "I came in a couple of times and Arantxa passed me quite easily."

Novotna won just three points at the net, all of them in the second set, but piled up points from the baseline and Sanchez-Vicario errors - 29 from her forehand, 20 from her backhand - to easily win 6-2, 6-4.

The Melbourne bookies make Seles the odds-on favorite, but Fernandez said Novotna could give Seles trouble if she comes to the net.

"If Monica plays forcing shots, she should win," Fernandez said. "But Jana is a dangerous player. If she gets taken for granted, she will win."

Becker looses cool, fights back and wins

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: After losing the first set and his temper on a broiling centre court, Boris Becker fought back to beat unseeded Patrick McEnroe 6-7, 6-1, 6-4 today and reach his first Australian Open final.

In Sunday's final Becker will meet third seed Ivan Lendl, who is bidding for his third successive title, after the Czechoslovak saved two match points on the way to a 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 victory over world number one Stefan Edberg of Sweden.

World number two Becker served 23 aces and eventually won with ease against the out-ranked but brave McEnroe, a player ranked 114 in the world and competing in only his second Grand Slam tournament.

But the German, who had not passed the quarter-finals



nervous and slow, would serve merely as a brick wall for the second seed to practise against.

Becker went 3-0 up, but as the temperature on court rose, McEnroe's tactics of taking the pace off the ball and just keeping it in play started to get to Becker.

Errors crept into Becker's ground strokes. McEnroe broke back for 3-3 and the twice Wimbledon champion lost his cool and the set.

Strutting around the court where John McEnroe was defeated last year for bad behaviour, Becker talked to himself constantly, occasionally shouting in German to the heavens.

McEnroe saved a set point at 4-6 with a backhand down the line and in the next game Becker exploded at court-side photographers after serving two successive double faults.

Mariners TT from Jan 30

Sports Reporter

The fifth Mariners Table Tennis tournament organized by the Dhaka Mariners Youngs Club and sponsored by Rupali Insurance Company Limited will begin from Wednesday, January 30 at the National Coaching Centre.

Five events men's team, boy's team, men's singles, women's singles and boy's singles will be held in this year's tourney. All those interested are requested to send their entries by January 28 to the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation office.

Nat'l Jr tennis

Sports Reporter

Five qualifying round and 16 preliminary round matches were held on the inaugural day of the National Junior tennis championship yesterday at the national tennis complex. Forty eight players including three girls are participating in four events of the tourney.

Nissan tennis from Jan 31

Sports Reporter

The Nissan Cup tennis tournament organized by Gulshan Club will commence from Thursday, January 31st at the Gulshan Club tennis complex.

All interested participants are asked to send their entries by January 29. Participants from outside Dhaka will be given TA and DA for the period of their stay for the games. Five event will be held in this year's championship: Boys singles (under 16), boys singles (under 12), men's singles and doubles and women's doubles. Boys singles participant, will not have to pay any entry fee while the other three events, players will have to pay Taka 30.



THE GOLDEN GIRLS: Sisters Sharif Marzina Hossain and Sharif Rokeya Hossain (R) performed brilliantly for Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation in the 17th national gymnastics championships which concluded at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Fernandez feat

BARCELONA, Jan 25: Joaquin Fernandez of Spain broke the world short course best for 200 metres breaststroke when he recorded 2min 8.62sec here Thursday, reports AFP.

The previous best in a 25 metre pool of 2:8.82 was set by the late Victor Davis of Canada in 1987.

Fernandez was fourth in the world championship race in Perth, Australia, two weeks ago.

Johnson just another runner

OTTAWA, Jan 25: Ben Johnson has been written off as just another sprinter by a man who helps steer school children away from marijuana and cocaine, reports AFP.

"He's not the same man. He's just another runner like all the others," said Daren Council, a narcotics squad deputy sheriff from Gainesville, Florida, who beat the disgraced Olympic champion on his comeback in Hamilton

Milla's grievance

LAGOS, Jan 25: Roger Milla, 38-year-old scoring sensation at last year's World Cup in Italy, claims the Cameroon players were never paid bonus money promised by the government, reports AFP.

Milla, here to receive his award as African footballer of the year, said the money was diverted by officials accompanying the team in Italy.

Milla says many of Cameroon's World Cup heroes had yet to cash in on their fame and were still running after club sides in Europe.

He will receive 2,000 dollars from Nigerian tycoon Moshood Abiola for topping the poll as Africa's outstanding footballer.

Ghana's Abedi Pele, who plays for French champions Olympique Marseille, was runner-up and Algerian Rabah Madjer, who plays for Porto in Portugal, was third.