

Sport

Vega cagers trounce ABC

Sports Reporter

Title-aspirants Vega Sporting Club routed Azad Boys Club 107-43 in the Partex first division volleyball league which resumed yesterday after a 69-day interruption, at the wooden-floor gymnasium. The winners led the first half 42-27.

Vega Sports, who only a few months ago won the Pioneer tourney, came back strongly to totally outplay Azad Boys in the

second session, scoring 65 points against just 16 managed by the losers. Zahir and Baby powered Vega Sports by scoring 45 and 24 points respectively while Anis and Mamun got 14 and 11 points respectively for Azad. Vega now have 14 points from eight matches, two behind Angels Club who lead the table after having won all their

eight games so far in the 13-team league. Dhaka Winners are placed third in the table with 12 points from seven outings.

Two matches are scheduled for today, with Panthers Sporting Club taking on Dhumketo Club at 3:00 pm, followed by the Gregs Club playing Josephites in the day's second match starting at 4:30 pm.

Following is the league table:

	M	W	L	Pts.
Angels	8	8	0	16
Vega Sports	8	7	1	14
Dhaka Winners	7	6	1	12
Five Star	6	4	2	8
Josephites	4	3	1	6
Wanderers	6	3	3	6
Dhunketo	6	3	3	6
Gregs	7	3	4	6
Azad Boys	7	2	5	4
Eagles	6	2	4	4
Back Stroke	8	1	7	2
Panthers	7	1	6	2
Homets	6	0	6	0

Pegasus 'B' win

Sports Reporter

Bablu's all-round performance helped Young Pegasus 'B' register a narrow two-wicket win over Cantonian Club in the only match of the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The other match of the day, between spread Eagles and Azad S.C. could not be held due to the wet ground as a result of the early morning showers.

Cantonian Club, electing to bat first, were bundled out for a paltry 112 runs in 19.4 overs. Raj 38 and Kamal with 22 runs were the only two Cantonian bats men to reach double figures.

Bablu ripped through the

Cantonian line-up with four wickets for 14 runs. Asif helped him with two wickets for 22 runs.

Young Pegasus 'B', in reply, also struggled to reach their target they eventually managed 115 runs for eight wickets in 24.4 overs.

Robi, 24, Bablu following up his bowling with a valuable 22 runs, Zubair with 16 not out and Mamun with 15 runs made sure Young Pegasus 'B' stayed on the right track.

Kamrul with two for 10 and Raj with two for 19 were the successful Cantonian bowlers.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Shantnagar 'A' vs Mill Barracks (DCS)
Nabin Sangha vs East End Club (DCS)

Prize giving

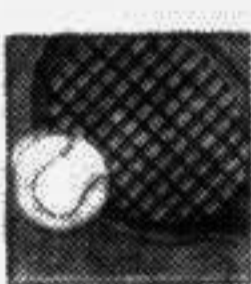
Sports Reporter

The annual prize-distribution ceremony of the Badda Alatanessa High School will be held today at the school premises.



Gabriela Sabatini is all smiles after beating Martina Navratilova (l) in Sunday's final of the Toray Pan Pacific tennis championship in Tokyo. — AFP photo

Becker keeps the German flag flying



LONDON, Feb 4: Boris Becker staged a remarkable comeback from two sets down to keep in Davis Cup contention in Dortmund on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The Australian Open champion and world number one squeezed past Omar Camporese to level the world group tie with Italy at 2-2. Then team mate Michael Stich secured victory by beating

Paolo Cane over four sets. Becker, with partner Eric Jelen, beaten by Camporese and Diego Nargiso in Saturday's five-set doubles, clawed his way to a 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 win in the opening reverse singles.

Stich overcame Cane 7-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-1 to give twice champions Germany a second round home match against Argentina, 4-1 victors in New Zealand.

World number two Stefan Edberg played three matches for Sweden against Yugoslavia in Zagreb and lost them all. Goran Prpic and Goran Ivanisevic topped him at singles and Peter Lundgren joined him for Saturday's doubles defeat by the Yugoslav pair.

Australian Open semifinalist Edberg did not win a set in Yugoslavia's upset 4-1 victory and four times champions Sweden crashed in the first round for the second year running.

Islamic varsity volleyball

KUSHTIA, Feb 4: Management Department beat Economics to win the Islamic University inter-department volleyball championship, winning today's last league encounter at the university playground 15-6, 15-10.

Defender Carlo Cornacchia gave Cagliari a 30th-minute lead following a free kick but midfielder Gianfranco Zola equalised for Napoli in the 68th minute.

Zola was playing instead of Napoli captain Diego Maradona who complained he had a knee problem.

Van Basten takes AC Milan to the top

ROME, Feb 4: Dutch striker Marco Van Basten returned triumphantly on Sunday to help European Club champions AC Milan go joint top of the Italian soccer league, reports Reuter.

Sampdoria also joined them at the top, level on points with Internazionale Milan, thanks to a later goal against Fiorentina. Inter dropped a point with a 0-0 draw at struggling Bologna.

Van Basten, his recent differences with Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi apparently patched up after missing two matches, scored a penalty and set up another goal as Milan beat Cesena 2-0.

Milan had to wait only three minutes before getting on the scoresheet at the San Siro stadium in a predictably uneven battle against bottom of the table Cesena.

Right back Stefano Carobbi raced down the flank before sending over a cross which Van Basten met with a powerful header. Cesena goalkeeper Marco Ballotta did well to deflect it but the ball fell to striker Daniele Massaro.

It was his third goal in three consecutive league matches.

Van Basten settled the match nine minutes into the second half when he scored a penalty after he was brought down in the area by Cesena defender Fabio Calciaterra.

Sampdoria striker Marco Branca, who scored the winner against Cesena last week, again provided his team's only goal

off for an 83rd minute professional foul on Bologna's Rosario Biondo, who had a scoring chance after being sent clear.

Bologna amply deserved their point against Internazionale, who dominated the first half but then came under strong pressure late in the second half after being reduced to 10 men.

Italian international defender Riccardo Ferri was sent

off for an 83rd minute professional foul on Bologna's Rosario Biondo, who had a scoring chance after being sent clear.

Switzerland, using the games as preparation for European Championship qualifying matches, were the surprise winners of the tournament with four points from two games.

The Swiss had beaten the United States 1-0 on Friday. Bayern Munich, with a 4-0 win over the United States on Sunday and a 0-0 draw against Colombia on Friday, were second with three points.

Bayern Munich surged ahead of the US side on two first-half goals from Roland Wohlfarth and were never threatened.

Colombia scored twice in the first half and appeared headed to an easy win against Switzerland. In the 28th minute, midfielder Antony De Avila took a pass from Sergio Angulo and sent a shot past goalkeeper Martin Brunner.

Freddy Rincón gave Colombia a 2-0 lead in the 38th minute when he cut right, stopped, faked left, and then blasted a right-footed shot into the centre of the goal.

The Swiss, however, refused to quit. Marcel Koller brought them within one with a goal in the 43rd minute.

Sutter tied the score 10 minutes into the second half by drilling home a rebound of his own shot and then clinched the victory with another goal 19 minutes later.

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Adding a touch of French flavour

PARIS Feb 4: The French have a word for it, they always say, but the problem is that when it comes to sport they don't so they have had to make them up.

With English creeping into the language of sport more and more, the French decided to set up a special committee to find French alternatives to a host of tried and true English terms, reports AFP.

Under the latest list published by the Commissariat for the French Language, footballers will find their managers will now be "managers" and their coaches "entraîneurs" and they will have to get used to taking a "tir d'angle" instead of a corner.

Rugby forwards will no longer scrum down in a pack but in a "paquet" and their forcing and pressing will not be chasing pole position in practice anymore but the "position be tele" and tennis star Henri Leconte will no longer serve an ace but an "as".

His delicate passing shots will become "tir passants" and if he puts enough "pression" on his opponent's service he will be rewarded with a "balle de breche" instead of what the French used to call a "balle de break" or rather a break point.

And if a set goes to 6-6 there will no longer be a tie break but a "jeu decisif".

Athletes and cyclists will no longer be sent on their way by Kenyan one-two

a starter but by a "departeur" and races will not end in sprint finishes anymore but in "embalages" at the "arrache".

What the French used to be called a "recordman" or rather a record holder, will now be known as a "detenteur d'un record" and will not face a challenge anymore but a "challenge" or a "defi".

However, the one problem the French have not considered is the world sport itself, or for that matter football, Rugby and tennis.

All of them are English in origin with no obvious alternative except in the case of tennis, which is derived from the old French "Tenez."

Christie's feat

COSFORD (England), Feb 4: European champion Linford Christie raced to the 60 and 200 metres titles at the British indoor athletics championships on Sunday, reports Reuter.



LINFORD CHRISTIE

Christie's 1991 world best 60 metres time of 6.63 seconds underlined his claim to the world indoor crown in Seville, Spain, next month.

But he did not have his own way over the shorter distance, relaxing sufficiently to allow Michael Rossweiss to push him to a photo-finish.

Christie suffered an anxious wait before learning that he had surpassed the British men's record of seven track titles.

An hour later Christie made no mistake as he effortlessly took the 200 metres in 21.28, equalling the all-time national best of nine championships.

Albertville Winter Olympics 1992

The facilities are in place but the mood hasn't sunk in

ALBERTVILLE (France), Feb 4: A few strings of light bulbs forming the five Olympic rings dangle above the one-way Rue de la Republique, this town's main street. A few signs declare Coca-Cola as an Olympic sponsor, as do a handful of posters for the French bank Credit Lyonnais and film-maker Kodak, reports AP.

Otherwise Albertville is one of scores of picturesque foot of the Alps towns, known for its charm, medieval castles dotting surrounding slopes and savory cuisine.

But the 16th Winter Olympics which are to begin here Feb. 8, 1992 face local apathy, price-gouging and potentially crippling cost overruns.

A year before the Games come to the Savoy region in southern France, preparations already are nearing completion. Albertville, designated the Games host city, has brand-new figures and speed-skating rinks, and has become linked to Paris by the high-speed TGV train.

New competition facilities are being built for all the events, and wide new highway has replaced a narrow mountain road.

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the French Alps and Rhone River valley, the '92 Winter Games are certain to impress.

But Albertville has few of the trappings expected of a town counting down to the opening of the world's biggest winter sportsfest. There are no Olympic banners or flags fluttering, and only a few stores sell souvenirs.

At the Alps village of Val d'Isere, the site of most of the men's Alpine ski events, unwitting visitors can't tell the Olympics are coming.

"There are no signs up, there aren't any Olympic parties," said Andrew Smith, an Australian trying out Val d'Isere's renowned slopes. "We wouldn't have known the Olympics were going to be here if they didn't tell us on the bus coming in."

Daniel Arpin, a native son who owns the Ski One shop in Val d'Isere, is even more blasé. "Two weeks before it starts we'll all know, and then all of a sudden it will all be gone," he said.

Champagne bottles uncorked and partying broke out across Savoy when Albertville was selected in October 1986 as the Games host, the third French city to host the Winter Games after Chamonix inaugurated them in 1924 and Grenoble held them in 1968.

Albertville Mayor Henry Dujon was subsequently re-elected even after his politically risky move - for a small town - of installing downtown parking meters.

Arpin's careful attitude reflects what organizers grudgingly acknowledge: the Games just haven't sparked much local interest.

"I'm crazy about winter sports," says Rene Perret, owner of Le Gaulois Brasserie in Albertville. "I already have tickets for the 1994 Winter Olympics."

But he's not so crazy about Albertville hosting the Games. "The prices people are charging are an outrage," Perret says. "It's cheaper to be in Los Angeles or Calgary and buy a package tour to come here for the Olympics than be here and try to get a hotel and tickets."

Indifference and profiteering aren't the only problems the Games are facing. Huge cost overruns and serious safety questions have arisen. And transportation between the 11 competition sites, far-flung over 640 square miles (1,658 square kilometers) and almost all connected only by two-lane mountain roadways, could cause dilemmas of crisis proportions.

The failure to mobilize local citizens also has bred complaints that the Games are being run by a select few, with the only economic fallout for Albertville inflated prices and rents.

For Luigi Bruno, a 22-year-old waiter, the Olympics are a chance for Albertville, hitherto relatively unknown, to get on the map.

"But the town hasn't followed through well. They need to do something to make people want to come back after the Games," Bruno said. "Something to attract young

people and visitors, like pedestrian streets." Those are legitimate sentiments, acknowledges Michel Barner, a politically savvy Savoyard who is co-chairman of the Olympic Organizing Committee, known by its French acronym COJO.

"I don't deny that feeling, but there will be a time for everybody," Barner said in an interview. "We're at the end of the construction period with still a year to go. The time to mobilize people is from now."

There are some bright spots. "What we're happy about most is the improvement in the road access," said Arpin, echoing the sentiments of many locals.

The departmental government built a four-lane highway from Albertville to Moutiers, the gateway to several Alps resorts, which hadn't been planned until the 21st century.

With Savoy's experience at hosting world-class winter sports, COJO's fun-up events to the Olympics have been mostly flawless. Few problems with running the 1992 events are expected.

COJO's biggest headache has been the controversial bobsled and ski jump courses. They have wreaked havoc on the overall budget, which has ballooned from 460 million dollars to 780 million dollars.

The cost of the bobsled run at La Plagne has quadrupled to 48 million dollars, according to knowledgeable sources. That is more than twice the price of the 1988 bobsled course at Calgary.

Potentially shifting earth could rupture the cooling system and release poisonous ammonia. The course needed new safety systems which were only ready for testing in January.

The ski jump platforms at Courchevel faced similar problems: numerous underground springs were discovered that could make the ground unstable, so costly modifications were made, to the tune of about 40 percent above the initial 12-million-dollar estimate.

Metropolis First Division volleyball champions Titas Club photographed after Sunday's final win over Bangladesh Rifles. — Star photo

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