

Sport

Wari promoted

Sports Reporter
Wari Club gained promotion to the Navana Premier Division with a thrilling one-wicket win in the third ball of the match over Bangladesh Railway in the super league match of the Milners First Division cricket league yesterday at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Reds in final

Red-eleven, represented by players from different teams, moved into the final of Blyou Cup Football tournament beating Blue-eleven, represented by players from Abahani Krira Chakra, 3-0 in the semi-final at the National Stadium last night, reports BSS.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter
Gandaria Famous and Bashaboo Tarun Sangha recorded identical 2-1 victories over their respective rivals in the round robin matches of the Pioneer football league yesterday at the Outer Stadium.

Gandaria beat Lalbagh KC to move into semifinals from Group 'A' with six points from four matches. Bashaboo Tarun defeated Mirpur XI who also qualifies for the semifinals from Group 'A' but will have to wait as Mirpur XI lodged a protest against them.

Div 1 basketball

Sports Reporter
Dhaka Winners and Eagles Club registered wins in their respective Partex First Division basketball league matches yesterday at the wooden floor gymnasium. Winners outplayed Hornets 89-52 while Eagles scored on exciting 53-51 victory over Dhaka Wanderers.

Jansher's high praise for Marshall

CARDIFE, Feb 22: World number one Jansher Khan tipped 19-year-old Briton Peter Marshall as a future squash champion after needing 73 minutes to beat him in the Welsh Classic on Thursday, reports Reuter.



JANSHER KHAN
"Peter is a highly talented player and can become world champion if he continues to work hard," said the Pakistani after beating Marshall 15-13, 15-10, 15-12 to move into the quarter-finals. "It was high praise for the British number one from Jansher," who lifted the world crown for the third time in November. He has won his last eight Grand Prix tournaments in a row.

Biman's flight looks safe

Sports Reporter
Title aspirants Bangladesh Biman were well poised for victory on the inaugural day of the two-day match of the Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.



Abahani's skipper Rafiq Alam pulling off Biman's Bachchu at the Navana Premier League match yesterday.

Bangladesh Biman scored 52 for one at draw of stumps in reply to Abahani's total of 207 for the loss of seven wickets in their stipulated 75 overs. Biman are the only unbeaten team with full ten points from five matches while Abahani in the same number of matches have collected eight points and a win in this match would bring Abahani at par with Biman.

Sohail, 24, Ehsan 25 and Sri Lankan Nishanta with 28 runs were the main scorers in the early orders for Abahani. Skipper Rafiq Alam, seizing up the situation kept his cool and scored an unbeaten 73 runs off 128 balls. Rafiq in his last match against Surja Tarun had hammered 82 runs to stand alone in the runs for Abahani.

Seamer Piyal finished at two wickets for 26 while left-arm spinner Mont returned with figures of two for 44. Dulu, Bachchu and Azhal also claimed a wicket apiece for Biman. In reply, Biman finished at a comfortable position of 52 runs for the loss of Munir, 11, in 13 overs. In-form opener Jahangir Alam is batting at 18 while Sumon at the other end is 8 not out. Biman will resume their inning with another 156 runs needed for victory with nine wickets in hand.

Chess results

Sports Reporter
Biman's Fide master Ziaur Rahman and Chalanika's Ali Amjad Mithu are jointly leading with five points each after the completion of the fifth round in the Cannon Active chess tournament sponsored by Universal Traders Ltd yesterday at the NSC's chess room.

Nine players, IM Zillur Rahman Champak, Jamilur Rahman, Lablu, Riflat, Shipu, Qureshi, Khalique, Hanif and Kamal were jointly placed in second position with four points each.

Bermuda beats US

HAMILTON (Bermuda), Feb 22: David Burchall scored a goal in the 89th minute here Thursday as Bermuda defeated the United States 1-0 in an international friendly football match, reports AFP.

The United States, playing with many of the players that took the team to the World Cup

Friends, Victoria, Ajax win in Div II

Sports Reporter
Dhaka Friends Union, Victoria Sporting Club and Ajax SC posted comfortable wins in their respective matches of the Rank-Xerox second Division yesterday at different venues.

Dhaka Friends beat Three Stars by 39 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Dhaka Friends, put into bat, piled up 215 for the loss of seven wickets in their stipulated 35 overs.

Javed 46, Litu 35, Hanif 34, Shakil 18 and Milton also with 18 not out were the leading batsmen for Dhaka Friends. Uttam with three for 31 runs was the most successful Three Stars bowler. In reply, Three Stars finished at 176 for the loss of nine wickets in 35 overs. Sajol 25, Anu 25 and Ratan with 23 runs were the notable Three Stars batsmen.

Tawfiq, Milton and Litu captured two wickets each for 24, 25, and 33 runs respectively. Victoria defeated Kakrail Boys by 36 runs at the Mohakhali T and T ground. Victoria batting first scored 183 for seven wickets in their allotted 35 overs.

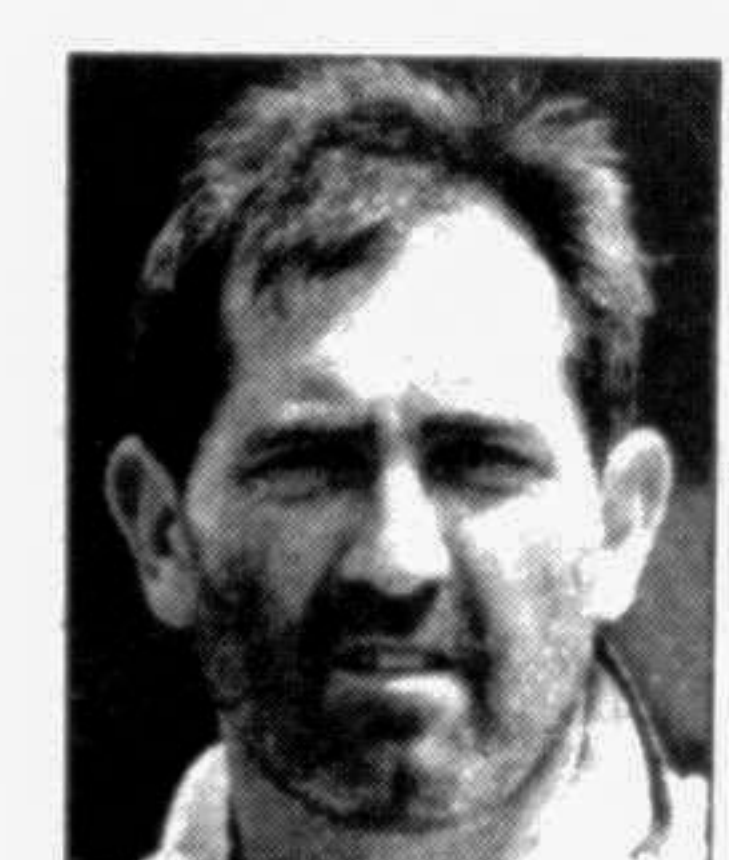
Adding salt to England's wound

PERTH, Feb 22: The England cricketers suffered pain in the pocket, as well as a 3-0 drubbing on the field, in the recently completed Ashes series, the Australian Cricket Board revealed Thursday, reports AFP.

The board's General Manager, Graham Halbish, said the touring side had been penalised 16,200 Australian dollars (12,749 US dollars) for slow bowling in the five-Test series. England had fallen 27 overs short of the required rate, he said.

The fine was deducted from the tourists' prize money of 17,000 Australian dollars (13,379 US dollars), leaving them with a meagre 800 dollars.

England were fined for slow bowling in the Test in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, and bowled at the required rate only in Sydney. Australia, on the other hand, transgressed only once in the final Test in Perth, which cost the home country 7,200 Australian dollars (5,666 US dollars). This reduced Australian's Test payout to a still healthy 111,800 Australian dollars (87,996 US dollars). England fared better in the World Series one-day competition with Australia and New



GRAHAM GOOCH
Australian dollars (629 US dollars) for 22 days' endeavour with one Test ending two days earlier and another one day short. In reply, Annesha scored 146 for six in 36.3 overs. Mithu 28, Minto 19, Javed 17, Diku 17, Rind 16 and Rashed not out 15 were the main scorers for Annesha.

Jones' ton lifts Kiwis

HAMILTON (New Zealand), Feb 22: New Zealand workhorse batsman Andrew Jones again defied Sri Lanka on the first day of the second Test today allowing the Kiwis to reach 217 for four wickets at the close, reports Reuter.

Jones came in when New Zealand lost their first two wickets for 40 and was there at the close on 105 with Shane Thomson on 32. He hit 186 in the second innings of the first Test and with captain Martin Crowe

added a world record partnership of 467 runs to allow New Zealand to escape that game with a draw. At Hamilton a New Test venue and the 64th to be used, Jones and Crowe began the Kiwis' recovery.

Captain Arjuna Ranatunga won the toss and had no hesitation sending New Zealand in on a green pitch in humid conditions. Openers John Wright and Trevor Franklin made painfully slow progress. But looked to have survived the morning when in the penultimate over Franklin edged one to second slip Aravinda De Silva off partner Asanka Gurusinha to be out for 15.

Three balls later, Wright, with the total still on 40 and his score on 21, slashed the ball to fourth slip off Graeme Labrooy. Labrooy, who like the other front-line bowlers tended to pitch too short on the lively wicket, had earlier unsettled Wright when he hit him on the helmet.

Crowe and Jones found scoring easier after lunch, adding 50 in an hour, although Crowe never looked the assured batsman who scored 299 in the second innings of the first Test. He and Jones appeared to be gaining the ascendancy when Ranatunga put himself on. In his second over he got Crowe with his gentle medium pacers when Crowe fiddled at one outside his off stump. The pair had added 85 in 96 minutes.

Then Ranatunga astutely brought on his best bowler, Champaka Ramanayake, in the next over and was rewarded when Ken Rutherford (0) became the fourth batsman

caught in the slips, Hashan Tillekeratne taking his second catch. Jones found good support from 22-year-old Shane Thomson, playing in his second Test in place of Mark Greatbatch. Thomson, dropped on 30, grew in confidence as his innings progressed and his driving was particularly impressive. Jones played with his typical aggression, hitting his first ball for four and hooking at everything offered. His century came off 177 balls in 234 minutes and included eight fours. Sri Lanka brought in batsman Sanath Jayasuriya for slow bowler Jayanda Warnaweera

while Chandrika Hathurusinge came in for the injured Roshan Mahanama. New Zealand replaced off spinner Grant Bradburn with Dipak Patel. Score: New Zealand 217 for four (A. Jones 105 not out).

Scoreboard
Scoreboard on the first day of the second Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka here today:

New Zealand
T. Franklin c Aravinda De Silva b Gurusinha 15
W. Right c Hathurusinge b Labrooy 21
A. Jones not out 105
M. Crowe c Tillekeratne b Ranatunga 36
K. Rutherford c Tillekeratne b Ramanayake 0
S. Thomson not out 32
Extras (lb-5, nb-3) 8
Total for four wickets 217
To bat: I. Smith, D. Patel, C. Pringle, D. Morrison, W. Watson.
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-40, 3-125, 4-126.

Bowling
O M R W
Ramanayake 15 3 47 0
Labrooy 19 6 33 1
Ramanayake 19 5 39 1
Gurusinha 14 3 36 1
Asoka De Silva 14 2 35 0
Ranatunga 9 0 22 1

Aussies 86 for 2 at close
KINGSTON, Feb 22: Australia were 86 for two in reply to Jamaica's first innings of 158 at the close of the first day of their four-day cricket match on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Americans like their own game
DALLAS, Feb 22: American football is the favourite sport among US fans, while cricket and squash are among the least favorites, according to a new public opinion poll released here Thursday, reports AFP.

The poll of American adults, taken by the Dallas-based Sports Marketing Group, found that professional American football had surpassed major league baseball in popularity, with 39.1 per cent saying they either loved the sport or called it one of their favourites. Baseball, called the American pastime, "was preferred by only 30.7 per cent, putting it in fifth place behind pro football, college football and the Winter and Summer Olympics.

Figure skating and ice dancing received surprisingly high marks, with women's figure skating rating eighth with 21.6 per cent. Predictably, non-American sports like soccer and cricket were among the least favorites. Soccer, at the World Cup level, placed 75th, while cricket was next to last in 113th place.

Professional wrestling, considered by many Americans to be a staged show, topped the list of most unpopular sports, edging out professional golf and boxing. Exercise at home is enjoyed by 20.5 per cent of the Americans polled, followed by swimming, camping and beach activities. Hang gliding and cricket were at the bottom of the list of participatory sports.

Zealand, collecting 16,000 Australian dollars (12,592 US dollars). And to make the disappointing fourth month tour a little more palatable, they also picked up 83,333 Australian dollars (65,583 US dollars) from the British insurance company, Eagle Star.

The money came in the shape of awards to the England player of the series, the side's most successful batsman, the player with the most catches, all by captain Graham Gooch, and the most successful bowler Devon Malcolm.

All prize money is in addition to contractual payments to players. Ispahani Cricket
CHITTAGONG, Feb 22: Mohammedan Sporting Club registered their third successive victory in the CJKP Ispahani First Division cricket league defeating Chittagong Port Sports Association by seven wickets at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Port batted first and were all out for 88 runs in 36.2 overs. National star Minhazul Abedin Nannu captured six wickets giving 18 runs for Mohammedan. In reply, Mohammedan scored 89 for loss of three wickets in 18.5 overs.

Novotna crushes Reinach to roll into quarters
OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb 22: Top seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia crushed South African Elna Reinach 6-1, 6-2 on Thursday to roll into the quarter-finals of the 1,500,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

In the quarters, the eighth-ranked Novotna will take on Swedish seventh seed Catarina Lindqvist, who rallied to hold off 17-year-old Angelica Savalidon of Mexico 2-6, 7-6, 6-0. Lindqvist, ranked 34th in the world, took the second set tiebreak 7-3 and never looked back as she sailed through the deciding set.

In another second round match, American Anne Smith outstayed Catherine Suire of France 6-3, 6-4 to set up to

Santoso shocks second seed

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22: Two seeded players bowed out in the third round of the women's singles in the Asian Badminton championships here Thursday, reports AFP.

Indonesia's up and coming Yulian Santoso, 19, created the biggest shock, upsetting second seed Wu Wenjing of China 12-9, 11-4, while South Korea's Shim Eun-Jung put out Indonesia's Lilik Sudarwati, seeded in the fifth of eighth bracket, 11-8, 11-5.

In the men's singles, all the seeded players qualified for the quarter-finals with only Malaysian Kwan Yoke Meng, seeded in the fifth to eighth category, being taken to three games.

Top seed Wu Wenjing of China scored a 15-8, 15-7 win over Hong Kong's Chan Kin Ngai while second seed Eddy Kurniawan of Indonesia had a 15-7, 15-9 win over Indian Rajeev Bagga.

Wenjing, the reigning World Cup champion and the 1991 Korean Open winner, will play Indonesia's Heryanto Arby in the quarter-finals. Joint third seeds, Rashid Sidek and Foo Kok Keong of Malaysia also reached the last eight, securing wins over Korean Kim Chul-Joong and Chinese Yu Lizhi respectively.

Kwan Yoke Meng, who started off nervously, dropped

the first set 8-15 against China's Wan Zhengwen before regaining her composure to win the second set 15-9 to force a decider. The Malaysian won the final set 18-15.

Top seed Lee Heung-Soon of South Korea had an east 11-3, 11-7 win over Taiwanese Shyu Yu-Ling and will play China's Lu Yuhong in today's quarter-finals.

Both South Korea and China put three players each into the last eight of the women's singles. The others are Yulian Santoso of Indonesia and Thailand's Pornsawan Plungwech who put out a Chinese and Korean opponent respectively.

Injury forces Sampras out
MEMPHIS (Tennessee), Feb 22: An injury forced second-seeded Pete Sampras out of the 750,000-dollar Memphis Indoor tennis tournament here Thursday while Michael Chang battled his way into the quarter-finals, reports AFP.

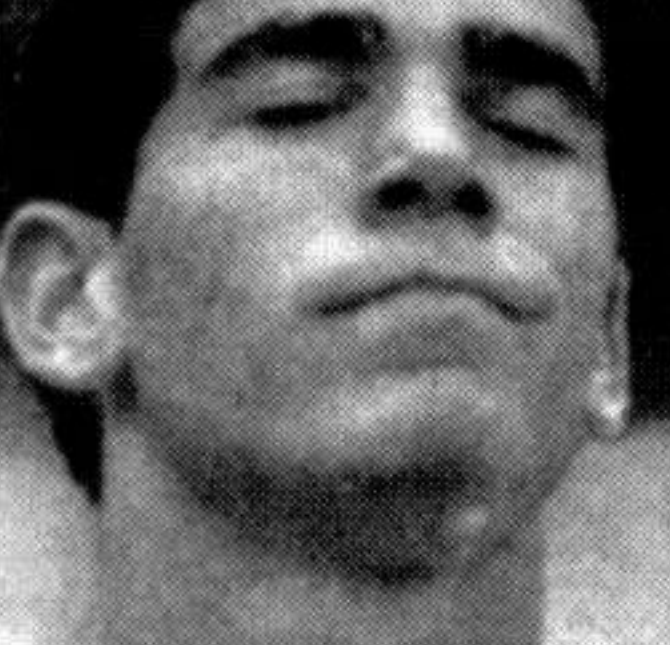
Mark Koevermans of the Netherlands. "It happened when I put pressure on the leg during the service motion," Sampras said afterward. "I felt pain. It was better to stop." "It could've cost him weeks if he had continued," said ATP trainer Bob Russo.

Chang, seeded fifth, squandered a 4-1 lead in the second set but stormed back to beat Canada's Grant Connell 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-4 in a match that lasted 2hrs 45min. "This match could have gone either way," Chang admitted, adding that he was surprised by his opponent's aggressive style of play. "I didn't know what to expect, but I didn't expect him to be that good, especially since he's a player known more for doubles."

Chang's next opponent will fellow American Jeff Taango, who upset Australian Wally Masur 7-6 (7/3), 6-4. Tarango, ranked 13th in the world, replaced Brad Gilbert when the fourth seed withdrew. Seventh-seeded Michael Stich, the defending champion, reached the quarter-finals with a convincing 6-3, 6-3 victory over former world number one Mats Wilander.



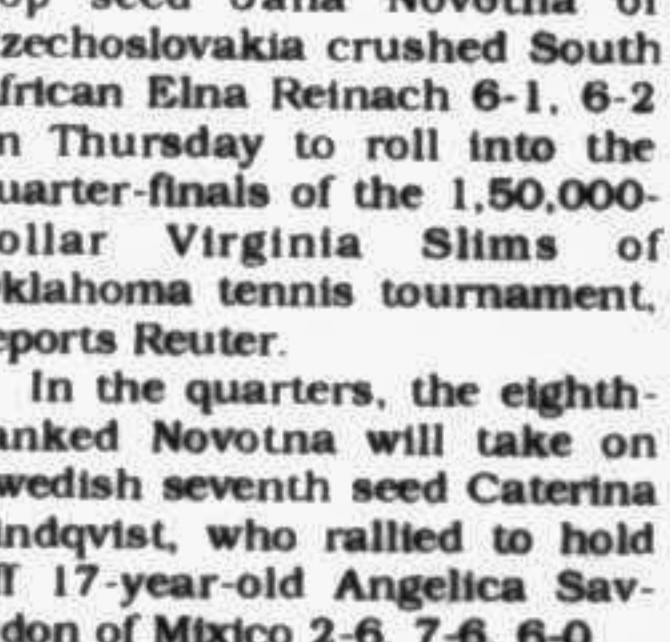
PETE SAMPRAS
Sampras, who got to a slow start this year because of shin splints, pulled a hamstring in his left leg while serving in the first set and retired from the match leading 6-2, 1-1 against



MICHAEL CHANG
of the Netherlands, earning him a quarter-final match against eighth-seeded Australian Darren Cahill, who defeated Pat McEnroe 6-3, 6-4.

Forget continues winning streak
STUTTGART (Germany), Feb 22: Frenchman Guy Forget, on a high after breaking into tennis's top 10 last week for the first time, overcame Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 7-6, 7-6 to reach the quarter-finals of the Stuttgart Classic on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Forget, the fifth seed who rose to world number seven last week when he won the Belgian indoor tournament, showed superior concentration and aggression in both tie breaks, winning them 7-4 and 7-3. The victory earned the 26-year-old Frenchman, who also won the New South Wales championship in Sydney last month before his Brussels triumph, a quarter-final clash today with Yugoslav number two seed Goran Ivanisevic.



JANA NOVOTNA
quarter-final against Anne Minter of Australia. In the other quarter-finals of Spain goes against eighth seed Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands and Lisa Bonder-Kreiss Takes on fellow American Renata Baranski.