

Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Group Two meet

Sarder faces Fernando in opener

Sports Reporter

The Asia-Oceania Group Two Davis Cup second round tie between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka begins today at the Ramna Tennis Complex. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will inaugurate the meet at nine in the morning. The opening day's fare involves two singles matches, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. According to the draw held yesterday at the Bangladesh Tennis Federation premises by the chairman of the National Sports Council Maj Gen Mahbubur Rahman, the first match will pit the Sri Lankan number one and skipper Arjun Fernando against the

Bangladesh number two Sarder Iftekhar. In the afternoon, national number one Shovon Jamly will face the Sri Lankan number two Rohan De Silva. Tomorrow, Shovon and Sarder are to play the doubles against the top Lankan pairing. The reverse singles, scheduled for Sunday, will match Sarder against De Silva and Shovon against Fernando. The winners of the clash will meet the winners of the Singapore-versus-Hong Kong tie in the group semifinals scheduled for July 19. The other players in the Sri Lankan squad are Sanjay Wejemanne and Jayandera Wejcesekara. P S Kumara is the team manager. The Bangladesh squad, headed by non-playing captain-cum-coach Sandru Salam, also

includes Maroof Rahman and Hira Lal. Dr Rashiduddin is the manager. Although Maroof and Hira are included in the squad they may not get to play in the current meet unless either Sarder or Shovon are sidelined through injury of indisposition. According to Sandru Salam, Bangladesh are likely to persist with the Shovon-Sarder pairing for the crucial doubles encounter. He said there is good understanding between the two and Bangladesh cannot afford to take any chances by experimenting with any new combination. The timings for the matches may have to be rescheduled in case of inclement weather because Bangladesh, rather Dhaka,

does not possess any indoor covered facility. According to Davis Cup rules, the reverse singles may be shortened to best-of-three sets encounters in the event of any one side wrapping up the tie after the first two singles and the doubles. Tickets for the event will cost Taka 200 for VIP season, and Taka 20 for gallery (season). Daily gallery tickets will cost Taka 10. Peter Malik, an Indian, who will be the referee, arrived in the city yesterday. The Sri Lankans reached Dhaka Tuesday, hoping to get acclimatised to both the weather and the playing surface. Unfortunately for them, the weather of the past few days hasn't afforded much opportunity for either.

E Bengal signs up Abahani stars

Three star players of Abahani Krira Chakra stopper back Munna, forwards Aslam and Rumi are likely to play for East Bengal Club in the Calcutta Super Division football league for the current season. The three players will get the clearance from their club, and also from Bangladesh Football Federation in a day or two, an Abahani official told BSS here on Thursday. The Abahani official said everything was finalised and they were waiting for the decision of their director Saber Hossain Chowdhury who is not in Dhaka at the moment. An official of the East Bengal Club will arrive here today to accompany the Abahani trio to Calcutta. Earlier, the officials of East Bengal invited the three Abahani players to play in the Calcutta league for the club when they had come here to playing the BTC Club Cup football tournament organised to raise funds for the cyclone victims last week.

Napoli awaits Diego return

NAPLES, Italy, June 13: Diego Maradona was still a hero to Napoli fans, the Italian club's president said on Wednesday and he hoped the Argentine would eventually return to play for them, reports Reuters. "We hold Maradona in high esteem. We haven't asked for the cancellation of his contract, which expires in 1993," president Corrado Ferlaino told reporters. "We hope that Maradona can play again with us. He's still an idol for Naples fans. We hope he can solve his problems soon and start playing again. We'd be happy to have him with us." Maradona, who skipped training sessions and matches last season, was banned from soccer for 15 months after testing positive for cocaine in March. Also under investigation for possible involvement with a Naples vice ring, he flew home to Argentina in April where he was later arrested during a drugs raid. Maradona's manager Marco Franchi, testifying at the vice ring trial on Wednesday, said the midfielder was disgusted by the accusations he faced and was ready to travel to Italy to defend himself in court. "But only on condition that the doctors giving him psychiatric treatment say he can travel."

Basketball refs' clinic

A week-long referees' clinic, organised by Bangladesh Basketball Federation will begin in the last week of June at the wooden floor gymnasium. Two Indian basketball referees, one of them holding FIBA badge will conduct the clinic. All the interested referees belonging to different clubs, services and districts sports associations have been requested to send their names along with entry fee of Taka 300 by June 20 at the Basketball Federation office. No travelling allowance or daily allowance will be borne by the Federation.

Martina won't give up

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 13: Martina Navratilova made it clear on Wednesday that she is more determined than ever to capture her 10th singles title at Wimbledon starting later this month, reports Reuters. "There are a couple of hungry players and I am one of them," said Navratilova after a 6-2, 6-3 demolition of Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki at the Dow Classic grass court tournament. "There are a few of us who ought to win and I guess experience ought to count for something. I am excited about still being in the hunt. Last year I didn't know if I could play because I had trouble with my knees but I had them fixed

and I feel 10 years younger." But the 34-year-old "I won't be playing in 10 years time — definitely not. I said I would play until I was 30 and then see — and I am still seeing. I honestly don't know when it will be time to quit. If the body holds up as it is right now, it could be another three years. "But I don't know if I will have the desire to put myself on the line-day-in day-out. Playing matches is hard enough but travelling is impossible." Navratilova completed a comfortable victory over Basuki by shrugging off a one-hour rain disruption when she was leading 5-2 in the first set. Navratilova faces Maya Kidowaki in the last 16 following the Japanese girls' straight sets victory over 13th seed Anne Minter of Australia.

Keil crushes Sampras

LONDON, June 13: US Open champion Pat Cash, back on his best form after years of injury, knocked out ninth-seeded American Kevin Curren with an impressive 6-4, 6-1 win to reach the third round. Cash, who also beat Curren at Queen's in 1987 before winning Wimbledon, has a home near Queen's Club. The Australian is refusing to worry about Wimbledon, which starts on June 24, despite his success in reaching the final against Ivan Lendl at the Beckenham grass court tournament last weekend. "Wimbledon is a long way away," he insisted. "I am just worrying about playing the next match here." Stefan Edberg began the warm-up to defending his Wimbledon title well, beating Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch 6-4, 6-3 despite a couple of

slight hiccups in the second set. In the sixth game, the top-seeded Swede had to fight off six breakpoints by the determined Boetsch, who reached the last 16 of the French Open last week. Boetsch then succeeded in breaking Edberg as the world number one served for the second-round match at 5-2. But Edberg, who also had a first-round bye, broke straight back, taking victory on his second matchpoint when Boetsch hit a forehand into the net. Edberg, who had been seeded to meet Sampras in the last four before the American's defeat, will play Australian Jason Stoltenberg in the third round. Fifth seed Derrick Rostagno, who beat John McEnroe in the opening round at Wimbledon last year, failed to get through his first match here.

Mac lashes youngsters

NEWPORT, Rhode Island, June 13: An angry John McEnroe blasted younger US stars on Wednesday as having "horrible attitudes for not playing in this week's Davis Cup quarterfinal match against Spain, reports Reuters. McEnroe, 32, was referring to the absence of American stars Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang, all of whom have declined to help US team defend its championship which begin on Friday. "It shocks me that they wouldn't jump at the chance," McEnroe said after an afternoon practice on the Newport Casino grass courts. "It's disgusting."

appointing, especially since these guys have had everything handed to them on a silver platter. All on a sudden, the young players feel like they're doing everyone a favour if they play. Their attitude is horrible," said McEnroe, ranked 14th in the world. Sampras, the US Open champion, Agassi, the French open runner-up, and Chang, last year's Cup star, are off preparing for the June 24 start of Wimbledon. McEnroe, the winningest player in US Cup play, is here with singles player Brad Gilbert and the undefeated Cup doubles partners Jim Pugh and Brand Gilbert. "It's an honour and shouldn't be that big of a difficult decision to play," McEnroe said. "I'm here to play because I wanted to play for my country." McEnroe holds five American records, including most sin-

gles wins with 39 and most doubles and singles wins with 54. When he plays in this year's edition, McEnroe will equal the American record of Bill Tilden and Stan Smith for the most years played at 11. McEnroe has not been in a grand slam final since losing the 1985 US Open to Ivan Lendl. Lendl's Wimbledon chances dampen LONDON, June 13: Ivan Lendl has never won Wimbledon and he never will if he continues to play as he did at the Queen's Club championships here on Wednesday, reports AFP. Leading Grant Connell, the 25-year-old Canadian left-hander, by a set and 3-1, the 31-year-old Czech, who won here last year, lost all his fire and rhythm to slump to a sensational defeat. Connell, ranked only 81st in the world, won their second round clash 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 in a match that was held up for 17 minutes by rain when the score had reached 3-3 in the final set. Lendl made no excuses. "I just played a terrible service game when I was leading 3-1 in the second set," he said.

Budget revises exemption for sports sponsors

Only sponsors of first class national and international games and sports will get the benefit of tax exemption on donations up to Taka five lakh, according to the national budget placed before the Jatiya Sangsad by the Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman Wednesday, reports BSS. The present exemption applies on donations up to Taka five lakh to the sports federations and clubs. The Finance Minister said, this blanket exemption on donations was being abused as a means to avoid tax as many mushroom clubs and associations in far corners of the country came under this facility. The main objective of the development of games and sports was not being achieved, he added. He said, the present government has restricted this exemption of tax with a view to bringing about real improvement in the over-all sports activities of the country.

Chinese coaches to arrive soon

China will extend Bangladesh training facilities to help groom its team for the 5th SAF Games, reports UNB. Chinese instructors are expected to arrive soon to train the Bangladeshi participants in swimming, shooting and table tennis, sources at the National Sports Council (NSC) said yesterday adding that trainers for some other disciplines may also come. The SAF Games will be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo from December 22 to 31. Bangladesh will participate in all the ten disciplines of the games. They are: Athletics, Swimming, Shooting, Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Boxing, Weightlifting, Tennis and Table Tennis. The NSC has arranged the Chinese trainers for the SAF bound teams free of cost.

ROK stickwinders shock Aussie girls

MELBOURNE, June 13: South Korea beat Australia 2-1 in the fourth Test in a six-match women's hockey series here today, reports AFP. South Korea now lead the series by two wins to one with one Test drawn. The remaining matches are to be played here on Saturday and Sunday. In today's match, Young Mi-Ro and Gae Sook-Lim scored for South Korea and Lianne Tooth put away Australia's one goal.

Sunny wants to attend SA Board inauguration

BOMBAY, June 13: Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar has sought permission from the union government to attend the inauguration of the reconstituted United South African Cricket Board on June 29, reports PTI. Gavaskar is one of the special invitees for the function to unify the South African Cricket Union and the South African Cricket Board and has received an official invitation from the managing director of the newly formed body, Dr Ali Bacher. "I have sent the papers to the government for its approval" Gavaskar said here when contacted. Test cricketer's leading run-getter is hopeful of getting the green signal in about a week after which he intends to leave for South Africa around June 26. Two other cricketing greats, Sir Garfield Sobers and Imran Khan, are among the other invitees, it was learnt.

MSC forms new cricket body

Mohammedan Sporting Club, one of the leading sports club of Bangladesh, in a bid to form a strong cricket team formed a new cricket committee last week. The new committee will concentrate on building up a balanced, star-studded side that is scheduled to play in a tournament in Meerut, India. Mr Shahjahan Kabir and Mr Tanveer Haider have been nominated as the chairman and secretary respectively of the committee. The following are the office-bearers and members of the committee: Chairman — Shahjahan Kabir, Chief Patron — Khan Mohammed Iqbal, Chief Adviser — Abdul Awal, Patrons — Kamal Uddin Khan, Mohammed Zakaria, Abdul Malek, Ahmed Ali, Mirza Ali Bairuz Ishpani, Advisers — Mustafa Maksudur Rahman, Kutub Uddin Ahmed, Nurul Amin, Munirul Islam, Wahidul Islam, S A Samad, Badrul Amin, Shaheed Asghar Chowdhury, Secretary — Tanveer Haider, Members — Khalid Hasan, Daulatuzzaman, Ehsanul Kabir Jamal, Habibur Rahman Habib, Enamul Haque, Delwar Hossain Ditu and Sanjoy Kumar Roy.

Lineker puts 4 past Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, June 13: Gary Lineker grabbed all four goals in England's 4-2 thrashing of Malaysia in a friendly soccer international on Wednesday to put him close to becoming his country's highest ever scorer, reports Reuters. Lineker's haul moved him into second place in England's list of all-time scorers ahead of Jimmy Greaves and within four goals of Bobby Charlton's record 49. The England captain grabbed the fastest goal of his 68-match international career after 42 seconds and went on to ravage the Asian part-timers. The 30-year-old Tottenham striker added his second from a Stuart Pearce corner in the 23rd minute and completed his fifth international hat-trick from David Platt's cross after half an hour. Malaysia reduced the deficit to 3-1 before losing their goalkeeper Hassan who hurt his back falling awkwardly catching a corner in the 64th minute. Lineker, who left the squad to play for his club in Japan at the weekend, scored his fourth goal six minutes later. Maitan scored both Malaysia goals as England began to show signs of tiredness in the intense heat and humidity.

Greenidge ruled out of remaining tour matches

DERBY, June 13: West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge, who recently had an operation for a knee injury, is out of the rest of the tour of England, manager Lance Gibbs said on Wednesday, reports Reuters. Greenidge, who underwent surgery on May 28 to repair a chipped knee bone damaged in the second one-day international at Old Trafford, was ruled out on the verdict of a Harley Street surgeon after 10 days of therapy. Gibbs said: "The surgeon reported that Gordon would not be fit enough to play for the West Indies for another four weeks. By then we will be nearly into the fourth Test. "Gordon is out of the tour, but he will still see the surgeon again on June 21 and arrange for further therapy. "The report was faxed to the West Indies Board in Barbados and they had to come up with a decision. It will be a great loss to us." Guyana opener Clayton Lambert has already been called up from English league cricket as cover for 40-year-old Greenidge, whose Test career of 108 appearances may now be over.

Eire beat Spain in hockey

PARIS, June 13: Ireland produced a major upset on the opening day of the European Cup men's hockey tournament with a 3-1 victory over Spain on Wednesday, reports Reuters. It was Ireland's first victory in 19 years against the Spanish side, who finished eighth four places above Ireland in the 1990 World Cup. England, runners-up in the last European Cup in Moscow four years ago, came back after conceding an early goal against Wales to win their Group B match 3-1. Holders and world champions Netherlands totally outclassed Switzerland

Botham Worcs' hero

LONDON, June 13: Ian Botham defied a lingering hamstring injury on Wednesday to thrust Worcester shire into a repeat Benson and Hedges Cup final against Lancashire at Lord's next month, reports Reuters. All-rounder Botham took three wickets for 11 runs in 11 overs as Worcestershire beat Essex by nine wickets in the 55 overs cricket competition at Chelmsford. Holders Lancashire, who beat Worcestershire by 69 runs in last season's final, beat arch-rivals Yorkshire by 68 runs in their semifinal at Old Trafford. Botham, who tore a hamstring during England's first one-day international against West Indies almost three



IAN BOTHAM pace ended any hope of an Essex revival once fast bowler Graham Duffley had dismissed England captain Graham

Richardson cracks ton

DERBY, England, June 13: Richie Richardson, at last looking a world class player in English conditions, struck his second century on Wednesday but Clayton Lambert and Brian Lara missed their chance to press for a West Indies Test place, reports Reuters. Richardson hit 114 to haul West Indies from the uncertainty of 84 for three to 261 for five declared at the close of the rain-interrupted first day of the three-day cricket match against Derbyshire. But on the day opener Gordon Greenidge was ruled out of the rest of the tour after knee surgery, Lambert and Lara failed to take timely opportunity to make their mark. Seamer Simon Base, bowling a steady line, had Lamert leg before for five and Lara trapped the same way for a single when both left handers needed to make an impression ahead of next week's second Test against England at Lord's. Instead, Richardson took the honours, aided by a little luck against the moving ball, as he struck two sixes and 14 fours in his 223-ball innings. It stretched his aggregate to 500 in six tour innings.

Will be missing at Lord's

LONDON, June 13: Ian Botham has ruled himself out of England's squad for the second cricket Test against West Indies starting at Lord's on June 20, reports Reuters. All-rounder Botham, who tore a hamstring nearly three weeks ago, advised England to count him out of contention for a Test place after helping his county Worcestershire reach the Benson and Hedges Cup final on Wednesday. Botham said: "I shall not be playing this weekend because the hamstring is a bit sore and, in all honesty, I cannot say I will be fit for a five-day game by (next) Thursday. "I discussed the situation with England manager Micky Stewart today and we've reached the same conclusion." Botham was injured during the first one-day international against West Indies at Edgbaston on May 24 and subsequently missed the first Test at Hedingley where England won by 115 runs on Monday.

Britain backs return of SA

LONDON, June 13: Britain on Wednesday backed the return of South Africa to international cricket in response to reforms to apartheid, reports Reuters. Foreign secretary Douglas Hurd said that after talks with the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Cricket Board, Britain would back South Africa's readmission to the world cricketing fraternity. Hurd, in a written reply to a parliamentary question, said Britain was influenced by the formation this month of the non-racial united Cricket Board of South Africa. A decision on resuming cricketing ties with South Africa is on the agenda for a meeting of the governing body of the sport, the International Cricket Council, in London from July 10 to 12. Hurd said he had explained to the ANC that the government did not control sport in this country but that he was "sure that the ICC would wish to take account of this development." South Africa has not taken part in Test cricket since 1970 after a vigorous worldwide campaign against the Pretoria government's race policies. Cricket is among the most racially-integrated sport in South Africa and the campaign to end the international ban on cricket contact has been shared by the ANC and by the South African cricketing authorities. The 50-nation Commonwealth comprising Britain and its former colonies has yet to lift its 1977 Gleneagles agreement against sports ties with South Africa but is not standing in the way of sports bodies resuming links in sports which are non-racial. A spokesman for the ICC was not immediately available. Prime Minister John Major, a keen cricket supporter, also raised the issue of South Africa's return with Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley at a meeting in London on Wednesday, government officials said. They said Manley, one of the strongest voices for maintaining pressure on South Africa, favoured a step-by-step approach towards allowing it back into international sports.

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Conditions of US athletics venue termed ridiculous

NEW YORK, June 13: World heptathlon record-holder Jackie Joyner-Kersey's coach lashed out on Wednesday at what he called "ridiculous" conditions at the US national athletics championships, reports Reuters. "I'd give this meeting a sub-zero rating," said BOB Kersey, Joyner-Kersey's coach and husband. He complained bitterly about the long jump runway and the high jump pit at 55-year-old Downing stadium, which was last used for a major athletics competition in 1966. Repairs were still being made on the long jump runway on Wednesday, the first day of competition. "They're just laying the board (for the long jump)," he said. "And the high jump pit is very slippery. An athlete could slip at any moment and that could end their career." "It is totally ridiculous to force athletes to compete here with these conditions," Kersey said of the four-day competi-

Cricketer gets marching order

LONDON, June 13: Former England cricketer Bob Wooler was dismissed by a tennis umpire after disturbing players with his loud conversation on a mobile telephone on Wednesday, reports Reuters. The 43-year-old cricket coach was ordered off the balcony of an executive box after his telephone conversation repeatedly punctuated the Centre Court hush and distracted last year's Wimbledon finalist Zina Garrison. The American world number nine fired repeated looks of exasperation and the umpire called for silence three times before a red-faced Woolmer finally left to cheers from the frustrated crowd. Garrison went on to win her second round match against Pascal Paradis-Mangon of France at the Birmingham women's grass court championship 6-4, 6-3.

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