

Sport

Comilla, Sylhet in Nirman final

Cricket, it seems, is on its way up in the eastern belt of the country as two school teams from Comilla and Sylhet entered the final of the tenth Nirman schools competition yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium following two semifinals of contrasting nature.

The match between Comilla Zilla School and Chittagong Nasirabad High School at the Dhaka Stadium produced a diametrically opposite result than that was witnessed at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium—slightly far from the madding crowd of the city centre.

Magnificent batting by in-form batsmen Anis and Himu helped Comilla Zilla School pile up 221 for four after they had decided to bat first as skipper Lipu called correctly in the spin of the coin. Anis, who had played an eighty-plus knock in one of the earlier matches, fell just five short of what would have been a well deserved century as his scintillating 95 of 94 balls was cut short by the most tragic form of dismissal—a run out. In a twin bid to complete his century as well as to accelerate the team total towards the close of the innings. Just how well this young man ran his singles could be measured from the fact that he sent the ball across the fence on only four occasions!

Himu, Anis's partner in the third-wicket stand of 169 realised in 30 overs after two wickets had fallen for only fourteen, was equally enterprising. Comilla's man-of-the-match in the quarter-final, Himu scored 60 off 99 balls with two boundaries before being bowled by Mohibur. With skipper Lipu joining the act with a brisk unbeaten 29 and extras a helping of 21 Comilla had little trouble in reaching 221 in 40 overs.

Nasirabad skipper Zahedul Kabir was the best bowler of his side with figures of two for 41. Mohibur picked one for 55. Comilla bowlers snuffed any sense of challenge that might have been there in the Chittagong batsmen as, they were all out for 117 in 35.4 overs. Opener Nazim top-

scored with 18 while four others—Zahedul, Monir, Akbar and Mohibur collected 12 each.

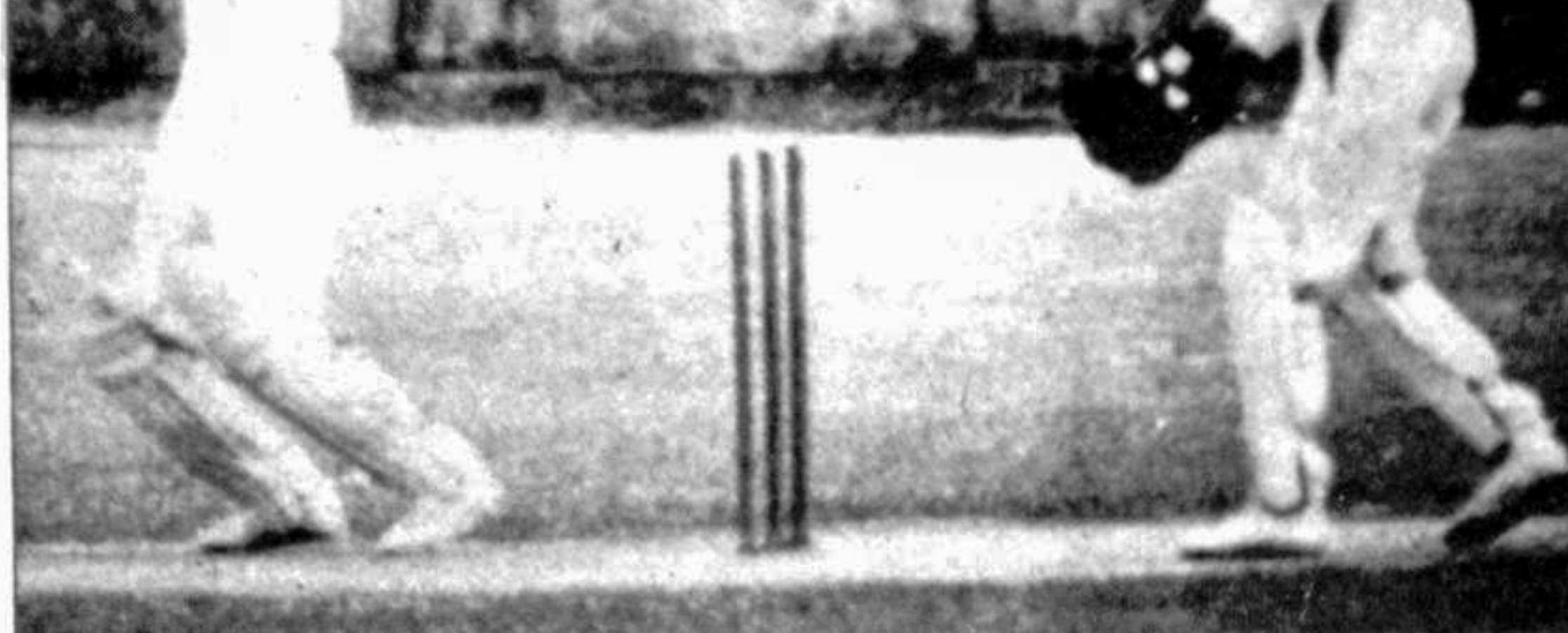
Hassan put a spoke in the Chittagong wheel with figures of three for 19. Khokon claimed two for 17. Man-of-

nership of the tournament so far with 105 runs in 24.2 overs. Rahat was first to go, leg before to Moudud for a well-made 45 off 78 balls studded with four fine fours.

His partner Parvez went on to top-score with 56, made off

Dhanmondi to its goal as they fell short of the target by ten runs when the overs ran out.

Moudud remained not out on 43, made off 35 balls embellished with one four and a delightful sixer. Tanvir scored 37, while Dipu and Babu got



Rahat of Sylhet Aided High School pulls during his knock of 45 in yesterday's Nirman semifinal against Dhanmondi Govt Boys High School at DCS.

the-match Anis went one better with the leather claiming one for 19 to take his side to the final with a convincing victory of 104 runs.

The tall-scoring order of the day was not reversed elsewhere, at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. In the match between Sylhet Aided High School and Dhanmondi Government Boys' High School, but the match-deciding margin there was infinitely closer. Sylhet Aided High School, aided by cluster efforts swept the last vestige of a city challenge with an exciting 10-run victory.

Like the winners at the Dhaka Stadium, Sylhet won the toss here and rattled up 223 for seven wickets in their quota of 40 overs.

Openers Rahat and Parvez built the best opening part-

84 balls and punctuated with one sixer and three boundaries. A couple of useful knocks like a rapid 34 from Takku, Kawser's 25 off 18 balls and the inexorable extras amounting to 38 gave the total a very solid, reassuring look—223 at the end of 40 overs.

The bowlers of the Dhaka school obviously had a 'field day' really sweating it out there in sultry and humid conditions of a late April day that was marked by intermittent hide-and-seek by the searing sun and ashen clouds that held no promise of relief.

Tanvir was the pick of the lot with figures of two for 38. Babu bagged two for 39 while Moudud claimed two for 40.

Gallant Willow wicketing by Moudud—one of the most consistent performers of the tournament—failed to puddle

26, with the latter remaining unbeaten as his side reached 213 for six wickets.

Sylhet were lucky to get away with the highest number of extras of the day—43—not good enough to serve the purpose of the losers.

The Sylhet bowlers were not spared from going through the hoop, too. But Imdadul managed a respectable analysis of two wickets for 30 while Rahat claimed two for 56 and Parvez one for 41.

Moudud had the rare distinction of being nominated man-of-the-match from the losing side for his fine all-round show.

The final, between Comilla Zilla School and Sylhet Aided High School, will be played tomorrow, April 30 at the Dhaka Stadium.

No smoking!

TOKYO, Apr 28: Japan's Fencing Association has banned cigarette smokers from the team it will send to the Barcelona Olympics, reports Reuter.

"Non-smoking has been our unwritten rule for years now, but we decided to put it in words to ensure stricter implementation," an association spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the standard of Japanese fencers had been declining for some years. "They lack the stamina of athletes in the past," he said.

He said the association had not yet decided whether to apply the non-smoking rule to competitors at other international events.

Japan will send six fencers to Barcelona.

Umpire Woodward calls it a day

WELLINGTON, Apr 28: Test and World Cup cricket umpire Steve Woodward of New Zealand said today he was retiring, reports Reuter.

The 44-year-old salesman, who stood in his first Test at the age of 31, said he had no special reason for deciding to retire from the game, but felt the time was right.

Woodward stood in the last two World Cups in India and Pakistan and then Australia and New Zealand this year.

ROK to support China's 2000 bid

SEOUL, Apr 28: South Korea has agreed to support China's bid to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000, a government spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

"The Chinese Sports Minister earnestly requested South Korea's support as China hopes to host the 2000 Olympics," the spokesman for South Korea's Sports Ministry said.

"Our minister offered our support," Chinese Sports Minister Wu Shaoyu arrived in Seoul on Sunday for a week-long visit.

"I hope sports can lead the two nations to improve further their relations," Wu was quoted as saying when he met his South Korean counterpart Lee Jin-Sam on Monday.

Relations between South Korea and China, which sent troops to support North Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War, have warmed although the two countries have not established diplomatic relations.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen became the highest level Chinese official to visit Seoul when he attended a session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) forum last year.

The two countries exchanged trade offices in early 1991 but have also relied heavily on sporting links to improve ties.

Chinese athletes took part in the 1988 Seoul Asian Games despite Pyongyang's demand that China boycott the event. China also sent its team to the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Bilateral trade last year totalled US dollars 5.8 billion, up from US dollars 3.80 billion in 1990.

Bad back forces Becker out

MADRID, Apr 28: A back injury forced Germany's Boris Becker to drop out of the dlr 7,500,000 City of Madrid Grand Prize tennis tournament Tuesday before the top seed played a single point.

Becker's back was sore before he came to Madrid, according to a tournament official who declined to be named. The official said he did not know what treatment Becker might seek.

Becker, the world's fourth-ranked player, was scheduled to play Argentine Martin Jaffe Tuesday afternoon.

"I have a lot of pain in my back, and there are some bones that aren't in the right places," Becker told EFE, the Spanish state news agency.

"I'd rather leave the tournament before I have to quit three games into the first match," he said.

Becker said his back hurt before he played last weekend in the doubles finals of the Monte Carlo Open. Becker and countryman Michael Stich won the competition.

Becker played poorly in the singles competition, falling to finalist Aaron Krickstein in the third round.

India to play 4 Tests in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 28: India's tour of South Africa later this year, the first by any official side for 22 years, would help repay their support for the republic's return to international cricket, Ali Bacher said today, reports Reuter.

"Written indelibly into South Africa's sporting annals will be the fact that it was India who proposed our membership of the International Cricket Council," said Bacher, Managing Director of the racially-united United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA).

Bacher was speaking after announcing the itinerary for India's 10-week tour which begins in October and will include four Tests and seven one-day internationals.

India's support for South Africa's return last year ended nearly 22 years of isolation for the republic since they hosted their last official Test series against Australia in 1970.

Since their readmission to international cricket in July, South Africa have played three one-day internationals in India, reached the semifinals of the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand and made a short tour of West Indies earlier this month.

But the visit by India will be



SACHIN TENDULKAR

the first full series for South Africa since the scrapping of apartheid reopened the doors to international sport.

"The implications of the tour are numerous and far-reaching for both our cricket and our country," Bacher said.

Bacher said the presence of India's exciting young players would also boost the game in South Africa, especially among those involved in UCBSA's township development programme.

There can be no better advertisement for the game of cricket than Sachin Tendulkar facing Allan Donald and a full-house watching the contest," he said.

ITINERARY

1992	Nicky Oppenheimer XI	Halfway House
Oct 29	Combined Bowl XI	Spring
Oct 31-Nov 3	President's XI	Centurion Park
Nov 6-9	First Test	Durban
Nov 13-17	South African Invitation XI	Bloemfontein
Nov 20-23	Second Test	Johannesburg
Nov 26-30	President's XI	Pietermaritzburg
Dec 4	First one-day international	Cape Town
Dec 7	Second one-day	Port Elizabeth
Dec 9	Third one-day	Centurion Park
Dec 11	Fourth one-day	Johannesburg
Dec 12	Fifth one-day	Bloemfontein
Dec 15	Sixth one-day	Durban
Dec 17	Seventh one-day	East London
Dec 19	Combined universities, colleges and technicians	East London
Dec 21-23	Third Test	Port Elizabeth
Dec 26-30		
1993	Fourth Test	Cape Town
Jan 24		

Chinese rule the pool

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Apr 28: China made a clean sweep of the gold medals in the diving competition when XU Hui won the men's platform on the final day of the Asian swimming championships here today, reports APP.

The 14-year-old from Jiangsu, fourth at a Chinese international meet last season, failed two trials but was nearly error-free in the other eight to collect 619.05 points.

It was his first international victory at only his third attempt.

Japan's Kenta Kaneto finished second with 602.70 points and another Chinese, last year's Student Games champion Wu Feilong, third with 560.07.

Even without world champions Sun Shuwet, Fu Mingxia and Gao Min, China monopolized the four diving golds through Tan Liangde, the runner-up at the World Championships last year (men's spring board). Yi Hong (women's platform) and Lu Haisong (women's springboard) as well as Xu.

Chen Shaoliang and Chen Lixia also took silver medals.

Even so, Xu was not pleased with his effort, and was punished by his coach for his failures despite winning the gold.

"I couldn't perform well today. Two of my dives were no good," he lamented.

"I hope to take part in the Barcelona Olympics, but it is very difficult because our team has another very good diver Xiong Ni," he added.

Yan Ming took China's 18th medal in the four-day competition when she won the women's 800-metre freestyle swimming race with a time of eight mins 48.32 secs.

The Chinese trailed Masae Kawashima of Japan by an arm's length until the 750-metre turn, but the final 50 metres were enough for Yan, who easily overtook the Japanese and was 1.68 seconds, more than a body length, faster at the finish.

Thailand clinched their first medal here when Thanya Sridama came in third in 9:14.60 to win the bronze.

4:20.46 to win the men's 400m individual medley Sunday, brought Japan its first gold of the day making a one-two finish with Tatsuya Kinugasa in the 200m medley. Fujimoto clocked 2:03.84 and Kinugasa 2:05.75, beating Qui Jieming of China into third in 2:07.62.

World 50m freestyle record holder Yang Wenli of China, who was competing for the first time here, gained sweet revenge over her compatriot Zhuang Young for her defeat at the World Championships in Perth last year.

Yang, who was then fourth in the women's 50m freestyle with Zhuang winning, clocked 25.48 to win this time. Zhuang recorded 25.51, followed by Ayako Nakano of Japan in 26.45.

Shen Jianshan also took home his fourth gold medal, completely dominating the men's 20m freestyle with his compatriot Feng Qiangbiao.

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An earlier report said:

MEDAL STANDINGS

Final medal standings after 31 swimming and four diving finals at the fourth Asian swimming championships (Gold, silver, bronze, total).

1. China 24 15 6 45

2. Japan 11 17 15 43

3. South Korea 0 3 6 9

4. North Korea 0 1 1 2

5. Hong Kong 0 0 2 2

6. Philippines 0 0 1 1

7. Kuwait 0 0 1 1

8. Thailand 0 0 1 1

9. Indonesia 0 0 1 1

Total 35 36 34 105

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DU cricket

Sports Reporter

An all-round performance by Rawnakul Islam Tutul and intelligent bowling by Selim Shahed powered Department of Finance to a convincing nine-wicket victory over the Institute of Statistical Research and Teaching (ISRT) in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Batting first, ISRT were bundled out for a paltry 47, only Uttam reaching double figures with 11.

Tutul and Selim Shahed evenly share six wickets for 10 and 14 runs respectively.

Finance Department cruised past the ISRT total, making 49 with nine wickets to spare.

Opener Tutul remained unbeaten on 32.

Rashid took the only Finance wicket to fall for 26.

Fed Cup b'ball from May 8

Sports Reporter

The fifth Federation Cup basketball tournament will begin from May 8 in the city, says a Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation press release.

Three foreign players will be eligible to play for each participating team but the teams will be allowed to field only two of them at a time.

The registration of the players will have to be completed by May 7.

WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Apr 28: The top 20 women's singles players according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Martina Navratilova (US)
4. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
5. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
6. Jennifer Capriati (US)
7. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
8. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
9. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
10. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)
11. Anke Huber (Germany)
12. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
13. Zina Garrison (US)
14. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
15. Mary Pierce (France)
16. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia)
17. Kimiko Date (Japan)
18. Sabine Appelmans (Belgium)
19. Amy Frazier (US)
20. Judith Wiesner (Austria)

Morris presses claim for an England recall

LONDON, Apr 28: Glamorgan opener Hugh Morris pressed his claims for an England recall with a sparkling 146 in the English county championship match against Middlesex at Lord's on Monday, reports Reuter.

Morris, leading run scorer on the England A team's recent West Indies tour, led Glamorgan to 255 for three in reply to Middlesex's first innings 341.

He hit 19 fours in a five-hour innings ended by a run-out when he misjudged a single to Mark Ramprakash at cover.

Morris, overlooked for England's New Zealand tour and the subsequent World Cup, said: "My three Tests (against West Indies) at the end of last summer gave me a taste of the

international arena and I want it again."

England regular Robin Smith was one of three Hampshire batsmen to record a century against Sussex at Southampton.

With Paul Terry making 141 on Saturday, Tony Middleton added a career-best 153 and Smith was 107 not out when Hampshire declared on 468 for two.

Smith raced to his century in only three hours and had hit 15 fours when captain Mark Nicholas called a halt after heavy rain washed out the second session. Sussex were 50 for one at the close.

Allan Lamb was another England batsman in prime form. He hammered nine fours and two sixes in an unbeaten 86 as Northamptonshire made 204 for four in reply to Worcestershire's 345 at Worcester.

Riders punished for Le Mans deaths

LONDON, Apr 28: Five motorcycleists were sentenced in the French town of Le Mans after a wave of accidents killed nine fans during an annual 24-hour race at the weekend, Radio France Inter said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The accidents, which were blamed on drinking and speeding, also injured 50 people on the fringes of the Le Mans motorcycle race, a festival drawing tens of thousands of fans.

The five motorcycleists, including one Briton, were detained for questioning on Sunday charged with drunk driving, said the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The sentences ranged from having their licences suspended to the permanent confiscation of their motorcycles.

The French government said on Monday it was considering a ban on alcoholic drinks at motorcycle sport events.

Krabbe's sponsors may sue DLV

BONN, Apr 28: One of world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe's major commercial sponsors is considering suing the German Athletics Federation (DLV) for losses incurred by her ban for suspected doping, the company said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The Japanese-owned cosmetics firm Goldwell said its lawyers were considering whether to take action to recover an estimated 3.4 million marks (1.8-2.5 million US dollar) for a campaign featuring Krabbe which had to be scrapped.

This would be a sign to the DLV to please check in future, not only the sporting aspects but also the economic damage that a ban can have," Goldwell marketing director Peter Hering said in a telephone interview from Darmstadt.

No decision had yet been taken by the Goldwell board, Hering said, but the company was examining how much it had lost and its chances of succeeding with such a case.

Another Krabbe sponsor, athletic shoe manufacturers Nike, are awaiting the outcome of the May 29 review of the Krabbe affair by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) council before deciding whether to take any action.

Nike spokesman Urs Kamber said the IAAF decision could influence whether Nike renew the two-year contract with Krabbe, which expires in

November.

A clause in her contract said that if she was found guilty of doping then the contract was void.

The IAAF meeting in Toronto will examine the case of Krabbe and two other German sprinters who were cleared by the DLV of doping charges after initially being banned for four years.

Record purse at Wimbledon

LONDON, Apr 28: This year's Wimbledon tennis champions will receive record rewards for their efforts at the All England Club announced today, reports Reuter.

Total prize money has been increased by 10 per cent to 4,416,820 pounds sterling (7.83 million dollar). The men's champion will win 2,655,000 pounds (4,69,700), compared with the 2,400,000 pounds (4,25,400) collected by Michael Stich in 1991, while the winner of the women's singles will now receive 2,400,000 pounds (4,25,400 dollar).

John Curry, chairman of the All England Club and committee of management, said the increase reflected the pound's slide against the dollar over the last 12 months.

"When deciding the level of prize money we have to take into account international exchange rates. Wimbledon is an international tournament with a substantial number of competitors based overseas."

Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, Grit Breuer and Silke Möller had provided identical urine samples during a training test in South Africa in January. They were cleared because the commission could not rule out the possibility of their samples being tampered with by someone else.

The IAAF council, if it disagrees with the German ruling, will submit the case to its arbitration panel of three independent jurists.

Goldwell's Hering said that Krabbe had a four-year contract with the company, which is part of the Japanese Kao Corporation and supplies hair salons across Germany and sells products in