

## Seles, Sabatini renew rivalry



ROME, May 2: Monica Seles and Gabriela Sabatini, the dominant players in Rome in recent years, are back to renew their rivalry in a new-look edition of the Italian Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

### Stich disappoints his home fans

MUNICH, Germany, May 2: Wimbledon champion Michael Stich disappointed his home fans when he was swept out of the Munich Open quarter-finals by Swede Magnus Larsson on Friday, reports Reuters.

The German top seed and world number five lacked his normal sharpness and accuracy and his serve-and-volley game failed to outsmart Larsson who reached the semifinals 6-4, 6-4 in just 70 minutes.

The victory was a major triumph for the Swede who has slipped to 59th in the world rankings after an injury.

Today, Larsson will meet little-known German Markus Newie who came back from behind to beat Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, reaching the semifinals of an ATP event for the first time in his career.

The bespectacled Naewie, who upset Dutch fifth seed Richard Krajicek and clay-court specialist Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina on his way to the last eight, clinched the most important victory of his career in two hours 23 minutes.

But the match was riddled with unforced errors and Naewie, ranked 91st in the world, will need to lift his game substantially to secure a place in Sunday's final.

Stich was the sixth of the eight seeds to fall at the Munich event. But Czechoslovak second seed Petr Korda kept alive his title hopes with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 quarter-final victory over Sweden's Niclas Pietrangeli.

### Bangabandhu memorial soccer

Sports Reporter

The final of the Bangabandhu Memorial juvenile football tournament will be played today at the Outer Stadium (adjacent to RAJUK) at 4.30 pm. Ganakutuli Kishore, football Eleven take on Sheikh Russel Memorial Sangsad in the final which will be attended by Awami League MP Abdus Samad Azad as the chief guest. Sixteen teams have taken part in this competition which concludes today.

## Argument helps fire Agassi



ATLANTA, Georgia, May 2: Andre Agassi took a page out of the John McEnroe handbook on Friday as he used an angry exchange with the chair umpire to propel him into the semifinals of the AT and T challenge tennis tournament, where he was joined by top seed Pete Sampras, reports Reuters.

The second-seeded Agassi rallied from a set and a break down to beat unseeded Dutchman Jacco Eltingh 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Sampras turned back 39-year-old seventh seed Jimmy Connors 7-6, 6-2 to take his place in the final four.

But third-seeded Russian Alexander Volkov succumbed to the clay court prowess of Peruvian Pablo Arraya 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

The 130th-ranked Arraya today will face Agassi, playing only his first semifinal of the year, while Sampras will play the winner of a late quarter-final between Spaniard Francisco Roig and American Todd Witsken.

Agassi, who celebrated his 22nd birthday this week, over-

The \$550,000 women's edition of the clay court classic opens Monday, followed a week later by the \$1.4 million men's event.

In a move that will have less impact on the women's game, the organisers have made a bow to power tennis and speeded up the notoriously slow red clay courts. They have also requested faster balls.

But the women will certainly benefit from the 2,000 seats added to the centre court at the Foro Italico, bringing the stadium capacity to 10,000 to meet the growing demand by the Italian fans.

For years, the women played before empty stands, leading organisers to move the women's event out of Rome to such provincial locations as Perugia and Taranto.

But since returning to Rome in 1987, the women also have drawn large crowds, drawn by the perennial Rome favourite Sabatini, in a major tune-up for the French open, a Grand Slam event on clay.

## Graf in Hamburg final



HAMBURG, Germany, May 2: Germany's Steffi Graf overcame a hesitant start and annoying drizzle to reach the final of the Hamburg women's clay court tournament with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over compatriot Anke Huber on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The German world number two looked to be in trouble when Huber led 3-1 in the first set before the fifth game was interrupted twice because of rain.

But the 22-year-old Graf showed her experience over Huber, five years her junior, came his shaky start to pull even at 3-3 in the second set following a heated dispute over a line call with the chair umpire that really seemed to get him going.

The controversy with the umpire helped me," Agassi said.

"I started getting pumped up. I think I was tentative up to that point with my strokes but after I got angered I started to be a lot more effective with my shots, which

turned out to be the difference." Agassi broke Eltingh in the eighth game and served out the set to even the match.

Agassi's confidence was obvious in the third set as he consistently put pressure on Eltingh's serve. The second seed picked up the break he needed in the seventh game and maintained his advantage the rest of the way.

Neither Sampras nor Connors is at his best on clay, but the slow surface worked as something of an equaliser for Connors against the serve-and-volleyer in the first set.

Eventually, however, the top seed's big serve made the difference as he delivered 16 aces.

Sampras took an early 3-0, only to watch Connors fight back in typical fashion to tie the set.

Sampras fell behind 1-3 in the tiebreak, but won six of the next seven points to take the set.

The top seed broke Connors in the first and fifth games of the second set for a 4-1 lead, then fought off two break points in the sixth and went 5-1 up on an ace.

HONG KONG, May 2: Hong Kong wrapped up the Group Two Asia-Oceania Davis Cup tennis competition Saturday with a come-from-behind doubles victory over Thailand, reports AP.

Hong Kong's Michael Walker and Mark Bailey beat Thailand's Vorapol Thongkhamchou and Vitaya Samrej 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 in a three-hour match, giving Hong Kong a 3-0 lead in the best-of-five competition.

Hong Kong won the opening two singles matches Friday when Walker defeated Thanakorn Srichaphan 6-4, 0-6, 6-4, 6-3 and Hong Kong's Colin Grant beat Marathorn Srichaphan, who retired in the fifth set because of stomach cramps.

Saturday's victory promotes Hong Kong to Group One. The last time Hong Kong was in Group One was in 1989.

Hong Kong's captain Bailey said his ambition has always been to "get to Group One and I think we deserved it."

The competition continues Sunday with the reverse singles matches, which have been rendered meaningless by Hong Kong's insurmountable lead.



Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) organised a day-long blood donation programme in association with the Dhaka Medical College unit of 'Sandhani', a voluntary organisation at BSWA office on Friday. State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadeq Hossain Khoka attended the programme with members of the organisation and people from different of all walks of life voluntarily donating blood.

## Econo Open TT

Sports Reporter

The second Econo Open table tennis tournament under the auspices of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Players' Association begins today at the National Coaching Centre. S M Yousuf Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, will inaugurate the meet at five in the afternoon.

Fifty players from ten teams including four district sides will be competing in the men's singles and doubles events while seventy boys (under-18 years) will vie for the singles and doubles crowns. The ladies' event, limited only to the singles, has eighteen participants.

The meet is being sponsored by GQ Industries, makers of Econo ball pens, at a cost of Taka 40,000.

The participating teams are: Bangladesh Biman, BJMC, Bangladesh Ansars, Wari Club, Village Defence Party, Armanitola, Chittagong DSA, Mymensingh DSA, Narail DSA and Jessore DSA.

## May Day cricket

Sports Reporter

Kalindi Krira Chakra defeated Jinjira Krira Chakra by six wickets in a friendly cricket match held on Friday at Keraniganj to mark the May Day.

Batting first Jinjira were all out for 116 runs. Arif 24, Jewel 17 and Munna with 16 were the notable scorers.

Fayez stole the bowling honours with figures of four for 26. Zakir took three for 25 and Rubel claimed one for 16.

Kalindi Krira Chakra made 117 for the loss of four wickets only with Mokhes top scoring with 31. Sentu scored 30 while Fayez who picked up four wickets made 21 and Jasim chipped in with 18 to see their side home and dry in time.

Munna who did well with the bat was the best bowler for the vanquished claiming two for 28. Arif took one for 20.

## Indians lead in Davis Cup tie

JAKARTA, May 2: Indian players Friday defeated their Indonesian opponents two-nil on the first day of the Asia-Oceania second qualifying round for the Davis Cup here, reports AP.

India's Leander Paes beat Benny Wijaya in straight sets 7-5, 6-2, 6-4, while Ramesh Krishnan of India had an equally emphatic victory against Indonesia's Dede Suhendar, winning 6-2, 6-0, 6-2.

Wijaya, ranked 338th by the International Tennis Federation, led the game until 5-3 in the first set. However, Paes, ranked 245th, rallied and took the set 7-5.

In the second set, Paes picked up his tempo and gave Wijaya no chance to score more than the two games.

Wijaya, 18, fought back in the third set, the pair reaching four games all, but Paes, one year his senior, asserted himself, putting the outcome beyond doubt and giving India a one-nil lead in the tie.

The pair had met three times in the past, with Wijaya losing once.

In the second match, India's current best player Ramesh Krishnan had no difficulties dominating the game against Suhendar.

Krishnan is ranked 180th in the ITF list while Suhendar is 534th.

The match will resume today with a doubles Krishnan and Paes against Suharyadi and Bonit Wiryanan.

## HK lead over Thailand

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Members of the Pakistan cricket team, (L-R) Saleem Malik, Intikhab Alam (manager), Shoaib Mohammad, Wasim Akram, Rameez Raja relax at Lord's, London on April 30. The world champions are due to meet England in a one-day on May 20.

## Imran may not play again



KARACHI, May 2: Imran Khan, 39, skipper of Pakistan's World Cup winning cricket team, all but announced his retirement from international competition here Friday, reports AFP.

"It is quite possible that I played my last match for Pakistan at Melbourne on March 25 in the World Cup, though one is never sure about his future," said Imran in an interview with the English-language daily Dawn here.

Imran stepped down as captain of Pakistan on their upcoming tour of England in favour of Javed Miandad because of a shoulder injury he suffered in the World Cup matches.

"There is no question about announcing retirement as it is unnecessary," said Imran, when asked whether he was considering saying good-bye to the game which he entered in 1971.

"There is no point in being so dramatic, especially as I retired once and came back," he said.

Asked to comment on statements about his availability for the England tour if he recovered from the injury, Imran said, "I am not expecting to play for Pakistan in England and also looking forward that I would not be needed by them."

## Yorkshire lose on Tendulkar's debut



LONDON, May 2: Sachin Tendulkar, the teenage Indian Test batsman signed by Yorkshire as their first foreign player, was run out for only seven in his first innings for the county on Friday, reports Reuters.

Tendulkar had marked his debut on Thursday, by taking two wickets and engineering a run-out in Yorkshire's Benson and Hedges Cup match against Kent, which was carried over into Friday because of bad weather.

But Essex will need Lancashire to lose their remaining games against Hampshire and Northamptonshire to stand any chance of qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Nottinghamshire survived a last over scare to beat Warwickshire by seven wickets with two balls to spare at Edgbaston.

With only two runs required, opener Paul Pollard failed to score off three deliveries from Neil Smith and was then dropped by Roger Twose at mid-wicket off the fourth.

The ball ran away from the hapless Twose and Pollard was able to scamper through off the winning runs. He hit an unbeaten 76 out of 210 for three.

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IMRAN KHAN...end of international career? Imran said his shoulder problem had been bothering him, but he could not find time to consult doctors because of raising funds for the cancer hospital he is having built.

## Holder dropped from umpires' panel

LONDON, May 2: John Holder, the umpire who clashed with England captain Graham Gooch in last year's Test with the West Indies at the Oval, has been dropped from the panel for the forthcoming games with Pakistan, reports AFP.

The West Indian-born official, who alleged that the ball had been scuffed up while England were in the field, has been relegated to the stand-by list and is replaced by Roy Palmer.

However, the Test and County Cricket Board denied that the Oval incident had anything to do with Holder's omission from the list for the five one-day internationals and five Tests.

TCCB secretary Tim Lamb said: "No-one here is aware of any plot or conspiracy. To suggest that any umpire would be removed from the panel on the whim of one person is nonsense."

Umpires: Dickie Bird, Barry Dudson, John Hampshire, Mervyn Kitchen, Barrier Meyer, Ken Palmer, Roy Palmer, David Shepherd.

Stand-by list: Chris Balderstone, Jack Bond, John Bolder, Don Oslear, Nigel Plews.

## DU cricket

Sports Reporter

Institute of Business Administration outplayed the Department of Pharmacy by six wickets in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket championship yesterday at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Pharmacy who decided to bat first after having won the toss could muster only 70 for eight wickets from their quota of 20 overs. Zafar top scored with while his name sake from IBA, Alamgir Zafar prised out three of his teammates, for only nine runs.

IBA needed only 16.4 overs to collect the needed for the loss of four wickets only with Alamgir Zafar rounding off his good show with the leather with a useful 26.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

### ACROSS

1 "Beowulf," for one

5 Sun or moon

8 Seize suddenly

12 Lacerate

13 Word on a bill

14 Italian painter

15 Military unit

17 Greek contest

18 Irregular, as if gnawed

19 Rescuing

21 "Picnic" playwright

24 Footlike organ

25 Makes public

28 Italian wine center

30 Restaurant check

33 Rubber tree

34 Actors learn them

35 One type of trip?

36 Small barrel

37 Road to Rome

38 Weigh

### heavily

39 Motel's antecedent

41 Small dagger

43 House-hold

46 "A" in the Sun

50 Jai —

51 Local

54 Like Fred Gwynne, for one

55 Author Levin

56 Hardy heroine

57 Make both — meet

58 Siesta

59 " — boy!"

DOWN

1 French

Solution time: 21 mins.

CRAB TAP YARE

AURA ULU ANET

TRANSFER ITER

DOT SENILE

PARIS GURT

OMIT TRANSEPT

ROT PHONE TEA

TRANSACT TONG

OINK FINDS

MIMOSA GUN

ODES TRANSECT

DELE OIL ERIE

EALES SPA LADE

### verb

2 Equal

3 Othello villain

4 Decisive stage

5 Lyric poem

6 Seek office

7 \$2 transactions

8 Dignified and solemn

9 Record officially

10 Presently

11 Bob's "Road"

16 Chess pieces

20 Egyptian sacred

bull

22 Manner of walking

23 Serfs

25 Diving bird

26 French island

27 Actor Gardiner

29 Sea swallow

31 Personal question?

32 Tarzan character

34 Ending for duck

38 Jai alai, in Spain

40 Manicurist's concern

42 Slender finial

43 Ending for team or room

44 Verve

45 Leprechaun's home

47 The dill

48 Throw the dice

49 Lohen-grin's bride

52 Special time

53 Breach