Sampras in Japan

Open final

number one Pete Sampras

breeze into the final of the

Japan Open tennis tourna-

ment today with a straight sets

victory over Wally Masur,

from Tampa, Florida, who took

over the number one spot from

compatriot Jim Courier on

Friday, was in devastating

form, defeating sixth-seeded

powerful first serves, 11 of

them aces, coupled with solid

ground strokes and deft volley-

ing, to demonstrate his top

first Japan Open, broke his

opponent in the seventh game

of the first set, and in the

third and fifth in the second

Sampras, appearing in his

He unleashed a barrage of

Australian Masur 6-4, 6-2.

The 21-year-old American

report agencies.

TOKYO, Apr 10: New world

Bangladesh

face Japan

today

Sports Reporter

Japan today at 11:00 am

Bangladesh Standard Time

(BST) at the Tokyo National

Group F of the Asian zone, are

likely to adopt an ultra-defen-

sive 3-5-2 format against fan-

cied Japan in today's match,

according to a faxed message

from Mahfuzur Rahman, a

BSJA member, received in

national coach Kazi Salah

uddin, reported that all play-

ers of Bangladesh were

physically fit and were raring

Salahuddin, who will re-

ceive an intensive training in

the Saudi capital Riyadh early

next month, reportedly said

that the players had undergone

light practice and the cooler

climate - recorded at 12°

Celsius yesterday - should not

However, players and offi-

cials of the Bangladesh team

have complained about the

Japanese food, the message

The eleven-member Bangla-

desh squad for today's match,

as announced by assistant

coach Abdus Salam yesterday,

is: Sayeed Hasan Kanan, Md

Arif Hossain Moon, Rezaul

Karim Rehan, Kaiser Hamid

(captain), Jewel Rana, Masud

Rana, Zakir Hossain, Golam

Syed Rumman bin-Wali Shabbir

next first leg qualifying match

against Shri Lanka on April 13

at 4:00 pm (BST) in Yokohama

and meet the United Arab

Emirates, hosts for the second

leg on April 15 at the same

Bangladesh will play their

Ghaus, Ataur Rahman Khan,

and Md Rizvi Karim Rumi.

pose much of a problem.

Mahfuz, who interviewed

Dhaka vesterday.

Bangladesh, placed in

Stadium.

Bangladesh start their 1994

# Narayanganj deny Dhaka



t seems the 1992-93 season has proved more profitable for the cricketing fortunes of little

Narayangani vis-a-vis their more dominant neighbours Dhaka. After the schoolboys won the title of the recently concluded Nirman schools championship only last month, the seniors representing the Narayanganj District Sports

#### U-12 cricket on Sports Reporter

Adarsha Kishqre Sangha beat hosts Ganaktuli Kishore XI by 21 runs in the inaugural match of the OK Sports Cup under-12 cricket tournament at the Azimpur Community Centre ground yesterday.

The National Sports Council Secretary ASM Ali Kabir declared the meet open as chief

The two NSC directors -Sgdn Ldr Mohiuddin Ahmed and Farukul Islam - and the vice-president of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association, Selim Nazrul Huq were present on the occasion as special guests.

In his speech the NSC secretary promised that the champions and runners-up teams will receive cricket gears from the NSC.

Sent in to bat Adarsha Kishore Sangha were all out for 105 in 24.1 overs with Kamal topscoring with 37. Kamal claimed three wick-

ets for 11 for Ganaktuli Kishore XI. In reply, Ganaktuli XI were

shot out for 84 in 17.2 overs with Russel topscoring with TODAYS MATCH

Biddyut SC vs Kajipara Kishore XI

When Abahani

Krira Chakra and

Mariners Youngs

Club stepped into

Stadium yester

day to play their respective

Group B semifinal matches of

the Independence Day

tournament they were, more

or less, in a similar frame of

mind, contemplating easy

victories against lowly op-

ponents. But when their en-

gagements were over Abahani

players were looking forward

to their group final tie while

the Mariners were wondering

waltzed into the Group B final

pummeling Police Athletic

Club 5-1 in a lopsided affair

while Sadharan Bima posted

the biggest upset of the tour-

naments edging past their

more fancied opponents Dhaka

Mariners Youngs Club 7-6 in

tie-breaker. The traditional

super power of our sports

Chess results

Sports Reporter

points from as many matches

led the table of the Dhaka

Metropolis chess champi-

onship for the forthcoming

national competition yesterday

at the National Sports Council

Hug. Abdul Kashem Bhuiyan,

ANM Ruhul Quddus, Simanul

Islam, MR Milki and Saifullah

and haf points each were

Khorshed Alam, MS Abedullah,

Kazi Mahbub Afzal and Jahangir

Omar Faruk, Arman outplayed

Monir, Quddus got the better

of Nooruddin Dhali, Milki out

lasted Shaikh Shahadat

Hossain Ratna, Russel outwit-

ted Abdullah Al-Rakib and

Khorshed, Afzal and Jahangir

beat Nooruddin, Mizanur

Rahman Labu and Arifuzzaman

Sikder respectively.

Yesterday Rezaul Huq beat

Those who collected three

The players were Rezau

chess room.

Russel.

Six players with full four

Abahani, as expected,

what had really gone wrong.

Hockey

Sports Reporter

Association turned the table on fancied Dhaka DSA in the Group B zonal final etching a thrilling nine-run victory at the Mymensingh Stadium yes-

Joining them yesterday in the final round comprising defending champions Chittagong and last year's runners-up Sylhet and the eight zonal champions were Rajshahi and Jessore who registered facile wins in their respective

The 10-team final round is scheduled to be held in the capital April 14 to 22.

Put in to bat Narayanganj amassed 210 for the loss of nine wickets from 43 overs with Ripon topscoring with 47 and Biddyut, Asif and Wahid making 41, 32 and 17 respec-

Halim Shah, who played for Brothers Union in the recently-concluded Navana Premier Division league, with three wickets for 24 was the most successful Dhaka bowler while Halim Babu dismissed two for 23.

in reply Dhaka were all out for 201 in 42.1 overs with Halim Shah topscoring with 58 and Anwar getting 18.

Ripon, who topscored for Narayangani, went one better with the ball olaiming four wickets for 37.

Ripon received the man-ofthe-match award from the local unit of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association.

#### RAJSHAHI CANTER

At Thakurgaon, Rajshahi registered a convincing 77-run victory against Dinajpur.

Batting first Rajshahi were all out for 199 in 45 overs. Dadit topscored with 48 and Saad and Nayan made 38 and 26 respectively. Apu took three wickets for

In their turn Dinajpur could

Abahani win but Mariners don't

Sports Reporter

arena will surely try not to let

Sadharan Bima repeat their

giant-killing performance

when the two meet in the final

their intentions clear very

early in the match scoring

through Jumman Lusai who

slammed home from close

range off a penalty corner in

the third minute of the 70-

minute affair. Akhter Hossain

doubled the margin five min-

utes later from a well-synchro-

the Police players concen-

trated more on protecting

their castle rather going into

the offensive and they were

successful until the 24th

minute when Zahid Hossain

Raju cut loose from his marker

That was Raju's first of two

goals in the match and he had

to wait till the second half for

his other success. When Police

Athletics Club started believing

that their plight was over Raju

struck, again fooling the man-

trying to mark him out and

hitting past the helpless goalie

minutes from time, Jumman

Lusai displayed his acumen in

converting penalty corners

match Swapan Kumar Das

scored for Police, much to the

disbelief of the Abahani fans as

well as his own teammates (5-

the day, Jovel Lusai forecast

what was going to ensue with a

close range shot from a 23rd

minute penalty corner to take

Sadharan Bima one up. But

Dhaka Mariners regained their

composure immediately and

equalised through Mehdi

Hassan Minar in the 31st

The leveller could not dis-

suade the insurancemen as

they stepped up the pressure

on their superior opposition,

and quite justifiably found

chinks in the Mariners' ar-

mour. From a 58-minute move

Earlier, in the first match of

In the dying minutes of the

Nine minutes later, eight

Mashiur Rahman (4-0).

once again (5-0).

minute (1-1).

and rocked the board (3-0).

For the next few minutes

nised offensive (2-0).

Abahani Krira Chakra made

manage 122 in 38.1 overs with Hira making 35 and Sami scor-

Litu bagged three wickets World Cup football qualifying for 33 while Dadit took two for campaign by playing hosts

#### EASY WIN FOR **JESSORE**

A seven-wicket haul by Babu powered Jessore to a huge 113-run victory against Bagerhat in the Khulna zone final at the Khulna Stadium.

Babu spent only 13 runs for his victims as Bagerhat were bundled out for a meagre 74 in 20.1 overs.

Suman (sr) assisted Babu well claiming two wickets for

Earlier sent into bat Jessore amassed 187 losing nine wickets in 43 overs with Suman (sr) and Rome making 56 each while Amir scored 13.

Rupam took three wickets for 24. Babu of Jessore was ad-

judged the man-of-the-match for his brilliant piece of bowl-Meanwhile, the remaining

four zonal finals will be held today at four venues across the At the Dhaka Stadium for-

mer champions Dhaka University play fancied Bangladesh Biman; Madaripur take on Faridpur at the Jhenidah Stadium; at the Jessore Stadium Kushtia meet Khulna while Noakhali play Mymensingh at the Sylhet Stadium.

#### DIV II QUALIFIERS

In another development it has been learnt that the 1993 qualifying meet for the Second Division cricket league will begin towards the end of this month.

Interested teams have been asked to complete their registration formalities with an entry fee of 1500 taka by today,

Murad again put the Bima out-

fit aheac, rocking the board as

well as the opponents' nerves

of relief when Saifuddin

Bhuiyan scored and it was evi-

dent that the match would go

The tie-breaker started

spectacularly with both teams

squandering their opening hits

but for the next thirteen

strokes that followed the two

goalies had very little to do as

they were beaten again and

again. When Sadiur Rahman of

Mariners missed his chance

and Taherul of Bima kept his

cool to convert his penalty the

match was settled and the

fancied Mariners were left

with the consoling thought,

Nat'l TT from

'Maybe, next time'l

into the tie-breakers.

The Mariners heaved a sigh

Bangladesh will return to the Tokyo National Stadium to play their final match of the first leg to be held on April 18 at 10:30 am BST.

place and same time.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo hosted a reception for the players and officials last Friday night. Ambassador Mahbubul Hug was present on the occasion.

# N Korea off to a superb start

DOHA, Qatar, Apr 10: Two goals in the last six minutes sealed a 3-0 victory for North Korea in their opening World Cup Group C football clash against Vietnam here Friday, reports AFP. The Korean opened the

scoring through Don Choi after half-an-hour but they had to wait for Young Son (84) and Song Ryu (85) to seal the

Friday's other winners were competition hosts Qatar who beat Indonesia 3-1 — all the goals coming in the second-

Mahmoud Soufi (51) and (80) and Fahd Kouari (55) scored for Qatar while Peto scoring a consolation goal for Indonesia five minutes from

On Sunday North Korea play Singapore while Qatar face Vietnam.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Imtiaz powered Swadesh

Samaj Kallyan Sangha to a 4-0

victory over Sabujbagh Muk-

tijoddha Sangsad in the Janata

Bank Pioneer football super

league at the Outer Stadium

in the super league. SM Mobin

got the other goal for the win-

marching order for dangerous

points with Rayshaheb Bazar

Tarun Sangha in the other

Aminur Rashid of Dipali San-

TODAYS MATCHES

match of the day.

This was the first hattrick

Shafiul Azam received

Dipali Juba Sangha shared

yesterday.

A brilliant hattrick from SM

#### May 2 Sports Reporter The 18th national table tennis championships will be

held from May 2 to 7 in Jessore, says a press release. Ten events will be staged in the six-day meet. These are men's team, women's team, boys' team, men's singles,

women's singles, boys' singles,

men's doubles, women's dou-

bles, boys' doubles and mixed Interested district sports associations and organisations have been asked to send their

## entries by April 25. Nayim to go home

LONDON, Apr 10: Nayim, the Spanish midfielder who plays for English Premier League club Tottenham Hostspur, is to return home at the end of the season in a 500,000-pound transfer to Real Zaragoza, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old schemer has agreed a four-year contract with Zaragoza, whose general secretary is Victor Munoz, an old teammate of Navim's at

- Star photo

# Pak-Windies U-23 match begins

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Apr 10: Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat on the opening day of their three-day cricket match against a West Indies under-23 team on Saturday, reports AFP.

Pakistan included captain Wasim Akram, vice-captain Waqar Younis and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed in their side. TEAMS PAKISTAN: Wasim Akram

(captain), Shakeel Ahmad Aamir Sohail, Javed Miandad Zahid Fazal, Waqar Younis, Rashid Latif, Mushtaq Ahmed, Asif Mujtaba, Nadeem Khan, Ataur Rahman

WEST INDIES UNDER 23: John Eugene (captain), Robert Samuels, Philo Wallace, Horace Waldron, Shinarine Chanderpaul, Courtney Browne, Adrian Griffith, Hamesh Anthony, Vasbert Drakes, Cameron Cuffy, Franklyn Rose.

## Benjamin back in Windies squad

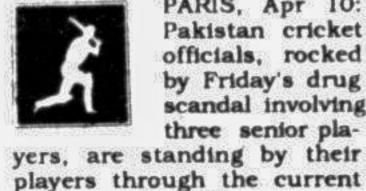
ST GEORGE, Grenada, Apr 10: Fast bowler Kenneth Benjamin, injured after the tour of Australia earlier in the winter, is back in the West Indies squad for the first Cable and Wireless Test against Pakistan, beginning in Trinidad on April 15, reports All-rounder Carl Hooper is

also added to the squad.



forehand return during her Japan Open final against Dutch Stephanie Rottier in Tokyo yesterday. Date glided to her second consecutive crown by winning the match 6-1,

### Imran rallies behind players Two female tourists and a which could not be proved and



PARIS, Apr 10: Pakistan cricket officials, rocked by Friday's drug scandal involving three senior players, are standing by their

crisis, reports AFP. Former Pakistani skipper, Imran Khan joined in calls here Saturday to end Pakistan's West Indian cricket tour if Grenada authorities did not drop drug charges against four of its players.

"It is a frame up and ! advise Pakistan Cricket Board to immediately call off the Caribbean tour and initiate action against the West Indian Cricket Control Board," said

Imran, currently advisor to the Pakistani Cricket Board, said this was not the first time Pakistani players had faced such charges in the West Indies. "A similar sort of conspiracy was hatched against Abdul Qadir" when Pakistan toured the West Indies under his leadership he said.

He dismissed the allegations as baseless saying "fast bowlers never use drugs because it definitely affects their performances on the field."

"We have asked our leaga advisor to take appropriate action against the culprits of this frame-up," said Shahid Rafi, secretary of the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP).

"We can not tolerate such conspiracies because they bring disrepute to our country and players who naturally come under pressure," he said.

"First there was a smear campaign of ball doctoring against Wasim and Waqar

the West Indies unless

authorities in Grenada

dropped drugs charges against

the Board of Control for

Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP),

was quoted as saying that the

charges against captain Wasim

Akram and three other leading

players for alleged possession

of marijuana were a "total

Sources at the BCCP quoted

This looks like retaliation

for the excellent performance

of our boys in the one-day in-

ternational series. Shah was

champions, tied the five-match

series 2-2 after a pitch inva-

sion by spectators forced the

match referee to declare the

Georges, Grenada, said: Co-

mmissioner of Police Nestor

Ogilvie confirmed in a tele-

phone interview that seven

people were arrested in the

incident, but he declined to

with possession of a controlled

drug and have been granted

Rouge Police Station said the

Pakistanis charged are team

captain Wasim Akram, Waqar

Younis, Mushtaq Ahmad and

are Englishwomen Susan Ross

The other three accused

"They have all been charged

A spokesman for the Morne

An AP report from St

Pakistan, the current world

Shah as saying he would call off

frame-up."

quoted as saying.

decider a tie.

disclose names.

bail", he said.

Aaqıb Javed.

Nasim Hasan Shah, chief of

four players, reports AFP.

ISLAMABAD, Apr

10: Pakistan's

cricket chief

threatened today

to call off his

country's tour of

now this abhorrent conspiracy to defame our players," Rafi Earlier Saturday Pakistan's

cricket chief threatened to call off the tour unless the charges



IMRAN KHAN

"I'm absolutely certain the boys are innocent. These charges are baseless. The players are very upset and in a state of shock," said team manager Khalid Mahmood.

"At the moment they are not in any state of mind to play cricket tomorrow and at this stage, I don't think the tour can go on. I have been in touch with the Pakistan Board and we will go home if this is not sorted out."

### LAWYER REJECTS EVIDENCE

Derek Knight, a Queen's Counsel retained by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control to act for the tourists, has dismissed police evidence as

and Joan Coughlin and Gre-

nadian, Irvin Wilson, the of-

on condition of anonymity, said

that the seven arrested were

taken to the station shortly

after midnight Friday, adding

that Walter St John, president

of the Grenada Cricket

Association, was on the scene.

ranged bail for the four Pakis-

tanis, which was fixed at dlrs

MAHMOOD ANGRY

AFP report said: Pakistan

tonight threatened to cancel

their tour of West Indies after

captain Wasim Akram and

three other leading players

were accused of a drugs of-

are innocent and furious man-

ager Khalid Mahmood said

tonight: "At this stage I don't

Asif against

calling tour off

LONDON, Apr 10: Former

Pakistan captain Asif Iqbal

urged his countrymen here on

Saturday to ride out the drugs

storm surrounding four of

their leading players in the

West Indies and continue the

Mahmood has threatened to

call the trip off but Iqbal said

on British Satellite Television:

"I sincerely hope that the tour

is not cancelled because it is

the series the whole world has

been waiting for. Nobody wants

very sad if that happens."

Pakistan manager Khalid

tour, reports AFP.

Pakistan insist their men

Earlier on Friday another

St John reportedly ar-

An eyewitness, who spoke

ficial said.

370 each.

local man were arrested with the players on the beach at the team's hotel on Thursday.

Waqar for Surrey and leg spinner Mushtaq joins Somerset at The Test and County

Cricket Board has a strongly worded clause in its code dealing with drugs and could take action against them if they are not vindicated.

# CONTROVERSY

The current drugs scandal is the second controversy to blight the team recently. After a victorious tour of England last year, Pakistan's

Those allegations made by England Test player Allan Lamb, were vigorously denied by Pakistan. Lamb was later fined by the TCCB for his comments.

The four cricketers, along with two British tourists and a Grenadian, were arrested and charged Thursday night after police said they were found with eight marijuana

The Pakistanis were released on 500 dollars bail each and are due to appear before a magistrate on Tuesday. The maximum penalty in Grenada for marijuana possession is a 125,000 dollar fine.

think the tour can go on".

According to Pakistan's ver-

sion of events, the four players

are due to start a three-day

match against a West Indian

They were with two female

tourists and a local man when

approached by police, who had

allegedly found marijuana

'joints' nearby. All seven were

taken to the police station and

charged with "constructive

were found on the players or

anyone in their company but

the substances were close

enough to them to allow arrest

station on Tuesday - the day

It appears that no drugs

possession".

under local law.

Under-23 side tomorrow.

# Three of the four players

arrested in the incident -Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed - are contracted to English counties. Wasira plays for Lancashire,

the start of the new English

SECOND

pace attack of Wasim Akram and Wagar Younis, who had helped rout the home team, were both accused of tampering with the ball to make it

cigarettes.

# midfielder Robbie Earle left BCCP chief calls it a 'frame-up'

Manchester City. Ardley who set up Wimbledon's visited the Grand Ansa beach second four minutes later, last night soon after arriving on Grenada, where the tourists

Palace goalkeeper Nigel Martyn dropping his centre at the feet of Holdsworth, who fired home. Wimbledon clinched victory a minute after the break when Andy Clarke made a sweeping

run and fed Holdworth for his 17th of the season, before Earle sealed their superb win from Gerald Dobbs' cross.

thrashing at Tottenham.

Wasim, who replaced Javed Miandad as captain earlier this year, and his three teammates have been released on bail but ordered to appear at the police

Efan Ekcku.

Pakistan are due to play in Trinidad to prepare for sank Norwich and lifted Spurs' Thursday's first Test. "These charges are baseless", insisted Mahmood. "The players are very upset and in a

state of shock". At the moment they are not in any state of mind to play cricket tomorrow and at this stage I don't think the tour can go on. "I have been in touch with

the Pakistan board and we will go home if this is not sorted out. I'm absolutely certain the boys are innocent. I would like to be able to prove that and clear their names."

The charges carry a maximum fire of 250,000 Eastern Caribbean dollars (around 40,000). But should the four players be found guilty, the implications for cricket could this tour cancelled. It would be be far more serious.

The American said he thought the key to winning was that Masur did not serve and volley as much as usual, choosing rather to battle it out from the baseline. Seventh-seeded American

Brad Gilbert outlasted fifthseeded Henrik Holm of Sweden 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, in the other semifinal. Sampras meets Gilbert in

the finals on Sunday. DATES SECOND

### Kimiko Date successfully

retained the women's singles title on home ground when she overpowered Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands. The 22-year-old from

Kyoto, who clinched her first major trophy here last year, chalked up a straight 6-1, 6-3 win over her opponent on the Centre Court of the Ariake Coliseum. Rottier, who reached her

career best ranking of 43rd this week, played patiently from the baseline, but she could not find success against "I'm relieved to retain the

title. To reach the best eight in

a Grand Slam tournament that's my target. I'll never think of my ranking," said Date, who has become the first Japanese to win the Japan Open trophy twice in a row.

It was the first time the two players met each other in a major tournament.

With the win, Date collected the winner's check of 27,000 dollars and 192 points, including 32 bonus points, counting towards the WTA computer rankings.

"As you know the atmosphere of the final match is something special particularly it depends on my second title. I was thinking about it during the match. I made good concentration in the first set but it was not in the second set," said Date, ranked 19th in the

## Wimbledon add to Palace's woe

LONDON, Apr 10: Crystal Palace's English Premier League relegation worries increased her on Friday as they crashed 4-0 to Selhurst Park tenants Wimbledon, reports

Doubles from Dons' leading

scorer Dean Holdsworth and

the way open for Sheffield United to dump Palace back in the bottom four later in the day when they entertain Earle started the goal rush with a 20th minute header from Neal Ardley's and it was

with a 53rd minute header Earlier, Norwich's hopes of a first league title were virtually swept away by a 5-1

The rout leaves the unfashtonable East Anglian side trailing leaders Aston Villa by two

points and Manchester United by one from two games more than their championship rivals. Two goals from Teddy Sheringham and one apiece from Neil Ruddock, Nicky Barmby and Spaniard Nayim

morale after their FA Cup semi-final defeat by neighbours Arsenal last weekend. Norwich's only consolation was an 88th minute goal from new 750,000- pound signing

Norwich boss Mike Walker fumed: "I wasn't happy with our attitude and the performance was not acceptable. Each time Tottenham attacked, it looked like they might score. We were not up for the game. "I don't care where we fin-

ish. I'm just concerned about making sure there's an improvement for our next game against Leeds on Wednesday.

"I expected more from my players."

Action from yesterday's Independence Day Group B semifinal match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Police Athletic Club at the Hockey Stadium. Abahani dumped Police

#### gha and Shahidul Islam of the tour if "proper amends Rayshaheb Bazar were shown were not made by the hosts". yellow cards.

Nizamuddin and Kazi

KR Boys vs Kawran Bazar PS (2:45 pm) Motifheel T&T vs MSPCC (4:15 pm)

# ACOG asks 30 cities to submit bid for

Olympic soccer WASHINGTON, Apr 10: Organizers of the Atlanta Olympics have sent letters asking 30 cities, mostly in the south-east and 10 southern governors to submit bids to host Olympic soccer Games in 1996, reports Xinhua.

the Olympic Games (ACOG) will recommend up to four cities to host six to 18 mat ches each, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will make the final decision in September, ACOG spokesman BOB Brennan said on Thursday.

The Atlanta Committee for

# were dropped.