

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), addresses the news men at a press conference held yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel ball room in connection with the twomatch Player's Gold Leaf One-day cricket series between Pakistan and Bangladesh scheduled for January 23 and 24 at the Dhaka Stadium. On his right is Reymond Accardo, the Managing Director of the sponsors

#### Nat'l U-14 soccer begins tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The first ever Biman Cup under 14 national football tournament kicks off tomorrow at different venues around the country

This was revealed at a press conference held yesterday at the National Sports Council.

Tournament- chairman Hasanul Haq Inu said in all 62 out 64 districts of the country would take part in the knock out competition in eight zones. Later the eight zonal champions and defending champions Tangail would play in a final round to be held in Dhaka.

He explained the national carrier, Biman would initially sponsor the event for five years providing Taka six lakh out of the estimated cost of Tk 9.60

Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, BFF general secretary Sheikh Akmal Hossain and tournament Secretary Yousuf Miah also spoke on the occasion.

The teams taking part in the tournament are:

Sunamganj Zone - Moulvi Bazar, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Sundamganj, Chandpur, Habigani and Sylhet.

Banderban Zone - Chittagong, Laksmipur, Rangamati, Feni: Banderban, Khagrachhari, Noakhali and Cox's Bazar.

Pabna Zone - Rajshahi. Sirajganj, Natore, Joypurhat, Nawabganj, Bogra and Pabna.

Gibandha Zone - Nil: phamari, Panchagarh, Kurigram, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Thakurgaon and Gaibandha.

Gopálganj Zone - Dhaka, Shariatpur, Faridpur., Madaripur, Munshigani, Manikgani Rajbari and Gopalganj.

Mymensingh Zone - Jamalpur, Gazipur, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Sherpur, Narayanganj and Mymensingh.

Patuakhali Zone - Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Bhola, Jhalakati, Barguna, Barisal and Patu-

Satkhira Zone - Khulna, Narail, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Jessore, Meherpur, Kushtia. Magura and Satkhira.

#### Rajshahi cricket

RAJSHAHI, Jan 5: New Bright Star Club moved into the final of the seventh Mithu-Ainul smriti cricket tournament '93 beating Macfo Club by 13 runs in the first semifinal played at east side ground of Monibazar today, reports BSS. New Bright Star scored 160

for 9 while Macfo Club made 147 for 7 in the allotted 35

The second semifinal between Reliance Club and Upashahar Cricket Club will be held tomorrow.

The final will be on January

#### Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Lalbagh Sporting and Muslim Institute drew goalless in the lone super league match of the Sonali Bank Second Division football at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

# Annealing or amercing

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh national crickewill face their moment of truth when they champions Pakistan in the two-match players Gold Leaf

and 24. Although the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) officials including Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, the BCCB president, at a press conference held in this connection at the Sheraton Hotel ball room yesterday evening. expressed optimism for a better showing from the local cricketers, knowing Pakistan's might and the brittle psychological composure of our boys.

one would readily reach a con-

trary conclusion.

One-day Cricket Series at the

Dhaka Stadium on January 23.

Regardless of the outcome, the series is surely going to be quite an entertainment for the local cricket lovers as they would, for the first time, see a World Cup winning squad play in Dhaka. However, the tour won't be Pakistan's first since they have already made a couple of visits to Bangladesh before, including the infamous tour of 1979-80 when the Pakistani cricketers, led by Asif Igbal, left amidst chaos, con-

troversy and confusion. The series of two 45-oversa-side matches is designed to give the national team adequate exposure to international cricket prior to the ICC trophy to bolster Bangladesh's chances of qualifying for the

next World Cup. Nevertheless, one might wonder whether picking up the 'best' one-day side of the World was the right decision.

The difference of strength between the two sides is so enormous that the concept of enhancing the morale of the local cricketers might not work out. Even a 'relaxed' Pakistani team can blow us off the field and if that happens if would definitely leave an enervating impact on the mental frame of the cricketers. Moreover. Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis at their peak pose health hazards to our batsmen with their in-swerving york-

But the BCCB president refused to have the national squad written off like that. Referring to Bangladesh's victory over Gymkhana P&T on Monday, in which Akram Khan and Minhazul Abedin Nannu cracked 13 runs off the last over from Amir 'Nazir, who made his debut in one-day cricket only last year.

The overtly optimist Minister quipped, "We will fight Akram with another Akram. Very adrenalin-activating but given the yawing gap in the comparative strength of the two teams, it seemed a little far out.

Raymond Accardo, who assumed the office of the Managing Director of the Bangladesh Tobacco Company Limited the sponsors of the meet only on Tuesday, also chimed in with the Foreign Minister. The budget of the two-day

series has been ear-marked at Taka 31 lakh and 80 thousand. of which BTC will provide Taka 20 lakh. The organisers expected a revenue income of Taka 15 lakh from gate money two lakh from souvenir and one lakh more from TV rights. Bangladesh Television is likely to telecast the matches live.

When asked about the amount of appearance fee that the BCCB will pay Pakistan for. the tour, BCCB vice-president Raisuddin Ahmed said although according to mandatory practice the host are supposed to pay 50,000 US dol-



lars to the visitors, the board hopes to reduce the amount substantially through negotia

The BCCB officials informed the assembled newsmen of the advancement in preparation for a successful staging of the series. The groundsmen have been working on the wicket since the closing ceremony of the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games. A committee has been constituted for security and gate management to avoid unnecessary hassles for the spectators.

Meanwhile, the players list of the 21-strong Pakistan Test team has been divulged. Wasim Akram and his deputy Waqar Younis will have Aaqib Javed and Ataur Rehman to form the pace quartet.

Abdul Qadir and Mushtag Ahmed will add spice to the Pakistani attack with their beguiling leg-spinners.

Veteran Javed Miandad. Salim Malik, Basit Ali, Aamir Sohail; Rameez Raja and Inzamamul Haq will ensure a daunting challenge for the local bowlers. Saeed Anwar, who scored three centuries in the Sharjah Cup late last year, will also be there to rage storm at the Dhaka Stadium with his flashing willow.

The other members of the visiting squad are: Asif Mujtaba. Zahid Fazal, Moin Khan. Rashid Latif. Nadeem Khen, Shakeel Ahmed, Aamir Nazir and Ejaz Ahmed.

The final selection of the local side has not been made yet and the BCCB officials yesterday revealed that it won't be disclosed until hours before the match. Cricket is a glorious game of

uncertainty but when two immensely unequal sides are pitted against one another the outcome becomes quite predictable. Nobody, not even the staunchest of the patriots expects a Bangladeshi win but we would like to see our boys bow down graciously, fighting with everything they have. As the Foreign Minister has put it, "Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best."

### PWD in a tangle Sports Reporter



Public Works Department (PWD) were thrown in the deep water when they lost their last league

engagement to Agrani Bank by two wickets in the Milnars First Division cricket league encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first PWD were all out for 145 in 44.1 overs, with Boglu making 60.

Ullash, Atiq and Suman were the other notable run-getters for the office team which now faces the unwelcome prospect of returning to the base of the leader. PWD had the high noon of their 'career' when they spent two seasons in the vaunted club of twelve in the Navana Premier league before descending to Milnars league and now they confront their moment truth with just four points from nine matches. Along with Lalmatia and promotees Shantingar 'B', PWD are destined to get engaged in a triangular last ditch battle that will ascertain to the demo lot of the two luckless teams to face relegation.

Agrani Bank who with yesterday's win took this collection to ten from nine matches had in Al Amin and Ripon, the bowlers who delivered the goods.

· Amin took three for 27 while the latter bagged two for 23. Boglu who formed the core of

PWD's batting turned in a copacetic performance with the ball when bankers went out there in the middle to collect the 146 runs needed for a win from 40 overs.

He captured three wickets for 36 as Agrani Bank limped to a narrow two-wicket win posting 147 for eight with just five balls to spare.

Before Boglu soared PWD's hopes with that inspirational but abortive spell, the upper order batting of Agrani Bank had the cake well covered.

The two openers - Babu and experienced captain Anwar added 56 for the first wicket, the latter top scoring with 37, followed by Babu who made 28.

One drop Niaz made 26 and with Nadim staying unbeaten on 23. Agrani Bank sweated but

scrambled home duly.

#### POINTS TABLE Tabulate under matches

played, won, lost and points. Sadharan Bima 9 7 2 14 Eskaton Sabuj Songha 9 7 2 14 Bangladesh Railway 6 3 Wanderers 3 12 City Club Agrani Bank Evergreen Club Shantinagar 'B' PWD Lalmatia 2 7

Hasanul Haq Inu addressing a press conference at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday to announce the commencement of the inaugural Biman Cup (under-14) national football competition from tomorrow. Managing Director of Biman Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury (R) and tournament secretary Yousuf Miah (L) were also present.

- Star photo

### Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

DOHS, Young Pegasus A and Ajax won their respective matches in the Second Division cricket league yesterday.

At the Pallabi ground. Mirpur. DOHS recorded an easy 52-run win against Rayer

The winners batted first to collect 181 for eight from the stipulated quota of 40 overs with Jewel making 49. Sohel Hamid 34 and Pitu 22.

Rayer Bazar's Russel captured three wickets for 20

Rayer Bazar in their turn were all out for 129 in 37.2

Raju and Haider were the only batsmen to defy to DOHS attack with 26 and 15 respec-

Ripon with three wickets for 19 and Taslim with two for 24 led the demolition act for DOHS.

Young Pegasus crushed Cantonians by eight wickets on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Cantonians batted first and

were all out for 120 in 38.3 Javed's 29 and two un-

beaten knocks of 24 and 23 by Sunny and Mahbub were enough to help Pegasus reach the target with plenty of wickets and overs to spare.

Ajax beat Millbarracks by four wickets in another encounter at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Bablu of Ajax took five wick ets for 40 as Millbarracks, batting first, mustered 169 for nine with Nayan making 33. Dulu 32 and Tota 31.

A power packed innings of 85 by Shaheen revved up Ajax's victory charge. With Dola and Murtaza chipping in with 24 and 20, Ajax posted 172 for stx to walk away with a fourwicket win.

### Patel drops

WELLINGTON, Jan 5: New Zealand's cricket team will return to Australia this weekend for the World Series Cup oneday series without off-spin bowler Dipak Patel, team officials said Wednesday, reports

have surgery on a persistent knee problem. National selection convenor Ross Dykes said Patel will not be replaced meaning New Zealand will have only 13 players. New Zealand plays South Africa in Brisbane on Saturday

Patel has dropped out to

and against Australia in Sydney next Tuesday. Australia and South Africa play in Brisbane on Sunday. The top two sides play a

best-of-three finals series. Thus far in the series, Australia has six points from three wins. while South Africa and New Zealand have three points each.

### Goalless draws

Sports Reporter Both the matches of the

Progoti Insurance Third Division football super league ended goalless at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Maghbazar Kishalaya Sangha split points with Fire Service while their neighbours Maghbazar Krira Chakra had similar luck against Bashabo Tarun Sangha.

#### Czech Republic enter Hopman Cup final

PERTH, Jan 5: The top seeded Czech Republic

whipped host nation Australia in a semifinal here Wednesday night to become the first team to reach the final of the 12-nation Hopman Cup tennis mixed team's tournament, reports AFP. Jana Novotna and Petr Ko-

rda both won their singles matches to give the Czech Republic an unbeatable 2-0 lead at the Burswood Dome. Novotna thrashed Nicole

Provis 6-2, 6-2 in only 55 minutes in the women's sin-

Then Korda after being surprised by Wally Masur in the opening set of the men's singles, overcame the Australian in a three-set struggle, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4,

The Czech Republic meets Germany or Austria in Friday's final of the 760,000 Australian (520,000 US) contest.

Germany and Austria clash in the second semifinal on Thursday.

#### Medvedeva joins the chorus

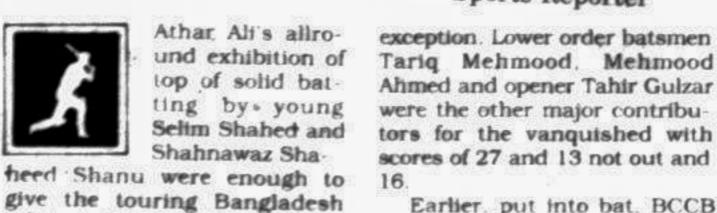
BRISBANE, Jan 5: Third seed Natalia Medvedeva advanced to the third round of the Australian women's hardcourt tennis championship here Wednesday and then described playing in the middle of the day as a "crime", reports AFP.

The 22-year-old Ukrainian, ranked 23 in the world, beat Belgian Sandra Wasserman 6-4.

"It's really a crime to play in conditions like this," Medvedeva

### Athar inspires BCCB win

Sports Reporter



Cricket Control Board XI a

comfortable 66-run win over

United Bank Limited of

Pakistan at the LCCA ground.

Lahore yesterday, according to

a faxed message received at the

Babul - made early inroads to

sive win for the tourists, who

foreshadow the second succes-

started their 15-day prep-pack

age tour of Pakistan with a

crushing defeat to Pakistan

WAPDA in the first of the ten

exhibition matches. Anis took

two fer 36 while Babul bagged

Pakistan international Ashraf

Ali and Zahid Khan, could not

stand upto the visitors' attack

with stumper Shaffullah, who

UBL, which contained former

BCCB office last night.

Earlier, put into bat, BCCB XI rattled up 185 for four wick



ATHAR ALL allround show ets from their quota of 40 overs with Salim Shahed hitting an uncharacteristically aggressive 61 off 76 balls.

An orthodox right hander Shahed, not known for his over head shots, yesterday hoisted a made 45, proving the notable sixer as well as five well exe-

cuted boundaries. Shanu, the stuggy dark batsman, remained unbeaten on 51 off 63 balls with the help of two fours and a

Opener Nurul Abedin Nobel. who had one of his fingers split yesterday left early making only three but his partner Athar paired with captain Faruque

Ahmed to stem the rot. Athar scored 36 off 60 balls with the help of four fours while Faruque departed for a quick

Shahed and Shanu then ture of caution and aggression.

Minhazul Abedin Nannu. so far the most successful BCCB batsman was held back in the order and allrounder Enamul Huq Moni was unbeaten on five along with Shanu when overs ran out.

## Sydney Test nicely poised



two for 20.

South African pa-

as they pushed to victory with four wickets late on the fourth day of the second cricket Test here on Wednesday, reports Australia, set 117 runs to

win, looked to be inching their way along before the northern Transvaal quick bowler struck with three wickets off five balls to put the shivers through the home side at 56 for four. At the close on Wednesday

Australia were 63 for four with Mark Waugh on four and skipper Allan Border on seven. Australia were 51 for one before the flurry of three wickets

in 10 minutes. De Villiers had David Boon snapped up at short leg by Garv Kirsten for 24, Tim May, sent in as nightwatchman, lbw next ball for a duck and Mark Taylor caught behind by Dave

Richardson for 27.

Earlier De Villiers had

4-22 off 12 overs, his last spell yielding 3-13 from 5 overs.

time during Thursday's final day to record their first victory over South Africa since winning at Cape Town seven years ago and their first on home soil since their eight-wicket success in Melbourne in 1967.

dismissed for 239, putting them 116 runs ahead and giving the Australians at least eight hours' batting time. The tourists: 395-minute re-

sistance ended at 3.27 pm (0427 GMT) when Allan Donald prodded forward giving a catch to wicketkeeper Ian Healy for Shane Warne's fifth wicket of the innings and 12 for the match.

Warne, unplayable for most

first innings. It was the first time since De Villiers had the figures of Bruce Reid's 12 wickets against India in Melbourne in 1992 that

> The freekish leg-spinner has now taken 96 wickets in 22

> > Tests at an average of 24.25. South Africa, 169 for five at lunch, slumped to 203 for nine but were bolstered by a spirited unbeaten innings of 76 by Jonty Rhodes and a sprightly last wicket stand on 36 with Donald.

Donald lasted 42 minutes for his 10 runs giving support for Rhodes, who defied the Australian bowlers for a shade under 200 minutes with a six of Craig McDermott and six fours off 162 balls.

McDermott played stoutly on an unresponsive pitch taking 4-62 off 28 overs and finishing the match with six wickets.

#### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between Australia and South Africa played here on Wedn-

SOUTH AFRICA: 1st innings 169(G Kirsten 67; WJ Cronje 41: S Warne 7-56),

AUSTRALIA: 1st innings 292 (M. J. Slater 92, D R Martyn 59; A Donald 4-83, F De Villiers 4-

SOUTH AFRICA: 2nd innings (resumed 94 for 2) Hudson c Healy b McDermott Kirsten b McDermott Cronje b McDermott Wessels b Warne Cullinan lbw b Warne Rhodes not out Richardson lbw b McGrath Symcox c Healy b McDermott 4 Matthews c M Waugh b Warne 4 De Villiers lbw b Warne Donald c Healy b Warne Extras: (b13, lb1, nb5) Total: Fall of wkts: 1-2: 2-75; 3-

101; 4-107; 5-110; 6-182; 7-188; 8-197; 9-203. Bowling: McDermott

McGrath

Warne

Border Overs: 109 AUSTRALIA: 2nd innings Taylor c Richardson b De Villiers Slater b De Villiers Boon c Kirsten b De Villiers May lbw b De Villiers Waugh not out Border not out

19

Total: (4 wkts) Fall of wkts: 1-4; 2-51; 3-51; 4-56 Bowling: Donald De Villiers Matthews

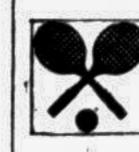
Symcox

Sampras said he let victory season compared to Alami's

Overs: 33

through the first set.

## Sampras sent packing



Topranked Pete slip through his fingers. Sampras was upset by qualifier Karim Alami of Morocco 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 on Wednes-day, eliminating

Open, reports AP. "I had already made a flight reservation to leave Doha tonight when I found out I was due to play Sampras," said Alami, 20, ranked 204th by the

the American from the first

round of the dlrs 525,000 Qatar

ATP Tour. "When I saw the draw I thought to myself that it would be a good experience for me and a good opportunity to play him. He made a lot of mistakes and I played great today."

"I let him off the hook.

didn't play well at all. I had the match under control, but for a set and a half my serve just vanished," said Sampras, who double faulted eight times. "This is not the way I wanted

to start the year off, but he is a crafty player who played well. It can be difficult against a man who you have never come up against before." The first round match had

been held over from Tuesday because of a slippery surface caused by an unusually high humidity levels. Sampras was leading 3-1 in the first set.

Sampras, who earned a staggering dlrs 4.5 million last

He broke Alami to open the second set and led 2-0 before the Moroccan rallied to break

meager dlrs 33,000, breezed

Sampras three straight times. Alami gained confidence when he took the sixth game of the second set with a drop shot that left Sampras struggling at

the back of the court and took

the set on Sampras' double

Alami led 5-4 on serve before he earned double break point, getting Sampras on the first when the American put an overhead forehand into the net.

Sampras meanwhile vowed to bounce straight back from the defeat

Athar, the tall allrounder. captured four wickets for 18 made light of the absence of runs with his accurate military consistent Akram Khan, who medium pace as UBL chasing: had to skip the match owing to 186 for win in 40 overs eventutonsillitis, with some splendid ally finished on 129 for nine. batting that had judicious mix-New ball bowlers - left arm Anis and Mizanur Rahman

> BCCB XI are touring Pakistan as a part of Bangladesh's preparation for the forthcoming ICC Trophy.

scheduled to begin in Kenya from next month. Three top finishers will win the rights to compete in the next World Cup. to be held in the subcontinent

#### of the South African batsmen opener Michael Slater. Austron this dusty pitch, finished ceman Fanie de alia's first innings topscorer with 5-72 off 42 overs following Villiers put Austr with 92, out cheaply, bowled for his overpowering 7-56 in the alia under un one leaving Australia at four for expected pressure

an Australian bowler had taken Australia are looking someas many wickets in a home

Earlier, South Africa were

from fast bowler Craig McDermott with some difficulty with his right hand since he is a southpaw on the fourth day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa in Sydney yesterday. - AFP photo

South African captain Kepler Wessels plays a delivery