

Rafiqul dooms Dhanmondi

Sports Reporter

Off-spinner Rafiqul Islam spanned Dhanmondi to doom as Eskaton Sabuj Sangha registered an exciting 14-run win in a rather low-scoring reduced encounter of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament yesterday.

He took five wickets for 25 runs in eight overs as Dhanmondi, chasing 143 for victory in 40 overs, were all out for 128 in 36.3 overs at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground.

After a fairly sound start of 35, both the Dhanmondi openers fell to Eskaton's new ball bowler Taher Md Khan, who bowled commendably to finish with an analysis of two for 21 from eight overs.

But Rafiqul stole the show with some effective exhibition of finger spin that earned him the first five-wicket haul of the inchoate season.

On a wicket offering assistance in a very forthright manner, Rownakul Islam provided good support to the man of the afternoon with two for 19 from four expensive overs.

Shabbir Khan and Tapas Sarkar, both of whom became Rafiqul's preys, showed some resistance with 22 and 21 respectively.

Openers Nehal and Morshed along with Kabir were the other batsmen to make it to the double figures.

In the morning, Eskaton raised 142 for six from 40 overs, the reflexed quota with five chopped from the original one because of a delayed start, mainly due to a well-compiled 58 by opener Maifuzul Islam, a member of the Bangladesh youth team that had a successful tour of Malaysia a few months back.

His senior partner Rownak with 18 and Zafrul Ehsan with 16 were the other batsmen to be in the double figures.

Nehal took two for 38 while Humayun, Sarwar and Zahid collected one apiece.

On a day destined to follow the path of close contest, Gulshan Youth recorded a three-wicket victory against Agrani Bank in yesterday's other engagement held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Veteran wicketkeeper-cum-opener Anwar's 89-ball 51 featuring three fours and a six went in vain at the end of the day as bank bowlers failed to defend the modest total of 174 for nine from 45 overs.

Skipper Anwar Huda deposited substantially in the bank account with 37 made from 54 balls.

But the rest of the batting just fell away in the face of some effective bowling by Nafis and Zia, who shared five wickets between themselves for only 57 runs in the slog overs.

Nafis was by far the best with three for 27 while Zia bagged two giving away a run more. After having proceeded calmly and purposefully to 48 in 13 overs, Gulshan were dealt double blows at the same score with both the openers becoming victims of Nuruddin Jalaly, who went on to have a haul of three for 20.

Although half the side was back in the dressing room with 124 in 33.3 overs, left-handed Imran Hamid Parthay in brief but useful associations first with Nahid and later wicketkeeper Atiar, kept them focused on victory which eventually came in 42.3 overs with three wickets in hand.

Mirza Akbar, a right-handed opening bat from Hyderabad of India, arrived yesterday to be in the line of trial for Brothers Union, in search of useful foreign cricketers to boost their youngish combination.

A seasoned cricketer reportedly with Ranji experience Akbar will be the Gopibagh team's second foreigner to be tried following the abortive trial of a Pakistani who has already been sent back home.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Bima vs Udayi Club (Mirpur Pallabi ground).
Wari Club vs Dhaka Wanderers (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium).

BU still atop

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union stayed five points clear at the top of the points table on completion of the sixth round matches of the First Division chess league at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Spearheaded by Bangladeshi Grandmaster Niaz Murshid, Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi and Indian V Sharavanan, Brothers beat Mahakkali Pradip Sangha 3-1 to raise their collection to 21 points.

The only point they lost yesterday came when Abdullah al-Raqib failed to turn up in his match against Abu Sufyan.

Meanwhile, once champions Bangladesh Biman's continued their wretched run as the national airlines team drew 2-2 with Genius Chess Club. Biman now have 16 points.

A point behind at the third position were Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) who defeated Protibha Daba Goshhi 3.5-1.5.

Windies 371 for four

BANGALORE, Nov 14: An unbeaten 99 by Keith Arthurton in his 175-run unfinished fourth-wicket partnership helped West Indies build up a total of 371 for four on the second day of their three-day match against India's Board President's XI Monday, reports AP.

Earlier, opener Phil Simmons scored 91 before being bowled by Sairaj Bahutule while going for a sweep.

Resuming at an overnight score of two without loss, the West Indian opening pair Simmons and Stuart Williams hit the Indian bowlers all round the field for boundaries.

Shivnarin Chanderpaul succeeded Williams, but did not last too long and Brian Lara never settled down and was bowled by Ashis Kapoor for 22.

The West Indians had dismissed the President's Eleven for 238 in the first innings.

DMFA ceremonial

Sports Reporter

The prize distribution ceremony of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), organisers of the city oriented soccer championships for the last three domestic seasons, from 1991 to 1994, will be held at a local hotel today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadique Hossain, who is also the chairman of the National Sports Council, country's highest governing body for sports, will be the chief guest of the ceremonial beginning at 7:00 pm.

Meanwhile, the ad-hoc committee of the DMFA, which ran the show for the last three seasons, is likely to place a plea before the state minister for the election of an executive body ahead of the next domestic season.

N'ganj football

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Nov 14: BSEC (Dockyard) and Sirajuddowla Club shared points in a 2-2 draw in the Hanjin Shipping First Division football league at the Osmani Stadium here today.

Biplob and Ripon scored one each for BSEC while Pavel struck both the goals for Sirajuddowla.

Eastern FC will take on Prokash Club tomorrow (Tuesday).

Stewart set to return

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Nov 14: English cricket vice-captain Alec Stewart passed a fitness test on his fractured finger on Monday and looks certain to play against the Australian XI in Hobart starting on Friday, reports Reuters.

The four-day match is the tourists' final encounter before the first Test in Brisbane, starting on November 25.

Stewart, who fractured his right index finger in practice in Perth on Oct 24 and is yet to play a match on tour, had a 35 minute net session against Graham Gooch's bowling on Monday morning, the third day of England's match against New South Wales in Newcastle.

It was his first batting practice since sustaining the injury, and he said later, "I'm still just aware of it but I will be fit for the match in Tasmania. I won't be quite 100 per cent for that match, but I'll be good enough."

But just where Stewart will bat against the Australian XI is uncertain.

England's management had wanted Stewart to open the innings on tour, but doubts over his form and fitness, coupled with Gooch's excellent form at the top of the order, could put him in the middle order.

"Ideally we'd like him to open in Hobart, but we can't confirm that he will at the moment. We'll have to see how his net sessions go over the next few days," team manager Keith Fletcher said.

Team physiotherapist Dave Roberts confirmed Stewart would be fully fit for the first Test.

England-NSW tie draw-bound

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Nov 14: England held a lead of 163 runs with five second-innings wickets in hand Monday after the third day of their four-day cricket match against New South Wales state, reports AP.

At stumps, England, preparing for the first Ashes Test beginning Nov 25 in Brisbane, were 200-5, with all-rounder Craig White 31 and Mike Gatting 33 sharing a stand of 51 runs.

It would be nice if Gatt got a hundred," England coach Keith Fletcher said. "He needs time in the middle and given that time I'm certain he'll get more fluent and his strokeplay will come back."

White was dropped in the gully by Brad McNamara on one and wicketkeeper Craig Glasscock missed stumping him on 31.

Captain Mike Atherton made 37 and Graham Thorpe 27 while left-arm spinner Anthony Kershler collected 2-26 for New South Wales.

Earlier Monday, England bowler Devon Malcolm took 4-11 with the second new ball as New South Wales crashed to 365 all out in reply to England's first innings of 328.

Atherton drove off spinner Gavin Robertson firmly, but the ball ricocheted off the boot of Michael Slater in close to Mark Waugh at short cover.

Graeme Hick failed with 12 when he was bowled by speedster Wayne Holdsworth just

after lunch with the total on 48.

All rounder Shane Lee struck the first blow by trapping makeshift opener Steve Rhodes lbw for 16 in the sixth over of the innings.

Atherton has looked in good touch all tour but is yet to notch a score better than the first innings' 68 against Western Australia in Perth two weeks ago.

Robertson, named Monday in the Australian XI to play England in Hobart later this week, had 1-23 from eight overs.

Malcolm had the unflattering figures of 0-70 overnight from 15 overs but finished with 4-81 from 20.4 overs after ripping through the New South Wales tail on Monday morning.

Malcolm dismissed Neil Maxwell for 18, Glasscock for nought, Robertson for four and last man Holdsworth for nought.

"He bowled alright yesterday and didn't get wickets," said Fletcher. "Today he got 4-11 — that's Devon, that's what he can do."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps Monday on the third day of a four-day cricket match between England and New South Wales state at the Newcastle Sportsground:

ENGLAND: 1st innings 328
NEW SOUTH WALES: 1st innings
Taylor c Gatting b White 150
Slater c Atherton b DeFreitas 18

Mark Waugh c Tufnell b Hick 80
Bevan c Gatting b Tufnell 20
McNamara c (sub) McCague b White 11

Lee lbw b DeFreitas 45
Maxwell c Rhodes b Malcolm 18
Glasscock c Thorpe b Malcolm 0
Robertson lbw b Malcolm 4
Kershler not out 4
Holdsworth b Malcolm 0
Extras: 15
Total: 365

Fall of wickets: 54, 217, 266, 280, 302, 331, 335, 356, 362, 365.
Bowling: O M R W
DeFreitas 26 9 63 2
Malcolm 20.4 3 81 4
White 17 4 60 2
Udal 19 1 73 0
Tufnell 18 2 67 1
Hick 3 0 11 1

Batting time: 410 minutes.
Overs: 103.4

ENGLAND: 2nd innings
Rhodes lbw b Lee 16
Atherton c Taylor b Robertson 37
Hick b Holdsworth 12
Thorpe c Lee b Kershler 27
Gatting not out 33
Crawley c and b Kershler 14
White not out 31
Extras 30
Total: (for five wickets) 200
Fall of wickets: 20, 48, 102, 125, 149.

Bowling: O M R W
Holdsworth 13 4 37 1
Lee 11 3 50 1
McNamara 9 5 14 0
Mark Waugh 6 1 15 0
Bevan 1 1 0 0
Robertson 15.5 8 35 1
Kershler 12 4 26 2
Maxwell 9 3 8 0

Batting time: 283 minutes.
Overs: 76.5.

It's TCCB's turn after FA

LONDON, Nov 14: English cricket chiefs are to investigate match-rigging allegations made by former Essex seamer Don Topley and team-mate Guy Lovell on Sunday, reports AP.

Topley alleged in the Sunday Mirror that Essex and Lancashire handed each other mutually beneficial victories in Sunday league and county championship matches played on successive days in late August 1991.

Topley said: "We were given the nod and the wink that if we happened to lose the Sunday game, then we would get an easy declaration on Monday — the final day of the county championship match."

"I am ashamed of what I did. It has been with me for all those months. Now I have got to get it off my chest."

Essex's eight-wicket championship win helped

them on their way to the title, but Lancashire's Sunday success was not enough in the end to overhaul winners Nottinghamshire and they had to settle for the runners-up cheque.

The allegations, coming at the height of the Bruce Grobbelaar bribery affair in

Manjrekar in Indian Test squad

BANGALORE, India, Nov 14: Sanjay Manjrekar was on Monday recalled to India's squad of 14 for the first Test against the West Indies starting on November 18 in Bombay, reports Reuters.

Manjrekar, a much-admired



S MANJREKAR

batsman dropped after India's poor performance on last year's tour of South Africa, has had a prolific domestic season. But he scored only four runs for the board team against the West Indies on the opening day of their three-day game on Sunday.

The selectors also gave a first chance to medium pacer Prashanth Vaidya but dropped hard-hitting batsman Atul Bedade and all-rounder Chetan Sharma from the squad that beat the West Indians 4-1 in the one-day series.

soccer, has left cricket asking itself similar questions.

Alan Smith, Test and County Cricket Board's chief executive, said: "Obviously in the current climate we are bound to ask both counties for their comments."

"At the moment it is difficult for me to say anything other than we want to hear from the two clubs concerned. And I'm sure we will be getting a detailed report."

Essex secretary Peter Edwards said that Topley's allegations had come as "a complete shock to me and to everyone else in the club."

"Unfortunately, most of the people we need to speak to are now not employees of Essex — so we do not have a lot of power to get information out of them," he added.

Edwards was present at both matches and said he had no reason to suspect foul play.

"On the Sunday we had a very poor side out anyway due to Test calls and injuries. We were missing six top players, but we still made them fight for the win."

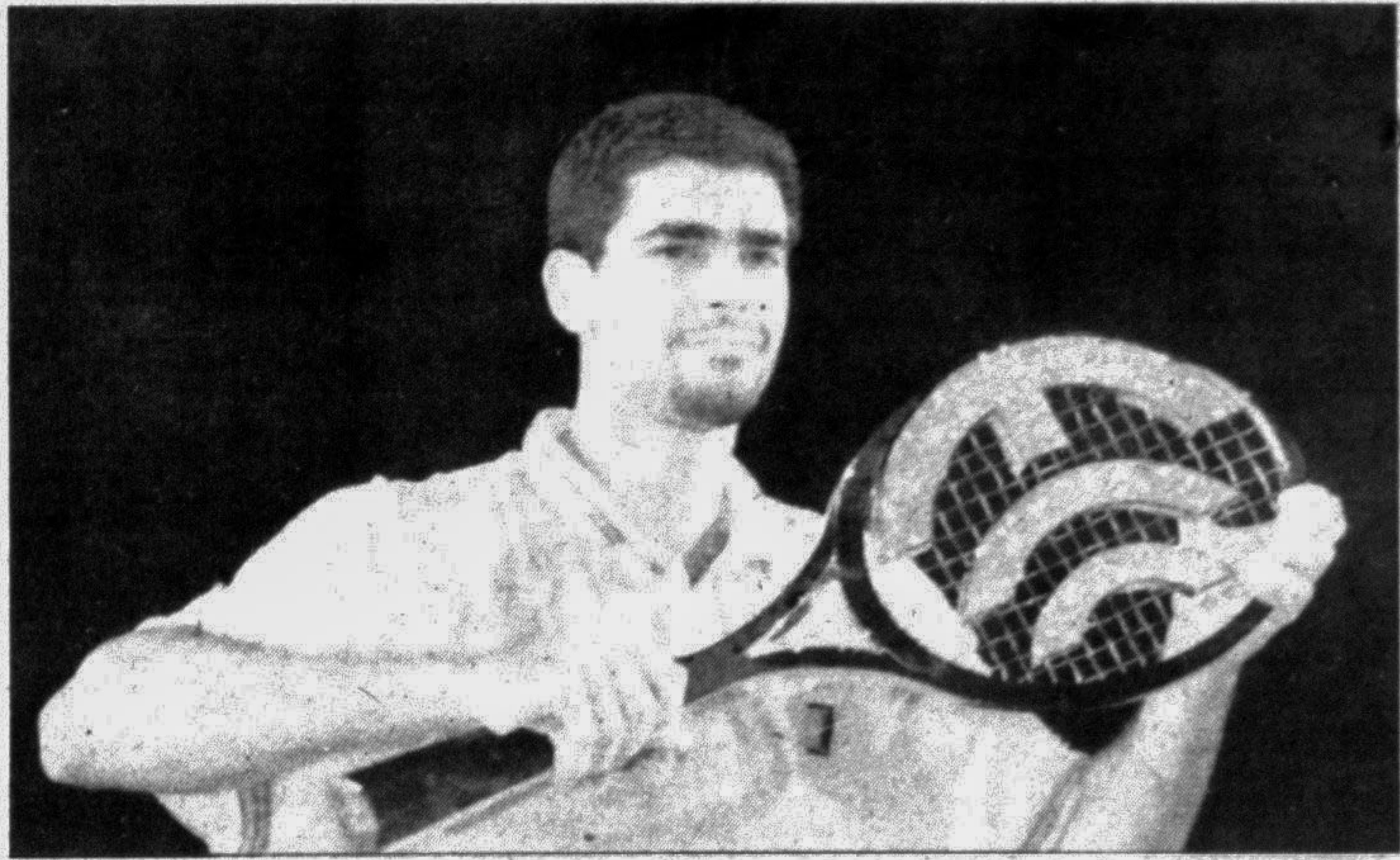
Bob Bennett, the Lancashire chairman, said: "There's nothing I personally can say about this other than I am not aware of anything untoward having happened."

Speaking in New South Wales, Australia the England manager and Essex coach at the time of the matches in question, said:

"I cannot really comment on those allegations without seeing them. But I don't know of any matches being rigged."

Test star Graham Gooch — also in Australia for England's tour — was the Essex captain at the time but missed the Lancashire matches as he was on international duty.

"I know nothing about it. These are serious allegations," he said. Both clubs have promised a full enquiry into the allegations.



American Pete Sampras poses with the diamond-studded European Community racket after beating Swede Magnus Larsson 7-6, 6-4 in the final in Antwerp, Belgium on Nov 13.

Sampras outguns Larsson

ANTWERP, Nov 14: Pete Sampras used his big serve to complete a perfect tune-up for the World Championships, beating Magnus Larsson 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 Sunday to retain the 1.1 million dollars European Community Championship title, reports AP.

The crown was Sampras' ninth this season and his first since Wimbledon. The world's No 1 player did not lose a set all week and appeared to be reaching his peak again after injuries hampered him since the summer.

"It gives me some confidence going into Frankfurt," he said of the IBM-ATP Tour World Championship, which starts on Tuesday.

Despite the loss, Larsson will move into the top 20 for the first time in his career and boost his confidence ahead of the Davis Cup final between Sweden and Russia starting Nov 28.

In a match between two big servers on a fast surface, rallies were few. But Sampras capitalised best whenever the opportunity arose.

Larsson earned for break-points, but failed to unsettle Sampras.

"It's the time you need to come up with the big serves — and I did," he said.

After retaining his title, Sampras can keep the 1 million dollar gold-and-diamond ECC trophy for good if he wins once more in the next three years.

"I'll be back next year to take it home with me," said Sampras of the trophy — six kilos of gold shaped in the form of a racket, studded with 1,617 diamonds.

It took 14 aces, loads of winning serves and some patience to put him on top.

Inevitably, the first set came down to a tiebreak and the serves made the difference. Edgy, Larsson committed a double fault while Sampras slammed three of his ten first-set aces. He won the tiebreak 7-5 on a winning

serve.

Sampras almost broke service in the first game of the second set, but Larsson fought back and even earned a break-point in the sixth game with some great backcourt play.

But with his back against the wall, Sampras uncorked another two winning serves to stay even.

Larsson's serve stalled momentarily in the next game and Sampras immediately capitalised, winning the long rallies and forcing the Swede into errors for the first, and only, break of serve in the match.

It was all Sampras needed. Playing solidly whenever Larsson could keep the ball in play, he closed out the match 6-4.

Larsson served 13 aces and was unlucky.

Sampras won 156,000 dollars while Larsson took home 93,000 dollars.

Sampras beat fellow American Jared Palmer 7-5, 6-3 in Saturday's semifinal. Larsson overwhelmed France's Olivier Delatre 6-4, 6-3.

Star parade in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT, Nov 14: Just as Andre Agassi and Boris Becker were sizing each other up before a possible showdown at the ATP Tour finale, Pete Sampras reminded them who is still the king, reports AP.

While Sampras struggled to overcome an ankle injury and regain his touch, Agassi and Becker were playing some of the best tennis of their careers, including victories over Sampras.

Now, Sampras has recovered just in time for the ATP Tour World Championship, the 3 million dollar tour-ending event that features the top eight players in the world and begins Tuesday. He won the 1991 title at Frankfurt.

By beating Magnus Larsson 7-6, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the European Community Championship at Antwerp, Belgium, Sampras won a record ninth title of the year

and reconfirmed his No. 1 ranking.

Sampras dominated the first half of the season, culminating in his second Wimbledon title. Slowed by injuries, he made an early exit at the US Open and had not won a title again until Sunday.

With Sampras hurting, Agassi and Becker became the hottest players on the tour.

Agassi has risen to No. 2, his highest career ranking, winning the US Open and 19 of his last 20 matches. He beat Sampras en route to winning the indoor Paris Open two weeks ago, his fifth title of the year.

In the final week of October, Becker beat Sampras, Michael Stich and Goran Ivanisevic, who were then the three top-ranked players in the world, to win the Stockholm Open.

Considered probably the best indoor player, with 25 titles, and cheered on by the partisan German crowd,

Becker will be a formidable foe in Frankfurt's Feshtalle.

The Frankfurt Feshtalle could see some fascinating clashes on the carpeted indoor court, in a tournament which used to be known as the Masters and took place in New York.

The eight players play round-robin matches in two groups with the top two in each group advancing to the semifinals.

The groups are decided by the rankings. Ironically all the serve-and-volley specialists have been brought together in the White Group: Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic, Becker and former Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg.

Strong baseliners Agassi, Spaniard Sergi Bruguera and his fellow past French Open winner Michael Chang and Spain's Alberto Berasategui make up the Red Group.

Stich, last year's winner, failed to qualify. Ranked ninth, Stich is an alternate.

Incidents tail Grobbelaar

HARARE, Nov 14: Embattled Bruce Grobbelaar's first test on the goal line since a storm last week accusing him of taking bribes to fix matches was a mixture of magic, controversy and violence as he helped Zimbabwe outclass Zaire 2-1, reports AP.

The crowd of 40,000 repeatedly broke into chants of "Bruce, Bruce" at the African Nations Cup qualifier in Harare.

But the star of the match was Peter Ndlovu, striker for English Premier Division club Coventry who scored the winning goal and mounted raid after deadly raid against the more experienced Zaireans.

Grobbelaar, asked later whether he had felt under pressure during the game, said: "Not as much as the other guy" — a reference to Zaire's goalkeeper.

Immediately after the final whistle, the visitors ganged up against Zambian referee Christian Chikuka and chased him across the field.

The Zimbabwean team, with the powerfully built Grobbelaar in the forefront, came to Chikuka's rescue and fists flew until police with dogs split them up.

The end was also marred by poor crowd control as hundreds of Zimbabwean fans stormed on to the pitch, some of them threatening the Zaireans.

The Zimbabweans dominated territorially and had the

best of the ball, leaving Grobbelaar little tested, except in the 17th minute of the first half when a low shot from striker Menama Lukaku caught him well out of position.

Luckily for the home side, defender Francis Shonayi had barely moved to boot the ball to safety.

Zaire played a cautious defensive game, mounting few at-

tacks and deflecting the aggressive Zimbabweans.

The drought was broken in the sixth minute of the second half, as Adam Ndlovu, elder brother to the Coventry striker, intercepted a pass from the Zairean defenders to goalkeeper Mukweyamba Bulayima, sidestepped the backs and shot hard and low to the keeper's right.

The British tabloid The Sun had reported that the flamboyant goalie had taken bribes from a Far East gambling syndicate to fix Premier League games with Liverpool and Southampton.

The tabloid, which says the allegations are supported by secret videotapes and recordings, has turned over its evidence to the FA for investigation.

Grobbelaar said through his lawyers Thursday that The Sun's claims were false, and that he planned to sue tabloid for defamation.

GROBBELAAR

Div II b'ball

Sports Reporter

Suhrid Sangha survived a scare before edging past Bakshibazar Club 57-56 to record their fifth consecutive victory in the Mohsin Cup Second Division basketball league at the wooden-floor gymnasium adjacent to the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Suhrid, who lost their unbeaten record to Young Angels Club, play their last match Thursday against Hawks, the only unconquered side in the eight-team fray.

Suhrid, who trailed 26-34 in the first half, overtook the cagers from Bakshibazar mainly due to some superb scoring display from Manoj (20) and Evans (15). For the losers, Tanim and Shakil contributed 16 and 12 points respectively.

In the other match of the day, a relatively high-scoring one, Rising Force outpointed Kurmitola Youngsters 92-87 after having a shaky 45-43 lead in the first half.

Kuwait, Oman split points

ABU DHABI, Nov 14: Kuwait and Oman played out a 0-0 draw Sunday in one of the duller days of the 12th Gulf Cup soccer championship, reports AP.

The Omanis, trying to shrug off their unenviable tag of the Gulf's weakest team, had the offensive through most of the game.

The main entertainment proved to be the non-stop Omani band in the stands which seemed to spur on their team. For the fourth successive time, Oman walked away with the 3,000 dollars man-of-the-match award, Nabeel Mubarak being chosen for his many shots at goals.

Kuwait, seven-time winners of this league contest, have just three points from four matches, a poor reflection on their reputation which was high after their third-place finish at the recent Hiroshima Games soccer tournament. Oman, with two draws and two defeats, have two points.

Saudi Arabia top the six-nation standings with seven points from three wins and a draw and could clinch their first-ever Gulf Cup title Wednesday if they defeat Kuwait.

A crucial Monday

LONDON, Nov 14: The English Football Association was expected to decide Monday whether to take action against former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, who is accused of taking bribes to fix matches, reports AP.

Just 24 hours after he was hailed as a hero in Zimbabwe's 2-1 African Nations Cup victory over Zaire in Harare, Grobbelaar faced the possibility of being suspended while the FA continues its investigation into the bribery allegations.

If the FA were to ban Grobbelaar from playing domestically, the world governing body FIFA could follow up with an international ban that would prevent him from playing for Zimbabwe.

The British tabloid The Sun alleged last week that the flamboyant goalie had taken bribes from a Far East gambling syndicate to fix Premier League games with Liverpool and Southampton.

The tabloid, which says the allegations are supported by secret videotapes and recordings, has turned over its evidence to the FA for investigation.

A British police force says it also will investigate the claim. In 1965, three players, including two English international players, were jailed for four months for taking money to fix the result of a division one game.