

Sport



PAYING THE PRICE: Victoria's Indian cricketer Rajinder Singh swings across the line of a leg break from Iqbal Sikander and is all set to meet a whimping end of a banging intention. Wicketkeeper Masud picked up the tickle to end Singh's 63-ball innings of 61 in Victoria's total of 199 against Abahani in the 15th Damal Summer final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo by A.K.M. Mohsin

Martijn moves into final

Sports Reporter

Bok Martijn of the Netherlands moved into the final of the masters' tournament of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis with a comfortable 6-3, 6-0 win over Dimitri Muzyka of Ukraine in one of the two singles semi-finals held at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.



Bok, the top seeded in the four-leg circuit, who had earlier won the third leg in Rajshahi will meet Selvan Veerasingam of Malaysia in the final on Sunday.

Veerasingam was a surprise winner in the second semifinal when he inflicted a 6-4, 6-2 defeat against Van Scheppingen of the Netherlands, the second seed in the meet.

Meanwhile, teams from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka arrived here yesterday to take part in the first ITF Central Asian Circuit tennis tournament beginning today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Azhar Hossain will inaugurate the five-day meet at 9:30 am as the chief guest.

The Bangladesh Tennis Federation organised the third leg tournament in cooperation with the International Tennis Federation. The first leg was held in Colombo last month and the second leg at Madras last week.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Shantinagar 'A' earned a two-wicket win over Evergreen in the Acme Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Chasing a modest 169 for an outright victory in the allotted 40 overs, Shantinagar reached the target for the loss of eight wickets with eight balls to spare.

Jasim with 42 was the top scorer for the winners followed by 42-ball 36 from Suman while Asif, who steered his side to victory remained unbeaten on 16.

Mostafiz, Naimul Hasan and Ishfaq claimed two wickets apiece for the losers.

Earlier, sent into bat first, Evergreen could muster 168 for seven in the stipulated 40 overs.

After Malcolm it's Benjamin

SYDNEY, Dec 9: Seam bowler Joey Benjamin has contracted chickenpox. England team manager Keith Fletcher told Reuters on Friday.

Benjamin, 33, became the second England player, following fast bowler Devon Malcolm, to contract the virus when he broke out in spots after complaining of headaches over the past two days.

The Surrey player will now stay in the team's Sydney hotel in isolation when the team fly to Melbourne next Monday.

The obvious suggestion is that Malcolm, who spent a week alone in his hotel room in Brisbane after picking up the illness, passed it onto Benjamin.

Team manager Keith Fletcher said: "We thought Devon was all-clear when he came out of isolation so this is very unfortunate."

Abahani's Damal treble

Sports Reporter

Gazi Ashraf Hossain has led Abahani to a hat-trick of the Damal Summer cricket tournament titles. Foiled last year for no fault of their own since the tourney could not be held for a glut of domestic and international engagements, Abahani, who had lifted the memorial trophy in 1992 and 1993, yesterday completed the treble beating Victoria by five wickets in the final of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium with veteran Ashraf leading the popular Dharmodi outfit right from the front.

Motivated like a tansy befitting a finale, the former national captain did everything right on the day starting with proper call in the spin of coin to steering his side to what turned out to be easy but sweet revenge.

After a long drought of runs in his willow for a variety of reasons, the most successful captain in the local club cricket, thoroughly enjoyed his batting as Abahani pitted against Victoria's challenge of 199, swanned to 201 for five with ten legitimate balls to spare.

Man-of-the-match Ashraf, richer for a cash award of Taka 6,000, did not quite drive home the stroke of luck he enjoyed while being on 42 with Rajinder another successful individual of the day failing to hold on to a return catch, failed to bring up a richly deserved ton falling short by eight runs.

Visibly suffering from the aching ageing joints and sinews, Ashraf, who completed his fifty with a sixer over mid-wicket, skied a shot as exhaustion betrayed his murderous intention with Abahani almost home and dry, just eleven runs away from victory.

He played 120 balls and hit six fours and day's only two over boundaries during 111-minute vigil at the wicket that more than compensated the relative failures of Abahani's two major batsmen.

Although Akram could make only 26 and Minhas an unchar-

230 runs.

Ivanisevic, Sampras in semifinals



MUNICH, Dec 9: Goran Ivanisevic served his way past Boris Becker into the semifinals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup Thursday, showing some good tennis and more bad behaviour, reports AP.

Top-ranked Pete Sampras beat Michael Chang 6-4, 6-3 and will face Ivanisevic in the semifinals.

Ivanisevic's 6-4, 6-1 victory took only 58 minutes, equaling the quickest match of the tournament. Sampras also took 56 minutes in beating Jaime Yzaga Tuesday.

Ivanisevic is serving a two-month suspension from the ATP Tour for accumulating too many fines for code of conduct violations. He became the first player to be banned after an outburst at last month's ATP Tour World Championships in Frankfurt.

He was allowed to play at the Grand Slam Cup because the ATP considers the event an exhibition. The dhs 6 million tournament is the most lucrative in the world and Ivanisevic earned dhs 425,000 for reaching the last four.

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SCOREBOARD

VICTORIA SC:			
Azhar Hossain lbw	19		
b Jewel Hossain			
Mihrab Hossain c &	33		
b Jewel Hossain			
Abu Hamid run out	15		
Ziauddin Ahmed			
b Naimur Rashid	02		
Rajinder Singh c Khaled Masud	61		
b Iqbal Sikander			
Chetan Sharma not out	43		
Iqbal Hossain b Zakir Hossain	07		
Extras : (b-3, lb-8, w-8)	19		
Total: (for six wickets in 45 overs)			
Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-63.			
3-74; 4-92; 5-189; 6-199.			
Bowling:	O	M	R
Safail Islam	9	0	35
Zakir Hossain	7	1	30
Rakib Hossain	1	0	6
Naimur Rahman	8	1	16
Kamal Merchant	5	0	29
Jewel Hossain	4	0	17
Iqbal Sikander	9	0	36
Muhamzul Abedin	2	0	19

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Both sides take one point for no result. In the four-nation event, Pakistan are top with four points from two wins. South Africa have two points from their defeat of New Zealand and the Kiwis bring up the rear with Sri Lanka.

Jayasuriya's innings was the highlight of the Sri Lankan total which also included half-centuries from Asanka Gurusingha and Aravinda de Silva.

Jayasuriya almost doubled his previous one day best of 77 on his way to the highest score ever made by a Sri Lankan in one-day internationals. He faced 144 balls, hitting six sixes and nine fours.

Green Delta Div I hockey

Sports Reporter

Kamal notched the second hat-trick in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league as Usha Krira Chakra romped past Dhaka Wanderers 6-0 in one of the two matches played at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Kamal, who scored four goals, completed his hat-trick in the first half to give Usha an unsalable 3-0 at the breather.

He then scored his fourth, ten minutes after Tutul had made it 4-0 five minutes into the second half. Mohammed Sadeque, the national centre-forward, then sealed the fate of the match from a penalty stroke six minutes from the long whistle.

In the other match of the day, Ajax Sporting Club recorded a 2-0 victory over Bachelors Sporting Club with Salam scoring both the goals for the winners.

— Star photo by A.K.M. Mohsin

Rain ruins SL-NZ one-dayer

BLOEMFONTEIN, Dec 9: Rain halted Sri Lanka pressing home their advantage against New Zealand in their day-night Mandela Trophy cricket match on Thursday, reports Reuter.

After a brilliant 140 from Sanath Jayasuriya had inspired Sri Lanka to 288-4, New Zealand were 66 for one from 14.3 overs when the rain arrived.

Stephen Fleming was an early victim, playing on to medium pacer Ravindra Pushpumara for 11, but Bryan Young and Adam Parore added 51 unbroken runs for the second wicket.

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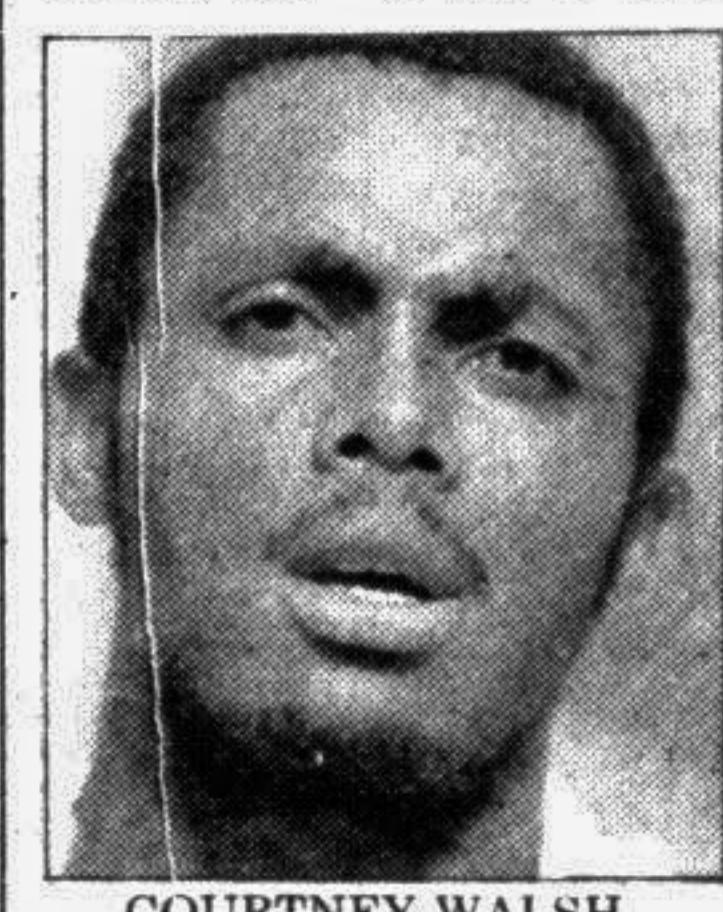
— Star photo by A.K.M. Mohsin

Chandigarh's maiden Test from today

Walsh doubtful, Kapoor sure

MOHALI, Chandigarh, Dec 9: Courtney Walsh may not lead the West Indies in the third and final cricket Test against India starting Saturday as he is nursing a sprained neck, report agencies.

"It's a 50-50 chance that Courtney will be able to play tomorrow. However, I will love to have him on the field," said team manager David Holford. The final Test is crucial for the West Indians as they are trailing 0-1 in the 3-Test



COURTNEY WALSH

series.

Walsh suffered a severe sprain in the neck during the second cricket Test at Nagpur early this month. Walsh, however, took part in the practice Friday.

"The pitch here is better than the previous two we played on but it is not as good as we expected," Holford said. "The outfield is lush green and beautiful."

"It's a do-or-die battle for us, and we are looking forward to a good wicket," West Indies manager said.

"We lost the first Test in Bombay. In Nagpur, our batsmen, especially Jimmy Adams

and Carl Hooper played quite well."

"I am confident the batsmen will play better here. Our bowler are hoping for a good Test wicket to show their strengths and provide good support to the batsmen, by restricting the Indian batsmen," Holford said.

He said there is a lot at stake for his side which has lost a series since the controversial New Zealand series in '79-'80.

For India, who have won series only twice against the West Indies, here is a good chance to repeat the feat after one half decades.

India first tamed the Caribbean in their own country under the leadership of Ajit Wadekar who now had brought the nation again to the top of the cricketing world as a manager.

"Of course, we would go for a win. We want to beat them as convincingly as possible," said the manager who revived the Indian fortunes with convincing series win against England and Zimbabwe last year.

A confident Indian skipper Mohammed Azharuddin also echoed the manager's views. "If we can beat them here too, it's great," he said.

He said with in-form off-spinner Aashish Kapoor's induction, the team's attack has been further strengthened.

Kapoor comes in place of Rajesh Chauhan who struggled for line and length in Nagpur where the Indian spinners failed to rise up to the expectation on a slow track which West Indian all-rounder Carl Hooper exploited well to bag seven wickets with his off-spin.

Azharuddin said the Test would be keenly fought as the West Indian would try their best to win here and level the series.

Mohali, staging the Test for the first time, has been dressed up for the big occasion.

Former Indian captain and legendary spinner Bishen Singh Bedi, who is in charge of pitch here, has claimed that the track would behave differently from the pitches at the other centres in the country.

He said the track would last all the five days of the match, giving the impression that it would offer good bounce and help the fast bowlers.

The stadium has got a lovely lush green outfield which



AASHISH KAPOOR

looked like a green carpet.

TEAMS

INDIA: Mohd Azharuddin (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar, Vinod Kambla, Sanjay Manjrekar, Anil Kumble, Nayak Mongia, Jayavagal Srinath, Aashish Kapoor, Venkatesh Prasad, Ajit Jadeja, Prashant Vaidya.

WEST INDIAN: C. Wals. (captain), P. Simmons, T. S. Williams, B. Lara, C. Hooper, K. Arthur, J. Adams, S. Chanderpaul, A. Cummins, K. Benjamin, C. Cuffy, J. Murray, S. Campbell, R. Dhanraj, B. Browne, R. Holder.

Army athletics

Chittagong area retained the title of the annual Army Athletics championships improving three army records here on Thursday, reports BSS.

Chittagong area won four gold, 11 silver and three bronze medal. Bogra area became runners-up with four gold, three silver and three bronze.

Golam Ambia of the Dhaka Infantry team was adjudged the best athlete of the meet.

The winners led the first half 29-9.

In the other match, Maniknagar Kabaddi Club defeated Juraijan Janata Club 40-29 after leading the first half 18-14 points.

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