



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 whimpering 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.

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 Scheppin 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 Sadeque 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 Arne Second Division cricket league at the Dhamond 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.

Jaism 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 Ishtiaq 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. Poiled 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 Dhamond 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 overboundaries 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 Minhaz an unchar-

acteristic four from 12 balls, Abahani found a brilliant foil for Ashraf in Pakistani Iqbal Sikander, who following splendid exhibition of controlled leg-spin in the morning, kept the Victoria bowlers at bay.

Ashraf's counterpart Azhar, who chose the occasion to announce his retirement from international cricket at the end of the day, had the day fairly well begun for him despite being robbed of his right to dictate terms by a whimsical coin.

He and his nephew Mihrab were involved in an opening partnership of 60 runs from 18 overs with the latter quite typically in the more assertive mood.

Victoria's plight began after that as Abu Hamid and Zia as they had done in the semifinal against Brothers struggled to build on a good start.

Only an excellent fifth wicket partnership between Indians Rajinder Singh and Chetan Sharma that realised 97 runs gave Victoria a fighting total.

Rajinder another exhausted victim made 61 off 63 balls with the help of five fours. The genial sardarji, who picked up his second successive half century got a reprieve on 44 as Rakib dropped him at long on.

Test-discard Sharma, who did not quite make the most of the slog overs, partly because of flawed technique, partly due to the intelligent field placement of Ashraf and a generally sensible bowling, remained unconquered on 43 off 51 balls.

Abahani's star batsman Minhaz had to don the wicket-keeping gloves for five overs when regular stumper Khaled Masud was off the field for a while in order to avail medical attention after being hit on the nose by a kicking delivery.

Enamul Huq, who captured 14 wickets won the cash award of Taka 3,000 for tournament's highest wicket-taker while his teammate Jahangir Alam received a cheque of same amount as the highest run-getter having aggregated 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 58 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 \$1.6 million tournament is the most lucrative in the world and Ivanisevic earned \$125,000 for reaching the last four.

The event invites players with best records at the four Grand Slam tournaments — the Australian, French and US Opens and Wimbledon.

Ivanisevic lost his temper quickly Thursday and was given a warning by umpire Bruno Rebeuh in the fourth game.

Ivanisevic smashed his racket to the ground and raced toward the umpire swearing, after a linesman failed to call a shot by Becker that seemed clearly out. Ivanisevic still managed to save three break points in that game.

"I said something bad and I deserved the warning. But that ball wasn't even close. I lost my temper a bit but I played better and better after that," Ivanisevic said.

The Croat served 15 aces in demolishing third-ranked Becker, who lives in Munich and who was the favourite of the 11,000 fans in the Olympic Hall.

The Croat lost to Becker twice in a row at the Stockholm final and in Frankfurt. But Becker never managed to tame Ivanisevic's serve Thursday on the very fast Supreme surface.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Sports Journalists' and Writers' Community (BSTWC) gave Azhar Hossain a crest as they judged the Victoria skipper as the player-of-the-20-team curtain-raising tournament.

SCOREBOARD

VICTORIA SC:			
Azhar Hossain lbw			19
Jewel Hossain			
Mihrab Hossain c & b Jewel Hossain			33
Abu Hamid run out			15
Ziauddin Ahmed			
Naimur Rashid			02
Rajinder Singh c Khaled Masud			
Iqbal Sikander			61
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)			199

Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-63; 3-74; 4-92; 5-189; 6-199.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Saiful Islam	9	0	35	0
Zakir Hossain	7	1	30	1
Rakib Hassan	1	0	6	0
Naimur Rahman	8	1	16	1
Kamal Merchant	5	0	29	0
Jewel Hossain	4	0	17	2
Iqbal Sikander	9	0	36	1
Mihazul Abedin	2	0	19	0

ABAHANI KC:

Ashraf c Tanveer b Hamid			92
Rahman lbw b Iqbal			11
K. Merchant c Rinku b R. Singh			16
Akram Khan b R. Singh			26
Minhaz b Bilku			4
I. Sikander not out			34
S. Islam not out			3
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-7)			15
Total: (for five wickets in 43.2 overs)			201

Fall of wickets: 1-32; 2-60; 3-141; 4-150 and 5-189.

Did not bat: Jewel, Masud, Rajib Hasan and Zakir Hossain.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
C. Sharma	5	0	22	0
Tanveer	12	0	11	0
Iqbal	9	0	27	1
Azhar	8	0	37	0
R. Singh	9	0	36	2
Bilplab	9	0	45	1
Hamid	2	0	15	1

Result: Abahani KC won the match by five wickets.



Selvan Veerasingam of Malaysia returns a backhand during the second semi-final of the masters' tournament of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit against second seed Van Scheppening of the Netherlands at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. Veerasingam won the match 6-4, 6-2.

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.

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 Pushpakumara for 11, but Bryan Young and Adam Parore added 51 unbroken runs for the second wicket.

Both sides take one point for a 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 Gurusinha 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.

Orient Bread kabaddi

Baro Goali Samajkallyan Jubo Sangha outplayed Jansasthya Karmachari Kalyan Samity 65-21 in one of the two Orient Bread Kabaddi league matches at the Kabaddi court yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 29-9.

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

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.

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 series.



COURTNEY WALSH

Walsh suffered a severe sprain 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 is 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 and 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 (capt), Sachin Tendulkar, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar, Vinod Kambli, Sanjay Manjrekar, Anil Kumble, Nayab Mongia, Jagavall Srinath, Aashish Kapoor, Venkatapathy Raju, Venkatesh Prasad, Ajay Jadeja, Prashant Vaidya.

WEST INDIES: C. Walsh (capt), P. Simmons, T. S. Williams, B. Lara, C. Hooper, K. Arthurton, J. Adams, S. Chandrapaul, A. Cummins, K. Benjamin, C. Cuffy, J. Murray, S. Campbell, R. Dhanraj, B. Browne, R. Holder.



Abahani captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain, who won the man-of-the-match award in the final of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament yesterday with a tourney top score of 92, receives the commemorative trophy from the chief guest.

Real really revved up



PARIS, Dec 9: Spanish aristocrats Real Madrid, humiliated by Danish outsiders Odense in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, will be aiming to appease angry fans by thrashing lowly Ovedo on Sunday, reports AFP.

Real were one of three Spanish clubs knocked out of European competition this week.

The Spanish side, who had won 3-2 in Denmark, failed to reach the UEFA Cup quarter-

finals when Morten Bisgaard scored a second goal for Odense in the last minute. It was Real's first defeat this season at their Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The Spanish league leaders will have Ivan Zamorano back from suspension.

The Chilean striker's 12 goals in 13 league games have helped Real make their best start in four years.

Deportivo La Coruna, behind on goal difference, may be still feeling the effects of their dramatic extra-time defeat to Borussia Dortmund. They take on Seville whose away form this season includes a win at Barcelona.

Athletic Bilbao, three points behind the leaders in a sixth place, play mid-table Valencia after losing 4-2 to Parma in Italy.

Barcelona, whose 1-1 draw with Gothenburg on Wednesday earned them a European Champions' Cup quarter-final with Paris St Germain in March, are away to Celta Vigo.

Johan Cruyff's side are two points adrift and have yet to find a satisfactory replacement for Michael Laudrup who was allowed to go to Real Madrid.

Romanta's World Cup star Gheorghe Hagi, who had an unhappy spell at Real Madrid four years ago, again looks like the odd man out at Barcelona.

Borussia Dortmund, looking more than ever championship material after their midweek win over La Coruna, travel to mid-table SV Hamburg.

They will be hoping to extend their lead at the top of the Bundesliga as second-placed Werder Bremen have a difficult match against back-to-form Bayern Munich.

French striker Jean-Pierre Papin seems finally to have settled in and captain Lothar Matthaus is back from a one game suspension for questioning a referee's sanity.

Papin's two goals against Dynamo Kiev on Wednesday earned Bayern a European Champions' Cup quarter-final against Gothenburg.

Eintracht Frankfurt, who survived a hazardous UEFA Cup trek to Napoli without leading scorer Anthony Yeboah of Ghana, Nigerian forward Jay Jay Okocha and midfielder Maurizio Gaudino, have an easier trip to third-from-bottom Munich 1860.

Yeboah, Okocha and Gaudino have been told to find new clubs after a personality clash with coach Jupp Heynckes.

In the Calcio, league leaders Parma are away to Genoa, with the odds stacked against Juventus joining them at the top of the table after their trip to Lazio.

Juve, after a fine run of form, will be without both their star forwards — Roberto Baggio, who has a nagging knee injury, and Gianluca Vialli, suspended for one match after collecting two yellow cards.

Lazio, though, will still be without their injured Croatian playmaker Alen Boksic.

Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta, who failed to score for the first time in 12 league games in last week's 3-2 defeat at Juventus, hopes to be back on target for Fiorentina against as Roma.

Reigning champions AC Milan, buoyed up by having squeezed into the European Cup quarter-finals with a 1-0 win over Casino Salzburg, travel to Foggia.

Wenger Grampus Eight's coach

TOKYO, Dec 9: Former Monaco coach Arsene Wenger will coach Nagoya Grampus Eight, one of 12 teams in the Japanese professional league, the team announced today, reports Reuter.