

9th Bangladesh Int'l tennis begins Feb 6

The ninth Bangladesh international junior tennis championships...

Acme cricket

Shantinagar B recorded a narrow two-wicket win over Amarjyoti Club...

BUET sail

Hosts Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)...

BUET, who had earlier lost their Group B opener against Jahangirnagar University...

BUET, chasing a modest 133 for an outright victory...

Extras featured the highest score of 33, including 22 wide balls...

After BUET lost their first three wickets for 55 runs in 14.3 overs...

Sajid then guided his side to victory without further damage...

Earlier, sent in to bat first, Islamic University could muster 132 for eight before running out...

Opener Bipu with 39 was the top-scorer for the eventual losers while Zafar...

Riyadh with two for 13 in his quota of eight overs was the most successful among the BUET bowlers...

Div II soccer

City Club earned a lone goal win over BRTC in a Second Division football league match...

The match, one of the two league fixtures billed for the Mirpur Stadium yesterday...

Mehdi netted the all-important goal in the very sixth minute to give City Club a crucial win.

Diy III football

Sunrise Sporting Club and Little Friend Club won their respective Pragati Insurance Third Division football league matches at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Shahinawaz and Shamsumann scored one goal apiece to give Sunrise a 2-0 win over Kadamtola Sangsad...



Jubilant Bangladesh under-19 players return to the pavilion after beating the visiting Kenyan national squad...

Boys did what men couldn't

Boys have done what the men could not. It may not regain Bangladesh the golden opportunity...

Although the pair more than repaired the early damages done by Kenya's main paceman Martin Suji...



ZAKARIA... m-i-a-m

fielders particularly those manning the country. However, Edward Tito, who gave 24 runs from his ten overs...

He scored 38 off 50 balls with a sixer and three fours before being run out at the chase...

Off spinner Sobel, another debutant, then picked up two wickets and Hasibul Hossain, who, too, like his fellow entrant...

Skipper Naim, who led from the front, bowled his off spinners very well to return a commendable analysis...

New-ball bowler Sajal, who effected a brilliant run out of his own bowling, took two for 32 while Mustadr clipped in with a vital tidy spell...

The shocker came for the local bowlers after that. Kenyan skipper and the visitors' most prized willow wielder Maurice Odumbe...

The celebrated Odumbe, remembered as a sort of a friendly villain for his ton that put paid to Bangladesh's hopes in the ICC Trophy...

After these two setbacks, the Kenyans, who at one stage reaped 54 off ten overs, succumbed to the pressure applied by the Bangladesh spinners...

Scoreboard for Bangladesh U-19 vs Kenya. Includes batting and bowling records for both teams.

Kiwis not afraid of Lara

WELLINGTON, Jan 23: Brian Lara may be the greatest batsman in the World...

New Zealand coach John Reid, less than a week into the job, said Monday that he is not concerned about devising ways to stop the world record run-scorer...

"We're not in awe of Brian Lara — he gets out like anybody else," Reid said.

Lara scored 55 runs from 32 balls on Sunday against a Kiwi team that was demoralized by a dismal tour of South Africa...

"We're not going to worry about Brian Lara or Keith Arthurton or any of the West Indies batsmen," Reid said.

"After all, it was only a matter of a few days ago that Auckland had them 100 for six — so they can't get out."

"We've got to concentrate on our own game — they've got good players just as we have, and it was just Brian Lara's day yesterday."

Reid, who has a long summer ahead of him in New Zealand's centenary season, isn't looking past each approaching match.

"We'll use each game as a stepping stone and learn from each one," he said.

Reid sees two specific areas New Zealand can improve for Wednesday's second international at the Basin reserve in Wellington — a more aggressive start and fuller bowling.

"In terms of improvement I think we can play with a little more urgency, batting-wise, at the start of the innings," he said.

"We actually bowled quite well, except when we got under pressure. Then we continued to bowl too much short of a length rather than getting the ball up into the block-hole."

The New Zealand team trained indoors Monday afternoon while the West Indies — seemingly unable to escape wet weather wherever they go — had a day off.

'Coke — Go for Goal'

The 'Coke — Go for Goal,' a soccer promotional programme mooted by FIFA in 1977, began in the city for the second successive year.

John Gallagher, the FIFA coach who had earlier visited Bangladesh for the same purpose, is conducting the six-day course which will conclude on January 28.

The 30 school teachers across the country, participating in the course, will be provided with field training as well as classroom briefing during the course.

Nirman cricket

BARISAL, Jan 23: BM School and Zilla School will play in the Nirman schools cricket championship after winning their respective semi-finals at different venues today.

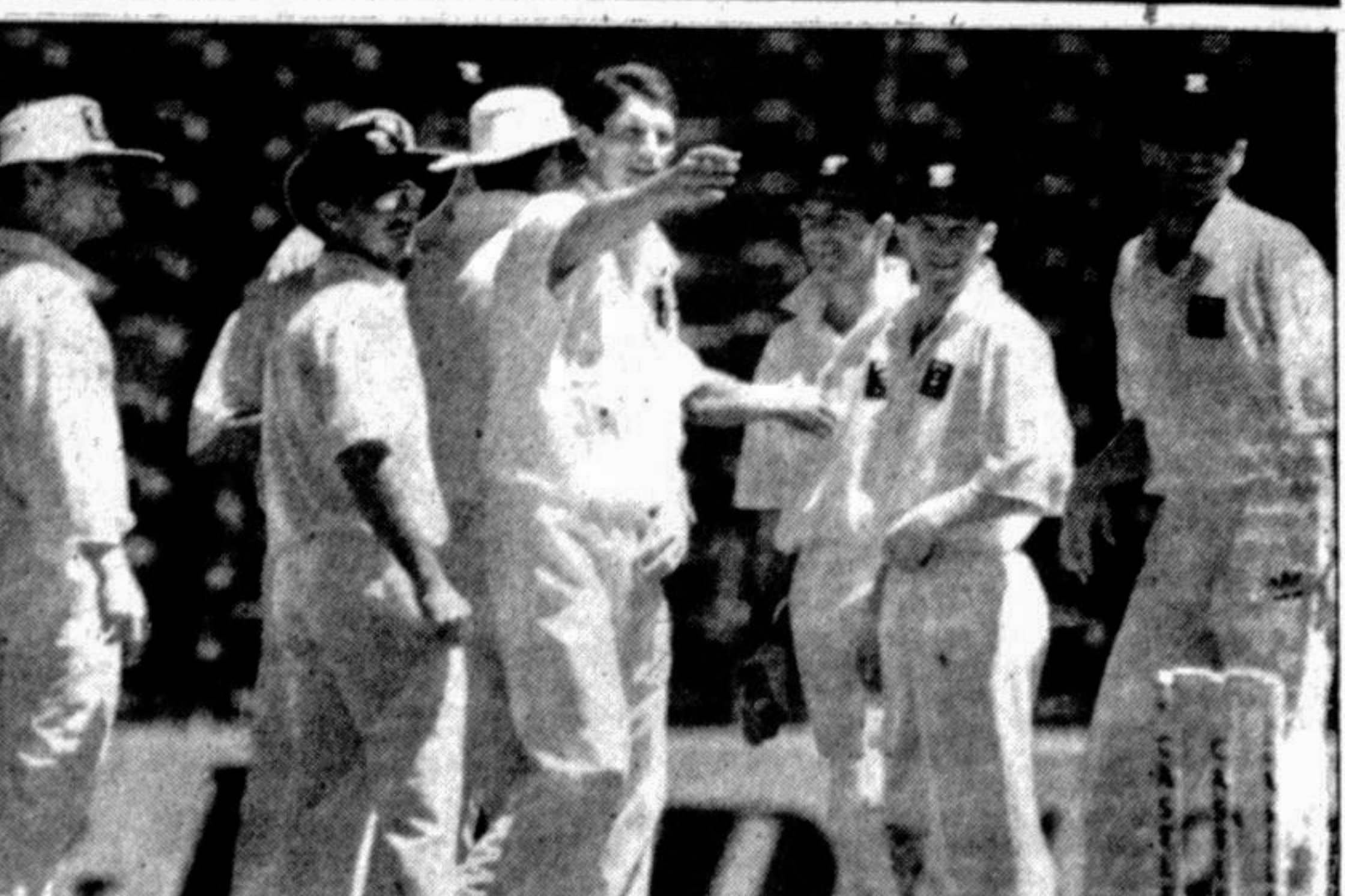
Reza scored a sparkling 53 as BM school prevailed over Udayan School by 13 runs while Zilla School earned a two-wicket win over AK School in a low-scoring match.

England-Victoria game drawn

BENDIGO, Australia, Jan 23: England opted for batting practice instead of a chase for victory today as their four-day tour match against Victoria drifted to a draw, reports Reuters.

Set 252 to win in a minimum of 55 overs, England reached 139 for one when stumps were drawn 30 minutes early.

Delta Life eyes 'handball' Viquarunnisa Noon College crushed Arambagh Girls School & College 20-1 in a one-sided match...



OFF YOU GO! South Africa's man-of-the-match Fanie de Villiers who tormented Pakistan both with the bat and ball shows Inzamamul Haq the way to the pavilion after ending his patient but in vain knock of 95 on the final day of the one-off Test at Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.

SA humiliate Pakistan

JOHANNESBURG Jan 23: South Africa belted their lowly ranking of fifth best Test side in the world in handing out a 324-run cricket lesson to top-ranked Pakistan here Monday in the first Test between the two sides, reports AFP.

The margin of victory was the highest recorded by a South African team Pakistan also lost at the Wanderers their proud record of never having been defeated by a team they were playing for the first time.

The game was all but over at tea on the fourth day and only Inzamamul Haq, whose 86 runs included 14 boundaries off 167 balls overnight, stood firm as the wickets tumbled around him.

He went out in Monday's morning session, which lasted only 31 minutes, off Fanie de Villiers' second ball of his second over of the day for the addition of only nine runs. He had struck 16 fours off 179 balls.

De Villiers also took the wicket of Aaqib Javed for a duck to finish with figures that would do credit to a spinner: 19-11-27-4.

With this victory, a 2-1 series win against New Zealand and the Mandela Trophy they collected in the quadrangular one-day international by beating Pakistan 2-0, South Africa completed their best summer since 1970, when Ali Bacher's Springboks whitewashed Bill Lawry's Aussies 4-0.

De Villiers, described after the first innings by wicket-keeper David Richardson as "so lucky he could fall into a sewer and come out with a salmon," was man-of-the-match with figures of 10 for 108 and 66 not out.

"I must have used up all my luck for the next few months," he quipped as he picked up his cheques.

Edberg falls, Agassi rolls

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Aaron Krickstein called on some rusty old rackets Monday — and did something he hadn't done for five years.

Unseeded Krickstein defeated No 6 seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden 6-7 (6-8), 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 after a three-hour-43 minute centre court struggle at the Australian Open tennis championships.

Agassi continued his dream run during his Australian Open debut with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 win over Australian Patrick Rafter. Agassi completely outclassed Rafter, the last remaining Australian in the tournament, fought back after trailing by two sets to one and by 5-2 in the fourth.

Krickstein was one of two American men to advance, giving the United States five quarterfinalists. No 2 seed Andre Agassi was the other.

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Krickstein advanced to the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam for the first time since the 1990 US Open.

The Swede — a two-time winner of the Australian Open — failed to make the quarterfinals here for the first time since 1983.

Krickstein, ranked 45th in the world, pulled some old Yonex rackets out of his closet after Christmas. He last used the rackets when he was top-10 ranked back in 1989.

"I played my best tennis in those years. Who knows why? Maybe they are magic rackets," he said. Edberg had won his last seven meetings with Krickstein stretching back to 1989, but found the American too solid, Krickstein, who has used his old rackets through-

You can't say you don't have the players until you've given them a chance," said a delighted South African coach Bob Woolmer.

"The win has not happened by accident," said the former England and Kent player, "Captain Hansie Cronje has led by example and nobody has worked harder than him."

"I reckon we are a pretty good side at the moment and we have the makings of becoming a very good one," Woolmer said. "The one series I am really looking is the one Test against New Zealand."

Pakistan's captain Salim Malik said he was very disappointed. "We have really got to work hard, especially as we are now going to be touring Zimbabwe," he added.

Of his opponents, he said: "They are improving all the time and they really played well."

"It's a captain's dream to have players that respond and give 101 per cent," said Cronje when asked what he taught of his team's achievement.

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Natants teave for Iran today

A 21-member Bangladesh swimming and water polo team will leave here today for Iran to participate in the eighth Fajr international swimming and water polo competition, reports UNB.

The five-day aquatic meet begins in Tehran on Thursday. Captain Shahiduzzaman Khan will lead the squad in the meet which concludes on January 30.

M United close in on Rovers

MANCHESTER, England, Jan 23: British record signing Andy Cole captured the spotlight but Frenchman Eric Cantona grabbed the points as Manchester United beat Blackburn Rovers 1-0 in the "50 million pounds" (80 million dollars) Premier League match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Cole, who joined United from Newcastle in a British record transfer deal worth seven million pounds (11.10 million dollars) 10 days ago, was the focus of attention on his debut for the champions and could have made a dream start with a goal after just 90 seconds.

But after churning down a misdirected header by Blackburn defender Paul Warhurst he skewed his half-volley wide — and apart from a shot over the bar in the dying seconds, never had another scoring chance.

It was left to Cantona to head home a long cross from Ryan Gigg's 13 minutes from time to give United a deserved victory that could eventually turn out to prove priceless.

For the win narrowed Blackburn's lead at the top of the table two points and, although Blackburn have a match in hand, United will go top if the win at Crystal Palace on Wednesday. Blackburn do not play again until next weekend.

But Rovers left Old Trafford aggrieved at not taking a point from a thrilling match after Tim Sherwood's brave header in time last minute of normal time was disallowed.

Referee Paul Durkin ruled that Alan Shearer had pushed Roy Keane before heading the ball across the goal for Sherwood.

Rovers manager Kenny Dalglish was highly critical of the referee and said afterwards: "The difference between the teams at the end was a refereeing decision. If referees are going to influence

the result there is nothing you can do about it."

The 22 players who started the match had cost their respective clubs 50 million pounds (80 million dollars) in the transfer market over the past three years and included three other men besides Cole Shearer (3.3 million pounds — 5.3 million dollars), Keane (3.75 million pounds — 6.0 million dollars) and Chris Sutton of Blackburn (5.0 million pounds — 8.0 million dollars) — who have all enjoyed the status of being Britain's most expensive players over the past two seasons.

But all eyes were on Cole, who has taken over from Sutton at the top of the list with his surprise transfer from Newcastle.

Fans arrived at Old Trafford six hours before the kick-off to buy newly-printed Andy Cole replica United shirts with his number 17 emblazoned on the back and there was a roaring trade in new Cole T-shirts, the sweatshirts and baseball caps.