

GMCC given the shakes

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

GMCC: 164/9 (Babul 26, Barna 41 n.o., Golla 26; Sumon 3/19, Imran 3/33)
Khelaghar: 141 in 44.4 overs (Sumon 30, Shakil 32; Monju 4/10)

Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) were off to the shaky start in the 16th Damal Summer cricket tournament, the season's curtain-raiser meet, when they beat lowly Khelaghar by 23 runs in a low scoring match at the tiny City Club ground in Mirpur yesterday.

Sent in to bat by the Khelaghar skipper Imran, who is also the coach of Brothers Union, GMCC scored a fighting 164 for nine in their share of 50 overs.

Thanks to a priceless 47-run stand for the eighth wicket between seamer Mizanur Rahman Babul and wicketkeeper Debasish Barua GMCC were dead-ended from a precariously placed 78 for seven.

Babul scored a patient 26 off 42 balls before Imran, ably supported by Sumon in tearing apart the GMCC batting, removed his medium-fast counterpart for his third wicket.

But an ungainly Barua, who offered a lone battle against all odds, remained unbeaten on 41 to steer GMCC to a reasonable tally. His run-a-ball innings featured four sparkling boundaries and a towering six.

Apart from the lower-order duo, national opener Javed Omar Belim Golla, who offered some resistance to the Khelaghar tirade, chipped in with a sedate 26 off 57 balls. Golla was undone by a Sumon delivery which kept low.

Sumon, the upcoming youngster, who later caught the prized scalp of bulky national middle-order batsman Zakaria Imtiaz (17) and Shaheen (5), finished with an enviable analysis of 10-2-19-3. Imran gave 33 runs for his three wickets.

In reply, Khelaghar, the promotees to the First Division this year, could manage only 141 before being bundled out in 44.4 overs in the face of a devastating spell from left-arm seamer Monju, who finished with a four-wicket haul.

After Bablu and makeshift bowler Golla made the breakthrough removing the first four Khelaghar batsmen for 63, Monju ripped through the remaining lineup to finish with four for only ten runs in his 8.2 overs which yielded two maidens.

Golla whose two wickets includes opener Babar (35), returned with figures of 2/33 in his nine overs.

Among the Khelaghar willow-wielders Sumon and Shakil, who rekindled a glimmer of hope sharing 67-runs for the sixth wicket, contributed 30 and 32 runs respectively.

Rangers back in rhythm

GLASGOW, Oct 29: Rangers manager Walter Smith saluted his club's fans after their biggest crowd of the season saw the Scottish champions try to blot out the memory of their midweek Champions' League mauling by Juventus, reports Reuter.

A crowd of 45,155 turned up to see Rangers beat Hearts 4-1 at Ibrox and go six points clear at the top of the Premier Division.

A second minute goal from Paul Gascoigne, back after missing three matches through injury, two from Russian striker Oleg Salenko and another from Gordon Durie gave Rangers the points as Hearts replied through John Millar.

"The fans have been turning up in huge numbers over recent years and it was great to see them behind us after the midweek disappointment," said Smith.

"I thought it was important for us to start well and we did that when Paul Gascoigne scored so early. It's been a difficult few days after Juventus but we recovered well."

Second-placed Celtic, playing less than 48 hours after their 1-0 defeat by Paris St Germain in the European Cup Winners' Cup, drew 0-0 at Kilmarnock.

At the other end of the table, Falkirk won for the first time this season. Paul McGrillen scored in the 44th minute to give them a 1-0 win over Raith Rovers, who lost in the UEFA Cup to Bayern Munich in midweek.

Spinners shackle SA XI



SOWETO, Oct 29: The South African Invitation XI were dismissed for 210 on the third day of their four-day match against England at the Elkhah Oval on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Earlier on Saturday Richard Illingworth and Mike Watkinson snapped up eight wickets on a pitch taking spin to put England in charge against a South African Invitation XI.

Slow left-arm Illingworth took five for 76 and Watkinson secured three for 38 with his off-spin, reducing the Invitation side to 209 for nine in reply to England's first innings of 332 at the close on the second day of the four-day match.

The Invitation XI might have been in an even worse plight but for a ninth wicket stand of 69 between Lulama Mazikazana and Meyrick Pringle which lifted them from 138 for eight.

Mazikazana crafted an unbeaten 44 and Pringle smashed 36 to save the follow-on and leave their team 123 behind.

Only South Africa captain Hansie Cronje looked comfortable against the turning ball in the early stages and, after a cautious start, reached an increasingly aggressive half-century from 117 balls.

But having struck five fours and a steeping six off Illingworth in his 56, Cronje missed a delivery from Watkinson that spun viciously to hit leg stump after pitching outside off stump.

The spinners continued to work their way through the order and, with help from

wicketkeeper Jack Russell's three catches and two stumpings, the Invitation XI slumped to 138 for eight in the last session.



R ILLINGWORTH ... 5 for 76

Mazikazana, who was forced to withdraw from his province's match against England A two years ago because he was undergoing tribal initiation rights, showed a sturdy defence while Pringle hit both spinners out of the attack before failing to a speedy stumping by Russell.

England look set for a match-winning advantage on a pitch that was laid only 18 months ago, is taking a lot of spin, and is unlikely to last for the full four days.

The touring team extended their overnight 285 for seven by 47 in the morning session, John Crawley finishing with 85, after stepping in at the last moment when Mark Ramprakash withdrew with fatigue.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third

day of the four-day match between England and a South African Invitation XI played at the Elkhah Oval on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 285-7)

Atherton c Rhodes b Strydom	59
Stewart c Cronje b Strydom	94
Crawley c Rhodes b Davis	85
Smith st Mazikazana b Davis	4
Hick c Toyana b Strydom	15
Russell lbw b Pringle	11
Watkinson lbw b Pringle	0
Illingworth c Rhodes b Davis	19
Fraser st Mazikazana b Davis	6
Malcolm not out	0
Extras: (b-9, lb-14, nb-16)	39
Total (in 131.4 overs)	332

Fall of wickets: 1-163; 2-170; 3-179; 4-210; 5-250; 6-250; 7-250; 8-312; 9-325.

Bowling: O M R W

Pringle	26	4	75	3
Snell	13	6	30	0
Williams	29	9	73	0
Davis	21.4	8	68	4
Cronje	8	3	17	0
Strydom	34	14	46	3

SOUTH AFRICA INVITATION XI: First innings

Arthur c Russell b Illott	30
Amm c Crawley b Illingworth	31
Cronje b Watkinson	56
Rhodes c Russell b Illingworth	1
Toyanc st Russel b Watkinson	1
Strydom c Crawley b Watkinson	3
Snell c Hick b Illingworth	14
Mazikazana not out	44
Davis c Russell b Illingworth	1
Pringle st Russel b Illingworth	36
Williams not out	1
Extras: (nb-3, lb-9)	12
Total: (all out in 78.1 overs)	210

Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-53; 3-63; 4-92; 5-92; 6-118; 7-128; 8-138; 9-207.

Bowling: O M R W

D Malcolm	14	4	32	1
M Illott	14	6	41	1
A Fraser	9	2	14	0
R Illingworth	25.1	10	76	6
M Watkinson	16	6	38	3

Ajax keep up amazing run

AMSTERDAM, Oct 29: Two goals from striker Patrick Kluijvert helped ram-rapping Ajax Amsterdam thrash Roda JC Kerkrade 6-1 in the Dutch First Division on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Four goals in the first 37 minutes set Ajax on their way against last year's runners-up. They made it 12 wins from 12 games and have now scored 47 goals with just three against.

Jari Litmanen, Danny Blind, Edgar Davids and Nwankwo Kanu also struck for Ajax as the leaders stayed five points clear of PSV Eindhoven, 2-0 winners over Willem II Tilburg.

PSV showed again they can score goals without Brazilian star striker Ronaldo, who started on the substitutes bench after recovering from an ankle injury.

An early Ernest Faber header from a corner by Luc Nilis and a brilliant curling shot from the edge of the box by Nilis four minutes before time sealed the sixth home victory of the season.

Willem II had defender Dave Smits sent off in the 58th minute for a second bookable offence.

Ronaldo may be back in the starting line-up in a UEFA Cup match against Leeds on Tuesday, but experienced midfielder Jan Wouters will miss the game after tearing a muscle in training on Friday. Wouters is expected to be out for several weeks.

Ajax are also in European action next week with a Champions' League match against Grasshopper Zurich on Wednesday.



Players of FC Sarajevo (in black) and FC Travnik battle to take control of the ball during a rare soccer match at the Kosovo Stadium in the war-torn Bosnian capital Sarajevo on Oct 28. A crowd of about 700 turned out to watch the game which ended 1-1.

— AFP/UNB photo

Bayern rise to occasion



BONN, Oct 29: Bayern Munich cast aside a week of squabbling with a dramatic 5-3 defeat of

former champions VfB Stuttgart to keep their three-point lead at the top of the German First Division on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Bayern, whose preparations for the home game were overshadowed by controversial comments by chairman Franz Beckenbauer and coach Otto Rehhagel, gave away a 3-0 lead before sealing the match with late goals from Alexander Zickler and Mehmet Scholl.

Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund also stretched the nerves of their fans to the limit before Michael Zorc hit an 89th-minute winner in a 2-1 victory at Schalke.

Bayern have 27 points from their opening 11 games. Dortmund are second with 24, two points ahead of Borussia Moenchengladbach

who won 2-0 at struggling Cologne on Friday.

Bayern, who meet Scotland's Raith Rovers in the UEFA Cup next week, have been through a controversial time after former World Cup-winning captain and coach Beckenbauer compared their last performance to that of a "school team."

Everything seemed to be forgotten, however, as the record champions cruised to a 3-0 lead with goals from midfielder Thomas Strunz and striker Zickler in the 45th and 49th minutes and a penalty from Scholl in the 63rd.

But Stuttgart scored three times in less than 10 minutes with goals from Axel Kruse and two strikes from the Bundesliga's top scorerer Giovanni Elber in the 76th, 79th and 84th minutes.

The Bavarians bounced back a minute later when Zickler got his second and Scholl, one of Rehhagel's disgruntled players, fired in his second penalty in the last

minute. "With a 3-0 lead we should lock out our opponents, not let them get back into the match," Rehhagel said. "But it was a great match for the fans."

European Cup Champions' League campaigners Dortmund seemed to be heading towards a draw in front of a capacity of 70,960 Schalke crowd after a 42nd minute goal from their striker Lars Ricken cancelled out Dutch marksman Youri Mulder's 10th minute effort.

But the late goal from veteran midfielder Zorc clinched the champions' first victory at the Gelsenkirchen club since March 1983.

Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was far from pleased, however, as his team prepared to travel to Bucharest in the Champions' League on Wednesday.

"We had a great deal of luck," Hitzfeld said. "I can't really get happy because this match has given me a lot to think about. We're going to need to do some talking."

Little love lost between them!

SOWETO, South Africa, Oct 29: The woes of England fast bowler Devon Malcolm continue, reports AFP.

Malcolm, the destroyer of the South African batting at the Oval last season with 9 for 57, was pulled out of the four-day match against a South African Invitation XI here Sunday to go to a net in Petoria.

"We want to get him bowling off his full run-up, properly, fast," was the explanation from England manager Ray Illingworth.

It is the second time Illingworth and Malcolm have had a run-in. Illingworth sent Malcolm home from the Lord's Test against New Zealand two years ago after the Jamaican-born seamer had been selected for the squad.

The England Supremo's reason then was that the pitch would not suit Malcolm.

Juninho yet to join Boro

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 29: Middlesbrough assistant manager Viv Anderson said on Saturday that Brazilian international Juninho will arrive back in England this weekend, reports Reuter.

The 22-year-old returned to his home in Sao Paulo after completing his 4.5 million pounds sterling (7.12 million dollars) contract with Boro to wait for his British work permit.

Anderson, speaking after his side's 2-0 defeat at Manchester United, said, "The work permit came through today. We are told it is in transit to the club and is on its way to us."

"Juninho is flying out from Brazil tonight and should arrive ... early tomorrow." Juninho should be free to make his debut against Leeds at Middlesbrough's new riverside stadium next Saturday.

He is then due to fly back to South America to play for Brazil against bitter rivals Argentina in Buenos Aires on November 8.

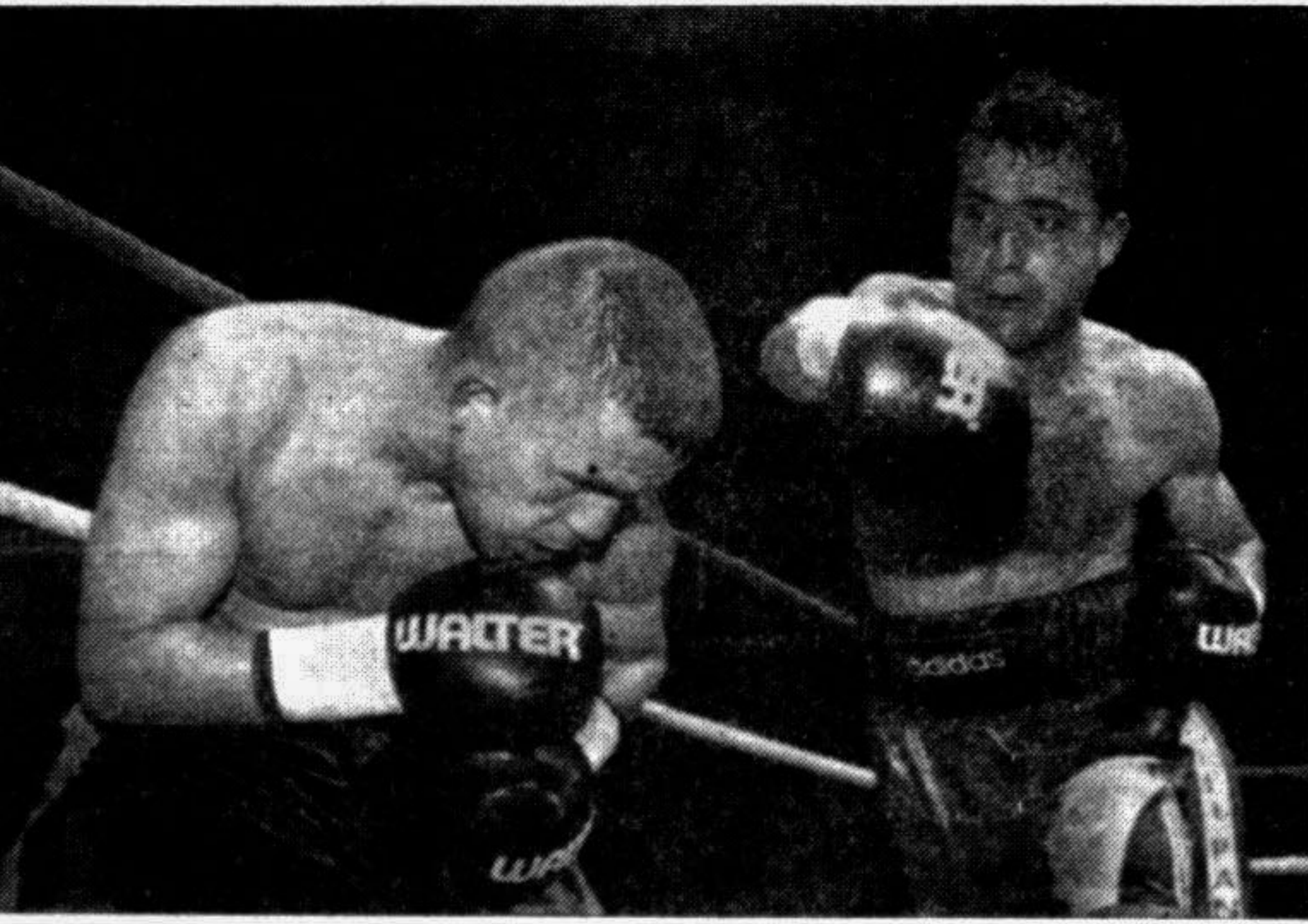
But Anderson said he was not certain Juninho would join Boro for the match. "As it's just a friendly then if he's not wanted desperately he will stay here," Anderson said.

Army v'ball

Six more robin league matches of the Army volleyball championship were held at the Rangpur Cantonment yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Savar area defeated Log area, Jessore area beat Dhaka Engineers and Dhaka Infantry outplayed Dhaka Signals by three straight sets each in three robin league matches in the morning.

Rangpur area beat Momenahali area, Comilla area defeated Air Defence Artillery by straight three sets and Bogra area outplayed Chittagong area by 3-1 sets in three sets and Bogra area outplayed Chittagong area by 3-1 sets in three other matches in the afternoon.



Angel Mona (R) of France lands a right jab on Spaniard Oscar Palomino during their European lightweight title bout in Perpignan, France, on Oct 29. Mona defended his crown on points.

— AFP/UNB photo

Aussies brewing storm



SYDNEY, Oct 29: The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) hit out today at the International

Cricket Council (ICC) for its inaction over allegations of bribery surrounding former Pakistan captain Salim Malik, reports Reuter.

The ACB said in a statement that the ACB believed at all times since it became aware of the bribery allegations that the ICC was the appropriate authority to handle the charges.

"The potential of a bribery allegation to bring the game into disrepute does not need to be spelt out," the statement, signed by ACB chief executive officer Graham Halbish, said.

"There has been repeated suggestion that the ICC does not have power to investigate the allegations," it said.

"In ACB's view, not only did ICC have power but it was clearly appropriate for it to conduct an inquiry."

"We will continue to take up our concerns with ICC."

While another report from Perth adds: The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) has also reacted angrily to suggestions that three Australian players concocted bribery allegations.

In a statement issued today, ACB chairman Dennis Rogers and Graham Halbish, said the slur on players' characters had culminated in one of the three, Shane Warne, being forced to defend himself publicly against suggestions that he is a liar.

"Shane's comments were made with the ACB's knowledge and support," the statement said. "Our only regret is that he had to make them."

The bribery issue erupted earlier this year when Warne, Australia's star leg-spinner, off-spinner Tim May and batsman Mark Waugh signed statutory declarations claiming they were offered bribes during Australia's Pakistan tour last year.

Malik was sacked as captain following the allegations, but was reinstated recently, and included in the Pakistan team to play Australia in three Test here, after being cleared by an inquiry in Pakistan.

During the inquiry, a Pakistan Cricket Board committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge Fakhruddin Ebrahim suggested the Australian players had "concocted" the allegations, but no motive for such action was offered.

Malik, still in Pakistan because of a delay in obtaining a visa, is expected to join his teammates early this week.

Warne defended himself



SALIM MALIK

Gomez gains \$40,000

THOUSAND OAKS, California, Oct 29: Andres Gomez beat Johan Kriek 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) Sunday to capture the Co-ops And Lybrand tournament, becoming only the third player other than Jimmy Connors to win an event on the 35-over Champions' Tour, reports AP.

Gomez advanced to the final of the US 150,000 dollars tournament when conners was forced to withdraw after slightly tearing a calf muscle in Saturday's semifinal.

Muster spoils Pete's party



ESSEN, Germany, Oct 29: Thomas Muster dashed Pete Sampras's hopes of regaining the

World No 1 spot at the Essen Open when he upset the Wimbledon champion 7-6, 6-2 in Saturday's semifinals, reports Reuter.

After Sampras had started the match in commanding style, the Austrian clay-court expert produced a spirited comeback to earn a clash with American Malivai Washington in today's final.

Washington, who beat Andre Agassi earlier in the week, booked his place with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over France's Arnaud Boetsch.

Sampras would have dislodged Agassi from the number one spot with victory in the 1.8 million dollars Essen event.

But the second-ranked American will now have to wait until next week's indoor event in Paris before he can take over from his compatriot.

Agassi will not be able to defend his position in Paris because of a chest injury.

Sampras, who lost the

number one spot to Agassi last April, seemed to be well in control of the semifinal after he broke Muster's serve to take a 3-1 lead in the first set.

But the Australian world

number three lifted his game under pressure and started to battle for every point.

Muster hit a crisp backhand passing shot to break back and narrow the American's lead to 4-3.

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THOMAS MUSTER

When the set went to a tie-break, the Austrian finished a long rally with a brilliant forehand on the run to secure a set point at 7-6. The French Open winner then clinched the set with a backhand at the net on the next point.

Both players dropped their serve in the early games of the second set. But once Muster broke Sampras again with a forehand passing shot to lead 4-2, the American seemed to lose his game completely.

UK government gets tough on drug abusers

LONDON, Oct 29: The British government said on Friday it would soon introduce legislation aimed at stamping out drug abuse in sports, reports Reuter.

Under the tough new rules, anyone found guilty of having an intent to supply anabolic steroids and similar drugs could receive a maximum jail sentence of five years and an unlimited fine.

Sports Minister Iain Sprouat told Parliament that Home Secretary Michael Howard, the interior minister, intended to bring in an order "very shortly" to make anabolic steroids controlled drugs under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act.

Tens of thousands of sportsmen and bodybuilders are thought to use anabolic steroids to enhance their performance, despite evidence of harmful physical and psychological side-effects.

Menziez Campbell, a former Olympic athlete who speaks on sport for the Liberal Democratic Party, welcomed the government's move.

"The misuse of anabolic steroids appears to be on the increase. Legislation alone will not end the folly of drug abuse in sport but it will be an important weapon in the fight," said Campbell, who has campaigned hard for a ban.

Chile blank Canada

CONCEPCION, Chile, Oct 29: Chile scored twice in the second half to beat Canada 2-0 in an exhibition soccer game Wednesday night, reports AP.

Sebastian Rozental scored on a penalty kick in the 47th minute and Marcelo Salas added a goal 20 minutes later.



Michael Schumacher, 1995 and '94 world champion of Germany, sprays champagne at Johnny Herbert of Great Britain on the winners' podium at Japanese Grand Prix on Oct 29. Schumacher won the race and Herbert clinched third position.

— AFP/UNB photo