



The irresistible Bangladeshi forward Sadek (C) threatens the Nepali goalmouth for the 15th time during yesterday's SAF Games hockey encounter at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Madras. Bangladesh made mincemeat of the hockey minnows thrashing them 11-1. — Star photo by fax (Courtesy — Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association)

Shiny's special gift

MADRAS, Dec 25: "I am extremely happy", said ace middle distance runner, Shiny Wilson, on the Tamil Nadu government's decision to present her a Maruti Esteem car for her superb show in the South Asian Federation Games, reports PTI. "I have represented India in over to international meets in my 13-year career and this is the first time that I am being given such a wonderful gift. I can't believe it," said an ecstatic Shiny. Accepting that it was indeed a "wonderful Christmas gift" Shiny said, "Not even in my wildest dreams did I think I would get such a gift. In fact, when we were thinking of going in for a new car and my daughter insisted that we buy an Esteem, my reply was that it would probably be for her wedding. "I have achieved my dream of running a sub two minute 800m race in this meet," the 30-year-old assistant manager in the FCI said. Shiny, who has decided to continue her career, which began as a 16-year-old in the 1982 Delhi Asiad, won the 400-800m double besides adding another gold to her kitty by anchoring the Indian 4x400 relay quartet to a sixth successive title at the SAF Games.

WI rescind pacers' rest

BRISBANE, Dec 25: The West Indies are expected to call on at least two of the three frontline members of their fast-bowling battery for the one-day cricket match against Queensland here Tuesday, reports AFP. Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Ian Bishop were all rested from the drawn three-day game against the Australian XI here over the weekend, but two of them are likely to return for the day-night match with the Sheffield Shield champions. "There's a possibility you might see one or two back," Windies' captain Richie Richardson said as his side celebrated Christmas Day at the team hotel today. "The thing is that someone has got to play. The three that didn't play have only some minor injuries and we don't have any more than 15 players here." A minor back strain suffered by Anderson Cummins in the Australian XI game which prevented him from bowling on the last day could mean he is rested, leaving open the possibility of Ambrose, Walsh and Bishop all being restored to the side. The team has taken some heart from the match with

the Australian XI when their batsmen had a full day at the crease Sunday. "We've been struggling so at least our batsmen got time to put their heads down which we haven't been doing since we've been here," Richardson said. "Sometimes you need time at the crease under less pressure." The match against Queensland could give an indication of Richardson's form for the rest of the World Series Cup after he conceded he was badly out of touch in the one-dayers. Richardson batted at No. 6 in the West Indies' improved performance in the 24-run loss to Australia in Melbourne last Tuesday and could stay down the order until he finds touch.

Ivic takes charge of UAE

DUBAI, Dec 25: Croatian soccer coach Tomislav Ivic took charge Sunday of the United Arab Emirates' national team. Details of his one-year contract were not disclosed, reports AP. Ivic's job in the Gulf Arab state is the latest in a string of impressive posts with big-time European club sides Porto and Benfica of Portugal, France's Paris Saint Germain and Monaco, and Spain's Atletico Madrid. His predecessors in the UAE are equally impressive. They include former England manager Don Revie, Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira and Mario Zagalo. The UAE's most striking feat to date was to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy. Ivic's main task in the UAE would be to prepare them for next October's Gulf Championship in Oman and the Asian Championships to be held here in December 1996.

1995: The good, the bad and the ugly

LONDON, Dec 25: (Reuters): With one simple gesture, former amateur boxer and political prisoner Nelson Mandela elevated the Rugby Union World Cup final on June 24 from a sporting spectacular to an inspirational symbol of the new South Africa. On an emotionally-charged afternoon at Johannesburg's Ellis Park, 65,000 spectators erupted as the South African President appeared in the green Springbok jersey before his team took on the favoured New Zealand all blacks. For South African blacks and coloureds, rugby, sport of the Afrikaners, had epitomised the vicious apartheid regime. Now, in a masterpiece of public relations, Mandela signalled that the whole of South Africa was behind the Springboks, who went on to beat the all blacks 15-12 after extra-time. Mandela presented the World Cup to South African captain Francois Pienaar, the Springboks took their lap of honour to the strains of their World Cup anthem, the African work song "shosholozo," and for one afternoon at least the team's slogan "one team, one nation" was a reality. Sadly, if predictably, the world of sport was not always blessed with such inspirational moments in 1995, a year again besmirched by a series of scandals, mostly connected with money and obsession with success.

Former Marseille boss and French cabinet minister Bernard Tapie was sentenced to eight months in prison on charges of match-rigging and interfering with witnesses. His compatriot Eric Cantona was banned from soccer for a similar period and forced to do 120 hours' community service after his infamous "kung-fu" attack on a spectator while playing for Manchester United at Crystal Palace in January. Zimbabwe goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar was one of three internationals under investigation in Britain for bribery, while Pakistan cricket captain Salim Malik was cleared of allegations that he offered bribes to three Australians to play poorly on the Australian team's tour of Pakistan last year. American baseball finally resumed in April after an eight-month gap, the consequence of a labour dispute between the team owners and the players' union, but there were signs the long

strike had alienated many previously devoted fans. At least one man did his best to re-establish continuity. Cal Ripken of the Baltimore Orioles played his 2,131st consecutive game, erasing the record held by the legendary Lou Gehrig. Diego Maradona and Mike Tyson also returned to their respective sports following enforced absences, with the latter making comfortably the more lasting impact in a mostly ill-starred boxing year. The American resumed his heavyweight career having spent three years in prison for rape, his awesome physique seemingly intact but clearly ring-rusty. This mattered little in his comeback fight against Peter McNeely, a fighter destined to become a footnote in boxing history, who duly succumbed halfway through the first round. Time finally ran out for incomparable British jockey Lester Piggott, who retired for the second time at the age of 59, but on four wheels no-one could stop the supremely talented Michael Schumacher from winning his second world drivers' title. Schumacher, who switches from Benetton to Ferrari in 1996, drove superbly throughout the year. He went from 16th on the

grid to first at Spa-Francorchamps, became the first German to win the German Grand Prix and devastated his rivals with a masterly display on a treacherous wet track at Nuerburgring. The athletics calendar, growing more crowded by the year, featured the fifth world championships. It was also dominated by one man, Michael Johnson, who became the first to win the 200-400 metres double at a global championship, although Briton Jonathan Edwards won the male athlete-of-the-year award for his world record-breaking triple jump feat. In the interim year between the soccer World Cup and the European Championships, attention switched from nations to clubs with Ajax Amsterdam confirming they have the potential to be the team of the 1990s by beating South American champions Gremio of Brazil in a penalty shoot-out in the World Club final. Fiercely competitive and enviably disciplined, Australia dethroned West Indies as unofficial world cricket champions during a riveting series in the Caribbean. In golf, Nick Faldo put aside personal problems and his relentless drive for perfection to steer Europe to a 14-1/2 to 13-1/2 Ryder Cup

SAF Games await gala ending

MADRAS, Dec 25: Hectic efforts are on to make the closing ceremony of the Seventh South Asian Federation Games a memorable one here on Dec 27, reports PTI. A busy schedule has been drawn up including a variety of programmes and an hour-long display of fireworks, imported from Japan. The organising committee of the Games has arranged for the import of eight varieties of "special effect Japanese variety shell" for the fireworks display. The late evening clear sky would be illuminated by man-made stars for about an hour, to the astonishment of thousands present at the stadium and millions of others as Dorodarsan would be telecasting the occasion live. The Games would be declared closed by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Madhav Rao Scindia, who would also receive the SAF flag. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Miss Jayalalitha, will be the chief guest at the function. The Indian Olympic Association president, B Sivanthi Adityan, will deliver the welcome address. The cultural programmes include a number of items by the Tamil Nadu police, chalked out by the director general of police, WI Davaram and ably assisted by Jagan Sheshadri, DIG. Some of them are: 'Jaya's flaming arrows' (a motor cycle display by 25 women and 35 men) pyramidal formations by 350 policemen and torch light tattoo, also by policemen. Meanwhile, organisers are still not able to get over the confusion they have been creating from the beginning on the scheduling of events. This was clearly evident from an almost packed Nehru Stadium right from 1500 hrs for witnessing the football semifinals. To their utter dismay, they had to wait for over two hours in the scorching sun for the match to commence. According to a full page advertisement in today's newspapers, the first semifinal was to start at 1630 hrs, but it had been re-scheduled to commence at 1730 hrs. The frequent rescheduling and shifting of venues at the last minute has been the highlight of the Games here right from Day One.

triumph over the United States. Australian Steve Elkington won the United States PGA, while Corey Pavin at last buried the tag of the best golfer never to win a major by taking the US Open. John Daly, who once relied on alcohol to get him through the night, relied on chocolate muffins at St Andrews to help him to the British Open title with an irresistible blend of power and delicacy. Pete Sampras started the tennis year in Australia in tears caused by his coach Tim Gullickson's serious health problems, but ended it by guiding the United States to the Davis Cup and holding off Andre Agassi's challenge for the men's number one spot, a tribute to an all-round game with no obvious weaknesses. A troubled Steffi Graf, under investigation for possible tax evasion, won the Wimbledon and US Open titles while Monica Seles, although clearly overweight, returned after a long absence to move effortlessly into the number two spot, an indication of the lack of depth in the women's game. The year's greatest achievement, though, may well belong to an unassuming farmer's son from northern Spain.

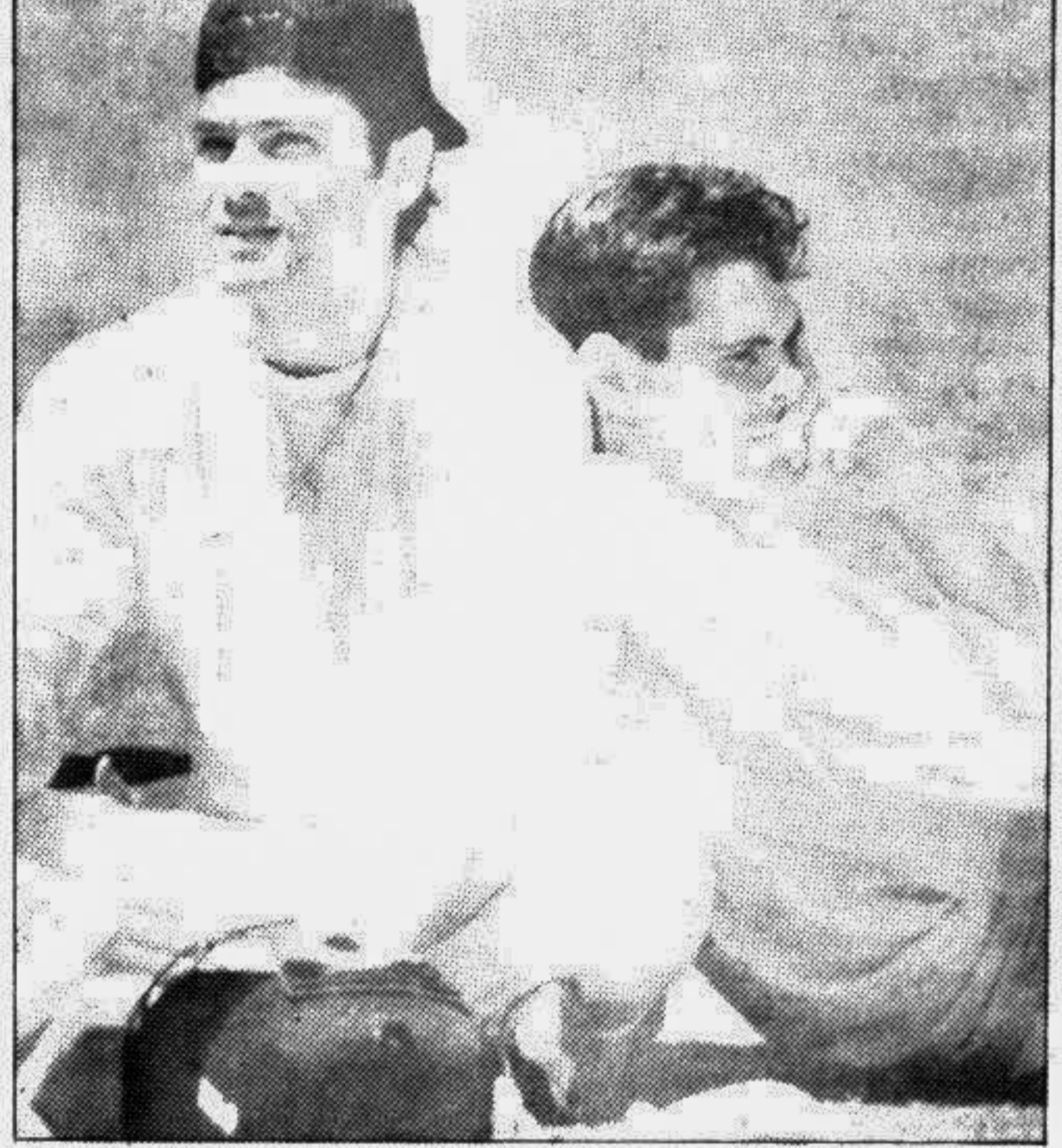
Unsporting act by Beijing

TAIPEI, Dec 25: A tennis tournament in Taiwan starring Michael Chang and five other international players has been cancelled due to pressure from Beijing, local press reported Sunday, reports AFP. The Hongtashan tournament was to take place January 6-7 in the Linkou Stadium near Taipei, but its Chinese sponsor decided to cancel the Taiwan event in the last minutes under pressure from Beijing. The English-language China newspaper reported. Sport International, the local promoter of the Hongtashan cup Tennis event said in a statement the event was cancelled because its sponsor decided to pull out. But it did not say whether the cancellation was due to pressure from Beijing. Chang Liang-Jen, the cultural and education director of the cabinet-level mainland affairs council, told reporters here China should not have pressured the sponsor because the Hongtashan Cup was not a political event nor a major sports competition like the Asian Games. "They are too sensitive," Chang said, adding that a sports event should not be affected by political concerns.

Eng-SA 4th Test today

PORT ELIZABETH, Dec 25: Replacement batsman Jason Gallian and off-spinner Mike Watkinson have both been included in England's squad for the fourth Test against South Africa starting at St George's Park on Tuesday, reports Reuter. Gallian replaces the injured John Crawley while Watkinson is included "in case we see anything on the morning of the match that indicates we might want a

second spinner," captain Mike Atherton said after the Christmas morning net practice. Left-arm mark Ilett and Peter Martin are once again preferred in the pace attack ahead of Angus Fraser and Devon Malcolm while Darren Gough was not considered because he has not fully recovered from injury. "Jason will bat at number three, if we decide to play six specialist batsmen on the morning of the match. He is an opening batsman but that suits us because we are looking for a much more solid start," manager Ray Illingworth said. South Africa held a low-key net session but were still unable to deflect attention away from their debutant, 18-year-old left-arm wrist-spinner Paul Adams. "There is bound to be a lot of pressure on him, there always is on debut. And being a developing player in South Africa the spotlight is even brighter. But we will look after him. He is an exciting prospect," captain Hansie Cronje said. Any thoughts of festive celebrations before the Test were quashed by both teams. "There is a lot at stake, both in cricketing terms and financially. I think you'll find our boys being very responsible... no heavy drinking or late nights. We've been here for two and a half months now but the whole series has come down to 10 days of cricket," Illingworth said. The first three matches in the five-Test series were drawn.



England batsmen Mark Ramprakash (L) and Jason Gallian relax during a break in the practice session in Port Elizabeth on Dec 25. — AFP/UNB photo

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA: Gary Kirsten, Andrew Hudson, Hansie Cronje (captain), Daryll Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Jacques Kallis, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Shaun Pollock, Craig Matthews, Allan Donald, Paul Adams, Nicky Boje. **ENGLAND:** Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Jason Gallian, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Robin Smith, Jack Russell, Dominic Cork, Richard Illingworth, Peter Martin, Mark Ilett, Mike Watkinson.

Prigs bring horns back

SYDNEY, Dec 25: The International Cricket Council has cleared Sri Lanka of ball-tampering and expressed "sincere regrets" to the Sri Lankan board and players for the series of events during and after the first Test against Australia earlier this month, report agencies. ICC chief executive David Richards on Monday released a statement which also criticised the match umpires — Australia's Peter Parker and Pakistan's Khizar Hayat — for not replacing the ball when they believed it had been tampered with. The incident occurred on the second day of the first Test. The umpires believed the ball's character had been changed by a player or players and the ICC's match referee Graham Dowling found the Sri Lankans guilty of ball-tampering. The ICC's statement said that under relevant law 42.5 it was a requirement that the ball be changed if its condition had been altered. The umpires failed to do this and there was no video evidence to back up a charge of tampering. "In the interest of fairness, and as the ball was not replaced, the ICC cannot determine that the condition of the ball had been altered and, as such, the Sri Lankan team therefore stands exonerated of a breach of law 42.5," the statement said. "ICC has expressed its sincere regrets in this matter to the Sri Lankan board and their players." According to Dowling's statement at the time, Hayat noted the ball had been interfered with following an over from off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan. Hayat showed the ball to Parker, who agreed. In part, Dowling's statement said, "The Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga was notified that the condition of the ball had been clearly altered by a member or members of his team during the course of the 17th over. Furthermore, the umpires advised they would take appropriate action if there was any further attempt to tamper with the ball." The ICC statement made it clear that the umpires had erred in not replacing the ball. The Sri Lankans always had maintained that the hard WACA Ground pitch, not one

of their players, was responsible for damaging the ball. The board responded by saying it had always played by the rules. "The board also emphasises that it believes a feature of Sri Lanka cricket has been to play the game in accordance with the spirit as well as the letter of the laws of cricket," it said in a statement. "It's really good that this has been done," Ranatunga said. "We were very keen to clear our name." Sri Lankan team manager Duleep Mendis said his immediate reaction was, "At last." The decision ends a row which overshadowed the second Test at Melbourne starting on Tuesday and made the day for cricket-crazy Sri Lankans. "This is the happiest news Christmas could bring," said former first-class umpire Ajith Perera, who had been lobbying to clear Sri Lanka's name. Two lawyers, a forensic expert and Perera had said earlier they believed re-owned Sri Lanka could win 25 million dollars in damages if it sued for defamation over the incident.

SAF snippets
MADRAS, Dec 25: India won the gold medal defeating Sri Lanka 15-5, 15-3, 15-5 in the SAF Games women's volleyball championship at the Indoor Stadium here today, reports PTI. Meanwhile, India won both the gold medals at stake in the South Asian Federation Games weightlifting event with K S Muthu stealing the limelight, creating two new SAF records in the 99-kg category here today. Muthu first broke his own clean and jerk SAF record of 187.5 kg with a lift of 188 kg. He then raised the bar to 195 in an attempt to break Harnam Singh's SAF record of 330-kg (total snatch and clean and jerk), and succeeded too, achieving a total of 332.5 kg. He had earlier lifted 137.5 kg in the snatch. Pakistan's Adeb Akram, who gave a tough fight to Muthu in the snatch with 142.5 faded in the jerk where he could manage only 170 and thereby a total of 312.5. He could not surpass Muthu's 180 in the jerk failing in his other two attempts. Adeb took the silver while the bronze went to Bidyu Kumar Roy of Bangladesh.



Edgar Bennett of Green Bay Packers looks for a way through the Pittsburgh Steelers defence during a NFL clash in Lambeau Field, Wisconsin on Dec 24. — AFP/UNB photo

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এখানে কাটুন ----- এখানে কাটুন ----- এখানে কাটুন -----

- ১। ভয়েস অব আমেরিকা'র সদর দপ্তর কোথায়?
উত্তর: [] ক. ওয়াশিংটন ডিসি [] খ. নিউ ইয়র্ক [] গ. ডালাস [] ঘ. হলিউড
- ২। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে মোট অঙ্গ রাজ্যের সংখ্যা কত?
উত্তর: [] ক. ৪৯টি [] খ. ৫০টি [] গ. ৫১টি [] ঘ. ৫২টি
- ৩। ভয়েস অব আমেরিকা'র বাংলা বিভাগ কোন অনুষ্ঠানে শ্রোতাদের চিঠিপত্রের জবাব দেয়?
উত্তর: [] ক. পিতলী [] খ. বন্ধন [] গ. মিতালী [] ঘ. পত্র-মিতা
- ৪। বিল স্লিনটন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের কততম প্রেসিডেন্ট?
উত্তর: [] ক. ৩২তম [] খ. ৩৩তম [] গ. ৩৪তম [] ঘ. ৪২তম
- ৫। ভয়েস অব আমেরিকা'র বাংলা বিভাগের সাত্য অধিবেশন প্রতিদিন কখন আরম্ভ হয়?
উত্তর: [] ক. রাত ৯-০০ টায় [] খ. রাত ৯-৩০ টায় [] গ. রাত ১০-০০ টায় [] ঘ. রাত ১০-৩০ টায়

প্রতিযোগীর নাম: _____
পিতার নাম: _____
বর্তমান ঠিকানা: _____

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নিয়মাবলী

আয়োজক:

ঢাকা জেলা ভয়েস অব আমেরিকা (ডিওএ) ফ্যান ক্লাব

প্রথম, দ্বিতীয় এবং তৃতীয় পুরস্কার যথাক্রমে: ১ ঢাকা-হংকং-ঢাকা, ঢাকা-করাচী-ঢাকা এবং ঢাকা-কর্তমন্ড-ঢাকা বিমান টিকেট। এই পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স-এর সৌজনে।

প্রতিযোগিতার নিয়মাবলী:

- ১। ডিওএ'র শ্রোতা এবং ফ্যান ক্লাব সদস্যসহ বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানকারী যে কোন ব্যক্তি এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
- ২। প্রতিযোগীদেরকে চারটি উত্তরের মধ্যে সঠিক উত্তরটির বাম পাশে চিহ্ন টিক দিতে হবে।
- ৩। ঢাকার মার্কিন দূতাবাসের কর্মীবৃন্দ, তাদের পরিবারবর্গ এবং ঢাকা জেলা ডিওএ ফ্যান ক্লাবের কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ এবং তাদের পরিবারবর্গের কেউ এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।
- ৪। পূর্ণকৃত ফর্মটি ফটোকপি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। ঢাকা জেলা ভয়েস অব আমেরিকা ফ্যান ক্লাব, ১৬/১, নয়াপল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০ এই ঠিকানায় আগামী ১৫ই জানুয়ারী, ১৯৯৬ তারিখের মধ্যে ডাকযোগে পৌছাতে হবে (সেরাসরি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়)।
- ৫। প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিতদের নামের তালিকা আগামী ২৫ শে জানুয়ারী, ১৯৯৬ তারিখে এই পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত হবে এবং ডাকযোগে জানান হবে। পুরস্কার বিতরণের তারিখ এবং স্থানও তখন জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে। একই ব্যক্তি একাধিক কুপন পাঠাতে পারবেন। একাধিক সঠিক উত্তরদাতার ক্ষেত্রে লটারীর মাধ্যমে বিজয়ী নির্ধারণ করা হবে।