

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That there are other games played in Brazil other than football. And, that ladies play tennis is that country.

Mario Bueno, a graceful perfectionist with no formal training, became the world number one in 1959. She had one of the best serves ever seen.

Bueno won Wimbledon at her second attempt in 1959, retaining the title in 1960. Her major rival in the sixties was Australian Margaret Smith, whom Bueno defeated in 1964 to take the Wimbledon crown for a third time.

Well, Brazil is not all football just like Bangladesh is not all floods.

SPORTS TALK



Dominic Cork

(England all-rounder) "He's my hero, the man I would love to emulate ... but I don't want to be the new Ian Botham - I want to be Dominic Cork."

On the comparisons between him and former England all-rounder Ian Botham.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday).

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-20

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 5, 1996)

- 1. Who was the captain of the Bangladesh hockey team in the 7th SAF Games?
2. How many teams are scheduled to participate in the soccer World Cup 1998?
3. Penalty-corner is a term usually associated with
4. Boca ... ?
5. The governing body for international athletics is called

Name: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Reception for SAF swimmers

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Swimming Federation has arranged a reception tomorrow for the swimmers who won medals in the seventh SAF Games which concluded in Madras last week, says a press release.

Mohammad Asafuddin, the president of the federation, will be present on the occasion as chief guest which will be held at the National swimming complex tomorrow afternoon at 4 pm.

Stich pulls out of Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 4: Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich has withdrawn from the Australian Open tennis championships to be held later this month, tournament organizers confirmed Thursday, reports AP.

The German player has been troubled by an ankle injury.

He suffered a 6-3, 6-4 loss to Petr Korda of the Czech Republic in the Qatar Open in Doha on Wednesday and then sent official notification to Australian officials.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Premier Division cricket league: Mohammedan SC vs Wari Club (DS) Victoria SC vs Eskaton SS (DCS)

Yamaha First Division cricket league: Surjo Tarun Club vs Dhanmondi Club (CCG)

Acme Second Division cricket league: Azad Boys Club vs Kakrail Boys (MOS)

Shantinagar A vs Young Pegasus B (DCC) Kathalagan CC vs Lalbagh Anwar SC (DCS)

Bagan's fourth on a trot

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

GMCC: 196 for nine in 50 overs (Rais Ahmed 59 not out, Fayaz 28, Amim 3/40, Saikat 2/19) KALABAGAN KC: 198 for four in 41.3 overs (Shahid Sayed 85, Atiar 62 not out, Javed Omar 1/18)

A 149-run partnership between in-form Pakistani middle order batsman Shahid Sayed and wicketkeeper Atiar Rahman propelled giants Kalabagan Krira Chakra to their fourth successive Premier Division cricket league victory when they defeated Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club by six wickets at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 197 runs to win in 50 overs, Sayed and Atiar, who joined forces for the third wicket after Kalabagan lost their three top order batsmen with the scoreboard on 39 in 12.5 overs, made the job easier for their side as they added 149 runs in 27 overs and took the score to 188 before Sayed was magnificently caught by GMCC skipper Babul off a Javed Omar delivery.

Sayed scored 85 runs off only 86 deliveries including nine boundaries and a big six. This was the fourth consecutive half-century for the Lahore based batsman in the league.

Sayed, a right-hander, had earlier scored 60 against Eskaton, 104 against Gulshan Youth and 51 against Wari Club.

After the departure of Sayed, Kalabagan faced ten more balls to reach the target without any further damage.

Wicketkeeper Atiar remained not out on 62 off 100 balls while Amim Abbas, the other Pakistani recruit of Kalabagan, was unbeaten on four.

Earlier, put in to bat in

the morning, GMCC, who recorded an upset one-wicket victory over Bangladesh Biman in their previous league encounter on December 30, were restricted to 196 for nine in their stipulated 50 overs. Pakistani batsman Rais Ahmed was the highest scorer for GMCC with 59 not



Atiar (L) and Sayed... the architects of Kalabagan's cakewalk over GMCC. — Star photo

runners in his nine overs while Sharfuddinul-ibne Shaheed Saikat, the left arm spinner, took two wickets giving away only 19 runs in eight economic overs.

With yesterday's win, Kalabagan, who finished behind joint holders Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club last year, col-

Strang snares Kiwis

WANGANUI, New Zealand, Jan 4: Zimbabwe made an impressive start to their New Zealand tour today by demolishing a President's XI by seven wickets on the third and final day in Wanganui, reports Reuter.

Chasing 152 for victory, Zimbabwe reached 154 for three soon after tea with opener Grant Flower leading the run chase.

Flower hammered 89 runs before falling leg before wicket to Geoff Allott, after sharing a 117-run opening stand with Stuart Carlisle, who made 30.

Left-arm medium pacer Bryan Strang was Zimbabwe's star player, snaring six wickets in each innings to finish with match figures of 12 for 59.

The tourists dismissed the President's XI for 212 in their second innings about 45 minutes before lunch, with Strang capturing six for 39 from 27.4 overs.

Resuming at 153 for five, the President's XI managed to post a target that at least gave their bowlers something to work with, thanks largely to a quickfire 31 by Greg Loveridge.

Paceman Henry Olongo finished with two for 39, while Eddo Brandes and Guy Whittall captured one wicket each.

Zimbabwe will play a three-day match against a New Zealand Academy XI in Whangarei starting on Saturday in their last lead-up match to the first Test.

The first Test against New Zealand starts on January 13 in Hamilton.

It's time for Jones to show

SYDNEY, Jan 4: Veteran swashbuckling batsman Dean Jones has the chance to press his World Cup claims after being selected in an Australian A side to take on the West Indies in a one-day match at the Sydney Cricket Ground next Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Victoria captain was this week named in Australia's preliminary 18-man squad for next month's World Cup after a two-year absence from international cricket.

He now has an early chance to push for inclusion in the final squad of 14 to travel to the World Cup with a strong display against Richie Richardson's West Indies.

The World Cup squad will be announced on January 22, with the first 13 places generally agreed to have been decided already.

That leaves Jones, 34, vying with three others - Tim May, Greg Blewett and Damien Fleming for the 14th spot with the Victorian fast bowler Fleming currently regarded as the most likely to fill the final berth.

May, Blewett and Fleming have all been chosen in the Australian A side, to be captained by Steve Waugh.

Waugh suffered a leg injury during Australia's second Test win against Sri Lanka last week.

The Australia A squad is: Steve Waugh (captain), Greg Blewett, Matthew Elliott, Damien Fleming, David Freedman, Adam Gilchrist, Dean Jones, Michael Kasprovic, Justin Langer, Darren Lehmann, Neil Maxwell, Tim May.

FA paves the way for foreigners

LONDON, Jan 4: Teams competing in the English Football Association (FA) Cup will be allowed to field as many foreign players as they want, officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The FA said restrictions on foreign players would be lifted immediately, in time for Saturday's third round of the Cup and in line with last month's European Court ruling.

In a case brought by Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman, the court ruled that restrictions on the number of foreign players a soccer club could use, and the sport's transfer system, flouted European Union laws.

The English Premier league has already lifted restrictions on foreign players but a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the implications of the court's ruling on transfers was inconclusive.

English ego stoops to SA

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Jan 4: South Africa on the fifth Test against England by ten wickets here today to win the five-match series, reports AFP.

England collapsed dramatically in their second innings to 157 all out at tea and South African openers Andrew Hudson and Gary Kirsten quickly scored the 67 runs needed for victory - Hudson 27 not out and Kirsten 29 not out.

But the match finished on a sour note with South African captain Hansie Cronje facing possible sanctions for dissent.

At the centre of the storm was umpire Dave Orchard and a direct hit on Graham Thorpe's stumps by Andrew Hudson.

At first, Orchard gave the England top scorer not out without calling for the video replay.

But heated appeals by the South Africa and his side made Orchard consult the third umpire.

Thorpe was given out on 59, a decision that the slow motion replay proved the right one.

But International Cricket Council regulations issued in October make it clear that both Cronje and Orchard erred.

"Players may not appeal to the umpire to use the replay system," the regulation 2 (F) stipulates.

"Breach of this provision would constitute dissent and the player could be liable for discipline under the code of conduct," the regulations say.

"We saw some so-so decisions today," said England manager Rey Illingworth. "The players are not allowed to ask for the third umpire."

But Illingworth added that it had made no difference to the outcome of the series.

"We blew it," he admitted. Before the dramatic collapse that saw England slump from 138 for 4 to 157 all out, Thorpe and Graeme Hick had consolidated the looming devastation of an innings that had not drawn level with the home side until the 39th over.

Thorpe's 50 came after an hour and 49 minutes at the crease with a sweetly-struck four.

The 100 followed from a single by Hick off the first ball of the next over and the 50 partnership 16 runs later.

Hick hit Paul Adams for two consecutive sixes and

was looking settled at the crease when Shaun Pollock, who ended the innings with 5 for 32, struck by trapping Hick lbw with the total on 138.

Jack Russell (2) was out two balls later, followed in rapid succession by Mike Watkinson (0), Dominic Cork (8) and Peter Martin (9).

England's slim hopes of saving the series were



DONALD ... 7-wicket haul

rocked by Alec Stewart's dismissal early in the day. The vice-captain lasted only 20 minutes this morning before edging Shaun Pollock to first slip during the fifth over.

England, battered by Wednesday's last wicket partnership of 73 between Dave Richardson and Paul Adams and then hit again by Mike Atherton's exit, started the day on 17 for one - still needing another 74 runs to make South Africa bat again.

With Stewart falling for seven and nightwatchman Angus Fraser (1) departing next over, the tourists were soon reeling at 22 for three.

Fraser, dropped off yesterday's final delivery, had another escape this morning when Adams - holding at leg gully - just failed to clutch a

difficult chance when Allan Donald's first ball was glanced around the corner. The Middlesex tail-ender soon fell in similar fashion, Adams this time holding an easier opportunity that came off the glove as Donald worked up a lively pace.

But it was Stewart's departure that England could not afford. He almost turned Pollock into Gary Kirsten's hands at short leg. Then, next ball, the opener played away from his body to snick a comfortable chance to Daryll Cullinan.

SCOREBOARD On the third day of the fifth and final Test between South Africa and England at Newlands of Thursday:

ENGLAND: First innings 153 (R. Smith 66; A. Donald 5-46)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 244 (D. Cullinan 62, D. Richardson 54 not out)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 17-1) Atherton c Richardson b Donald 10 Stewart c Cullinan b Pollock 7 Fraser c Adams b Donald 1 Smith c Richardson b Adams 13 Thorpe run out 59 Hick lbw b Pollock 36 Russell c Hudson b Pollock 2 Watkinson lbw b Adams 0 Cork c Kallis b Pollock 8 Martin c Adams b Pollock 9 Malcolm not out 0 Extras: (lb-2, lb-5, nb-5) 12 Total: 157

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-22; 3-22; 4-66; 5-138; 6-140; 7-140; 8-140; 9-150.

Bowling O M R W Donald 18 6 49 2 Pollock 15.5 4 32 5 Adams 22 6 53 2 McMillan 7 3 16 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings Kirsten not out 41 Hudson not out 27 Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) 2 Total: (for no wicket) 70

Bowling: O M R W Cork 4 0 23 0 Malcolm 2 0 12 0 Martin 4 2 3 0 Watkinson 4 0 24 0 Hick 1.4 0 7 0

Result: South Africa won by 10 wickets. First Test: Pretoria - match drawn. Second Test: Johannesburg - match drawn. Thirds Test Durban - match drawn. Fourth Test: Port Elizabeth - match drawn. South Africa win five-match series 1-0.

Diego divulges dark days

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 4: Soccer superstar Diego Maradona discussed his daily struggle with cocaine addiction in a magazine interview Wednesday saying he was speaking out against drugs "for the kids," reports AP.

"I was, I am and I always will be a drug addict," Maradona said in an interview with the weekly magazine Gente in which he discusses his drug problem at length for the first time.

"I describe it that way because a person who gets involved with drugs has to realize that he must fight it every day," Maradona told Gente, which went on sale Wednesday night.

"You can't just get up and say 'I was an addict,' he said. 'You have to wake up and say 'Today, I'm going to continue my fight against the hell of drugs. Only that way can you fight and try to recover.'"

Maradona's decision to talk about his cocaine problem coincided with the launching of a government campaign against drug use by young people called "Sin Without Drugs."

The 35-year-old star, arrested in 1991 for drug possession and distribution and sentenced to court-supervised treatment, said last week that he was joining the campaign.

"I suffered a lot because of drugs, much more than anyone could believe, and I'm going to explain my suffering to the young people," said Maradona, who underwent two 15-month playing sus-

pensions, in 1991 and 1994, after testing positive for drugs.

"I'm doing this for the kids, not for grown-ups," said Maradona, who now plays for the popular Argentine club Boca Juniors. "Adults can do what they want with their lives. The problem is the kids who take drugs and the parents who don't know what to

do with them." Maradona tells how he began using cocaine in 1982, at the age of 22, while playing in Europe.

"I used drugs in football. Because there are drugs in football, just as everywhere else. You do it because it makes you think you're cool," he said.

He added, however, that he never used them as stimulants.

"Those who say that cocaine is stimulating don't know what they're talking

about. If you use cocaine, you can't play football," Maradona said.

He describes who his addiction affected his family as one of the most dramatic moments of the interview.

The player related how his daughter Gianina once asked him for a glass of water while he was "stretched out on the bed and couldn't reach it."

"I couldn't get up. I felt like I was stuck to the mattress. And my hand shook," he said.

"Well, Daddy, won't you get me the water," she asked me, and I just couldn't do it. The cocaine had numbed me completely. It wouldn't leave my mind free to think and act."

Asked in the interview whether his confessions, would be painful for his two young daughters, Maradona replied that he had talked with his youngest daughter, Dalma, and had told her that "Daddy made a mistake, a big mistake. He tried something that made him sick, something called drugs."

"And when you saw Daddy shut himself up in his room, it was because he was sick, because drugs had made him sick," Maradona said.

"Now I want to tell young people about this, and it is going to hurt you, but I want to try to help those kids who could go through the same thing I went through."

"And she told me, 'I'm with you, Dad,' and I'm going to take her with me on the anti-drug campaign, but not often, because every time I tell about this she cries and cries."

Nigeria in the hot seat

YAOUNDE, Jan 4: Nigeria was threatened on Wednesday with a six-year ban from the African Nations' Cup and given 48 hours to reverse its decision to withdraw from this month's tournament in South Africa, reports Reuter.

"If Nigeria does not participate in the African Nations' Cup it risks a six year suspension," Issa Hayatou, president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), said. "Nigeria has 48 hours to notify CAF of its position."

Hayatou told reporters a day after meeting Nigerian officials that the title-holders would be out of the championship until the 2002 edition and would face fines.

Nigerian Sports Minister Jim Nwobodo said last Saturday his country was pulling out because of fears that its players could be in danger in South Africa, which has led a campaign against Nigeria over the hanging in November nine minority rights activists.

Hayatou said Guinea had agreed to take Nigeria's place if the reigning champions did not reverse their decision.

Hayatou, CAF's Cameroonian head, said he met a Nigerian delegation on Tuesday to discuss the security worries and passed on assurances for their security from South African Interior Minister chief Mangosutho

Bhthelezi. The Nigerian delegation, which has returned home, said military ruler general Sani Abacha would have the final say.

The tournament begins on January 13. Nigeria were drawn in a group with Zaïre, Liberia and Gabon in Durban.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Organisation of African Unity said it regretted Nigeria's decision very much and hoped the country would reconsider if all necessary arrangements were taken to ensure the safety of their players.

In Johannesburg, President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) said Nigeria was acting cynically.

"The ANC dismisses as ridiculous Nigerian claims about the safety of their player," an ANC statement said.

"Rather, it appears to be a cynical attempt to use the Nigerian national team as a political pawn in its strategy to prevent movement towards democracy," the statement said.

The Nigerian military government is trying to portray South Africa as aggressively anti-Nigerian for having taken a prominent stand against it.

The statement said Sports Minister Steve Tshwete was making efforts to ensure that Nigeria, defending champions in the tournament, took

part. It gave no details. There was no immediate response from Lagos to the ultimatum. Nigerian sports officials said only the military authorities in the capital Abuja could comment.

They said Sports Minister Nwobodo and Nigeria Football Association (NFA) chairman Emeke Moeruah were in Abuja briefing the military government on the outcome of their talks with CAF officials in Yaounde.

Hostility in hospitality

NEW DELHI, Jan 4: India sees no threat to next month's cricket World Cup after Pakistan's alleged refusal to issue visas to an Indian junior hockey team, organisers said Thursday, reports AFP.

Madhav Rao Scindia, who heads the joint organising committee set up by co-hosts India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, said the incident would not

affect the tournament that runs from February 11 to March 17.

"I don't see a problem. The World Cup is a joint venture of the three countries and has received the blessings of the respective governments," said Scindia, a minister in the Indian government.

Admitting that the denial of visas was "very strange," Scindia brushed aside the incident as being "one of those things" in the on-going political row between India and Pakistan.

India reacted strongly to the denial of visas to its junior hockey team for a sports festival in Rawalpindi, saying Pakistan did not intend to normalise ties with New Delhi.

Pakistan denied this, and blamed Indian officials for sending the visa applications late.

Indian cricket board chief Inderjit Singh Bindra added that the Indian and Pakistani governments were committed to granting visas to all 12 teams, officials and media connected with the World Cup.

Clearance from the home, foreign and sports ministries of the two countries had been received three months ago, and I do not see any hurdles in the smooth conduct of the World Cup," Bindra said.

"Relations between India and Pakistan were not normal when we co-hosted the

World Cup in 1987, yet the tournament went off smoothly," he said. "It will be the same this time, in fact much better."

Another organising committee member scoffed at threats by militant Hindu nationalists leader Bal Thackeray to prevent Pakistani athletes from visiting India in retaliation for the refusal of visas to the hockey team.

"We don't take these threats seriously. The law and order situation is in the hands of the government, which is committed to provide full security to all the participating teams," he said.

Thackeray, who heads the Shiv Sena (Shivaji's army), was quoted as saying in Bombay on Wednesday that "Life will be made difficult for visiting Pakistani teams in all sports disciplines in the future."

"I am opposed to Pakistani teams playing in India," he was quoted by the Press Trust of India as telling a meeting of supporters.

Shiv Sena rules the sprawling western state of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital. It was charged with killing a large number of Muslims in the city during Hindu-Muslim violence in January 1993.

Pakistan, the defending champions, are not scheduled to play any test matches in Bombay, which will only host the India-Australia match on February 27.



THE FLYING CARIBBEANS! An air borne West Indies wicketkeeper Courtney Browne (C) takes a gem of a catch to dismiss Sri Lanka's Hashan Tillekaratne while skipper Richie Richardson (R) also dives in anticipation during a World Series Cup match at Hobart on Jan 3. Windies mauled the Lankans by 70 runs. — AFP/UNB photo