CJKP soccer Abahani beat Mohammedans

Sports Reporter

In the clash to traditional rivals. Chittagong version, Abahani Krira Chakra dubbed Mohammedan Sporting Club by 1-0 in their CJKP football league encounter on Friday at the Chittagong Stadium.

After a barren first half, striker Rabi scored the all important match winner in the 62 minute following a defence lapse.

The win raised Abahani's collection to six points from four matches while Mohammedans were stuck to seven from as many matches. Leaders Regensea are leading the standings with 12 points.

Cronje fined

CAPE TOWN, Jan 5: Match referee Clive Lloyd fined South Africa captain Hansie Cronje for dissent after this side won the fifth Test against England here Thursday, reports AFP.

"I had no option but to fine Cronje half his match fee," Lloyd said.

In the incident that led to the fine. Cronje pressured umpire Dave Orchard to reexamine on the video replay a run-out of England batsman Graham Thorpe.

Bannister bites his tongue

CAPE TOWN, Jan 5: Commentator Jack Bannister honoured a promise to eat the paper on which he wrote a column predicting defeat for South Africa in their Test series against England, reports Reuter.

Bannister, a pace bowler with English county Warwickshire in the 1950s and 1960s, tore up and ate the newspaper page carrying the headline "I'll eat my words" in front of television cameras after South Africa clinched the five-match series by winning the fifth Test in Cape Town on Thursday. Bannister washed down

the paper with wine. Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), had used Bannister's article to motivate the South African Test side.

Before the series began Bacher presented the players with a framed copy of the arthe nearly 14,000-strong ticle in the Saturday Star of Johannesburg and it travelled around the country with the team, taking pride of place in their dressing room at each ground.

Coca Cola's giant plan

COLOMBO, Jan 5: Coca Cola plans to collect at least one million signatures on a giant cricket bat that will be presented to the Sri Lankan cricket team to coincide with the first World Cup match here next month, reports

The 22 foot (5.6 meters) wooden bat will be taken to 200 towns and villages in the country after sports minister S.S.B Dissanayake places his signature at the official launch Monday, the sponsors

Three World Cup matches are to be played in Sri Lanka.

Aga Khan

the Kurmitola Golf Club here yesterday, says a press release.

Major Gen M Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the tournament

of the most reputed golf tournaments in the country. it will conclude tomorrow with the award ceremony at the club premises on Sunday. Some 152 men and women teed off today.

bewilders Becker

the 635,000 dollars Qatar Open on Thursday in a three-

Pereira, ranked 122 in the world, defeated Becker, the

Germany. Pereira, who had to come through the qualifying rounds.

"Today I believed in myself ", said Pereira.

With Becker's defeat, the top two German players in the tournament have been knocked out in the second

round. On Wednesday, Michael Stich, who was seeded fourth, was beaten by Peter Korda of the Czech Republic. Chinese qualifier Li Fang

"To lose in three tie-break sets is heartbreaking, but he (Pereira) played a tremendous match. There was no rhythm in my passing shots today and he took advantage of that," Becker said.

A rude awakening for Murali Windies whirlwind thru' SL



Sri Lankan off-spinner noballed seven times as this team crashed to a sevenwicket defeat by the West Indies in the World Series Cup one-day cricket tournament here late Friday, reports AFP.

Just when it appeared the 'Murali' chucking affair had subsided, Australian umpire Ross Emerson, officiating in his first one-day international, called Muralitharan seven times in three overs. forcing the Sri Lankans to take him out of the attack.

Emerson, a 41-year-old security consultant, duplicated compatriot Darrell Hair's handling of Muralitharan's quirky wristy bowling action in the second Melbourne Test when hair called the Sri Lankan seven times on Boxing Day.

It was thought that Hair had been isolated by his fellow Australian umpires in the ensuing one-day international in Hobart last Wednesday when Muralitharan came through his 10 overs without penalty... that was, until under lights Friday at the Gabba.

Coach Day Whatmore installed himself beyond the boundary ropes with a video camera as Muralitharan, 23, came on to bowl.

Soon. Whatmore returned to the dressing room. emerged some minutes later for another no-ball call and slapped the gate he was watching from in disgust.

And when Muralitharan was called three times in his first over, Aravinda de Silva. deputising for injured Arjuna Ranatunga, instructed him to bowl leg spin so as not to incur the wrath of Emerson. In his second over, Mu-

ralitharan was called a further two times, although he was bowling wrist spinner in a deliberate attempt to alter his bowling action. Muralitharan was called

two more times in his third over, before De Silva acceded to the wishes of the Sri Lankan management and took him out of the attack. De Silva said later that

Emerson's actions, particularly calling Muralitharan's leg-spin action, were "very surprising" and had hit team morale. Emerson was booed by

crowd each time he called Muralitharan for throwing and both umpires, flanked by security guards, were jeered off the ground.

year's French Open in May,

part in next week's Peters in-

NSW Open, told a news con-

ference that she was happy

with her progress, despite

injury and illness since mak-

ing a triumphant return to

tennis at the Canadian Open

nearly two and a half years

out of the game after being

stabbed by an obsessed Steffi

Graf fan at a tournament in

in Australia, Seles will make

the next big step of her

comeback at the Australian

January 15, a Grand Slam

tournament she won three

Jointly ranked number

one in the world with Ger-

many's Graf. Seles went on

from the Canadian Open to

lose an emotional US Open

final to Graf early in Septem-

playing more tournaments

after the US Open by knee

and ankle injuries and a virus.

be back to her best. Seles

said: "Hopefully by the French

Open, or maybe even the Lip-

ton championships (in

by the Australian Open but all

those things came up unex-

pectedly and it was a pretty

disappointing way to end the

Cacic moves into

Amway final

can qualifier Sandra Cacic

AUCKLAND, Jan 5. Ameri-

"I was hoping it would be

Florida from February 18).

She was prevented from

Asked when she hoped to

Undefeated in 21 matches

Hamburg in April, 1993.

Seles, 22, had spent

ternational, formerly the

Seles, in Sydney to take

reports Reuter.

last August

West Indies won their second consecutive WSC outing in decisive action, much like their 70-run flogging of the Sri Lankans earlier this week to move two points clear of them into second place behind the unbeaten Australians, whom they meet

here on Sunday. Curtly Ambrose, relishing a 'juiced' pitch, underdone by days of torrential rain and helped by a curious decision by De Silva to bat first after winning the toss, was named man of the match with his figures of 3-20 off 10 overs. Ambrose, largely anony-

mous on the Australian tour,

burst into form snaring the

wickets of Chandika Hathu-

rusinghe and Roshan Mahanama for ducks and the in-

AMBROSE . . . m-o-m

form Asanka Gurusinha for three.

At one stage the Sri Lankans were wallowing at 34 for six and in danger of getting out under "their record lowest one-day score of 55 against the West Indies in Sharjah in 1986-87. But a fighting 43-run sev-

enth wicket partnership between Hashan Tillekaratne and Chaminda Vaas averted that embarrassment.

Left-hander Tillekaratne's 37 not out off 124 balls with two fours took Sri Lanka past the 100 mark before Muralitharan was bowled by Ottis Gibson for a duck. Vaas finished with 14 off 67 balls. Wicketkeeper Courtney

Browne took five catches. The West Indies reached their modest target off 26. overs — just over half of their 50 maximum - scoring 104 for three. Sherwin Campbell topscored with 34.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Series limited overs match between West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Gabba today:

SRI LANKA: Hathurusinghe c Browne b Ambrose Jayasuriya c Browne b Walsh Gurusinha c Hooper b Ambrose De Silva c Gibson b Bishop Mahanama c Browne b Ambrose Tillekeratne not out Kaluwirthana run out Vaas c Browne b Gibson Munasinghe c Browne

b Simmons Wickeremasinghe c Harper b Walsh Muralitharan B Gibson Extras: (lb-2, nb-5, w-18) 25 Total: (45.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-0: 2-12:

3-17; 4-19; 5-33; 6-34; 7-77; 8-95: 9-98. Bowling 20 Ambrose 19 Walsh 15 Gibson Bishop 18 Simmons 19 9 Harper

WEST INDIES: Simmons lbw b Vaas Campbell c Muralitharan b Vaas Chanderpaul run out

Richardson not out Hooper not out Extras: (lb-2, w-8, nb-7) Total: (for three, 26.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-46;

3-68 Did not bat: R. Harper, O Gibson, C Browne, C Ambrose, I Bishop, C Walsh.

Bowling: Munasinghe Wickeremasinghe 3 0 16 0 Muralitharan 0.1 0 Tillekeratne Match result: West Indies

won by seven wickets. Note: Four of Muralitharan's No-balls do not appear in his bowling figures as the batsman scored runs off those deliveries.

STANDINGS

Standings in the World three matches. Series limited overs competition today (tabulate under played, won, lost, points): West Indies . . 6

She described her Australian Open win over Graf in

on the court," she said The winner of eight Grand

between 1990 and 1992. Success at the French Open, Seles suggested, might also set her up for her first Wimbledon title, the only one

of the four Grand Slam tournaments the Yugoslav-born American has yet to win.

Goran guides

Ivanisevic won his crucial singles against Wayne Ferreira as top-seeds Croatia booked a place in the Hopman Cup final on Thursday night despite losing to South Africa 2-1 in their last Group

had a chance of overtaking Croatia but when Richey Reneberg lost his singles to France's Arnaud Boetsch 6-4. 4-6, 1-6 in the other Group A game the US could take only five as opposed to Croatia's

Although the US went on to beat France 2-1 it was too late to thwart the Croats. Ivanisevic outplayed Ferreira 6-4, 6-3 after his dou-

6-3, 1-**6**. In the doubles, with both teams playing what tournament director Paul McNamee described as "Mickey Mouse tennis." Ferreira and Coetzer won the sudden death tie-

Switzerland beat the Netherlands 2-1 and now need to beat champions Germany today to top Group B and meet Croatia in Saturday's final. Switzerland, who beat

Australia 2-1 on the first day. took an unbeatable lead against the second seeded Dutch with victories in both singles. kept her nerves and returned

Brenda Schultz McCarthy 6-3. 7-5 while Marc Rosset also scored a straight sets win. upsetting world number 11 Richard Krajicek 6-4, 6-4. Schultz McCarthy hammered 12 aces but failed to unsettle the broad smiling Hingis, who at 15 is playing

January, 1993, as one of the highlights of her career.

"I came to Australia and played some great tennis. and then had a great few weeks playing in Chicago and Paris," she said.

balance, where you can practise hard but still have a life outside tennis. I'd have to say it was among the best few months of my life." Life change dramatically

for Seles three months later and she also spoke today of treatment she has had from sports psychologists since the stabbing

"I go through different mental rehearsals to get comfortable," Seles said.

"But one thing I don't want is to be is talking about him (her attacker) after two and a half years. What happened was not fair, but I'm at peace with that," she said.

MADRID. Jan 5: An injurytime goa! by Oscar Garcia clinched a vital 2-1 victory for Barcelona over arch-rivals Espanyol in a hard-fought Catalan derby game on

Thursday, reports Reuter. The result left both teams on 38 points, seven behind leaders Atletico Madrid, but Barcelona climbed to second place ahead of Espanyol on

goal difference. Miguel Angel Nadal put Barcelona ahead after 15 minutes as his side had the best of the first half, but Espanyol came out strongly after the break and equalised

Espanyol deserved to go ahead but wasted several chances towards the end of



South African skipper Hansie Cronje holds the winners' trophy after his side's series win over England. The Springboks recorded an emphatic 10-wicket victory in the last Test of the 5-Test series to clinch the rubber 1-0. - AFP/UNB photo

Sports writers felicitate SAF winners

Sports Reporter Seven Bangladesh sports-

men, who earned gold medals in the seventh South Asian Federation Games held in Madras last month, were given a warm ovation by the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) at the NSC conference room last evening.

In a well-organised programme which also celebrated the silver jubilee of our independence, the seven sons of the soil were cordially felicitated by BSWA members.

ASM Hannan Shah, minister for jute and president of Bangladesh Shooting Federation, attended the reception as chief guest while M A Majid, the MD of National Bank which sponsored the programme, was the special guest.

Among others, noted footballer Zakaria Pintu, BSWA president Raqibul Hasan also spoke on the occasion.

The seven sportsmen who were honoured yesterday are: Nasiruddin Johny (shooting). Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinki (shooting), Firoze Hossain (shooting), Syed Asbab Ali (shooting), GM Haider (shooting), Mahbub Hossain (athletics) and Karar Mizanur Rahman (swimming).

SA squad for one-day international

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Jan 5: South Africa's victorious fifth Test side were all named in a 15-man squad on Friday for the first four limited overs matches against England, reports Reuter. The seven-match series

begins at Newlands, Cape Town, on Tuesday. South Africa clinched the Test series 1-0 on Thursday when they routed England by

10 wickets. Spinners Nicky Boje and Pat Symcox, all-rounder Richard Snell and seamer Craig Matthews make up the

rest of the squad. A surprise absentee was Boland captain Adrian Kuiper who performed effectively in South Africa's last one-day

series against Zimbabwe. United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) managing director Ali Bacher said that depending on form there could be 'a few changes" for the remaining

SQUAD

Hansie Cronje (captain), Gary Kirsten, Andrew Hudson, Daryll Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan. Jacques Kallis, Dave Richardson, Richard Snell, Shaun Pollock, Nicky Boje, Pat Symcox, Craig Matthews, Allan Donald, Paul Adams

Barcelona move up

through a superb individual goal from Goran Bogdanovic.

প্রতের জারা প্রেরক মামার व्यापनीत वार्य नामिनात वार्य लियाहर THE SEVEN JEWELS. . . Gold winners of the seventh SAF Games pose with Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association officials at a ceremony yesterday. - Star photo Anything's possible in FA Cup lion pounds (7 million dolto a place of traditional giant The records sulars) explosive forward Chris Armstrong. It's happened before. In ggest mismatc-Hereford United's claim to 1972. Hereford knocked



hes. But history

otherwise. Such is the charm of England's FA Cup, which is down this weekend to the 32-game stage - historically where a few rich clubs are fleeced by the poor.

The punters love these This is the weekend

where the big clubs come into play against the small ones with upsets very possible," said Ian Wassell, spokesman for bookmakers Ladbrokes. "We expect about 10 million pounds (15.5 million dollars) bet, which is as much as the FA final draws."

Saturday's match between Premier league club Tottenham Hotspur and Third-Division Hereford United is a classic David vs. Goliath, reports AP.

Tottenham are tied for third behind league-leaders Newcastle and fresh off an impressive 4-1 thumping this week of Eric Cantona and Manchester United. Spurs have won the FA Cup a record eight times and are wealthy

enough to have paid 4.5 mil-

fame is advancing for one Newcastle out of the FA Cup season in the mid-1970s to the Second Division. The club is tied for 15th in the Third Division and the most it has ever paid for a player is 80,000 pounds (124.000 dol-

lars) defender Dean Smith. That's 1/55th of what Tottenham splashed out for Armstrong.

In over their heads? You bet. And manager Graham Turner and his players seem to like it that way.

The club is preparing for the home match before a 9,000-sellout by doing water aerobics and relaxing in the steam bathes and jacuzzis at a remote lodge. The club turned down about 100,000 pounds (155,000 dollars) to play at Tottenham's pitch.

"I wanted them to relax, not to be uptight," Turner said. "They will need to be if they are to play above them-

"With an element of luck, a few individual inspired performances and a hope that Tottenham will be below their best gives us belief we can pull it off," Turner added, "Spurs won't fancy coming 2-1. In fact, it happens with

some regularity. Only once since 1976 has a top-division club escaped the embarrassment of losing against a lower-level team at this 32-game level. That was in 1980-81. The worst showing was six losses in 1978-79 and again in 1991-92.

"Although the Spurs have every advantage in ability, we're at home, Edgar Street is an intimidating little ground and the pitch may not be to their liking." Turner said. "The pressure is all on them.

Ladbroke's has Hereford as 8-1 underdogs. The longest line is on Gravesend, 25-1 underdogs at home against Premier League team Aston Villa.

In addition to Tottenham, other Premier League teams under pressure include Bolton at Bradford, Manchester City at Leicester, Coventry at Plymouth, Queens Park Rangers at Tranmere, Sheffield Wednesday at Charlton and Middlesbrough at Notts County.

'Super strikers' hold the key

he is in form, the whole club

tends to be. He'll have to ma-

neuver amidst Roma's packed

midfield, which includes

Swedish international Jonas

Thern and Italian interna-

made easier by the suspen-

Fiorentina's task will be

tional Francesco Statuto.



ROME, Jan 5: It's a classic confrontation: prolific scorer vs. Stingy defence.

"Hat will be the case twice in Sunday's 16th round: Fiorentina's Gabriel Batistuta vs. AS Roma and Bart's Igor Protti vs. Inter Milan, reports

Argentine internationa Batistuta and Protti are tied for the Serie A scoring lead with 10 goals, while Roma and Inter each have allowed just 11, the league's lowest

Batistuta — who led the Italian First Division with 26 goals last season - has Fiorentina in second place, just one point behind leader AC Milan.

He and Francesco Baiano form a solid attack due that will try to slow resurgent Roma's run through the table. The Romans, coming off a 2 0 win at defending league champions Juventus, have climbed from 13th up to fifth in the 18-team league.

Tandem of Argentine Abel Balbo and Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca has been struggling. Roma have relied on their strong backline - the same unit that allowed the fewest goals in Italy a year ago. The key to the game at Rome's Olympic Stadium may

While their own striker

He coordinates the Fiorentine offence, and when

be Portuguese midfielder Rui

sions of Roma left-side backs Marco Lanna and Amedeo by injuries - eight potential Carboni. Bari are at home in the night match with Inter, who routed Cagliari 4-0 last round

to move up to eighth place. While Protti has been one of the season's surprises, he basically had had to work alone. Bari have only scored 10 goals and have allowed a

league-worst 35 goals. But the club did beat Udinese 2-1 last round and showed signs that they may be able to pull themselves out of the relegation zone. Inter, who started poorly,

under new coach Roy Hodgson, with Maurizio Ganz and Marco Branca -acquired from Roma in November finding the net consistently. Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos has solidified the

backfield while remaining a

have opened up their attack

threat to launch attack. He must be watched Sunday. Inter won't have suspended English midfielder Paul Ince.

Milan put their 10-match undefeated streak on the line against visiting Sampdoria of Genoa and red-hot winger Enrico Chiesa

The leaders drew 2-2 at Fiorentina last round in a

spirited match. This will be Golden ball winner George Weah's last match in January: He departs next week for South Africa, where he'll lead Liberia in the Africa Cup.

Montenegrin playmaker Dejan Savicevic (right thigh injury) is out. Samp has been depleted starters have been sidelined

of late - but still managed to stay in the hunt for a UEFA Cup slot. That's thanks to Chiesa.

with eight goals in four

Milan's tough defence, anchored by veterans Paolo Maldini and Franco Baresi. should be able to slow him. AC Parma, in third place,

play at 15th-place Torino,

trying to rebound from their first loss in 12 matches - 1-0 to Vicenza. Parma will have Italian international Luca Bucci back between the posts, but lose defender Fabio Cannavaro and midfielder Massimo Crippa to suspension. Coach Nevio Scala has such depth of talent

likely be replaced by internationals. Torino, undefeated under new coach Franco Scoglio (1-2-0), have no similar luxury and will be hurt by the disqualifications of Ghanian midfielder Abedi Pele and

at this disposal that they'll

defender Mauro Milanese. Other matches Sunday: Atalanta of Bergamo-Juventus; Cagliari-Padova; Napoli-Lazio: Piacenza-Udinese: and Vicenza-Cremonese.

that the security of the play-

General Sani Abacha, the un-

compromising general who

has ruled Nigeria since 1993

when the army annulled a

officials met in Abuja with

Abacha for most of Thursday,

have vowed to plead with

Abacha to change. "We have

is why we want to storm

Abuja to put our case before

government and make them

let us go and display our

skills, the majority govern-

ment owned Daily Times

newspaper quoted captain

proofs to play. We're so de-

termined to play in this Na-

tions' Cup." striker Samson

I'm ready to buy bullet-

Austin Eguavoen as saying.

presidency officials said.

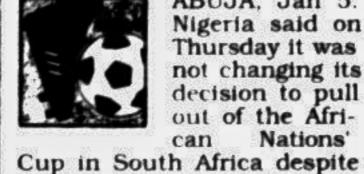
Nwobodo and other sports

Members of the Eagles

poll to restore democracy.

Nigeria won't flex muscles

Hayatou said after meeting



ABUJA, Jan 5: Nigeria said on Thursday it was not changing its decision to pull out of the Afri-Nations'

so or risk a six-year ban, reports Reuter. There is no change at all in our position. It remains the same and we are not going to South Africa." Sports

Minister Jim Nwobodo told

an ultimatum from African

soccer's governing body to do

reporters. Nigeria pulled out of the tournament on Saturday citing fears for the security of its national team, the Supper Eagles, in South Africa, which has strongly criticised Nigeria since nine minority rights activists were hanged in November.

Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Issa Hayatou has told Nigeria to change the decision by midnight on Thursday or it would be suspended from the cup competition until 2002. Their ultimatum means

nothing to us," Nwobodo insisted. He said, Hayatou had pleaded with Nigeria, the reigning champions to take

changed.

Unity, but added: "As of now

the position has not

added. Nwobodo said, he understood the sentiments of part in the interest of African

the Nigerian delegation to ers was paramount. discuss the security worries Sports officials have said since the CAF ultimatum that that he had passed on assurances for their security from the final decision would have South African interior ministo be made by military ruler

But Nwobodo accused South Africa of politicising sports for withdrawing an invitation to Nigeria to participate in a warm-up match. "South Africa felt that it

ter chief Mangosutho

Buthelezi.

was doing us a favour by allowing us to participate in this edition of the African Nations' Cup," Nwobodo said. Abuja's decision to stand our prestige to protect. That

firm is bound to prove unpopular in the country where soccer is the number one sport and where the military government has been under pressure to allow the Eagles defend the trophy they won in 1994 in Tunisia.

sports official told of Nwobodo's remarks in Abuja said. he was simply devastated. "I just don't believe it.

One senior Nigerian

This will set our football back and it will seem as if we haven't started playing," he

Nigerian football lovers

wishing to see the Eagles

play in the tournament but

Siasia told the Independent Vanguard newspaper. With Nigeria's decision 'no' to participate, CAF have lined up Guinea to replace the Eagles.

January 13. Nigeria were drawn in a group with Zaire. Liberia and Gabon in Durban.

The tournament begins on

Pereira

reports AP.

After four defeats, the

SYDNEY, Jan 5: Monica Seles said today that she hoped to be back at the peak of her considerable tennis-playing powers in time for the start of this

Cup golf The 24th Aga Khan Gold Cup golf tournament began at

Vice-president of the club Open in Melbourne from Oldest of its kind and one times between 1991 and

DOHA, Qatar, Jan 5: Boris Becker was knocked out of hour, three-set match with Venezuela's Nicolas Pereira,

tournament's second seed, 7-6, 7-4, 6-7, 4-7, 7-6 (7-5) in the second-round match to set up a quarterfinal clash against David Prinosil of It was a big victory for

> the US 107,500 dollar Amway Classic women's tennis tournament, reports AP Labat 6-3, 6-4 and will face NO. 2 seed Barbara Paulus of Austria in Saturday's final.

continued her surprise run Friday, beating Florencia Labat of Argentina in straight sets to advance to the final of Cacic, 22, beat left-hander

Paulus advanced with a 6-

Cacic used her flat two-

3. 6-4 semifinal triumph over

handed backhand to good ef-

fect as she wore down Labat

in just 66 minutes. Labat is

ranked 53rd in the world, 60

places above Cacic.

"I'm still carrying a virus and feeling pretty weak. I'm getting treatment every day and otherwise I'm very healthy and eager to get back

Slam titles. Seles now hopes to win a fourth French Open to add to the three she won

Croatia PERTH, Jan 5: Goran

A match, reports Reuter. Only the United States

six rubbers. bles partner Iva Majoli had lost to Amanda Coetzer 4-6.

break 7-5. Earlier, third seeded

Teenager Martina Hingis well to down-big-serving

in her first Hopman Cup. Why shouldn't I smile. I am playing well and I have all the more reason to be happy." she said.

Monica's race against time

"I was finally able to find a

the game.