

Column One
SPORTS TALK



Mohammed Azharuddin
(India's cricket captain)

"I am going into this World Cup with a very open mind. I am not going to decide on one thing and stick with it as I may have the last time. I am prepared to try anything to win this event and I can assure you we will really try."

DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

THAT the 5th cricket Test at Durban in 1939 between South Africa and England went on for ten days (and still ended in a draw): the Kingston Test between England and West Indies in 1929-30 lasted nine days and the 5th Test at Melbourne in 1928-29 between England and Australia lasted eight days.

Of course, at one stage Test matches were limited to five days. I can't find out the year from when, can you?

Sports
WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-26
Tick the Correct Answer
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 16, 1996)

1. Munich Olympics were held in
1970 1972 1974
2. The name of the first three cricket World Cups were
Provisional Cup (with Cup) Benson and Hedges Cup
Benson Cup World Cup was won by
Brazil England Argentina
3. The current national cricket manager is
Rajiv Gandhi Yashvir Datta Anura Kumari
4. The 2000 Summer Olympics will be held in
London Beijing Sydney

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

Trinidadians' third win

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Feb 12: Trinidad and Tobago, behind an 11-wicket match haul from leg-spinner Rajindra Dhanraj, romped to their third consecutive victory in the Red Stripe Cup Sunday, beating Jamaica by an innings and 94 runs, reports AP.

Dhanraj took five for 50 as Jamaica, 139 for seven overnight, tumbled to 172 all out in their first innings. Dhanraj, who has played three Tests for the West Indies, also sliced through the visitors' second innings when they followed on, taking six for 48 as Jamaica fell for 142 just after tea. Trinidad and Tobago had amassed 408 in their first innings.

The victory followed successes over Barbados and Guyana in their opening two matches.

In Bridgetown, Barbados, the visiting Leeward Islands completed their second victory of the season, beating Barbados by six wickets.

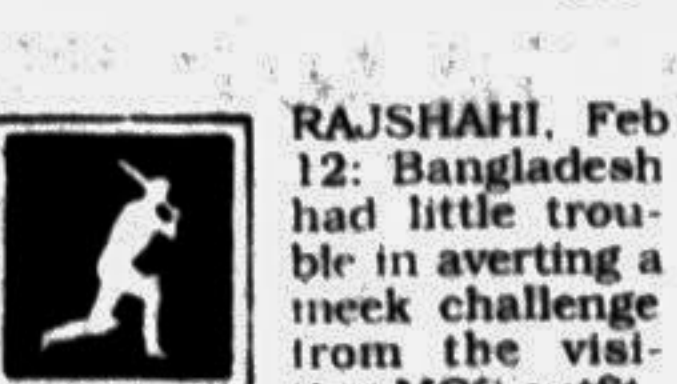
Barbados, resuming from 141 for one in their second innings, were eventually bowled out for 342. Fast bowler Lesroy Weekes captured four for 34. Left-arm spinner Warrington Phillip grabbed three for 118 to follow his five-wicket haul in the first innings.

The Leeward Islands knocked off the required 82 for victory for the loss of four wickets just before the close.

In Roseau, Dominica, the Windward Islands were on target for their first success of the season against Guyana. Guyana, chasing 388 for victory, were 29 for one at the close.

Earlier, the Windward Islands added to their first innings lead of 109 by reaching 278 in their second innings. Dawnley Joseph made 67, while all-rounder Rawl Lewis hit an unbeaten 51 and first innings top-scorer Dennison Thomas 49. There were three wickets each for left-arm spinner Neil McFarrell and fast bowler Barrington Browne.

Hattrick of victories for Bangladesh
Touring MCC brownwashed



RAJSHAHI, Feb 12: Bangladesh had little trouble in averting a meek challenge from the visiting MCC outfit when they defeated the tourists by seven wickets at the local stadium here today (Monday).

In front of a packed north Bengal crowd, the national stalwarts kept up their winning spree against MCC as they took the three-match series 3-0.

In a low-scoring affair played on an under-prepared wicket, Bangladesh skipper Akram Khan won the toss and put the visitors in to bat. Aided by the unpredictability of the pitch, the locals bundled out MCC for a paltry 135 in 45 overs.

In reply, riding again on the skills of in-form Bulbul and skipper Akram, Bangladesh reached their target in only 34 overs losing only three wickets.

The morning session was a nightmare for MCC as their inept batsmen wilted under some controlled bowling from the local strike-force. Sajal Chowdhury, the right-arm medium pacer, gave his side the early breakthrough as early as in the second over of the day.

Coming in to bowl his first over from the Horticulture end, Sajal, snickered, one through the defence opener Jonathan Betty (2) in the fifth delivery.

The stout Brothers Union seamer then removed one-down Keith Greenfield (5) in his third over when the English batsman edged the ongoing delivery in the gully to Rafique.

An experienced Saiful, who came in as first change, then struck for in the 15th over when Laury Potter (1) was caught by Rafique at mid-wicket. MCC plunged into deep trouble with 37 for three on the board.

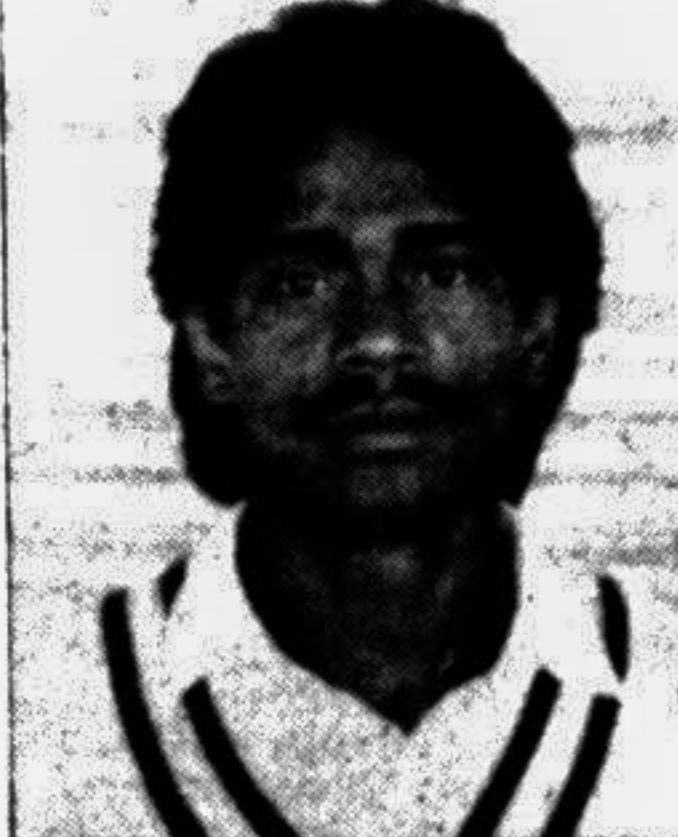
However, Skipper Alan Fordham, regaining the charge after a one-match recess, and his fourth wicket partner Nicholas Tubbs then involved in a mending operation adding 61 runs without any further mishap before Tubbs (16) fell to a brilliantly catch by Saiful at long-on off left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique in the 37th over.

Rafique then removed former England Test cap David Capel (8), in his next over. Capel, so far the most consistent MCC performer with the willow, was fooled by a gem of a delivery from the pacer-turned spinner and

From Hasan Masood

keeper Khaled Masud Pilot, playing in front of his home crowd, did the simple task of effecting an easy stumping.

But the heavy mixture of a tricky wicket coupled with some irresponsible batting hardly effected the concentration of Fordham (54), who in an object lesson for his teammate completed his 50 off 68 balls studded with three boundaries. The tall right-hand bat was eventually out in the 40th over, caught by Rafique at deep third man off slow medium pacer Nannu, who after failing to catch a Biman flight on Sunday had a gruelling bus journey.



RAFIQUE... m-o-m

ney and reached the venue few hours before the start of the match.

After Fordham's departure with the score on 113 for six on 39.4 overs, MCC lost their remaining four wickets in next 5.2 overs adding a further 24 runs.

Saiful and Rafique were the most successful Bangladeshi bowlers who grabbed three wickets apiece conceding 15 and 27 runs respectively. They were ably supported by Sajal and Nannu, both taking two wickets each.

In reply, Bangladesh suffered a setback, when they lost their first wicket in the fourth over with the score-board on seven only.

Opener Ziaur Rashid Rupom was the first to return for a duck, bowled by medium pacer Robert Goffon. One down Faruque Ahmed (9) came back next in the 11th over when he was trapped leg before by David Capel on 35.

Athar, the other opener, and Aminul Islam Bulbul added 24 runs for the third wicket before the former was unluckily run out in the 17th over while vent for a cheeky single which was not there.

In his 66-ball inning, Athar scored 37 runs inclusive of seven beautiful bound-

aries.

Skipper Akram Khan and Bulbul took another 17 overs to score the remaining 80 runs to win without any further damage.

Bulbul, the man of the match in the previous two matches in Dhaka where he scored 82 not out and 93 against the same outfit, remained not out on 41 off 65 ball while Akram was unbeaten on 39 off 41 ball with a huge six and three fours.

Mohammad Rafique, who grabbed three MCC wickets and took two brilliant catches in the morning session, was named man-of-the-match by adjudicator Dipu Roy Chowdhury.

Both teams left for Dhaka in the evening. The tourist will take on Bangladesh Youth in their next one-day encounter scheduled to be held at the Dhaka Stadium on February 17.

SCOREBOARD

MCC	
J Batty b Sajal	2
A Fordham c Rafique b Nannu	54
Greenfield c Rafique b Sajal	8
Potter c Rafique b Saiful	1
N Tubbs c Saiful b Rafique	16
D Capel b Pilot b Rafique	8
Morgan b Nannu	5
R P Goffon b Rafique	0
C Metson b Saiful	11
I Salisbury c b Saiful	0
A J Mackay not out	5
Extras: (lb-7, w-10, nb-8)	25
Total: (all out in 45 overs)	135

Fall of wickets: 1-5: 2-26; 3-37; 4-98; 5-111; 6-113; 7-113; 8-130; 9-130; 10-135.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Anis	6	1	17	0
Sajal	5	0	19	2
Athar Ali	8	3	14	2
Saiful	7	2	15	3
Rafique	10	0	27	3
Rupom	4	0	17	0
Nannu	5	0	19	2

BANGLADESH

Athar Ali run out	37
Z R Rupom b Goffon	0
Faruque b w	9
Bulbul not out	41
Akram Khan not out	39
Extras: (lb-4, w-6, nb-3)	13
Total: (for 3 wickets in 41 overs)	138

Did not bat: Nannu, Saiful, Rafique, Pilot, Sajal and Anis.

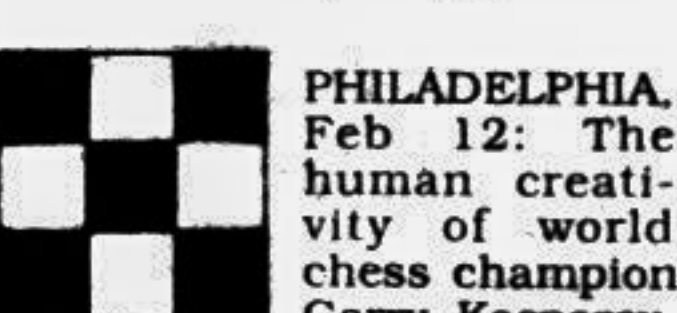
Fall of wickets: 1-7: 2-35; 3-59.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
A J Mackay	8	0	30	0
R P Goffon	8	0	41	1
D Capel	6	2	21	1
Salisbury	6	1	18	0
L Potter	3	0	15	0
Greenfield	3	0	10	0

Result: Bangladesh won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Rafique.

Gritty Garry fights back



PHILADELPHIA, Feb 12: The human creativity of world chess champion Garry Kasparov brought him back into the six-game match against an IBM super computer called 'Deep Blue' on Sunday, leveling the contest at one point each, reports Reuters.

The Russian Grand Master, stunned by his defeat at the hands of 'Deep Blue' in Saturday's first game — the first time a computer had beaten a world champion under regular tournament conditions — finished off 'Deep Blue's' black pieces in a long end game that ended with programmers resigning on move 73.

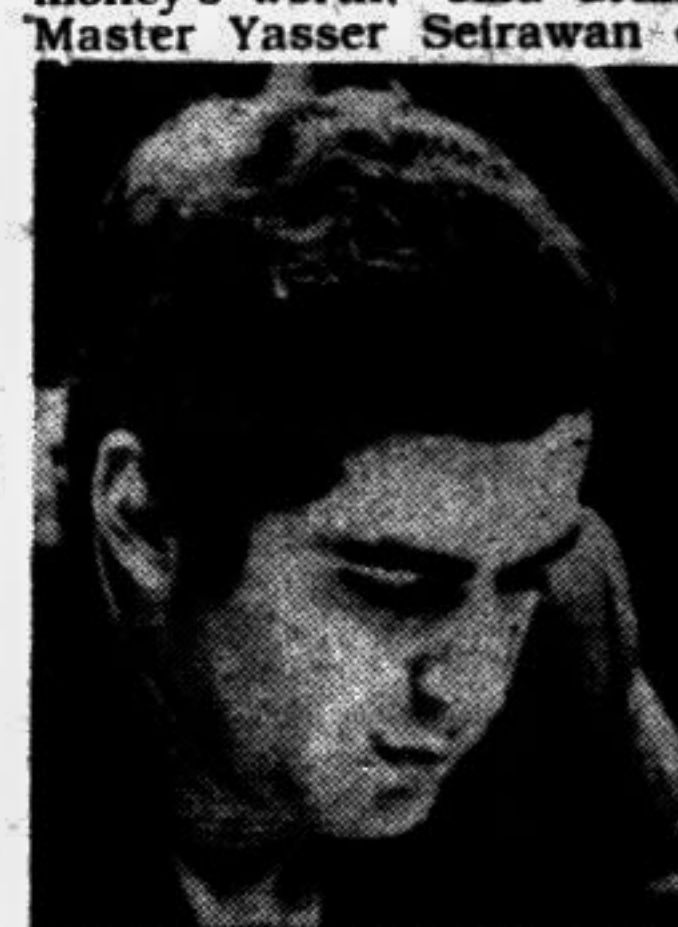
"To beat this machine you have to fight really hard... as many hours as it takes," said Kasparov, who said before the contest that he was defending humans against the onslaught of computers. "The rest of the match is going to be tough, the machine does not make many mistakes."

Kasparov, 32, took the initiative in the strategic, Catalan opening with the white pieces. In the middle game and end game, he controlled large areas of the board with his queen and bishop working in harmony. He won a valuable pawn, isolated the bishop and chased the king.

The game in the Philadelphia Convention Centre was interrupted twice, once in

the opening when a programmer played an incorrect move on the board and later when a telephone line went down, suspending the computer programme for several minutes.

Garry wanted to see how the machine played on offence and how it played on defence and today he got his money's worth, said Grand Master Yasser Seirawan of



GARRY KASPAROV

the United States, "along the way he gained some very interesting information about the computer."

"Kasparov went into the 500,000 dollars six-game match without any knowledge of 'Deep Blue's' programme GC games it had played in training. The machine can calculate 50 billion moves within three minutes."

With one point awarded for a win and a 1/2 point for

a draw, the score is 1-1 with four games to play. The third game is scheduled for Tuesday.

The event was the first match between a reigning world champion and a computer in a classical chess format in which games can last as long as seven hours.

Kasparov was sitting on a raised platform opposite, a video display terminal and the programmer, who made 'Deep Blue' moves as they were Business Machines in Yorktown Heights, New York.

More than 200 paying spectators, fascinated by a match that is both research project on how computers can solve complex problems and a battle between man and machine, listened to expert commentary and watched the game on large mounted screens in a nearby conference room.

Bring women or face ban!

BONN, Germany, Feb 12: Female politicians from the governing coalition on Monday called on the international Olympic Committee to close the competition to countries that don't allow participation by female athletes, reports AP.

Baerbel Sothmann, head of the conservative faction of women in parliament, led the protest and cited 35 countries that had registered only male athletes to participate.

Sonali Bank soccer

Chalantika unbeaten champion

Sports Reporter

Mirpur Chalantika became unbeaten champions in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league when the suburban outfit recorded a 4-3 win over Lalmaiata Club at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In a hectic schedule on the concluding day of the league, Chalantika, who had earlier confirmed their berth in the upcoming first Division along with BRTC, appeared in one of the five matches to end their league campaign on a winning note with striker Shajahan remaining in the thick of things.

Shajahan, the highest scorer with ten goals, scored one of his side's four goals.

On the other hand, BRTC, who finished behind Chalantika with 31 points, split points with Rayerbazar AC to a one-all draw and thus kept their unbeaten run intact in the 16-team league.

Meanwhile, in the other matches of the day, Adamjee SCC defeated Mohakhali XI 4-3 and Gandaria Famous edge past Little Friends by the odd goal in three.

However, Rayerbazar AC and Lalbagh SC, the two lowly-rated outfits, earned the dubious distinction of being relegated to the Third Division.

Team	M	W	D	L	GF/GA	Pts
Mirpur Chalantika	15	10	5	0	25/7	35
BRTC SC	15	8	7	0	20/9	31
Dhaka Wanderers	15	8	5	2	24/16	29
IG Press S & RC	15	7	5	3	13/8	26
Cap Club	15	8	7	2	15/10	24
Little Friends	15	7	3	5	17/15	24
Jurim Jansari	15	5	7	3	17/12	22
Gandaria Famous	15	6	4	5	19/16	22
Angkor Wat	15	4	7	4	12/15	19
Adamjee SCC	15	4	4	7	18/23	16
Muhlen Institute	15	4	7	4	11/15	16
Mohakhali XI	15	3	5	7	17/20	14
Lalmaiata Club	15	3	5	7	14/20	14
Rayerbazar AC	15	2	7	6	13/20	13
Reposh AC	15	1	4	10	9/27	7
Lalbagh SC	15	1	3	11	6/25	6

Bangladesh cricketers meet with accident

From Hasan Masood

RAJSHAHI, Feb 12: The members and officials of Bangladesh national cricket team were lucky to survive a mob attack here this evening when the bus carrying them to Rajshahi Airport from their motel hit a rickshaw, severely injuring the rickshaw-puller.

Immediately after the accident, a good number of locals attacked the bus, throwing heavy stones and shells, thinking the rickshaw-puller was dead.

After learning the identities of the bus-passengers, the mob stopped the attack but it was too late as all the glasses of the bus were shattered by then.

The members of Bangladesh team were taken to the airport by a different vehicle later.

Progoti Div III soccer

Sports reporter

East End Boys recorded a squeaky 4-3 win over Matuail Juba Sangha is one of the three Progoti Insurance Third Division football league held in the Rajuk ground adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw encounter Aziz and Rafique evenly shared all the four goals for the old town outfit while Akhter struck twice and Kamal added the third for Matuail.

In the other matches of the day, Moghbazaar KS shared honours with Aminbazar to a 1-1 draw while Prantik KC and Sunrise SC failed to produce any goal in the lack-encounter.

Morrison tests HIV positive

LOS ANGELES, Feb 12: Heavyweight fighter Tommy Morrison, who had his license suspended shortly before he was due to fight in Las Vegas on Saturday night, was told he tested positive for the AIDS virus, the Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday, reports AP.

The Times in a story dated from Las Vegas, based the report on remarks from an unnamed source.

Marc Ratner, the Nevada State Athletic Commission executive director, has said only that Morrison was "medically suspended."

Ratner declined to comment on whether Morrison had tested positive for HIV. By law the commission cannot reveal the results of such tests publicly.

Morrison, the former World Boxing Organisation champion, was to fight unknown Arthur Weathers in a non-title bout on Saturday night.

He returned to his home in Oklahoma when it was clear the bout was off.

Morrison's manager, Tommy Holden, said: "We haven't talked to the doctor. If there is a problem, we will re-test. Let's give Tommy a few days. Right now, he is confused. He is going to find out what's going on. We feel Tommy has a bright future in boxing."

Weah Milan's livewire



ROME, Feb 12: AC Milan stretched their lead at the top of the Italian Serie A while Bayern Munich and Paris Saint Germain suffered shock defeats in their respective leagues and Liverpool kept their gumbo alive with a victory in England, reports AP.

Milan took their lead at the top to eight points on Sunday with world, European and African footballer of the year George Weah netting the only goal against struggling Atalanta inside the first minute.

The muscular Liberian, sent clear by Frenchman

Marcel Desailly, blasted his second goal in two games since returning from African Nations Cup duty ten days ago. The win put the pressure firmly back on second-placed Fiorentina, who faced a home duel with Parma, in third spot, later Sunday evening.

The win was soured for Weah and his colleagues by the sending off on 89 minutes of defender Christian Panucci.

Inter Milan had cause to celebrate after a 4-0 win at the San Siro against Naples. Maurizio Ganz started the rout on 32 minutes and added a penalty on 56 before former Roma man Marco

Branca struck twice in the final quarter.

Juventus, 11 points off the summit, kept in the chase with a 4-1 thrashing of Cagliari. Fabrizio Ravanello scored twice in the opening 20 minutes and Alessandro Del Piero added a third on 79 minutes with an exquisite lob.

In a frantic finale, Luis Oliveira scored a consolation with a minute left before Vladimir Jugovic, signed from Sampdoria in the summer, notched the Zebras' fourth at the Whistle.

In France, Paris Saint Germain slid to their first home defeat of the season Sunday, allowing Montpellier to storm back from 2-0 down to snatch a last-gasp 3-2 victory.

PSG, who had seen their lead cut to three points Saturday after Auxerre beat Lyon, appeared to have recovered from their 1-0 loss at Monaco in midweek and played fluent passing football in the first period without making a breakthrough.

But Panamanian striker Julio Cesar Dely Valdes struck with a towering header on 49 minutes and Francis Llacer slid home a second on 76 to ostensibly wrap things up.

But then PSG, who had a header from Patrice Loko disallowed just before the break after Valdes was adjudged to have fouled Michel Der Zakarian, collapsed as Montpellier rattled in three goals in six minutes.

Liverpool weathered a stirring second-half fightback by struggling GPR to keep alive their faint title hopes with a 2-1 victory at Loftus Road on Sunday.

In the day's other match, an own goal by Birmingham's Chris Whyte handed his old club Leeds a 2-1 victory in the League Cup semifinal first leg to put the Premiership club within sight of their first domestic final since 1973.

Bayern Munich lost ground on German Bundesliga pace-setters Borussia Dortmund on Sunday, going down 2-1 away to a rejuvenated Hamburg, who came from behind to snatch the win in the last five minutes.



Inter Milan's Argentine player Javier Zanetti stumbles following a tackle by Napoli's Brazilian player Alves da Cruz during their Serie A match in Milan, Italy, on Feb 11.

Muster passes muster



PARIS, Feb 12: Thomas Muster, the 28-year-old Austrian who was told he would never play tennis again after badly injuring his knee after being run down by a drunken driver in 1989, was officially ranked as the world's number-one player by the ATP on Monday, reports AP.

Muster, currently in Johannesburg where he is playing in Austria's Davis Cup match against South Africa, is the 13th player to claim the top computer ranking since they were first introduced in 1973.

The left-handed Austrian clay-court specialist, winner of twelve titles in 1995 including the French Open, is the third player to take the top-ranking so far this year.

Pete Sampras started 1996 as the number-one lost the status to fellow-American Andre Agassi after the Australian Open.

Muster, the second oldest player to be top-ranked since John Newcombe dominated world tennis as a 30-year-old in 1974, may find it tough staying ahead of his rivals, however.

Sampras, who has regained the number-two spot from Agassi, is only nine points behind the Austrian, while Agassi trails Muster by just 195 points.

All three players are in action this week. Muster is playing in Dubai while Agassi and Sampras are scheduled to compete at San Jose.

During 1995 Muster had a 40-match winning streak and also won his first-ever indoor title at Essen.

After his knee injury in 1989 Muster astonished the tennis world with his determination to revive his career. He resumed practicing against doctors' orders in a specially-designed chair.

Both Sampras and Agassi recently criticised the ATP's complicated rankings system saying that the fact that it could make Muster number-one proved that it was faulty.

Both said they wanted the 'best fourteen results rule' to be scrapped.

"Every match should be made to count," said Sampras, adding: "Muster's year was phenomenal and he is by far the best clay court player we have. But I can't accept him as being the best player on other surfaces."

Agassi put it even more strongly.

"I don't put him in the 'top-ten' on surfaces outside clay. The ranking system is simply not a true indicator. On any other surface but clay, Muster has lost every time he has played Pete (Sampras), Boris (Becker) and Jim (Courier)... yet with our system he's the player who will be top."

"I am a little bit surprised at their reaction," shrugged Muster, as he waited for a break in the weather in the South African capital.

"I think that both Pete and Andre are real champions and they have deserved every minute they have been number-one."

"But the only thing I can say is that I won more matches on hard courts than either of them won on clay."

"I don't think there is anything wrong with being a clay-court player — but I don't agree that I am just a clay court specialist. I have also won a lot of times on hard courts. I won in Essen last year and I reached the semifinals at the Australian Open."

And to prove that he hopes to break with his image, Muster said he intended to make a major effort in 1996 to prepare properly for Wimbledon.

"It is true that I have not much experience of playing on grass. Out of about 1200 matches that I have played in my career maybe just twelve or thirteen of them have been on grass," he said.

"But this year I am going to play Queens, then Halle, then Wimbledon. To do well on grass it is a case of getting the necessary experience," said the methodical Muster.



THOMAS MUSTER

Nat'l Jr snooker

Yasir M Farooque of Dhaka Club cruised to the semifinals of the Aswak Leyland National Junior (U-21) Snooker championship held at Gulshan Club yesterday, says a press release.

Yasir outplayed his opponent Jason Salgado of Chittagong Catholic Club four frames to nil in a one-sided match. Syed M Sajjad also from Dhaka Club kept his winning spree beating Andrew Rodrigues of Catholic Club by a similar margin.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ewe said it 36 Thoracic
 - 4 "I didn't know!" 37 Strips in the
 - 6 Post-bath application 40 Mollin's
 - 12 Cantab's 41 Frenzied
 - 13 Salad 42 Hydrant
 - 14 Cairo's 43 Telegraph
 - 15 Ecology 47 Ershole
 - 16 Awareness 48 Raw rock
 - 17 Make it all 49 Emulate
 - 18 Piccadilly 50 Repe's
 - 19 Viper's pal 51 Indivisible
 - 20 Bells 1 Spickdown
 - 21 Pranks to the skies 2 in the
 - 24 Vacationing 3 Terrier
 - 25 One of a bride's "something" 4 Companion of D'Artagnan
 - 26 Curfew 5 Lather
 - 27 Scale 6 One-million link
 - 28 Trenchant 7 "Wings" role
 - 29 Member 8 Holy city? 9 End of an
 - 30 Trenchant 9 Ershole
 - 31 "All the Things You..." 10 Sacks title
 - 32 Convertible 11 1950s French president
 - 34 Olie's pal 12 Unlikely
- DOWN**
- 1 Ewe said it 36 Thoracic
 - 4 "I didn't know!" 37 Strips in the
 - 6 Post-bath application 40 Mollin's
 - 12 Cantab's 41 Frenzied
 - 13 Salad 42 Hydrant
 - 14 Cairo's 43 Telegraph
 - 15 Ecology 47 Ershole
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 - 30 Trenchant 9 Ershole
 - 31 "All the Things You..." 10 Sacks title
 - 32 Convertible 11