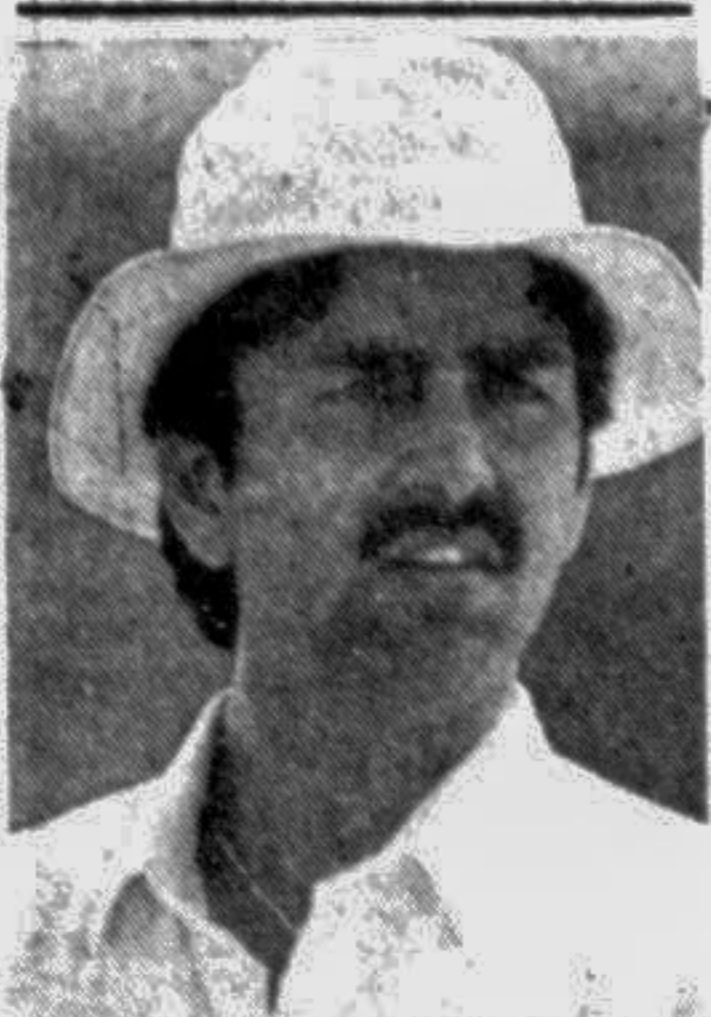


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Manoj Prabhakar

(Former Indian Test cricketer) "I need some platform to raise my voice against the injustice done to me. They (the cricket officials) are bent upon finishing and I will fight it."

After he decided to contest in the forthcoming Indian general election last week.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID

competition-33

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. April 12, 1996)

1. Thomas Muster is a master of
Hart-court Cross-court Clay-court
2. The defending Olympic soccer champions are
Spain Poland Italy
3. Ma Junren is a famous coach
Swimming Hockey
4. Who are the sponsors of the next Shogun cricket tournament?
Pepsi Coca-Cola Sprite
5. The recently concluded The Daily Star World Cup cricket quiz was sponsored by
Philips Sony Singer

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

Jansher moves into semis

CARDIFF, Apr 6: World champion Jansher Khan was cheered by a section of the crowd during his British Open quarter-final victory over Greek number one Paul Gregory, reports Reuter.

Jansher remonstrated with referees and then waved his racket at a spectator who criticised him after a fiercely competitive 27-minute opening game late on Friday.

During the game Gregory had been insisting that Jansher, who is seeking a fifth successive British Open title, was blocking his access to drop shots in the top corners of the court.

On one occasion he persuaded the appeals judge to reverse a let decision in the Pakistani's favour to a no-let call.

Jansher, jeered as he returned to his corner for the second game, said: "I have never been booed before. I was not angry with the crowd and I think they were just shouting at me in a good natured way about wasting time."

"I was angry with the referees though because they do not deal with the appeals properly."

Jansher's 15-13, 15-13, 15-4 victory took him into a semi-final against French champion Julline Bonetati. The other semi-final is an all-Australian clash between Rodney Eyles and Brett Martin.

Defending champion Michelle Martin of Australia faces unseeded Jane Martin of England, conqueror of third-seeded Australian Liz Irving on Friday, in the first women's semi-final.

The second pits another Australian, second seed Sarah Fitz-Gerald, against former British champion Fiona Geaves.

Flo-Jo taken ill

ST LOUIS, Apr 6: Former Olympic champion Florence Griffith Joyner is in a St Louis Hospital on Friday after apparently suffering a seizure on a flight from Los Angeles to St Louis on Thursday, reports Reuter.

A spokeswoman for Barnes-Jewish Hospital said family members had requested that no information be released about Griffith Joyner's condition. But friends said she was resting comfortably.

Griffith Joyner, 36, was flying to St Louis to attend the annual Jackie Joyner-Kersey relays in east St Louis when she was stricken. She was accompanied by her husband, Al-Joyner, and their five-year-old daughter Mary.

When the plane landed in St Louis, Griffith Joyner was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Family members said they were told by Al-Joyner that his wife had suffered a seizure on the plane.

Kalabagan beat Wari

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

KALABAGAN KC: 214 in 49.3 overs (Faruque 56, Nobel 29, Masum 27)
WARI CLUB: 185 in 46 overs (Biplob 34, Mukul 38, Munna 30, Zakir 3/35)

Kalabagan Krira Chakra recorded a facile 39-run win over lowly Wari Club in a Premier cricket super league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In an otherwise insignificant affair as far as the championship is concerned, Kalabagan, who along with their neighbour Abahani KC and the day's vanquished who are already out of the race, scored a fighting total with their skipper Faruque Ahmed hammering a polished half century.

Faruque, the former national skipper who, enjoyed a wonderful season with the willow, cracked a swashbuckling 56 off 75 deliveries to propel his side to 195 in 45.3 overs before the middle-order bat ran himself out.

Earlier, opener Zahid Razak Masum and Nurul Abedin Nobel — the two former na-

tional players — gave Kalabagan a solid start mustering 49 runs in 11.3 overs before Masum, the tall right-hander, chipped in with an aggressive 27 off 32 balls punctuated with four hits across the rope.

A balding Nobel scored a gritty 29 off 57 deliveries while Wahidul Islam, who was dropped down the order, slogged the last four overs with a rapid-fire 22 off only 15 balls embellished with two sixes and a four.

In reply, Wari Club, who are yet to win a match in the six-team super league, collapsed to their consecutive defeat when they were skittled

out in 46 overs and with 40 runs short of the target.

On a hot and humid day, Wari were never appeared to off the required run rate in their chase at the nearly barren big bowl. Instead with the wickets tumbling at regular intervals the Motihheel outfit, who at one stage tottering at 55 for four, could attain some respectability with their skipper Mukul scoring an obdurate 38 off 61 balls.

But once Kalabagan new-ball bowler Zakir, returning in his second spell, removed Mukul it was foregone conclusion. Mukul apart opener Biplob (34), tall enders Ehsan (27) and Munna (30) were the other notable run-getters for the losers.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 6: Four-H Club defeated Sangkriti Majlish by ten wickets in the local First Division cricket league today.

In a low-scoring affair, Sangkriti Majlish scored only 81 runs in the morning session. In reply, Four-H cruised home without losing any wicket with both openers Siddique and Manju remaining unbeaten on 39 and 38 respectively.

Among the Kalabagan bowlers Zakir finished with three for 35 in his nine overs. He was well supported by national right-arm seamer Saiful Islam and Wahidul, who took two wickets apiece.

With this win Kalabagan raised their tally to 16 points on completion of the 14 league engagements and remained stuck to the fifth position ahead of Wari Club, who glued to the first leg collection of 12 points after completing same number matches.

An ailing Atlanta affair

ATLANTA, Apr 6: The designers of the main stadium for this summer's Olympics, accused by Atlanta organisers of defending their reputation, reports AP.

Setting the stage for a nasty legal battle as Atlanta heads into the final preparations for the games, a lawyer for the design team also said she will ask a judge on Monday to handle a suit over the organising committee's alleged refusal to pay overtime on an expedited basis.

The Atlanta Stadium Design Team, a joint venture, filed suit last month claiming it is owed more than 4 million dollars in unpaid overtime. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games on Thursday filed a countersuit, saying the negligence by the design team caused 6 million dollars in cost overruns.

"The one thing I think is a little surprising to us in the counterclaim is the suggestion that the design team has not been willing to be responsible for any mistakes it may have made on this project," Susan Cahoon, attorney for the design team, said Friday.

"ASDT is prepared to defend its reputation. This is a group of designers who are very experienced in designing equally or more complex sports facilities," she said.

Though money is at the heart of the legal case, the dispute has put ACOG in the awkward position of attacking the abilities of a design team it has spent nearly a year ardently defending.

Last year, a construction worker was killed when a light

tower truss at the stadium collapsed. The accident, which federal investigators blamed on a design error, raised persistent questions about the safety of the 83,500-seat stadium that will host the opening and closing ceremonies and track and field events of the Olympics.

A subsequent engineering review of the entire stadium found numerous design modifications were needed, mainly to reinforce the steel structure.

Yet ACOG has consistently said the stadium is safe and, overall, well designed.

Lyn May, an ACOG spokeswoman, denied Friday there is anything inconsistent about the organising committee's position.

"The stadium is fine," May said. "The argument could be made that, if the modifications had not been made, it might not have been."

The issue is as much the process as the actual results. The process has been costly. The process has caused everyone a lot of grief.

In its suit, the designers said that ACOG and the Braves, who will occupy the stadium after the Olympics, imposed multiple changes under "chaotic conditions" that resulted in 47,600 hours of overtime.

Cahoon said that changes continue to be forced on the designers, including some as recently as this week. She said an amendment will be made to the suit asking for about dollars 1.4 million more.

ACOG also said she fears money may not have enough until the organising committee goes out of business a few months after the Olympics.

The designers tried to negotiate a settlement but, ACOG insisted on unreasonable conditions. Cahoon added. She would not elaborate.

The ACOG suit contends the design team is "exclusively liable" for the construction worker's death as well as "hundreds of additional" problems that were discovered in the engineering review.

Atlanta in economic terms

ATLANTA, Apr 6: The Olympic Games will have a powerful impact on Atlanta and the state of Georgia, bringing in an estimated 5.1 billion dollars, according to a University of Georgia study, reports AP.

Olympic organisers will inject 2.6 billion dollars into the local economy and visitors on Olympic-related business will add another 2.5 billion.

The number of foreign visitors to the city grew by 78 per cent when Atlanta was preparing its candidature to host the Games between 1990 and 1993.

Some 77,000 new jobs are linked to the Games and Georgia will get 176 million dollars in additional tax.

Atlanta will also receive 16 million dollars from Georgia organisers for putting on additional services like policing and transport during the Olympics.

Samaranch bucks Athens up

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece, Apr 6: Athens, bitter after losing the centennial Olympics to Atlanta, received a boost Friday from IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch for its bid for the 2004 Games, reports AP.

"Athens we hope will have a very strong bid," Samaranch said after a meeting of the IOC's executive board in the town where the Olympics were born.

The 11-member board met on the grounds of the International Olympic Academy. The educational facility is located next to the ruins of the ancient sanctuary where the first recorded Olympics were held every four years from 776 BC until they were abolished in 394 by the Christian Roman Emperor Theodosius.

The Olympics were revived in the late 19th century by Pierre de Coubertin, and the first modern games were held in Athens in 1896.

Many Greeks were angry that sentimental favourite

Athens lost out to Atlanta in the IOC vote six years ago for the 1996 host city. Greek officials had vowed never to bid again for the Olympics but changed their mind and submitted a candidacy for the 2004 Games.

"The situation of Athens and Greece is better. Most of the facilities are already in place," Samaranch said, adding that a new Athens airport and infrastructure works, including modern telecommunications, would also be ready by then.

Samaranch said that "Putting sentiment aside" Athens bid "is more important than last time."

Samaranch also pointed out that many of the 11 cities bidding for the 2004 Games are on continents that have already hosted the Olympics. An exception is Cape Town, South Africa.

"We know that the Games were never held in Africa but the organisation in Cape Town is not easy and we expect the full support of the government," Samaranch said.

The other cities in the running are Buenos Aires, Argentina; Istanbul, Turkey; Lille, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Rome; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Seville, Spain; Stockholm, Sweden; and St. Petersburg, Russia.

The field will be reduced to four or five finalists before the winner is selected in September 1997.

IAAF finds Romanian pair innocent

CAPE TOWN, Apr 6: Two female Romanian athletes who failed dope tests have been cleared by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) here on Friday, reports AP.

IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai said that although Julia Negura and Elena Fidatof tested positive for phenibut in Chiba, Japan in February the drug was not on the IAAF or the IOC's banned list.

Haynes played 116 Tests and 239 one-day internationals but his Test career ended when he was left out of the home series against Australia in 1995.

He had failed to meet a stipulation which required all players, except those on Test duty, to play in all five matches in the domestic Red Stripe competition barring injury or "exceptional circumstances."

But Haynes sued for loss of earnings and is still locked in a legal battle.

In his Test career, he scored 7,487 runs, including 18 centuries, at an average of 42.30. He holds the records for the most runs (8,649) and highest number of centuries (17) in one-day internationals.

Apart from coaching Sussex, Haynes has signed a new one-year contract with Western Province in South Africa as a player for the 1996-97 season.



Faizunnissa Poly (R) makes a move against Suraiya Khatun Badhan during yesterday's qualifying round match of the 17th national women's chess championship at the NSC chess room. Poly won the board.

Four atop in eves' chess

Sports Reporter

Four players — Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira, Zakia Sultana, Jahannara Haque Rumu and Masuda Begum, were leading the table at the end of the third round of the 17th national eves' chess championship qualifiers yesterday.

In the third round held at the NSC chess room, Masuda defeated Rukhsana Gulshan Nikkon. Nira beat Nazrana Khan Iva while Zakia and Rumu shared half a point in a tie match.

Besides, Faizunnissa Poly and Zebunnissa were in the second position along with Iva, all having two points to their account.

The top six players from the qualifying round will join four others in the final round which will begin from April 9.

The four players who have direct entries in the final round are defending champion Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa, runner-up Afroza Khanum Bably and two international-rated women players IWM Rani Hamid and Tanima Parveen.

Novotna mauls Majoli

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, Apr 6: A streaky Jana Novotna relied on a tricky, sliced backhand to outlast third seed Iva Majoli 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the 926,250 dollars Family Circle Cup on Friday, reports Reuter.

In other matches, top seed Conchita Martinez of Spain breezed past Petra Begerow of Germany 6-2, 6-0, and second-seed Arantza Sanchez-Vicario, also of Spain, beat qualifier Sabine Hack of Germany 6-2, 6-2.

Austrian Barbara Paulus, who missed nearly three years of competition due to injuries, defeated Irina Spirlea of Romania 6-4, 6-2.

Majoli, 18, gained the key break in the first set, at 4-4 thanks to her two winners and three forehand errors by Novotna, who is from the Czech Republic. Majoli then served out the set for 6-4.

Early in the second set, Novotna managed to hold serve in shaky game to take a 2-1 lead but appeared ready to collapse mentally. Majoli, however, played disastrously on

her serve in the next game, unable to handle Novotna's

sliced drop shot and then committed forehead errors.

A renewed Novotna, dictating play with her top-spin forehand and slice backhand, pressured Majoli in the back-court, and then came to net to nail volley winner. She sailed to a 5-1 lead only to be broken herself by the tenacious Majoli.

The Croatian failed to convert the break, however, and dropped her serve to hand Novotna the second set 6-2.

Novotna, appearing to finally have the upper hand, began well in the third set, but served two double faults at 1-1 to Jose her serve. Strongest play of the match occurred at this midway point of the third set, as Majoli fought brilliantly from the baseline to hold onto her fragile lead, and Novotna sliced and attacked to regain control.

Majoli stretched her lead to 3-1 but then serving at 3-2, she ran out of steam for the final set. In a long game, and once again brilliant Novotna grabbed the break and scored 3-3 when Majoli double-faulted. From there, Novotna, 27, then had little trouble closing out the match, breaking again for 5-3 and then serving out the set.



JANA NOVOTNA

Haynes calls it a day

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 6: Veteran opener Desmond Haynes, who has been in dispute with the West Indies authorities, has quit international cricket, reports Reuter.

Haynes, 40, faxed his retirement letter to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) from England where he is starting a three-year coaching job with the Sussex country team.

He said, "In making this decision, I have taken a number of factors into consideration, not least of which is the need to move on to a new phase in my life while seeking to provide for the future well-being of my family."

The Olympics are not on my schedule this year," Chang said. "I felt it was better to concentrate on the US Open."

Becker and Michael Stich, who teamed to win the gold in doubles four years ago at Barcelona, expect to skip Atlanta. Also likely to be absent is Marc Rosset of Switzerland, who won the gold in singles in 1992.

One medal is enough, the three Europeans agreed. The Atlanta Games are squeezed into the tennis schedule between Wimbledon and the US Open, and most players consider the Olympics less important than either tournament.

"I personally don't think the players would choose the Olympics over the Grand Slam tournaments," Chang said. "Grand Slam tournaments have been around for so many years, and for tennis the Olympics is relatively new."

Nonetheless, most of the top Americans are eager to play at Stone Mountain. That includes Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Monica Seles.

I think a medal in the Olympics will probably be just as rewarding as winning any Slam," said Agassi, whose father was an Olympic boxer for Iran in 1948 and 1952.

"I anticipate it will be the greatest two weeks of my life. I mean, to be one of thousands

of athletes all coming together for one common purpose to win... a medal is quite an honour."

Jennifer Capriati won the gold at age 16 in 1992, the pinnacle thus far in her career. Staging a comeback on personal problems, Capriati is eager to try for a repeat but unlikely to make the US team because she entered the computer rankings this week at only No 103.

Three American women

Pros' pride & prejudice

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, Apr 6 (AP) — The tennis resonate with Wimbledon, Roland-Garros, Flinders Park, Flushing Meadow, And then there's Stone Mountain.

Top pros are divided as to the value of a gold medal at the 1996 Olympics. To Michael Chang and Boris Becker, Georgia in July sounds not so hot.

The Olympics are not on my schedule this year," Chang said. "I felt it was better to concentrate on the US Open."

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Three American women

Saen retains WBA crown

BANGKOK, Apr 6: Undeclared Saen Sor Ploenchit of Thailand retained his WBA flyweight championship with a 12-round split decision Sunday over Leo Gamez of Venezuela, reports AP.

Saen's reach advantage and youthful stamina made the difference in a blistering bout. The light-hitting Thai, who had only five knockouts in 24 previous fights, had the Venezuelan on the ropes in nearly every round, only to see the challenger come roaring back with uppercuts and overhand rights.

The victory was the 23-year-old Saen's eighth defence of the title that he won from David Griman of Venezuela in February 1994.

Gamez, 32, a former junior flyweight and strawweight champion, suffered his fifth loss against 29 victories and two draws.

American judge Lou Tabat gave the fight to Gamez 115-113, while American Art Lurie scored it 117-111 for Saen. Mexican judge Hector Hernandez broke the deadlock with a 116-113 score in favour of the Thai.

He was joking — sort of. "In Barcelona, I can honestly say I didn't have a great time because I was playing tennis every day and I didn't get to really feel the Olympic feeling that you look forward to. I'm going to go to Atlanta with an attitude that I'm going to try to win the gold, but I'm going to try to make an effort see some other events."

"I'm looking forward to seeing the Dream Team and some of the other events," Sampras said. "Play tennis? That's secondary."

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