

Column One SPORTS TALK



Boris Becker (German tennis superstar) 'Matches like that keep me in the game longer and longer.'

About the ATP Tour World Championships final, he lost to Pete Sampras.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Sports WHIZZ KID competition-59

Competition closes: 8 pm December 20, 1996. 1. Who was the man-of-the-final in the 17th Damal Smriti cricket tournament? Partho Bulbul Monirul

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

England get a booster

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Dec 14: A vegetable farmer and a big-game hunter frustrated England with a 156-run third wicket Friday, holding off but unable to prevent a 115-run victory by the tourists over Matabeleland province, reports AP.

Mark Dekker, the farmer and ostrich breeder, and Heath Streak, the hunter who normally bats eighth or ninth for Zimbabwe, combined for 171 of Matabeleland's 261 second-innings runs.

Dekker made 104, which included three sixes and six fours, and Streak added 67 despite a knee muscle strain, but Matabeleland needed 11 more overs to force a draw.

Champions' Cup Egyptian team take title

CAIRO, Dec 14: Zamalek of Egypt lifted a record fourth African Champions' Cup on Friday when they beat 10-man Shooting Stars of Nigeria 5-4 on penalties in the final marked by crowd trouble, reports Reuters.

The Egyptian side, trailing 2-1 after the first leg in Ibadan, Nigeria, two weeks ago, won the second leg 2-1 in front of a hysterical 80,000 crowd to make it 3-3 on aggregate and force the penalty shoot-out.

Zamalek had seemed to be on course for a clear-cut win after going 2-0 up. But a lapse in concentration in the dying stages allowed Stars to draw level on aggregate as substitute Gbeniga Okunowo sneaked a last-minute goal for the outclassed Nigerians at the end of a bruising encounter.

When the final went immediately into spot-kicks - African competitions do not allow for extra time in an aggregate draw - both teams scored four out of their five regulation penalties before Ossama Nabil put Zamalek 5-4 ahead.

Usha, Army dump MSC, AKC

Sports Reporter hant at bay, also set Sadeq up to score the all-important goal from a counter attack. Silva, a defender, after winning a ball from the 16-yard circle fed compatriot Gopal who raced down the left-flank before floating a measured cross deep inside the Abahani box. And, an onrushing Sadeq made no mistake of sending the ball home.

Usha, buoyed by their two Indian recruits Silva Raj and Gopal Swami, however, eventually prevailed over Abahani in a ding-dong battle. The two overseas players, who played the pivotal role of keeping Abahani at bay, also set Sadeq up to score the all-important goal from a counter attack.



Jubilant Bangladesh Army team members celebrate their surprise victory over favourites Mohammedan Sporting Club in the first semifinal of the Bijooy Dibash Cup hockey tournament at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday. -Star photo

Tough tie awaits Japan

ABU DHABI, Dec 14: Deciding Asian Cup champions Japan will have to give a better performance than they did against China in the group matches when they face Kuwait in the quarterfinal on Sunday if they hope to retain the title, reports AFP.

South Korea made the mistake of underestimating the Kuwaitis and it very nearly cost them a place in the tournament's final stages, two Kuwaiti second-half goals doing the damage.

The defeat left South Korea hoping and praying that their four group points would be enough. It was, but only thanks to a last day win by Japan over China.

Mini-marathon in 63 dists

The organising committee of the Sixth Bangladesh Games '96 has decided to hold mini-marathon in all 63 district headquarters on December 17 or 18, reports UNB.

The committee has already sent 1000 taka for each district to meet the expenses of the mini-marathon.

Sachin heat sizzles SA

India skipper Sachin Tendulkar smashed a hurricane hundred to steer his team to record a huge 74-run win over touring South Africa in their one-off one-day international in Bombay yesterday.

Batting first India piled up a mammoth 267 for 6 in their share of 50 overs. Coming on to the crease as opener, Tendulkar put the South African attack to the sword to score a swash-buckling 114. In reply, South African batting caved in 46 overs scoring only 193.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the one-off one-day international match between India and South Africa today: INDIA Tendulkar st Kirsten b Boje 114

League decider Dec 17

AKC for a win, MSC for a draw

Sports Reporter Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra and their arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club will meet in the last match of the Danish Premier Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium on December 17.

The championship-deciding match between the two sworn sporting enemies will kick off at 4.30 pm.

Bangladesh Television will cover the Dhaka derby live while Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the running commentary from the 60,000 capacity big egg.

Mohammedans, who are leading the table with highest 45 points will be looking for at least a draw to dethrone Abahani, for whom a win, and only a win, can pull off a unique treble of titles this year and their third league title in a row.

Meanwhile, three Thai referees are scheduled to conduct the clash of the titans to avoid controversies. Tickets will be on sale from the stadium counter at 1 pm while the gates will open simultaneously. Rate of tickets for gallery has been fixed at Taka 20, while for the VIP enclosure it will be Taka 40.

Danish soccer Bankers finish eighth

Agrani Bank recorded a 5-3 victory over relegated Bangladesh Boys in their last encounter of the Danish Premier Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Striker Tutul scored all the five goals for the winners. It was the league's third hat-trick. He scored in the 3rd, 20th, 30th, 55th and 64th minutes. With the goal, the striker became the top scorer with eleven goals. Alfa of Mohammedan Sporting Club has bagged ten goals playing one match less.

With this fourth win in the two-tier league, bankers finished eighth in the points table ahead of East End Club and Bangladesh Boys. Relegation-threatened East End collected 14 points from seventeen matches. East End will play their last match against third-placed Multijodha Sangsad today. A win is must for them to avoid relegation.

In another league match, Brothers Union took revenge on Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool when they defeated the latter by a solitary goal.

Skipper Aamer Khan netted the match-decider in the 62nd minute. This was the seventh win in the league for the Gopibagh outfit who finished fourth in the league with 26 points. Youngmen's finished just behind Brothers with 22 points.

Victoria Sporting Club earned promotion to the Premier league bagging highest 31 points from 18 matches. In their last engagement of the First Division league, Victoria shared points with PWD as the match ended goal less.

Yardley steps into Dav's shoes

COLOMBO, Dec 14: Former Australian Test spinner Bruce Yardley was named on Friday as Sri Lanka's new cricket coach, reports Reuters.

Yardley, who played 33 Tests for Australia, was highly recommended by former Test greats Tony Greig and Richard Hadley. Sri Lanka Cricket Board president Upali Dharmadasa told reporters.

Yardley is due in Sri Lanka in late January to replace departing coach Dav Whatmore, a former Australian Test player who quit Sri Lanka to join English county side Lancashire.

The appointment ends a two-and-a-half month international search for a new coach for the World Cup champions. Dharmadasa said Yardley's first task would be to prepare the team for the Test tour of New Zealand early next year.

Yardley's last Test for Australia was in the Sri Lankan hill town of Kandy in 1983, when he helped to bowl the visitors to victory with an eight-wicket haul.

Whatmore, a Sri Lankan by birth who emigrated to Australia, returned to Colombo in June, 1995 to coach the team.



Brothers' one down bat Jahangir Alam makes an abortive attempt to play Mohammad Ali of Surjo Tarun on the on-side during their Premier Division match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. -Star photo

Jahangir rises to BU's cause

Sports Reporter total Jahangir, who came into bat at number three after the fall of young national opener Saharjar Hossain Bidyu (13) for 25 in 71 overs, shared 94 runs for the second wicket with Pakistani Abid Hanif before the stockily built Pakistani chipped in with a well-made 53.

Abid, the younger brother of Pakistani international Aamir Hanif and a very useful recruit of Brothers for the last couple of years, hammered a quartet of fours in his polished 84-ball knock.

After the departure of the Pakistani right-hander, Jahangir put on 88 runs for the third wicket with skipper Faruque Ahmed before being eventually out in the 43rd over, leaving his side comfortably poised on 209/3.

In his 139-minute stay at the crease, the discarded national wicketkeeper-cum opener clouted a dozen of firmly hits across the rope. On the other hand, Faruque fell eight short of what would have been a well-deserved half-century when the former national skipper was dismissed by seamer Al Amin, the only consistent GMCC bowler.

The young right-arm medium pacer, who latter did one better with the bat, finished with two for 49 in his 10 overs. In reply, GMCC could muster 218 for nine before exhausting their quota of 50 overs. One-down Rudwan with a gritty 57 off 107 balls was the top scorer for the vanquished while Mutahir and Ali chipped in 38 runs apiece. Al Amin, the other notable batsman on the day, scored a run-a-ball unbeaten 20.

For Brothers, Pakistani Baker Rizvi with three for 52 in his 10 expensive overs returned most successful among the bowlers. But it was Saifullah Gem, the young left-arm spinner, fresh after his five-wicket haul, once again proved his class when he finished with fantastic figures of 10-2-32-2.

Pak-Aussie affair today

Shane Warne. Healy said the one-day arena may not provide the best stage for Mushtaq but conceded he would provide concerns for the Australian batsmen.

"I wouldn't say fears but he is a quality bowler and we respect him highly," Healy said. Captain Mark Taylor would not be drawn into another debatable topic raised by Akram - that of which nation ruled the cricketing roost, Australia or Pakistan.

"I disagree (Pakistan are best) but then again I don't want to get into this debate again - it seems to crop every time we play a different side," Taylor said. But Australian all-rounder Steve Waugh's biggest concern here today was not his injury problems but Pakistan's unpredictability.

"You never know what to expect from the Pakistanis," said Waugh, who feels he has recovered sufficiently from a groin injury to play against Wasim Akram's team. "They're a class act with a lot of really talented players who can beat anyone on their day," he said. "It's just a matter of whether they click."

Things didn't click too well for Pakistan here Friday, resulting in an embarrassing first-up loss to the Australian Cricket Academy. The under-strength tourists lost eight wickets for 74 as they tumbled to a surprise 13-run defeat.

Pakistan coach Mushtaq Mohammad said Akram was suffering from a cold and Moin had influenza, forcing Mohammad Zahid, Moin Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Aamir Sohal, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Afridi, Shahid Nazir, Zahoore Elahi, Wasim Akram (Capt), Waqar Younis.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. 12 to get Nat'l Sports Award '96. The government yesterday declared the names of 12 sports personalities who will be given the National Sports Award '96 for their contributions in the field of sports, reports UNB.

12 to get Nat'l Sports Award '96. The government yesterday declared the names of 12 sports personalities who will be given the National Sports Award '96 for their contributions in the field of sports, reports UNB. The award recipients are: Late Abul Hashem (posthumous organiser), Harun-ur-Rashid MP (organiser), Ashrafudowla (organiser), late Amir Jung Mohammad Gajani (posthumous - football), Ashraf Uddin Chunnun (football), Abdus Sadek (hockey), Arun Kumar Nandy (swimming), Shafuli Haq Hira (cricket), Saiful Alam Rinky (shooting), Rani Hamid (chess), Kazi Nasima Hamid (organiser) and Sufa Khatun (athletics).

Indira Gandhi eves' hockey. NEW DELHI, Dec 14: Result on the opening day of the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup women's hockey tournament today, reports Reuters. South Korea, 3, India 1 (halftime 1-1).