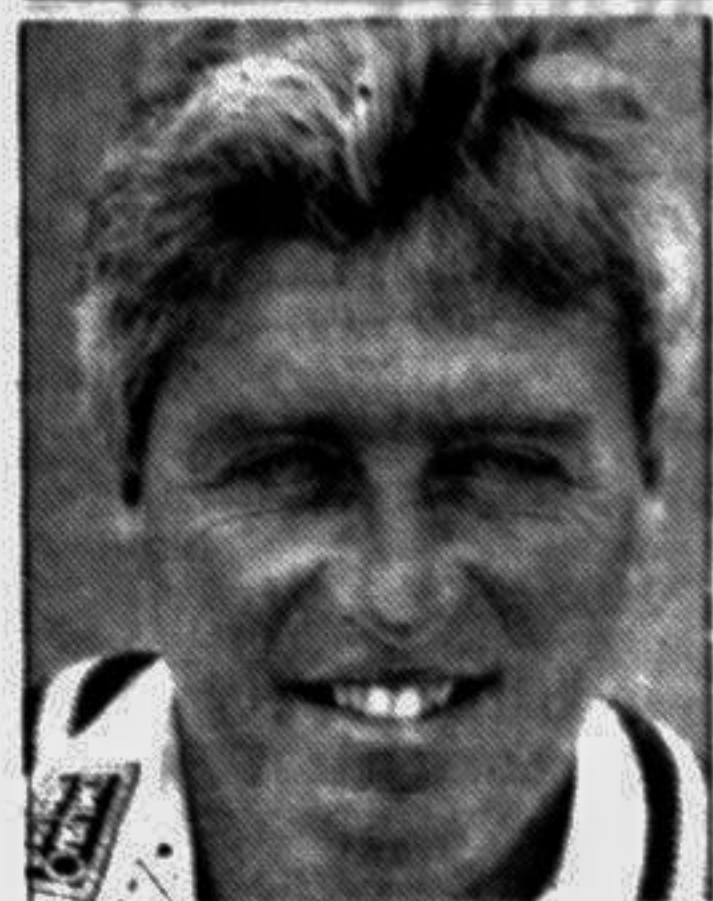


Column One
SPORTS TALK



Bob Woolmer

(South Africa cricket coach) Take Fanie for example. He is special to the squad. He's a person who wants to get involved in everything that the locals do when he's in a foreign country.

Then you have the captain, who is very intense on the field, but off the park he's a practical joker.

Gary Kirsten is the comedian in the squad. He breaks the ice with some witty remarks.

On his players who often make the team-life easier.

Sports
WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports Whizz Kid
competition-60

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm
Jan 3, '97

1 Who won the Danish Premier Division football league title this season?

Mohammedan Abahani Muktiyoddha

2 Which team won the Bijo Dabash Cup hockey title?

Usha Ajax Bangladesh Army

3 Which country won the Champions Trophy hockey title recently?

Pakistan Holland Germany

4 Who is the top scorer in this season's Premier Division football league?

Nakib Mizan Aliaz

5 Former Italian national soccer coach Arrigo Sacchi now coaches

Inter Milan AC Milan Fiorentina

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

USA to play
in China

BEIJING, Dec 23: The US soccer team will make their first trip to China for two matches starting next month against the Chinese squad, the official Xinhua news agency said Thursday, reports AP.

The US team, ranked 18th by soccer's world body, FIFA, will play the Chinese, ranked 76th, in Kunming, southwest China, on Jan. 29 and in Canton, near Hong Kong in southern China, on Feb. 1, Xinhua said.

The series winner will be decided on the aggregate of the two matches, Xinhua said.

The Chinese team, which has visited the United States in 1977, 1992, will visit again in 1998, Xinhua added.

Sydney 2000
Solar powering
plan released

SYDNEY, Dec 23: Organisers of the 2000 Olympic Games Friday unveiled plans for an environmentally-friendly athletes' village, which will become one of the world's largest solar-powered communities, reports AP.

The village, to house 15,300 competitors and officials, is to be built by Lend Lease Corp and Mirvac Ltd.

In a joint statement, the two construction companies said the total value of the project would be about US \$376 million dollars.

Further construction to convert it into permanent housing after the Games will bring to cost to US \$600 million dollars.

New South Wales Premier Bob Carr said the village would become a prestigious and environmentally state-of-the-art community of 5,000, on what is now wasteland.

The new suburb is adjacent to the main Olympic venue.

The consortium said that one kilowatt solar systems will be integrated into the roofs of homes in the village, which will generate a total of about 1 million kilowatts a year.

This mainstream use of solar power on such a large scale property development is an excellent example of how best environmental practice can bring a competitive advantage to business, said Mirvac managing director Robert Hamilton.

Rehana's tenth triumph

Sports Reporter

Rehana Zaman of Ansars continued with her superb performance on Monday in the Sixth Bangladesh Games Swimming competition as she took her personal tally of gold medals to ten at the Mirpur National Swimming pool to help her team finish atop the standings with 13 golds.

On the final day of the six-day swimming competition, Rehana, who had been in the lime-light for the last three days by winning seven golds, added two more individual golds in the 200m individual medley and the 500m freestyle, and with her teammates — Seema Dutta, Mahmooda Sharif and Zerina Akhtar — she clinched a 4x100m freestyle relay gold to claim a mention in the history books as the highest gold winner of any Games.

In contrast Ilyas Hossain of Bangladesh Navy became the highest gold winner in the men's group with a haul of six golds. In the day's events, Ilyas took two golds in the 200m individual medley and the 1500m freestyle.

Ten golds were decided on the concluding day which saw only one record set by Ansars' Hasina Akhtar who captured the 200m gold clocking 3 minutes and 15.82 seconds, 1.66 seconds less than the previous timing.

Sultana Parveen won the day's other gold for Ansars in the 800m freestyle.



ILLYAS... 6 golds

Besides, Shamsul Huda of Navy took the gold in the 50m freestyle. Army's Mokbil Hossain won the gold in the 200m breast stroke while the day's last gold in the men's 4x100m freestyle relay went to Army.

The 33-event swimming competition concluded yesterday with Ansars leading the table with 13 golds followed by Bangladesh Navy with 12 golds and Bangladesh Army with six golds. Biman were fourth with only two golds.

HOCKEY

The sixth Bangladesh Games hockey competition yesterday saw experience steal a march over youthful exuberance as star-studded Dhaka University along with defending champions Dhaka DSA stormed into the final by eliminating Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) 5-3 and Bangladesh Army 2-1 respectively at the Hockey Stadium.

In the first semifinal holders Dhaka, aided by a second-minute strike from national centre-forward Mohammed Saadeq during the sudden-death extra time, scraped through a defiant Bangladesh Army by the odd goal in three.

Disappointment
for Seles

HAMBURG, Germany, Dec 23: Monica Seles said she was disappointed to have lost her claim for 16 million dollars in compensation on Thursday from organisers of the Hamburg tennis tournament in which she was stabbed in the back in 1993, reports AP.

A court said the organisers could not be held responsible for Gunter Parche's isolated act. "This is, obviously, another disappointment stemming from the terrible attack on me in 1993," Seles said in a statement issued by her agent, Linda Dorezetz.

The court's written decision with the reasons for the dismissal will not be released for some weeks so Seles cannot comment on specifics, Dorezetz added in the statement.

The former world number one women's tennis player did not play for 27 months after being stabbed.

Parche, a besotted Steffi Graf fan, was given a two-year suspended prison sentence, another court decision that upset Seles.

She also voiced disappointment that the WTA failed to freeze her world number one ranking during her recuperation, so that Parche's declared aim of seeing Graf regain the top spot was achieved.

Poborsky, Berger
share honour

PRAGUE, Dec 23: Manchester United's Karel Poborsky and Liverpool's Patrick Berger have been voted joint winners of the Czech Republic's footballer-of-the-year, reports AP.

The two midfielders, 24 and 23-year-old respectively, received more than double the votes of their nearest rival in a ballot of journalists, coaches and officials.

Both men played a crucial role in guiding their country to the final of this year's Euro '96.

The enterprising second semifinal more than paid the crowd with as many as eight goals being scored in 70-minute stop watch time. Tutul Kumar Nag, a prolific centre-half, led Dhaka University charge with three goals while Zahid Hossain Raju and Rabiuddin shared the other two. At one stage the eventual winners were leading 5-1 before a late rally saved BKSP the ultimate ignominy.

For BKSP Ishtiaq scored twice while Mawdudur Rahman added the third in the 57th minute of the proceedings.

Bangladesh Ansars followed Army with four golds while Bangladesh Rifles took the day's other gold.



Ansars' Hasina Akhtar on her way to clinch the 200m breaststroke gold at the National Swimming Complex yesterday. Hasina set a new record in the event clocking 3 minutes and 15.82 seconds.

The final will be held at 2.30 pm today.

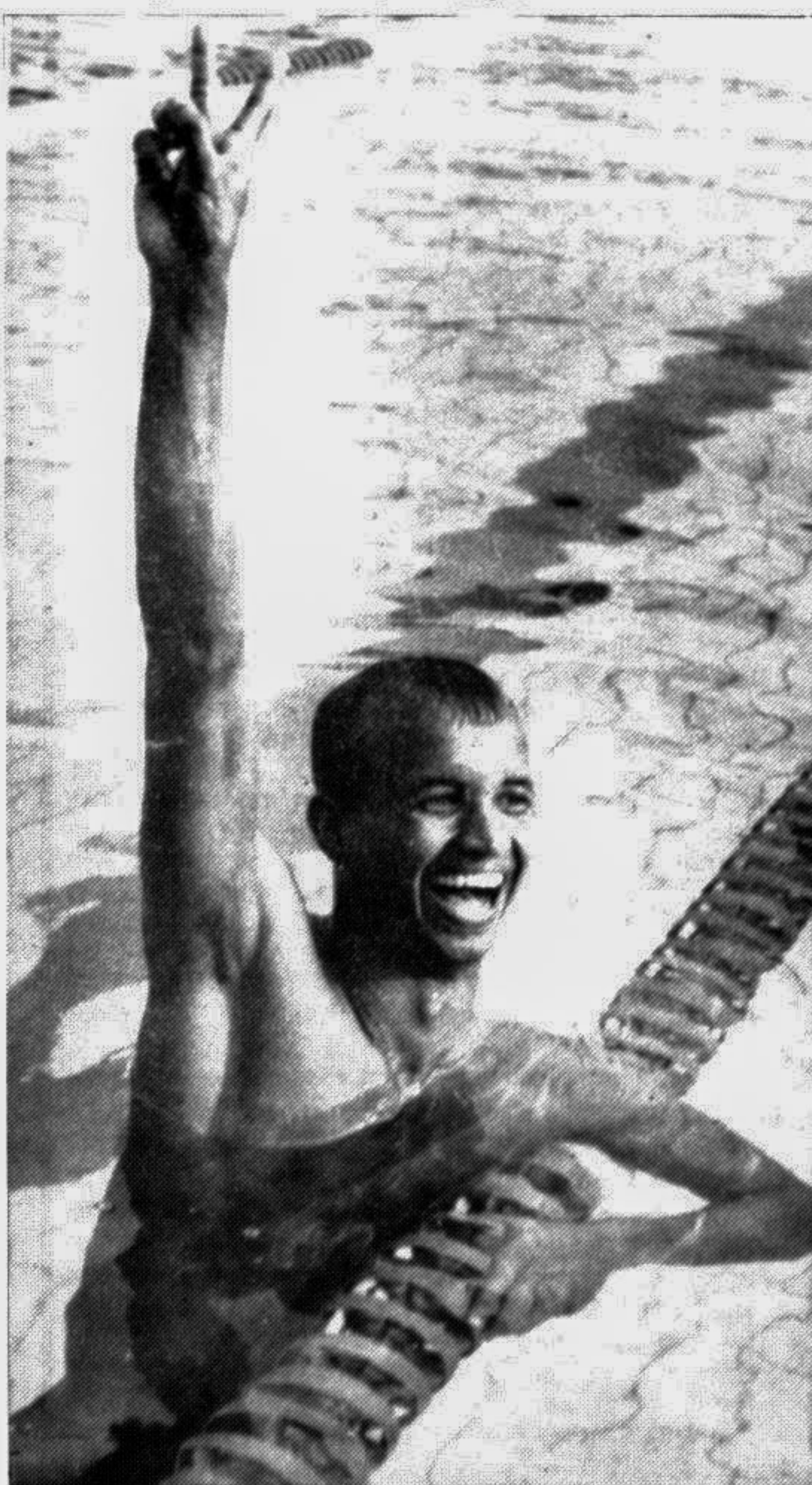
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Army earned an effortless bronze after BKSP expressed their reluctance to appear in the third place deciding match.

SHOOTING

ACE shooter Atiqur Rahman won his second gold in the sixth Bangladesh Games shooting competition with a new national record in free pistol 60 shots at the Gulshan Shooting Range yesterday.

In the day's only event, Atiq of Metropolitan Shooting Club who earlier won the gold in air pistol 60 shots, scored 542 points out of 600 and set a new record in the event to take the gold. Towfiqur Rahman of Dhaka Shooting Club clinched the silver with 505 points followed by Asif Hossain of Gulshan Shooting Club who won the bronze scoring 501 points.

Ten events were decided till yesterday; out of which the Metropolitan Shooting Club took five golds followed by



Shamsul Huda of Navy shows the victory sign to the crowd after winning the 50m freestyle gold at the National Swimming Complex yesterday.

—Star photo

DU take on
N'ganj in
soccer final

Sports Reporter

Favourites Dhaka University stormed into the final of the Sixth Bangladesh Games football competition with a convincing 3-1 victory over powerful Bangladesh Army in the first semifinal at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, forward Joy scored twice and Iqbal added one to the winners' account while Ata reduced the margin for the Army men.

Mid-fielder Iqbal, who plays for Mohammedan Sporting Club in the local Premier Division football league, put Dhaka University ahead in the 49th minute when he placed the ball home from a left-side Masood Rana cross past a helpless former national keeper Bivash (1-0).

But the lead sustained for only 11 minutes as Army staged a rally and bounced back with an equaliser in the 60th minute when Ata, after receiving a close pass in the goalmouth from Sadru, moved to his right and beat the Dhaka University custodian with an accurately measured angular shot (1-1).

After conceding the goal, Dhaka University played all-out football and, to their joy, added two goals in the next ten minutes with Joy scoring both the goals.

In the 64th minute, Joy steered the ball home from a Masood Rana free kick (2-1) and six minutes later he sealed the fate of the match with a placing shot from a Don pass (3-1).

In the remaining time Army did their best to come back into the match with a series of offensives but a determined University defence kept them at bay.

The winners will play the final today at 3 pm against Narayanganj DSA who won the day's other semifinal 3-0 against Jhenidah DSA.

In a one-sided affair, forward Reaz struck twice while mid-fielder Golam Gaus added the other to the winners' account.

Swiss teenager
target Tokyo

TOKYO, Dec 23: Swiss teenager Martina Hingis will challenge a star-studded field led by world number one Steffi Graf of Germany in the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament starting here January 28, reports AP.

The 1997 season will be my first full one on the tour. My play last year in Japan gave me a great start for what became a very satisfying 1996 tour season," said Hingis in a statement at the organisers.

"I am hopeful that a similar performance will lead to an even more successful 1997."

Hingis, now 16, posted her first win over the world number one in the Italian Open quarter finals in May and stretched Graf of five sets in the season-ending WTA Tour Championships final in November.

Hingis, who has reached world number four, also shocked former number one Monica Seles at Oakland to capture her first career singles title in October.

Seven of the world top 10 players will take part in the \$26,250-dollar tournament to be held on the artificial indoor courts at the Tokyo metropolitan gymnasium.

Three-time champion Graf, who has beaten Seles in the US Open final in 1995 and 1996, is set to face the American in the final if the other players fail to stop them.

Defending champion Iva Majoli of Croatia, who reached her career highest at fourth by winning this event, said: "My win in the final over Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario last February will always be one of the highlights of my career."

Other top 10 players include number five Conchita Martinez of Spain, number six Anke Huber of Germany and American Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport, number nine.

Pete to play
in Nike Cup

NEW YORK, Dec 23: Pete Sampras was joined by Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and John McEnroe for the Nike Cup, an exhibition fundraiser for the Tim and Tom Gullikson Foundation at Madison Square Garden in New York, reports AP.

Tim Gullikson was Sampras' coach until he died of brain cancer in May. He was 44.

"Tim was very close to me, he was my best friend and it was very difficult to lose him," Sampras said. "I'm sure Tim is looking down at us."

A crowd of 13,533 turned out to see the superstar quartet, who donated their time to play each other in a series of 20-minute matches. The matches were played without linesmen with ping-pong style scoring.

And, McEnroe and Sampras each used wooden racquets during their match. McEnroe's sons, Kevin and Sean, coached their father.

According to a Madison Square Garden official, the event raised \$500,000 dollars for the foundation that was established to help the families and patients of brain cancer.

"That was his vision," US Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson said of the foundation started by his twin brother.

McEnroe, at 37 the oldest in the group, took advantage of a five-point handicap lead from his younger rivals, to win all three matches and finish with 86 points.

Agassi finished second with 85 points, Sampras had 75 and Courier 69.



A beaming Atiqur Rahman (C) of Metropolitan Shooting Club acknowledges the cheer after receiving his second gold in free pistol 60 shots at the Gulshan Shooting Range yesterday.

BANGLADESH GAMES PODIUM

Sports Reporter

Nuri of Biman won their respective matches and moved to the next round.

VOLLEYBALL

Bangladesh Jute Mill Corporation lifted the women's volleyball gold with a 15-9, 15-8, 15-9 victory over Ansars & VDP in the final at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Besides, Khulna DSA

recorded a 79-51 win over Khulna DSA while Navy won the other semifinal against Bangladesh Rifles 85-64. The final will be held today at 4.30 pm at the same venue.

SQUASH

Bhola Lal Chouhan of Sonargaon Hotel and Sohail Hamid of Bangladesh Biman qualified for the final in the squash eliminating their rivals in the semis at the Dhaka Club Squash Complex yesterday.

The final match will be held today at 6.30 pm at the same venue, where Bangladesh Olympic Association President and Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman will be the chief guest.

Earlier, in the day's semis, Bhola Lal beat Muhi 5-9, 9-5, 9-5, 9-6 while Sohail Hamid defeated Ram Jagadiah 3-9, 10-8, 9-6, 2-9, 9-3 points.

KHO KHO

Bangladesh Rifles School & College clinched the gold medal in the newly introduced Kho Kho competition beating Motiheel School & College by 15-14 points in a keenly contested final at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

In the third place deciding match, Dhaka Physical Education College beat Nator Dam College by 10-9 points to bag the bronze.

Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports ASM Shahjahan was the chief guest in the final and distributed the prizes.

BASKETBALL

Favourites Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy moved into the final of the sixth Bangladesh Games basketball competition after winning their respective semifinals at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

In the first match, Army

Milan won't back Weah

MILAN, Dec 23: AC Milan will not appeal FIFA world footballer-of-the-year George Weah's six-match ban imposed by UEFA, club vice-president Adriano Galliani announced here on Thursday, reports AP.

The Liberian born striker was penalised following his head-out of Porto's Jorge Costa in AC Milan's European Champions' league match last month.

Galliani, the right-hand man of AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi, explained that the club did not want to handicap Weah in his criminal court defence against assault charges brought by Costa.

"We do not want to prejudice Weah's defence strategy in the case brought against him by Costa," said Galliani.

Liberian striker Weah who already had a provisional one-match ban slapped on him, must now sit out another five matches in European competitions.

The original ban forced Weah to miss new coach Arrigo Sacchi's first match back in charge of Milan when they were knocked out of the European Champions League at home to Norway's Rosenborg earlier this month.

A UEFA statement said that a five-match ban was the minimum sanction for "serious" violent conduct under Article 10 of its constitution.

But the disciplinary committee of European football's governing body which reviewed

the case said Weah's "normally gentlemanly conduct" had been taken into account and added he could have received an even stronger punishment.

The burly forward, who joined Milan from Paris Saint Germain 18 months ago, had not previously been in hot water with the game's authorities having received only three bookings in five years of European competition.

Portuguese champions Porto dropped their complaint for assault against Weah when they heard of UEFA's original decision to suspend him for at least one match.

Weah, holder of FIFA's fair play award, headbutted Porto captain Jorge Costa, breaking his nose, after their Champions League match on November 20

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