

## Column One

## SPORTS TALK



Ali Bacher

(South Africa cricket chief)  
"Cricket is receiving tremendous support from all the people in South Africa and I have no doubt that years to come, the national team will truly reflect the different people of the country."

## 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   Muktijuddha
2	Which team won the Biju Dibash 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   Alfaz
5	Former Italian national soccer coach Arrigo Sacchi now coaches	Inter Milan   AC Milan   Fiorentina

Name .....  
.....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Kafelnikov upbeat

ADELAIDE, Australia, Dec 29: French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov will be aiming to win his third Australian Hardcourt tennis championship when the US \$328,000 dollars event begins Monday at Memorial Drive, reports AP.

Kafelnikov faces Swede Mikael Tillstrom in the first round of the 32-draw ATP Tour event, one of a series of warm-up events for the Australian Open.

Kafelnikov won in Adelaide in 1994 and again this year at the start of a season that saw him go on to win his first Grand Slam title and rise to No 3 in the world rankings.

"I use this tournament to measure my year," he said. "If I play well here I know the rest of my year is going to be okay."

"It's where it all started for me, I came here with nothing and won my first tournament and I won it again this year. Adelaide has been very good for me."

Kafelnikov said his confidence has been lifted by his victory in the French Open.

"It feels good to be able to say I've won a Grand Slam," he said. "It means I haven't wasted my life trying to achieve something I couldn't. It means I have something I have worked all my life to achieve."

"In the future I can maybe win more Grand Slams. At the moment, I'm proud of myself and what I have done."

Kafelnikov, 22, is the top seed ahead of Australian left-hander Mark Woodforde, a 31-year-old who is coming off the best of his career.

Woodforde, who won US \$1.6 million dollars in 1996, is drawn to face his Australian Davis Cup teammate Richard Fromberg in his first-round match.

Third seed Andrei Medvedev from Ukraine opens up against American Jonathon Stark, while Woodforde's doubles partner Todd Woodbridge, seeded fourth, plays Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic.

Australian Davis Cup player Jason Stoltenberg (right wrist), Briton Greg Rusedski (blister) and American Vince Spadea (back) all have withdrawn from the tournament with ailments.

The tournament, which will be played on the same Rebound Ace courts used for the Australian Open, continues through Jan 5. The Australian Open starts Jan 13 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

## Iranians arrive in city

## Sports Reporter

A 21-member Iranian football team arrived in the capital yesterday afternoon while teams from Nepal, Thailand and Malaysia were scheduled to due late last night to feature in the Bangabandhu Cup Silver Jubilee of Independence football tournament.

The invitational tourney involving eleven teams including nine overseas outfits will commence at the Dhaka Stadium from December 31.

In a latest development, the organisers Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), has made some changes in the groupings following a protest from Mohammad Sporting Club, one of the three local outfits in the fray.

According to the revised fixture, Friends Club of Nepal has been included in Group B along with Mohammedans replacing Malaysians who will now feature in Group C.

Although, the BFF is yet to finalise the fixture of the tourney, it was gathered that Abahani Kiran Chakra would play in the inaugural match against Malaysia B on Tuesday.

Bargh Siraj FC, a regular representative in the Iranian national league from the southern province of Fars, arrived late in the capital via Chittagong as thick fog over ZIA compelled their aircraft to land in the port city.

After facing the adversity of the wintry weather, the Iranian team who are accompanying 14 players including two national booters, marked the arrival of the first overseas team in the 11-day soccer show when they finally landed in Dhaka in the afternoon.

On arrival at the capital, the ordinary Iranian outfit met the press at the conference room of the Dhaka Stadium where the team manager Khalid Salidi disclosed that two more booters are expected to arrive today.



aged Bargh manager claimed that his team was the best per-

former from Fars Province and had been taking part in the Iranian national league for the last couple of years. Their current position in the tough national league is sixth where Petru is the defending champion.

Ali Ashgar, the captain of the team who had also attended the crowded press briefing, is a midfielder. It was learnt that two players, plays in the national team, are Moshen and Abdur Rahim. Off the two, Moshen is a defender while the latter plays in the upfront.

Revised grouping:  
Group-A: Abahani Limited, Mohammadan SC (India), Malaysia B.

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