

Column One SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian captain) Not much. People always talk of how a new player takes time to settle down. Whether he is a batsman or a bowler.

I guess the yardstick applies to a captain too. He too is bound to settle down. I got captancy recently. But really, I don't think too much about it.

As far as my batting, as a captain is concerned, you would've seen that I have always walked in at crucial junctures (in Tests). I did not see any point in playing my natural game because the stage was delicate. Staying in the middle was more important. For myself and the team, I had to take my time and stay. That was vital. You just can't afford to play big shots straightaway. You have to hang around. That's what I told myself. My batting apart, I have to evolve strategies. I have to think a lot. The state of mind always stays in mind.

Answering to a question that how much has the added responsibility of captancy affected his personality in general and batting in particular.

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Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options (a, b, c, d) for the Sports Whizz Kid competition.

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

Toshack tops the list?

LONDON, Jan 11: John Toshack has emerged as favourite to replace his former Liverpool teammate Kevin Keegan as Newcastle manager, reports AFP.

The former Wales international, currently in charge of Deportivo, has gone to the top of the queue of candidates after Bobby Robson indicated the wanted to remain as Barcelona coach.

Newcastle have a three-man delegation in Spain consisting of vice-chairman Freddie Shepherd, director Douglas Hall and chief executive Freddie Fletcher as they continue the search for Keegan's successor.

The club officials held talks with Robson at his home in Sitges but, after being rebuffed, are set to move on to Ormaiztegui and negotiate with Toshack.

Toshack refused to rule himself out of the running for the Newcastle job but said: "I have a contract here until June 30 which I would expect under normal circumstances to fulfil. But then, to be perfectly honest, I don't know where I'll be working."

Wari grill Gulshan Abahani suffer setback

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

ABAHANI KC: 245 for four in 50 overs (Gulam Ali 104, Monirul Haq 54, Javed Omar 30, Imran Hamid 26; Saiful Islam 2/44) KALABAGAN KC: 249 for seven in 48.5 overs (Shahid Saeed 59, Zakaria Imtiaz 52, Monjoor Elahi 60 n.o, Jewel Hossain Mona 23, Zakir Hossain 3/44, Naimur Rahman Durjoy 2/43)

GULSHAN YOUTH: 60 all out in 15.1 overs (Kamrul Islam 34; Shoel 4/2) WARI CLUB: 66 for one in 10.5 over (Amir Wasim 29 n.o, Mehrab Hossain Opi 3 n.o)

Cricket's return to the Dhaka Stadium after an almost one-month forced exile marked the end of Abahani Krira Chakra's unbeaten status when their neighbours Kalabagan Krira Chakra handed them a stunning three-wicket defeat in a Premier cricket league match yesterday.



GULAM ALI... 104

In a high-scoring affair, the Dhanmondi outfit, unbeaten in their last seven league engagements, painfully watched a brilliant century by their Pakistani recruit Gulam Ali went away as the spirited Kalabagan, chasing a fighting Abahani total of 245, raced on to score 249 for the loss of seven wickets and with seven balls to spare in the 50-over-a-side match.

The crucial victory for

Kalabagan in a clash of the two title aspirants, not only brought them back in the league race, but also served a severe blow in Abahani's bid for a clean sweep in domestic titles following their triumphs in Damal Smriti tourney and Reporters Cup.

With the Pakistani imports playing the pivotal role for both sides, it was Kalabagan's fresh recruit Manjoor Elahi whose watchful unbeaten 60 that propelled his side surpass a huge Abahani total. But the match-winning knock from the former Pakistani international, for whom it was his maiden stint with any local side in his third visit in Bangladesh, was overshadowed because of yet another luminous performance by compatriot Gulam Ali. Gulam Ali, who had earlier played for Mohammedan SC last year, appearing in his first match of this season, scored a swash-buckling 104, as Abahani, after winning the toss and electing to bat first, amassed a commanding total.

The Pakistani right-hander, who came into bat at number three following the departure of Abahani's dashing opener Imran Hamid Partho for a run-a-ball 26, featured in two vital partnerships on his way to reach the magical three figure mark.

He shared 67 runs for the second wicket with a doughty Javed Omar Belim before the latter chipped in with a sedate 30 off 76 balls.

The dismissal of Javed paved the way for Monirul Haq, who together with Gulam Ali shared an enterprising 102 runs for the third wicket before Gulam Ali was eventually out after completing his century.

In his 126-ball vigil at the crease, the Pakistani international, who was dropped by Kalabagan wicketkeeper Atiar while on 16, clouted ten firmly hits across the fence and a massive sixer. It was the seventh in this year's league.

On the other hand, Monirul Haq remained unbeaten on a run-a-ball 54 when Abahani exhausted their quota of 50 overs.

In reply, Kalabagan were off to a disastrous start losing three wickets for only 48 runs. But Shahid Saeed and Zakaria Imtiaz, who led a spectacular rescue operation, pulled their side out of the mire putting on a priceless 89 runs for the fourth wicket.

A portly Zakaria, visibly hurt of being omitted in his

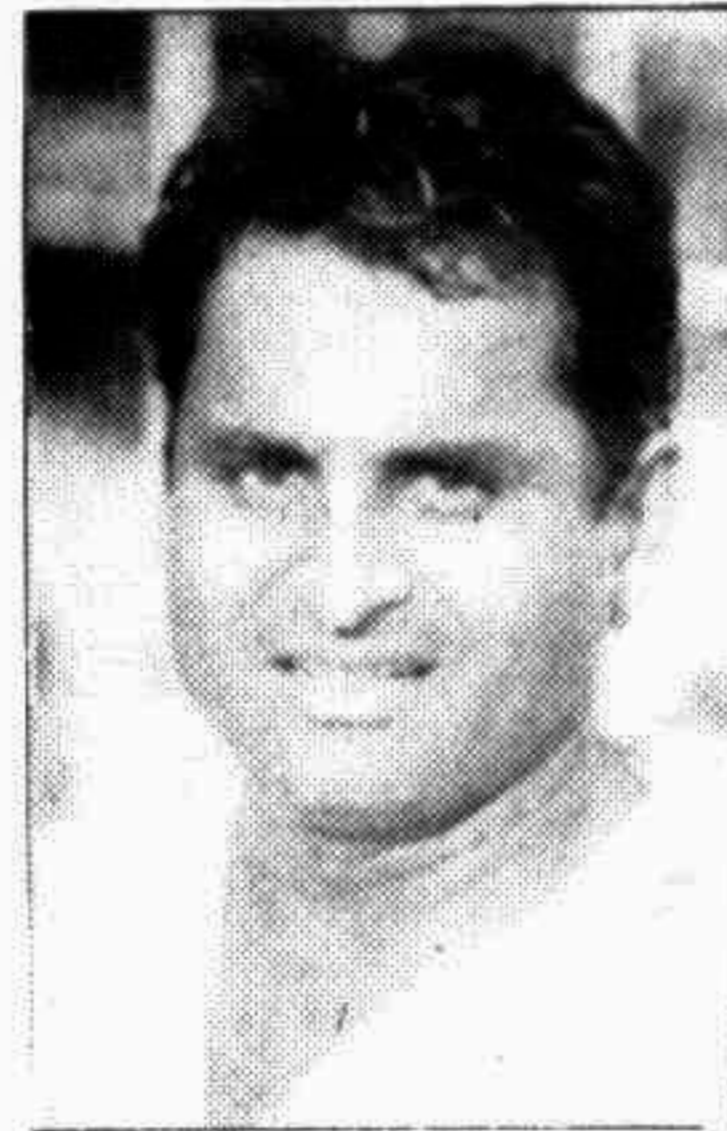
side's last two matches, blazed his way to a whirlwind 52 off only 47 balls. While Pakistani Shahid Saeed, a more sedate campaigner of the two, scored a plucky 59 off 87 balls.

Monjoor, who came into bat at number six, then took the Kalabagan battle from where Zakaria had left. Jewel Hossain Mona, who played a perfect foil at the other end, scored a price-less 23.

Abahani, however, also had their share of chance to take the match away from the firm grip of Kalabagan. But once Al Shahriar Rokon dropped Mona at seven, a defeat for Abahani was a forgone conclusion.

New-ball bowler Zakir with two quick blows in the penultimate over, however, raised a glimmer of hopes for Abahani, but when Monjoor Elahi pulled his fifth delivery over the closed field, the fate of Abahani was ultimately sealed much to the horror a handsome crowd at the big bowl.

In the day's other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Wari Club trounced Gulshan Youth Club by nine



MANJOOR ELAHI... 60 n.o

wickets. In a low-scoring affair, Gulshan Youth batted first and were all out for 60 in 15.1 overs. In reply, chasing a meagre total, Wari lost one wicket before reaching the winning mark (66) in 10.5 overs.

It was the fifth win for Wari Club in nine matches so far while Gulshan slumped to their eleventh consecutive defeat yesterday.

Aussie Open on Star Sports

Star Sports will broadcast comprehensive live coverage of tennis' first Grand Slam event of the year — the 1997 Ford Australian Open. Beginning on Monday (January 13) at 0600 (BST) Star Sports' live coverage continues right up to the semi-finals, with same day delayed coverage of the men's and women's singles finals, says a press release.

With live coverage extending to over 10 hours a day, together with daily highlights of the very best of the tennis action, Star Sports will be unrivalled in production quality and depth. In addition, Star Sports' own commentary team, headed by Brian Langley, Mats Hsu and Sanjay Sharma, with guests VJ Amritraj, Andrea Jaeger, Darren Cahill, Philip Liu, Hu Na, and Asif Ismail will be bringing their insights, expertise and player interviews in English, Mandarin and Hindi. Star Sports' viewers throughout Asia will be able to make the most of one of tennis top spectacles — the 1997 Ford Australian Open, whatever the language broadcast in.

This year, along with the excitement of seeing returning men's champion Boris Becker, a new fitter Michael Chang will be looking to avenge his defeat of the hands of Becker, in last year's final. Also looking to improve on great performances in '96 is emerging Briton Tim Henman — already a finalist in the Qatar Open, Zimbabwean Byron Black, and, with two special wildcard entries for emerging Asian players going to India's Leander Pases, 1996

Boy in men's circuit

MELBOURNE, Jan 11: High school student Lleyton Hewitt has a good excuse for being absent from a junior tennis tournament next week — the 15-year-old will be otherwise engaged playing at the Australian Open, reports AP.

Hewitt beat Mark Petchey of Britain 6-1, 6-4 on Saturday to seal one of 16 berths from the qualifying tournament for the men's singles at the first Grand Slam tournament of the year.

Hewitt — the world's top-ranked 14s player in 1995 was given a wild card into the qualifying tournament and won three straight matches.

"I feel great, but I still have a job to do," he said. "I could play Pete Sampras or Michael Chang, or someone like that, so it will be very good experience. I am very excited. It has been a dream."

Olympic bronze medalist, and China's Chen Li, currently ranked 134th in the world, and stage is set for a possible grand emergence onto the 1997 world tennis stage for a host of upcoming young stars.

In the women's singles, the absence of 4-times champion Monica Seles will make the path to victory easier for Steffi Graf, although Martina Hingis has proved her ability and likelihood to succeed Graf as world number one. Will 1997 be her year?

Also watch out for some superb men's, women's and mixed doubles action as Star Sports' comprehensive coverage extends to all events of the 1997



Kalabagan's Pakistani batsman Shaheed Saeed swings at a loose delivery by Abahani's Iqbal down the leg side. The former Pakistani international's fifty went a long way in fabled Abahani's defeat at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. —Star photo



Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP briefs Dr Ali Bacher (2nd from left) and Majid Khan (R) during a visit to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday afternoon. —Star photo

Stars to watch in Down Under

MELBOURNE, Jan 11 (AFP): The leading contenders in the men's and women's singles at the Australian Open match record 14-4. Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia: Temperamental left-hander who bases his game on bullet serve and on his day can be unplayable. Enjoyed his best season in 1996 winning five titles and reaching five other finals and was runner-up to Becker in the Grand Slam Cup in Munich last month. Finished the year with 77-26 match record. Best Grand Slam performance last year was semifinalist at the US Open losing to Sampras served 1,477 aces last year. In seven visits best efforts are quarterfinal appearances in 94 and 89.

Age: 25, left-hander world ranking 3. Grand Slams 0. Australian Open match record 13-7.

Thomas Muster, Australia: Became the second oldest player at 28 to be ranked No. 1. For the first time last February and again dominated the clay court season winning 7 titles and finished the year at number five. Broke through for his first Grand Slam at the 1995 French Open beating Michael Chang, best Australian Open performance was reaching the semifinal in 89 and a quarterfinalists 94 fetish trainer and has 15-7 five set-record.

Age: 29, left-hander. World Ranking 5. Grand Slams 1. Australian Open match record 18-8.

Boris Becker, Germany: Returning as the defending Australian Open champion after winning his sixth career Grand Slam from Michael Chang in the final. Troubled by injuries last year and only played at Wimbledon apart from Australian Open but was forced to withdraw with a wrist injury during his third round match. Closed out the year with the Grand Slam Cup title over Ivanisevic in Munich and heads into 1997 as the leading career titles holder with 49. Ranks second behind Pete Sampras in career prize money (23.8 million US.) Commanding figure entering his 14th year on the circuit.

Age: 29, right-hander. World ranking 6. Grand Slams 6. Australian Open match record 29-8.

Steffi Graf, Germany: The dominant players in women's tennis winning the last six Grand Slams she has contested and heading into the Australian Open with 21 career singles Grand Slams, just three short of Australian Margaret Court's record 24. Injuries have prevented Graf from playing at the last two Australian Opens and she is bidding for her fifth Australian title in nine attempts. Injuries disrupted her last year but still the one they have to beat over the next two weeks.

Age: 27, right-hander. World ranking 1. Grand Slams 21.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Spain: Effervescent campaigner who lost last year to Steffi Graf in the finals of the French Open and Wimbledon. Bowed out of last year's Australian Open after a titanic battle with American Chanda Rubin 16-14 in the third set of the quarterfinals. Finished the year ranked at number three. Possesses great ability to keep ball in play with her retrieving.

Age: 25, right-hander. World ranking: 3. Grand Slams: 3.

Conchita Martinez, Spain: Reached the semifinals of the French and US Opens last year, but missed out on a final appearance. Finished year ranked fourth. She upset Graf at Wimbledon in 1994 to become the first Spanish woman to win there in the Open era. Consistent from the back court.

Age: 24, right-hander. World ranking: 4. Grand Slams: 1.

Martina Hingis, Switzerland: Exciting 16-year-old prodigy who reached the WTA championship final in New York last November where she lost in five sets to Steffi Graf. Won titles at Filderstadt and Oakland and was a semifinalist at the US Open and a quarterfinalist at last year's Australian Open. Beat Jennifer Capriati to win the Sydney International final in the leadup to the 1997 Australian Open. Remarkably composed and displays great variety which marks her as a future No. 1. One to be watched over the next fortnight.

Age: 16, right-hander. World ranking: 6. Grand Slams: 0.

Jennifer Capriati, USA: On the comeback trail after a well-documented fall from grace amid drug and stealing charges and tour burn-out. Barcelona Olympic champion and was a runner-up to Martina Hingis in the Sydney International in the leadup to the 1997 Australian Open. Great forehand and has been working on fitness. In her only two appearances at the Australian Open in 1993 and 1992 she reached the quarterfinals. Dangerous unseeded floater.

Age: 20, right-hander. World Ranking 37. Grand Slams: 0.

Napoli doors open for Baggio

ROME, Jan 11: Napoli issued an open invitation to AC Milan striker Roberto Baggio to join them on Friday, saying he could become the new Diego Maradona, reports Reuters.

"If I were Roberto Baggio I would come for free. Napoli is the only place where he could get his smile back, he could spend five wonderful years," the club's general director Ottavio Bianchi told Italian newspaper, Corriere Dello Sport.

"In Napoli Baggio can become a new Maradona, we can give him the stage and Baggio can be number one again, said Bianchi, who coached Napoli to their first league title in 1987 with Argentina's Maradona as captain.

Baggio, 29, nicknamed the "divine ponytail," by fans.

Int'l hockey from Jan 14

Sports Reporter An international invitation hockey tournament will begin in the capital from January 14 under the auspices of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation.

Total five teams including two local sides, will participate in the meet. PIA and Indian Airlines will represent Pakistan and India respectively while a defence service team from Sri Lanka will also join the meet along with two local giants Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the tournament.

Tasmanian title Roost's

HOBART, Australia, Jan 11: Belgium's Dominique Van Roost won her second career title with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over American Marianne Werdelt-Witneyer in the Tasmanian International tennis singles final here today, reports AFP.

Van Roost, 23, took only 70 minutes to crush Werdelt-Witneyer and add to her WTA title won at Cardiff last year.

The win boosts the Belgian's confidence for the Australian Open, getting underway in Melbourne on Monday.

TODAY'S MATCHES Premier Division Cricket League: Brothers Union vs Biman Venue: Dhaka Stadium Agrani Bank vs Lalmatia Club Venue: BKSP Victoria SC vs GMCC Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

BSIA awards in May Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association will distribute its sports awards for the year 1994-95 and '96 sometimes in next May during the celebration of its 20th founding anniversary, reports UNB.

The decision was taken yesterday in the first meeting of the newly elected executive committee of BSJA at the association office with its president Manjurul Haq in the chair.

It also decided to award the best player of the invitational international hockey tournament, which begins here on Tuesday.

A ten-member fresh executive committee of BSJA was formed in last December for a two-year term by direct voting of the members, first of its kind in the BSJA history.

The committee members are: President — Manjurul Haq; Vice-presidents — Rouful Hasan, Syed M Mamun; General Secretary — Mujtaba Danish; Treasurer — Mustafa Kamal; Members — MA Hannan Khan, Mujibur Rahman, Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Saifur Rahman Khokon and Pabitra Kumar Kundu.

American Michael Chang shows off the Colonial Classic trophy after beating compatriot Pete Sampras in the final at Kooyong in Melbourne yesterday. Chang won 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. — AFP/UNB photo



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

ACROSS 1 Freudian concept 4 "Ghost-busters" gunk 9 Churchill-lean creditors? 12 Bud's partner 13 Harness race horse 14 Praiseful piece 15 Firm courage 17 Disencumber 18 Mined find 19 Lessons 21 Long, full robe 24 Long-popular TV heroine 25 Acapulco gold 26 Hindrance 28 Winnows 31 Titanic's vanquisher 33 Morning moisture 35 Disastrous 36 Fabric-dyeing method 38 "Eureka!" 40 Formation of geese

41 Coffee vessels 43 Word that may clinch a deal 45 Authority of a sort 47 CSA soldier 48 Literary collection 49 Vacation period, often 54 Pandulum locale 55 Prufrock's creator 56 Crew need way 57 Corroded way 58 They're in charge of their 10 Entertainer

facilities Adams 11 Takes a mate 16 Youngster 20 Factor in A.G. Bell's serendipity 21 Tommy Lee Jones biopic 22 Neighbor-hood toward the west hours 23 Lucky 27 Crumplet eater's quaff 29 Kilmer's poem comparison 30 Burpee buy 32 Encircle 34 "Ethan Frome" author 37 Impaired in a way 39 007's ilk 42 Filtered 44 Bat stat. 45 Hemingway sobriquet 46 Condo, e.g. 50 Inlet 51 Bush league? 52 "2001" computer 53 Take a whack at

Solution time: 27 min. 37 Impaired in a way 39 007's ilk 42 Filtered 44 Bat stat. 45 Hemingway sobriquet 46 Condo, e.g. 50 Inlet 51 Bush league? 52 "2001" computer 53 Take a whack at

CRYPTOQUIP E I G W L D Y P R D ' W J E P Q D Y N R U G W Y B E A B Q G A L N D G A F I R " U F J E D R A E L F " Saturday's Cryptoquip: SIGN IN HOSIERY STORE BOASTS: "OUR NYLONS ARE BEST IN THE LONG RUN."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals D The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.