

Column One

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN TK. 2000/- PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-63

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm Feb 14, '97

- 1. Who won the Australian Open women's singles title this year? Hingis Pierce Coetzee

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

SPORTS TALK



Martina Hingis (Swiss tennis player) "I am playing with a new racket. I feel my game has become faster and more powerful."

Notice Inviting Tender

- 1. Tender Notice : 35/96-97. No. 2. Name of work : Repairing & painting of Utility Type-3-008/90 of Maricha Ferry ghat under Ferry Maint Sub-Divn, Katchpur, Dhaka.

Md Golam Mostafa Executive Engineer, R&H Ferry Maint Divn 17 Outer Circular Road, Rajarbagh Dhaka

3RD SAARC CRICKET TOURNAMENT



Chief patron of the third SAARC cricket tournament organising committee Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad (second from left) addressing newsmen at a local hotel yesterday in connection with the quadrangular tourney that will get underway in the capital from February 19. BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP (L) is also seen. — Star photo

SAARC, an opportune meet

out of this meet," said Saber Hossain who is also a member of the Parliament. President Sahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the nine-day meet while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to attend the final and distribute prizes among the winners.

Although it is yet to be confirmed whether Bangladesh Television will cover all the seven matches live, the state-run electronic media has agreed to cover at least five matches live including the final, billed for February 28.

The budget for holding the meet has been earmarked at Taka 93,60,000 out of which five millions is expected to come in the form of grant from

The third SAARC cricket tournament, scheduled to begin in the capital from February 19, will soup up Bangladesh's preparation for the forthcoming ICC Trophy.

This was stated by the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury in a press conference yesterday. The cricket supremo, who was elaborating the preparatory aspects of the imminent SAARC tourney, a brain-child of late foreign minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, said that the Board is looking forward to the successful hosting of the invitational meet on the basis of its sound preparation.

The four-nation invitational meet, involving the second string sides from the three Test playing countries of the sub-continent — India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — and hosts Bangladesh is going to be staged at the Dhaka Stadium for the third time. The second version of the meet was successfully completed in 1994. The first SAARC tourney in 1992 did not see its conclusion because of sudden deterioration in the law and order situation in the country over the demolition of Babri Mosque in India.

This time around the meet holds extra significance due to the imminence of the ICC Trophy to be held in Malaysia next month. Besides, we have already lodged our petition for Test and one-day status, an issue that will be on the carpet in the next meeting of ICC, the highest decision-making body of the game. In that respect we are destined to make the most

Among the three visiting teams, the strong Pakistan team led by Test cricketer Asif Mujtaba will arrive in the capital on February 17. Sri Lanka is due on the following day while defending champions India are expected to be in the city on February 18.

INDIA 'A': Ajay Sharma (captain), Amaya Khurasia, Wasim Jaffer, Nikhil Haldipur, MSK Prasad, S Sarath, Hemang Badani, Noel David, Debashish Mohanty, Sukhbir Singh, Harvinder Singh, Arindam Sarkar, Sairaj Bahutule, Rahul Sanghvi, RR Rohi (manager) and K Srikanth (coach).

PAKISTAN 'A': Asif Mujtaba

SRI LANKA 'A': Ruwan Kalpage (captain), Akhtar Sarfaraz, Muhammad Kabir, Arshar Khan, Azhar Mahmood Sagar, Basit Ali, Mujahid Jamshed, Muhammad Wasim, Muhammad Hussain, Muhammad Zahid, Aaqib Javed (vice-captain), Wasim Yusafi, Agha Zahid (coach) and Zaheer Abbas (manager).

BAHAGLADHESH: Akram Khan (captain), Aminul Islam Bulbul (vice-captain), Athar Ali Khan, Mohammad Rafique, Jahangir Alam, Sanwar Hossain, Javed Omar Belim Golla, Khaled Mahmood Sujon, Hamed Masud Pilot, Enamul Haque Moni, Naimur Rahman Durjoy, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Saiful Islam Khan, Zakir Hossain, Hasibul Hussain Shanto, Gordon Greenidge (coach) and Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu (manager).

UMPIRES' PANEL 1. I Ananappa (Sri Lanka) 2. SK Bansal (India) 3. Javed Akhtar (Pakistan) 4. Syed Mahub Ullah (Bangladesh) 5. Manzur Rahman (Bangladesh) 6. Nadir Shah (Bangladesh)

RATES OF DAILY TICKETS VP Gate No-1 Tk 400 Club House Gate No-2 Tk 300 Club House (concession) Gate No-2 Tk 100 Special Enclosure Gate No-20 & 21 Tk 75 Special Enclosure (players) Gate No-4 to 10 Tk 30 Western Gallery Gate No-11 to 19 Tk 40 Eastern Gallery Gate No-4 to 10 Tk 30 Eastern Gallery (*students) Gate No-4 to 10 Tk 20

* Everyday 6000 tickets will be sold to students on first come first serve basis.

Dubai Open Early exit for Moya

DUBAI, Feb 13: Veterans Goran Ivanisevic and Boris Becker secured second round spots, while Austria's Thomas Muster claimed the first quarterfinal place in the 1 million dollars Dubai Open on Wednesday, reports AP.

Top-seed Ivanisevic sailed past Moroccan Younes El Ayanoui 6-3, 6-4 while Germany's Becker needed three sets, and some adjustments to his serve-and-volley game, to get past compatriot Marc-Kevin Goelner 6-2, 6-7, 6-2.

Muster, seeded second, demolished Germany's Martin Sinner in a second round match 6-4, 6-4.

Fifth seed Spaniard Carlos Moya made a hasty exit from the tournament after suffering a three-set defeat at the hands of Czech Jiri Novak 6-2, 0-6, 7-5.

Also requiring three sets to get past a first round opponent was Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

The lanky world number six, playing his first tournament of the year, looked rusty during the first set before raising his game and defeating India's Olympic bronze medalist Leander Paes 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

"I felt a bit sluggish early on but once I started to serve better my whole game picked up," said Krajicek.

A surprise winner on the day was former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash of Australia, who beat Spaniard Carlos Costa 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (8-6). It was Cash's first main draw singles win on the tour since 1995.

Norway's Christian Ruud was the second player after Muster to secure a place in the quarterfinals, defeating Argentina's Hernan Gury 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Joco Italians

ROME, Feb 13: Italians' love-hate relationship with their national soccer team was back to a state of affection Thursday, reports AP.

In coffee bars, piazzas and newspaper headlines, citizens of the boot-shaped nation exulted in the team's 1-0 victory over England at Wembley.

The main daily newspapers had front-page stories on the match. "A triumph of old times," announced the headline filling half of Corriere dello Sport's front page.

"It's Zola! It's Italy!" blared Gazzetta dello Sport, referring to striker Gianfranco Zola, who scored the winning goal in the World Cup qualifying match.

Zola wasn't the only hero. Coach Cesare Maldini seemingly made all the right moves in his first official match at the helm and Italy's realigned defence held the English at bay.

Maldini was promoted from under-21 team coach in December to replace Arrigo Sacchi, who resigned under pressure. Sacchi and his Azzurri had fallen out of favour with the fans after an unexpected first-round failure at this summer's European Championships.

Saverio Antonangeli, preparing espresso at his bar, credited the coaching of Maldini, the father of Italy captain Paolo, for the victory. "We returned to the soccer of 30 years ago, the soccer Italy taught the rest of the world," Antonangeli said.

"It's exciting. We're unbelievably happy Italy won. Everything has changed now, with Maldini. Sacchi didn't understand anything," Fernando Girardi said as he cleaned sardines at a fish stand in Rome's Campo de' Fiori outdoor market.

Final Test begins today

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 13: After an innings defeat in the second Test last week New Zealand go into Friday's third Test with England hoping they can toughen their attitude, reports AFP.

New Zealand hit yet again by claims of poor discipline with late night partying during last week's Test, risk losing what is left of public support and angering their hard pressed sponsors.

New Zealand cricket captain Lee Germon wants to see a harder approach from his players than was on display in Wellington last week.

"We softened out," he said. "It's that hardness that we need, and you can talk about it but it's a case of taking it into the field. The players need to be able to do that themselves."

Germon believes the players weren't as sharply focused on the job during the second Test as they needed to be.

On the first day of last week's Test New Zealand slumped to 56 for six, costing the Kiwis the match.

Germon is determined that this time New Zealand will start the match with the right attitude.

From there they have to show greater technical proficiency against England's fast medium bowlers, who prospered at Wellington as wickets were given away.

Twelve of the 20 New Zealand wickets fell to catches in the arc from wicketkeeper to gully and Lancaster Park will certainly give greater assistance to seam bowlers than to spinners.

The pitch is the best in the country. It is hard with some pace and bounce and with that in mind, Wellington speedster Heath Davis was last night drafted into the squad.

Useful start for Agassi

SAN JOSE, California, Feb 13: Andre Agassi got both a win and a workout in his return to tennis after a nearly three-month layoff, reports AP.

"Tonight wasn't about winning. It was about getting that first match in," said Agassi, who struggled past unheralded Mark Knowles of the Bahamas 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 Wednesday night in the Sybase Open.

Agassi feels fantastic to have won on home ground again, especially on my first outing with the new Subaru World Rally car," said Kenneth. "It has been very close all the way through and tyres have been the deciding factor every time the leaderboard changed. Pirelli have really done a fantastic job for us and I feel proud to have scored their first victory here. Yesterday for sure we did not benefit by running at the front of the field, so today has been good, especially as the weather was more suited to us. It also feels good to have maintained the record the rally has of always being won by a Scandinavian driver," Kenneth started the final leg in position, however three consecutive fastest stage times soon elevated him to first position with a 16 second advantage going into the last stage of the rally. "Kenneth went flat out all day," said Staffan. "At one point it got quite scary because he never once lifted his foot off the accelerator!"

does left-arm Geoff Allott and, when he is in form, all-rounder Chris Cairns.

Davis' inclusion hints at New Zealand opting for a four-pronged fast-medium attack and omitting a spinner, either veteran off-spinner Dipak Patel or teenage left-arm Daniel Vettori.

The downside of dropping Patel is it would leave New Zealand with a dangerously long tail. Germon said he could live with that, as the runs had to come from the top six batsmen.

"Relying on our lower order, which we've done to a certain extent, that's on our lower order, which we've done to a certain extent, that's not part of their responsibility."

England will consider only one change from their winning second Test combination.

They might bring back all-rounder Craig White for one of the spinners, left-arm Phil Tufnell or off-spinner Robert Croft to bolster their seam attack.

The mood in the tourists' camp is buoyant, after finally securing a win on their tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

Now there is a strong determination to protect that advantage.

But coach David Lloyd isn't expecting an easy ride at Lancaster Park.

"We're one up, but the other team will now come at us like a train," he said.

"We have set a standard at Wellington and we must not drop from that."

The umpires will be Steve Bucknor of the West Indies and New Zealand's Steve Dunne and the match referee is Australian Peter Burge.

ENGLAND: Mike Atherton

(captain), Nick Knight, Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Craig White, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick, Phil Tufnell (one to be omitted).

NEW ZEALAND: Lee Germon (captain), Blair Pocock, Bryan Young, Matt Horne, Stephen



MIKE ATHERTON



LEE GERMON

Fleming, Nathan Aslie, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Dipak Patel, Simon Doull, Geoff Allott, Heath Davis, Daniel Vettori (two to be omitted).

Paris Open Hingis moves into qtrs

PARIS, Feb 13: Swiss teenager Martina Hingis, who has yet to lose a match this season, extended her unbeaten run by defeating Italian Silvia Farina in straight sets to reach the quarterfinals of the Paris Open women's tennis tournament on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Top-seed Hingis, ranked second in the world, recovered from a slow start to beat Farina 6-3, 6-4 in 67 minutes.

Farina, who beat Hingis in the second round of this tournament last year, broke her opponent to open up a 3-2 lead in the first set.

But Hingis, who won this year's Australian Open as well as tournaments in Sydney and Tokyo, then took seven games in a row to take control of the match.

"I treated her with respect because I remembered last year's match," Hingis said. "She played very well then but I have improved quite a bit since."

Hingis will play either Karina Habudova of Slovakia or Nathalie Tauziat of France for a place in the semifinals.

Kenneth & Co win Sweden Rally

555 Subaru World Rally Team driver, Kenneth Eriksson, and co-driver, Staffan Parmander, won the Rally of Sweden yesterday after an incredible three days of competition that saw the lead change no fewer than ten times between five drivers. In doing so, the Swede, who has now won his home event three times, also brought Pirelli the acclaim of winning their first-ever Swedish Rally. Teammate and former world champion, Colin McRae, finished the event that has caused so much consternation with tyre choice in fourth position after a frustrating spin that knocked him off the head of the leaderboard this afternoon, says a press release.

"It feels fantastic to have won on home ground again, especially on my first outing with the new Subaru World Rally car," said Kenneth. "It has been very close all the way through and tyres have been the deciding factor every time the leaderboard changed. Pirelli have really done a fantastic job for us and I feel proud to have scored their first victory here. Yesterday for sure we did not benefit by running at the front of the field, so today has been good, especially as the weather was more suited to us. It also feels good to have maintained the record the rally has of always being won by a Scandinavian driver," Kenneth started the final leg in position, however three consecutive fastest stage times soon elevated him to first position with a 16 second advantage going into the last stage of the rally. "Kenneth went flat out all day," said Staffan. "At one point it got quite scary because he never once lifted his foot off the accelerator!"

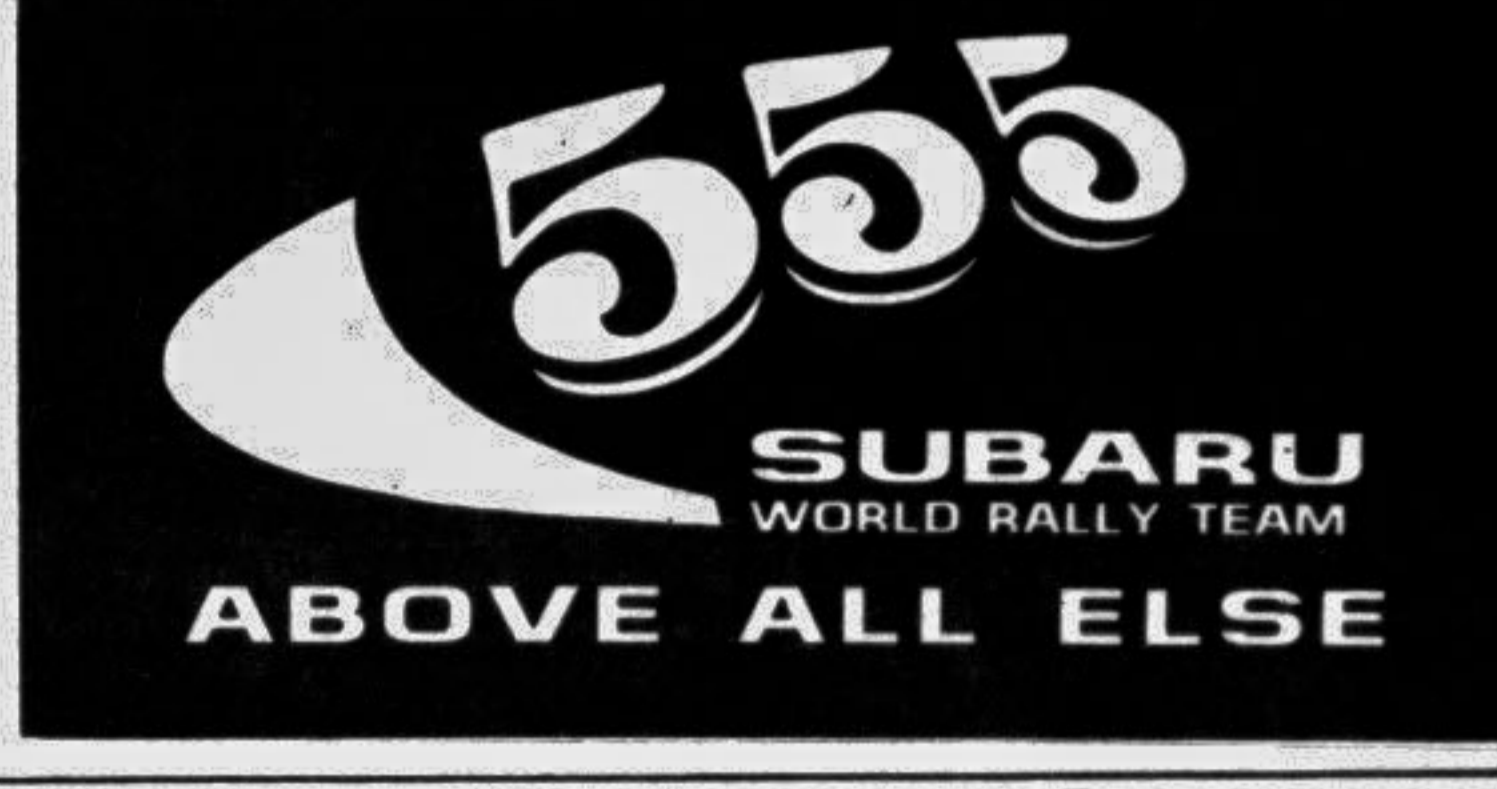
McRae, started the day in second position but within one stage had overhauled Carlos Sainz to take an early lead. However two high-speed 100 kph spins on 5522 wrecked the Scot's chance of snatching victory from the Scandinavians and he dropped to 4th overall behind Tommi Makinen. "Our tyre choice wasn't right on the stage — the studs were maybe 1 mm too long and it made all the

difference. It was really frustrating and although we fought hard to claw back the time, it was never going to be easy to take Tommi who has been charging all day," said Colin. "For the 555 Subaru World Rally Team, and the all-important Manufacturers' Championship though, it is a great result."

555 Subaru now head the Manufacturers' Championship with a 7 point advantage over Ford as the teams head to Kenya for the longest event on the World series calendar — the 555 Safari Rally. "Kenneth's victory underlines the strength of our entire team following so shortly after Liatti's victory in Monte Carlo. We couldn't ask for a better start to the season. When I consider how much work has been put in over the last six months developing the new 555 Subaru World Rally Car, my thoughts are with all the staff back at base who have contributed to these results," concluded David Richards, Director of the 555 Subaru World Rally Team, on the team victory.



COLIN MCRAE



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Diamonds in the sky? 6 Consecrate 11 Spot of Texas 14 Macroscopic views 15 Septet member 16 Septet member 17 Frivolous 19 Churchillian 20 Cheese-ery choice 22 Ship-shaped clock 23 Encircled 24 Septet member 25 Like good or bad Red Sox? 28 Moon vehicle 30 Meadow 31 Pair of five, in gambling 32 Structural frame

DOWN 1 Island known for lizards 2 Polar phenon 3 Book of 3 Bible 4 List-ending abbr. 5 Escort from the door 6 Septet member 7 Fontaine's partner 8 Linguistic suffix 9 Wonder of song 10 They separate the big from 33 Give the same old story 34 Apprehend 36 Final syllable 37 Septet member 38 Run-down 41 Short and fat 44 On 45 Unadorned 46 — mo 50 Part of the Giant's rhyme

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes text: MWD B DJFTQ HWDN X FJZ EN QEEXK NEGOTZ ME HEGGDKLEJZFB OFMW WFK L T J L T Q K Yesterday's Cryptogram: I THINK THE APATHETIC OLD ELECTRICIAN HAD LOST HIS SPARK. Today's Cryptogram clue: L equals P The Cryptogram 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.