

Sport



Bangladesh wicketkeeper takes a spectacular diving catch in yesterday's match between the hosts and Sri Lanka A at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

WTA tour awardees

STAMFORD, Connecticut, Feb 21 (Reuters): Finalists for the WTA Tour's 1996 annual awards, to be awarded on March 19 at a gala in Miami, Florida:

Player-of-the-year: Martina

Hingis and Steffi Graf

Doubles team-of-the-year:

Martina Hingis/Helena

Sukova, Lindsay Daven-

port/Mary Joe Fernandez, Jana

Novotna/Arantxa Sanchez

Vicario

Most improved player-of-

the-year: Irina Spirleva, Karina

Habsudova, Martina Hingis

Most impressive newcomer-

of-the-year: Petty Schnyder,

Henrieta Nagyova, Anna

Kournikova

Comeback player-of-the-

year: Meredith McGrath, Bar-

bara Paulus, Jennifer Capriati

Karen Krentzko sportsman-

ship award: Sabine Appelmanns,

Any Frazier, Yaukay Basuki

Player service award: Mari-

aan de Swardt, Marianne

Werdell Wittemeyer, Katrina

Adamas

Acres award: Gabriela Sab-

atti, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario,

Monica Seles.

Ben's vain attempt

MONTE CARLO, Feb 22: Ben Johnson's attempts to race competitively again were dis-

missed as 'strange' by the international Amateur Athletic Federation on Thursday, re-

ports Reuter.

The 35-year-old Canadian

sprinter, banned for life after a

second positive drug test in

1993, was said by his manager

Morris Chribolets to have

made a request this week for

reinstatement, but IAAF spokes-

man Giorgio Reineri denied any

formal application had been

received.

Chang in semis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb

22: Top seed Michael Chang and

third seed Todd Martin ad-

vanced to a semifinal show-

down in the 825,000 dollars St.

Jude tournament with victories

Friday, reports Reuter.

Third seed Jonas

Bjorkman of Sweden and

eighth seed Todd Woodbridge of

Australia will meet in the other

semi.

Aussies limber up well



DURBAN, South Africa, Feb 22: Australia warmed up for next week's first cricket Test against South Africa with a confident boosting eight-wicket win over Natal here Saturday, reports AP.

The visitors took just 12 minutes after tea on the third to pocket their second first-class victory. In fact it was their fourth win in as many outings at the start of the nine-week tour.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard Saturday at the

Kallis, Rhodes recalled

DURBAN, Feb 22: South Africa recalled batsmen Jacques Kallis and Jonty Rhodes in the 12 players named for the first cricket Test against Australia starting on Feb 28 in Johannesburg, reports AP.

Rhodes, a veteran of 28 Tests, had been overlooked for Test selection since the first Test against India at Ahmedabad in November 1996.

Kallis, who played two Tests against England 14 months ago, will return to the side and bat at the troubled No 3 spot.

Rhodes, who is also a brilliant fielder, forced his way back into the injury-plagued South African line up with three consecutive centuries in the domestic first-class championship.

Brian McMillan is the only omission from the side that played against India in the third and final Test at the Wanderers in January.

McMillan, one of the foremost all-rounders in world cricket, has been sidelined by a chronic inflammation of ligaments behind his left ankle.

Despite the slowness of the Wanderers' pitch the selectors have included just one spinner — left-arm Paul Adams.

Adams too is suffering from a mysterious illness but Pollock is happy with his fitness.

The squad: Hansie Cronje (captain), Gary Kirsten (vice captain), Andrew Hudson, Adams Bacher, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, Dave Richardson, Allan Donald and Paul Adams.

Bevan will form a hard to beat spin combination with leg spinner Shane Warne after his seven wicket match. Haul has assured him a Test place.

It was Warne who did the early damages picking up the wickets of openers Doug Watson and Mark Bruyns before leaving the field with a jarred left knee.

Replacing Warne, Bevan had Natal struggling in the post lunch session claiming four for 35 in 10 overs.

Bevan has 10 wickets in two first class outings on the tour.

The home side lost their last seven wickets for 57 with Test hopeful Jonty Rhodes unable to bat because he collapsed from dehydration.

Australia's workmanlike win in this four-day game was overshadowed by minor injury scares to key players.

Warne bowled just 11 overs and appeared briefly during the Natal second innings while Steve Waugh was nursing a sprained ankle.

Waugh stepped on a ball during the side's training before

leaving the side's training before