

Column One

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-64

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm,

Feb 28, '97

1	Who finished runners-up in the Premier Division cricket league?	Biman	Kalabagan	Brothers
2	In the ICC Trophy, Bangladesh will be led by	Bulbul	Namnu	Akram
3	The eighth SAF Games will be held in	Nepal	Bhutan	Sri Lanka
4	Where was Martina Hingis born?	Switzerland	Hungary	Czech Republic
5	Name the skipper of the Zimbabwe cricket team?	A Flower	Campbell	Houghton

Rivals' final battle today

Sports Reporter

Favourite Paki-stan A and defending champions India A will go into the champion-ship-decider of the 3rd SAARC cricket trophy as deserving final-ists at the Dhaka Stadium today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will grace the concluding ceremony as the chief guest and will distribute the prizes

The Indians, on the other hand, had to run against the odds to make light of a hefty run-chase against the hosts in their final round robin en-counter in order to book their place in the final. They had earlier been routed by the Pakistanis after their match against the Sri Lankans had been abandoned due to a wet

skipper Amay Khurasiya added that his team has had a tremendous morale boost from their game against Bangladesh and he thinks that the confidence generated by that perfor-mance will help their chances.

S K Bansal of India and Javed Akhtar of Pakistan will officiate in the final.

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina will grace the concluding

ceremony as the chief guest

and will distribute the prizes



ASIF MUJTABA

amongst the participants.

Pakistan A go into final as the only undefeated team in the quadrangular tourney with convincing wins against hosts Bangladesh and today's opponents India A and a cliff-hanger of a victory against Sri Lanka A.

The Pakistan A manager Zaheer Abbas expects the encounter to be a keenly contested one. Talking to this correspond-ent yesterday afternoon, Zaheer commented that the Indians are a good side and are likely to fare better than in the two teams' previous encounter. He said that his boys will have to perform well in every de-partment if they are to win the game.

Krishnamachari Srikant, the India A cricket manager said that his boys will try to play good, positive cricket. He claimed that their batting had let them down previously against Pakistan A and therefore his team will concentrate hard while batting. The Indian

organisers are hoping that the crowd turnout in to-day's game will be more than in the previous few matches. Bar-ing the first match, the tour-nament so far has failed to attract big crowds due to Bangladesh's poor performance in the event.

MILAN, Feb 27: British number one Tim Henman served 13 aces as he brushed aside Adrian Voina of Romania in just 44 minutes to get him in to the quarterfinals of the Milan Indoor tournament on Wednesday, report agencies.

Fourth seed Henman won 6-1, 6-2. Voina contributing to his own downfall with a string of unforced errors.

"Against Voina I played better in all the matches in Antwerp last week," Henman said.

Henman was runner-up to Switzerland's Marc Rosset in the European Community event on Sunday, his third ATP Tour final in a blistering start to the year.

Rosset also savoured a straight sets victory in Milan, he beat Francisco Clavet of Spain 6-4, 6-2.

Henman, ranked 14th in the world, will face Peter Korda of the Czech Republic on Thursday. Korda defeated Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev 6-3, 6-3.

Sergi Bruguera followed up on his first round dismissal of Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek by beating fellow Spaniard Javier Sanchez 6-4, 6-0.

Bruguera, a wild card entry in the \$150,000 dollars event, improved his head-to-head record against Sanchez to 10-4.

France beat Holland

PARIS, Feb 27: Substitutes Patrice Loko and Robert Prices scored in the final 16 minutes to give 1998 World Cup hosts France a 2-1 win over the Netherlands in a friendly Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Arsenal striker Dennis Bergkamp put the Dutch ahead in the third minute when he rifled a 25-metre shot past Bernard Lama in the French goal.

Bergkamp could have put the match beyond the reach of the French in the 12th minute when he broke away again but his shot from the right was blocked on the line by France's stand-in captain Laurent Blanc.

It was France's second victory over the Dutch in three meetings since coach Aime Jacquet took charge.

The last time the two sides met in the Euro '96 quarter-finals, France won on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

Henman, Bruguera in qtrs

with a consistent play from the baseline and precise serves.

He took 61 minutes to beat his countryman in a second-round match, two days after stunning Wimbledon champion and No. 2 seed Richard Krajicek.

The 26-year-old Spaniard

and Olympic medalist at Atlanta, said he aimed at repeating his best performance in Milan when he reached the 1993 final, before losing to Boris Becker.

Bruguera, who had a poor

1996 after tearing ligaments of his right ankle, is trying to restore the form which earned him 14 titles, including consecutive French Open triumphs in 1993 and 1994.

A clay court specialist, he's

currently ranked 47th by the ATP Tour, after reaching as high as fourth in 1994.

In the quarterfinals of

Italy's richest indoor tourna-ment, Bruguera will play the winner of the match between seventh-seeded Marc Rosset and unseeded Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch.

Rosset broke his opponent in the fifth game of the first set and twice more in the second for an unchallenged one-hour victory.

The Swiss, winner of last weeks EC Championship in Antwerp, said he was not yet playing his best tennis.

Daniel Vacek joined Bruguera in the quarterfinals by defeating Bohdan Ullrich 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 in an all-Czech match.

Ivanisevic, the defending

Milan champion and the top-seeded player of the tourna-ment, played Frenchman Cedric Pioline in a second-round match later Wednesday.

A replay showed no foul, with Prior seeming to tumble to the ground on his own.

France's Frank Leboeuf fired home the penalty shot behind American international Kasey Keller, who had kept underdog

Leicester in the match with Manju and Ullash claimed one

point.

"It's a disgrace, shocking and heartbreaking," O'Neill said. "Everyone will see it and agree it was nowhere near a penalty."

"I'd like to speak to him (referee Reed) even though it wouldn't change matters," he added. "But I'd say he must go and genuinely study his own performance."

O'Neill said he would have even preferred the looming penalty-shootout, which would have been used to settle the match.

"Penalties are a lottery and no way to settle an FA Cup tie, but I'd sooner have a lottery than lose that way," he said.

He said: "It was a bad decision." Keller added. "Call it cheating, a professional trick or whatever, but Johnson just went down in a heap and the referee bought it."

"We are talking about stock market quotations, a lot of money involved here," Kelly added. "Maybe it is inevitable."

He said the FA has been studying how technology might aid referees ever since an apparent goal by Romania was disallowed in last summer's European Championship.

"We are still in the middle of it at the moment," he said. "And as someone who has trouble setting their video recorder could testify — it is a little bit of a complex situation."

"I don't blame Chelsea, but maybe instead of a third eye up in the grandstand for controversial incidents, there is a case for having two referees," he said.

"It was a bad decision," Keller added. "Call it cheating, a professional trick or whatever, but Johnson just went down in a heap and the referee bought it."

The controversial decision Wednesday came with about four minutes to play in extra time when referee Mike Reed called a penalty on Leicester's Spencer Prior for taking down Erland Johnson in the area.

The annual sports competi-tion of Green Gems Interna-tional School will be held today at 9:30 am at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex, says a press release.

The top-seeded Sampras

took 56 minutes to brush past Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 6-4, 6-1.

Second seed Jim Courier fol-lowed Sampras by opening de-fense of his title with a 6-3, 7-6 win over 89th-ranked Guilla-mine Raoux of France.

Sampras, who has twice won this tournament, got off to an

erratic start, making an inor-dinate number of errors and strug-gling to find rhythm with his serve.

"I concentrated pretty well,

so it was okay, but I didn't serve well in the first set," Sampras

said.

The 18th-ranked Courier

was sent straight off, did not have

enough time to acclimatise to the faster wickets in South Africa, and were thrashed."

Sampras said he would re-sign his post on March 1.

There was no immediate

comment from cricket board

president Raj Singh Dungarpur or secretary Jagmohan Dal-miya.

by breaking the 79th-ranked

Philippini at 30-40 on a winning

forehand approach shot.

"It took me awhile to settle

down," Sampras said. "It came

together when I served that love

game and had a good set point."

Sampras totally dominated

the second set. Allowing Filippini to hold serve only once in

the second game.

The 18th-ranked Courier

was sent straight off in the one

hour and 33-minute match.

Leading 5-2 in the second set,

the former number one failed

to close out the match and was

pushed to a tie-breaker by Raoux.

In the tie-break, Courier

jumped out to a commanding 6-

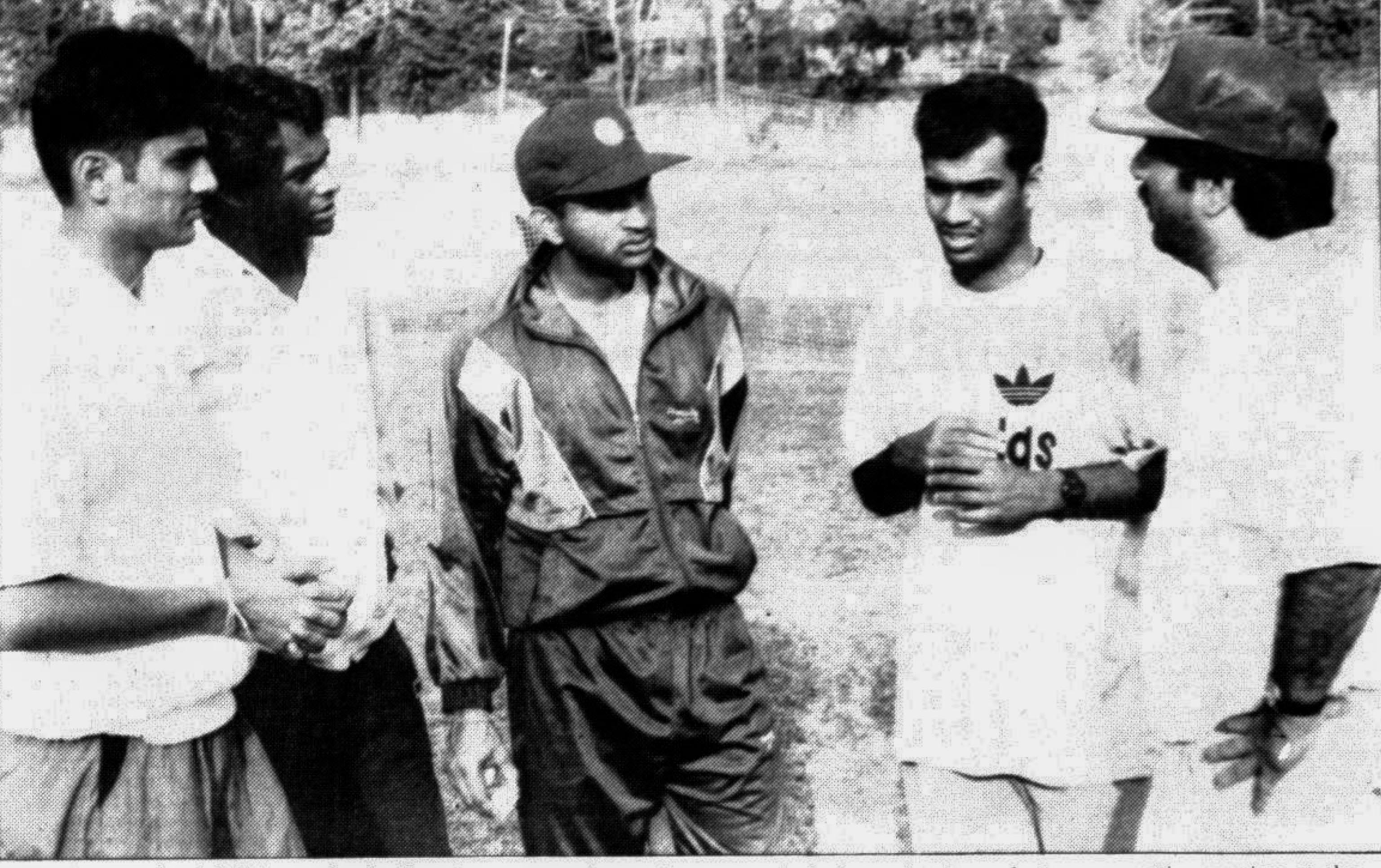
1 lead but again had trouble

closing out the match, squander-ing his first set point,

including two on his own serve.

"I got it done although I

would have preferred to close it out earlier," admitted Courier.



Krishnamachari Srikant, the India A manager, imparting some vital tips to his boys during a practice session at the BUET ground last afternoon. — Star photo

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

SPORTS TALK



Amanda Coetzer

(South African tennis player)

"I don't think I have seen a

Grand Slam like this. This is

really strange."

On the absence of Steffi Graf, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez in the quarterfinals of this year's Australian Open.

Sajjad moves into nat'l jr snooker final

Sports Reporter

Defending champion Sajjad

M Sayed of hosts Dhaka Club

powered his way to the final of the Ashok Leyland second national junior snooker championship

thrashing Rizvi of Gulshan Club 6-0 in a semifinal yesterday. The other semifinal

match between Taskeen of the hosts and Jason Salgoda of Catholic Club, Chittagong was still going on at the time.

The final will be held today at 3 pm.

Seles' father undergoes cancer treatment

Sports Reporter

ROCHESTER, Minnesota, Feb 27: Karol Seles, father and

coach of tennis star Monica Seles,

began chemotherapy treatments for stomach cancer at the Mayo Clinic last month, it was

recently diagnosed.

Seles, 63, was recently diag-nosed with leiomyosar