

Sport

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN competition-69

Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes 8 pm, May 16, '97

- 1. Who was adjudged man-of-the-match in the 6th ICC Trophy? Pilot Tikolo Ralique

Name ..... Class ..... Roll No. .... School Address .....

EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Aamir Sohail (Pakistan cricketer) "I am not an indisciplined person."

Tyson okayed for Holyfield

NEW YORK, May 6: The Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield fight is back on track, reports AP.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H) Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet Telephone-716339

Tender Notice

- 1. Tender Notice No : 72/Sylhet Road Division, 1996-97

Md Mozammel Haq Executive Engineer (R&H) Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet.

Kournikova opens in style



ROME, May 6: Fifteen-year-old Russian Anna Kournikova made a winning start at the Italian Open women's tennis tournament on Monday as attention focussed on what passes for a generation gap in the sport, reports Reuter.

The first day of the 54th championships started with one Rome newspaper describing the women's event as a battle between "lollitas and old stars"

She then left the clay court to field questions with all the aplomb of an old pro-swatting aside training balls.

While the Russian clearly belonged to the ranks of the precocious, former world number one Seles enjoyed a bye and found herself cast as the mature veteran at 23.

The American, who won in Rome as a 16-year-old Yugoslavian new comer in 1990 when she beat Martina Navratilova, returned to the Foro Italico for the first time in five years and gave a news conference as the voice of experience.

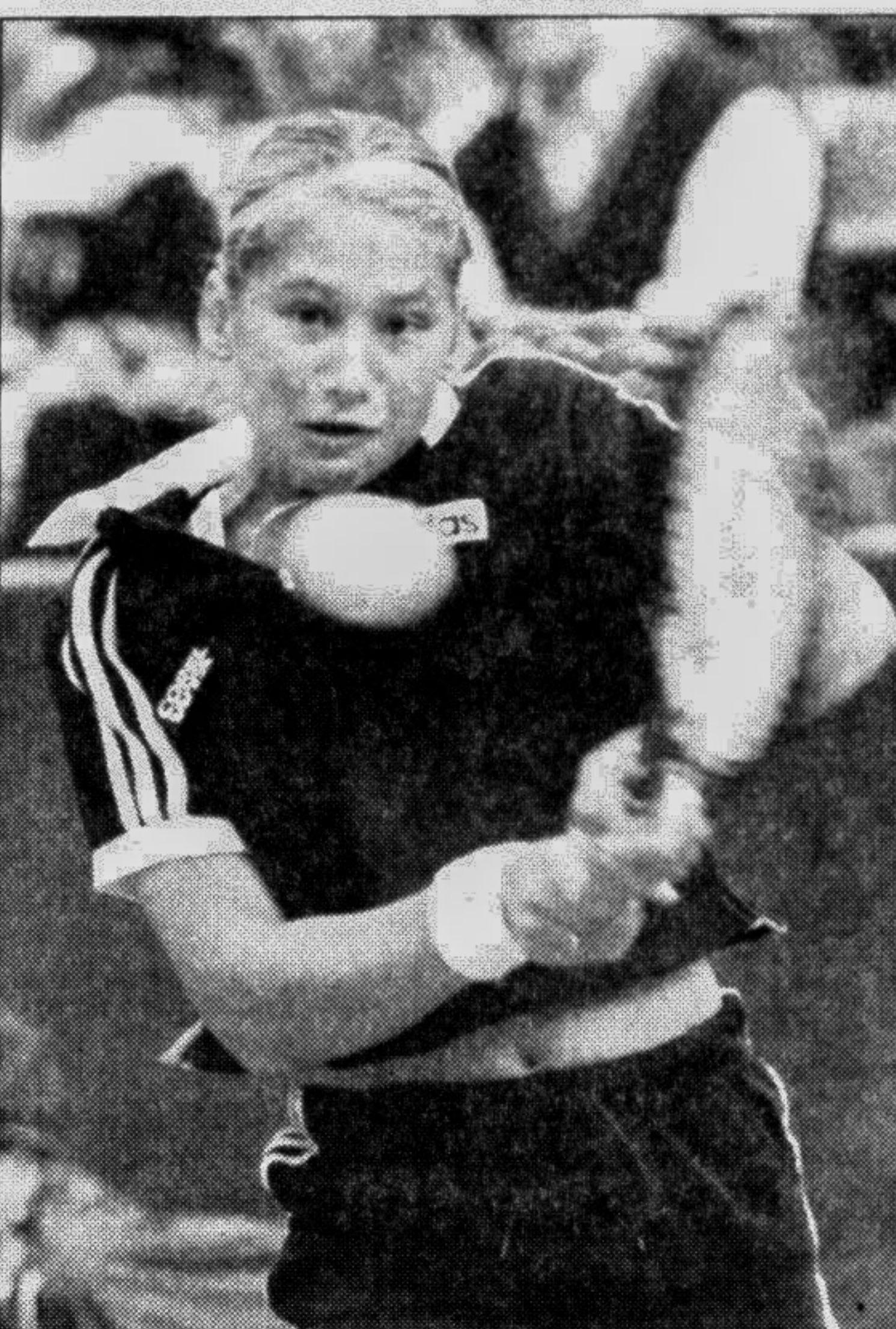
"I've learned not to expect much from kids," she said when asked how she felt about the new generation of youngsters led by Switzerland's 16-year-old world number one Martina Hingis.

"What I don't like at all is parents putting their children as soon as they are born on a tennis court and forcing them to like tennis," said Seles, who at 17 had been the youngest world number one in history before Hingis emerged.

want to have fun and I think that's what they should do," she said. Hingis, who would have been the big crowd-puller here after losing in last year's final to Spain's Conchita Martinez, is absent after falling off her horse last month.

Seles has not played in Rome since 1992. The year before she was stabbed on court in Hamburg by a spectator during an interval between games. She was 17 and the incident left mental scars that took years to heal.

This year Seles is the top seed and she said she had overcome recent injury and had been training for two weeks. She faces Austria's Barbara Schett in her opening match late today under floodlights and is set to meet France's 10th seed Mary Pierce in the last 16.



Russian Anna Kurnikova makes a return during her first round match against Taipei's Shi-Ting Wang at the Italian Open in Rome on May 5.

Agassi pulls out

HAMBURG, Germany, May 6: Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich, who said last week he would retire at the end of the year, cheered up his local fans on Monday with a win over Slovakia's Karol Kucera in the first round of the German Open.

The 28-year-old German expected 6-4, 6-4 victory over Kucera was the highlight of a day on which rain caused play to be called off in the early evening.

"Of course I went out to win. If that wasn't the case I would have stopped yesterday, not in four months. Until then my goal is to continue to play well in tournaments," said Stich who is quitting tennis because of a recurring shoulder injury.

Spaniard Sergi Bruguera also went through to the second round with a 6-0, 6-4 win over Australia's Scott Draper.

Rain was not the only disappointment on the first day of the 2.3 million dollar tournament. American Andre Agassi angered German officials by announcing he was withdrawing just a day before he was due on court because of a recurrent wrist injury.

Spaniard Carlos Costa replaces Agassi and meets German Daniel Elsner in the first round.

Juninho in Alex's good books

LONDON, May 6: Alex Ferguson is so expansively open in his admiration of Juninho that Manchester United will surely head the queue if the little Brazilian fails to keep Middlesbrough in the Premiership, reports AFP.

"He would have got my vote for player-of-the-year," said the United boss after watching Juninho seemingly walk on water while everyone else floundered at sodden Old Trafford on Monday.

He scored the first goal in the 3-3 draw that left both clubs uneasily optimistic about the next few days - United hoping it will be enough for the Premiership title if Newcastle draw at West Ham and Liverpool lose at Wimbledon later on Tuesday, Boro hoping it is the springboard to safety.

If it is not - and they need to win their last two games at Blackburn and Leeds - then Juninho will no more accept First Division football in World Cup year than Fabrizio Ravanelli, who could have kicked his last ball for Bryan Robson if a torn hamstring keeps him out of the FA Cup final against Chelsea on Saturday week.

The Italian left at 1-1, leaving his little pal to run his socks off as usual, and Ferguson to enthuse, "Juninho was the best player on the pitch, absolutely magnificent."

"I find it amazing that he can be overlooked when they were giving out the player-of-the-year awards."

He was nowhere in the players' poll won by Alan Shearer, and runner-up to Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola in the football writers.

Flo joins Chelsea

OSLO, May 6: Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo has signed a five-year contract with English Premier league club Chelsea on a free transfer from Brann Bergen, Norwegian news agency NTB said, reports Reuter.

"The London club does not want to pay a transfer sum for Norway's international striker, but will let him play for Brann until his contract expires on October," NTB said.

WTA rankings

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 6: Rankings of WTA Tour players as released on Monday, reports Reuter.

- 1. Hingis (SWI) 2. Graf (GER) 3. Seles (US) 4. Novotna (Czech Rep) 5. Davenport (US) 6. Martinez (SPA) 7. Sanchez-Vicario (SPA) 8. Huber (GER) 9. Majoli (CRO) 10. Coetzer (RSA) 11. Spirlea (ROM) 12. Habsudova (SLO) 13. Fernandez (US) 14. Schultz-MacCarthy (NED) 15. Pierce (FRA) 16. Kimberly Po (US) 17. Paulus (AUS) 18. Wiesner (AUS) 19. Dragomir (ROM) 20. Likhovtseva (RUS)

Rajshahi cricket

RAJSHAHI, May 6: Bisway Eleven became champions defeating Bulanpur Samaj Kalyan Samity by five wickets in the final of the Ataur Rahman Smriti under 14 cricket tournament at Moni Bazar playground yesterday, reports BSS.

Batting first, Bulanpur scored 140 for seven in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Bisway Eleven scored 141 for five in 23 overs. Jitu of the winners was declared man-of-the final while Suman of Primary Sports Training Centre became man-of-the-tournament.

Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu distributed the prizes. Meanwhile Bangladesh Army became champions in the Mayor Volleyball Gold Cup tournament played at the Collegiate High School ground yesterday. Army defeated Bangladesh Rifles 16-14, 7-15, 15-6, 15-12.

Counting on old cards



HAMBURG, May 6: Facing an apparently not-so-rosy future, the German tennis hierarchy is turning to their biggest stars and their biggest company for help.

Michael Stich is favoured to be eased into the post of Davis Cup captain. Steffi Graf is likely to become the coach of the women's Fed Cup, while Boris Becker will scout and train young talents as chief of a project sponsored by Mercedes Benz.

Stich is retiring at the end of the season because of a chronic shoulder injury. Graf, who is spending more time recovering from injuries than playing probably is not far behind.

At 29, Becker is the oldest of the three stars but says he intends to keep on playing until his son begins school, which will be in three years time.

Of the three, Becker's job is probably the toughest. No natural successors to the big stars who brought unprecedented success to German tennis have stepped forward.

"My goal is to produce a new Davis Cup player, and if possible a new Grand Slam winner," Becker said.

"We don't have time to lose in Germany. We still have the contracts with the ATP Tour, we still have the World Championship. But if nothing happens, there won't be any tennis on television in three or four years except perhaps for the Wimbledon final," he said.

"We need to rekindle enthusiasm for tennis, we need new people," Becker said, referring not only to players, but to the people running the German Tennis Federation (DTB).

Nicolas Kiefer, who won junior titles at the 1995 Australian and US Open, has stayed in school and has not played a great deal in less than two years as a pro. Kiefer, 20, is one of the players who has joined the camp.

Becker has also hired Klaus Hofsaess, who left his job as Fed Cup team captain to join Becker's team as coach.

Becker, Stich and Graf have brought unprecedented success to German tennis in the past decade or so. Becker, a three-time Wimbledon champion, has six Grand Slam titles. Stich was the 1991 Wimbledon champion and runner-up at last year's French Open, while Graf has won 21 Grand Slam titles.

Becker and Stich, either together or individually, gave Germany three Davis Cup titles. The junior team is run by Becker is sponsored by Mercedes Benz, which is investing up to 8 million marks (4.7 million dollars) into the first five-year period. If happy with the results, Mercedes, which is also the chief sponsor of the ATP Tour, will renew the deal for another five years.

By opting to work directly with the sponsors and not with the DTB, Becker has clearly directed a stab at the people leading German tennis.

But the federation has welcomed the project, which was presented during this week's German Open.

"If we want to continue to be a great tennis nation, this project significantly increases our chances of doing so," said DTB president Claus Stauder. "We have to invest in the future and this project is the best thing."

Remembering Wharton

LONDON, May 6: Sporting great Arthur Wharton, the world's first black professional footballer, will be commemorated at a service on Thursday which will unveil a new gravestone at his resting place in South Yorkshire, reports AFP.

Wharton, who played for Preston Northend in the 1886 FA Cup semifinal, and later moved on to Rotherham Town and Sheffield United, was also an exceptional cricketer, as well as holding the world record for 100 yards on the track.

He was buried in an unmarked grave in Edlington cemetery in 1930. But, after a campaign by the Football Union's racism divides project, a new commemorative stone is to be placed there.

Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority

Allenbury, Tejgaon Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

- Name of work : Supply & installation of a 40-set Digital PBX-Intercom System with allied equipments.

Tender schedule will be available in Finance & Accounts Section of JMBA, Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 on payment of Tk 250/- (non-refundable) from the date of publication of notice to 15 May, 1997.

M Sirazuddin Miah Deputy Director (Admin)

Notice of RHD Inviting Tenders

- 1. Tender Notice No : 22 of 1996-97 of Jessore Road Division.

Engr. Md. Mossarrar Hossain Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Division, Jessore.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

CRYPTOQUIP

Yesterday's Cryptquip: THOSE DRAGONS LIKE TO SLEEP DAYS; THEY PREFER TO FIGHT KNIGHTS. Today's Cryptquip clue: Q equals M