

Arantxa advances

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

NEW YORK, Aug 30: The hyper-tensive Spaniard, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, scouting for her fourth Grand Slam title since 1989 ran over unseeded Alexandra Fusil of France 6-2, 6-1 at the Louis Armstrong Stadium this morning.

In her illustrious career, Sanchez-Vicario had won the French Open in 1994 and the US Open the same year and in 1989. She had a brilliant run of success in 1995 as she reached the finals of Australian, French and Wimbledon. She was again in the finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon.

Today the number ten seed faced little opposition from 23-year-old French whose four previous outings here since 1992 ended at best in the second round. Though seeded 10th Arantxa on current form was likely to make the last eight, at least, in this tournament this year.

As I file this story, Conchita Martinez of Spain has just begun her 3rd round match against unseeded Australian Rachel McQuillan at Australian 2 court.

Biman shuttlers' clean sweep

Sports Reporter

Elina earned a double as favourites Bangladesh Biman made a clean sweep in the Rupali Insurance summer badminton tournament winning all the four finals held at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Elina, the number one female shuttler of the country, won the women's singles title with an easy 11-3, 11-1 victory over her teammate Kanika Rani Adhikari. Kanika then partnered Noori to clinch the women's doubles trophy defeating Kanika and Mono 15-12, 15-6 in another all-Biman affair.

In the men's singles final, national champion Russell Sumon of Biman clinched the title with a straight set (15-12, 15-8) victory his teammate Mahbubur Rab.

Mahbub got some solace winning the 'Biman men's' doubles final with Sarwar. The pair beat Sumon and Shakil 15-6, 18-16.

Jamaluddin Ahmed, former Deputy Prime Minister and Managing Director Rupali Insurance Company, witnessed the final and gave distributed prizes among the winners.

Delhi not in ACB agenda

NEW DELHI, Aug 30: Australia have rejected New Delhi as a Test venue because of the pollution there, an Indian cricket official said today.

"The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) has turned down New Delhi's Ferozshah Kotla as a Test venue for next year's three-Test series," the official told Reuters.

The ACB's choice of venues sent to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not include New Delhi where they played a one-off Test last year, India won by seven wickets.

"The Australian team management was critical of the smog and pollution in New Delhi last year and vetoed any further matches at this venue," the official said.

Cam Battersby, Australian team manager at the time, complained that several of the squad suffered eye and respiratory problems. He said it was hazardous to subject professional sportsmen to such conditions.

Sunil Deve, sports secretary of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA), took exception to the Australian decision.

"There was no pollution or smog in the stadium where the Australians played," he said. "Only after losing the Test they found the pollution unbearable."

The Australian board's choice of venues for the three Tests this year is confined to Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta, Madras and Mohali.

B'ball team for ABC meet

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BAAF) has announced a 17-member national squad for the 19th ABC championship, scheduled to begin in Saudi Arabia from September 11.

Fifteen nations including hosts Saudi Arabia will take part in the meet, which will conclude on September 18.

The Bangladesh squad, which includes five officials and 12 players, are: Saiful Islam (manager), Tariq Khan (asst. manager), A K Sarkar (coach), Imtiaz Khan (Referee), Mizanur Rahman (asst. coach), Ayub Ali (capt), Abdur Rahim, Kamran, Wahid, Iqbal, Nurul Amin, Mizan, Aminul Islam, Ayub Hossain, Nurul Huda, Delwar Hossain and Fazle Rahim.

SA's Olympic bid team gets send-off

CAPE TOWN, Aug 30: Despite rain and icy cold, hundreds of supporters of Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympics attended a final send-off parade Wednesday, reports AP.

The procession, which included marching bands and drum majorities, was a show of support for the official bid team which plans to depart Sunday for Lausanne, Switzerland.



Members of the Bangladesh Biman team, who swept all the titles in the Rupali Insurance summer badminton tournament yesterday, pose in front of their banner at the wooden floor gymnasium. — Star photo

F'ganj finish unbeaten

Sports Reporter

Farashganj Sporting Club stormed into the second round of the Shamsuddin Spinning Mahanagar Cup football tournament with a convincing 3-1 victory over Shantinagar Club in a first round Group B match played at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In a one-sided affair, forward Alamgir struck twice while his partner Babu Das added the other goal. Substitute Pintu pulled one back for the losers on the stroke of the final whistle.

The winners led the first half 1-0. On a heavy outfield, Farashganj, fourth in the Premier league last year, dominated the early exchanges. But conditions made it virtually impossible for them to play with any kind of fluency.

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The old-town outfit took the lead in the 34th minute. Babu Das, after receiving a throw from Selim, lifted the ball to an unguarded Alamgir who headed past the hapless Shantinagar custodian Mizan.

After the breather, Babu Das doubled the margin from a corner in the 73rd minute and Alamgir made it 3-0 with a placing shot from a goal mouth melee after 15 minutes.

Shantinagar's goal came when substitute Pintu found the net from a Shankar pass in the dying seconds.

Farashganj emerged champions having raised their tally to seven points on completion of their third and final match. Shantinagar, who suffered their first defeat after two draws, remained glued to their previous collection of two points.

Earlier, in the group's first encounter, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) Sports Club recorded a 2-0 win over East End Club.

Forwards Liton Khan and Showkat Ali Roman scored one goal each in the fifth and 33rd minutes respectively.

With the win, BRTC finished second five points from three games. Defeat kept East End at the bottom.

Table with 5 columns: Teams, M, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Rows: Farashganj, BRTC SC, Shantinagar, East End.

Table with 2 columns: TODAY'S MATCHES, Time. Rows: Rahmatganj MFS vs Badda Jagarani Sangsad (4 pm), Agrani Bank SC vs Police AC (6 pm).

Argentina crying for Diego

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 30: Argentinians appeared resigned Friday to what looked like the last fall one of their most revered idols after football legend Diego Maradona tested positive for drugs — again, reports AFP.

In an episode the La Nacion daily dubbed 'Nightmare III,' cocaine was found in Maradona's urine for the third time in his troubled career, the Argentine Football Association announced late Thursday.

With the headline "Poor Maradona. Maradona once again," Pagina/12 summed up the feeling of many fans, who while frustrated by his failure, feel sorry for "el pibe de oro" or "golden boy," who has been dogged throughout his spectacular career by his self-confessed cocaine addiction.

The 36-year-old rags-to-riches star, who led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup and had a spell with Napoli, signed for the Boca Juniors for the third time in April to make a comeback.

He had spent the last year training in Canada with a sprained Ben Johnson, who was also sanctioned for illegal drug use.

"Diego put a lot of effort into making this comeback because this was serious," said Boca Juniors president Mauricio Macri, who negotiated to pay Maradona 50,000 dollars per match.

Macri said he would require a follow-up drug test for Maradona to try to confirm the results and would hope for "a miracle."

If the new test comes out positive, it would be "the saddest end to his career, (an end) that no one wants," Macri said.

Washington, Rivera, spokesman for the Argentine Football Association (AFA), said Friday that Maradona could face charges in federal court, and that the AFA is required by law to file a complaint in a cocaine case.

Alfredo Cahe, the doctor who has treated Maradona for nearly two decades, told Radio Libertad that "Diego was not a big consumer of drugs." He did not specify how much and what types of drugs the athlete had used.

Hector Veira, Boca's trainer, said the reports had saddened him that team morale was low even as it clung to the hope that follow-up tests would clear Maradona.

"God willing, it will be so," Veira said.

Citing Maradona's ability to come back, La Nacion warned that "With him (Maradona) you never know. He generates so much money that he may be invited to play even when he's (an old man) leaning on a cane."

With the victory, West Jatrabari raised their tally to 12.5 points out of possible 16 points and moved one point clear of second placed Rajshahi Chess Club.

On Saturday, Rajshahi Chess Club recorded a 3.5-5 win over Mitra Chess Club and raised their tally to 11.5 points.

Besides, Sonali Bank Sports Club and Jatrabari Krira Chakra were jointly occupying the third place with eleven points apiece at the end of yesterday's round.

Milan rope in Leonardo PARIS, Aug 30: Brazilian playmaker Leonardo finally completed a move from French First Division Paris St Germain to AC Milan on Friday, reports Reuters.

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BOA official asked to resign

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general, Ruhul Quddus Chowdhury was asked to tender his resignation yesterday by Obaidul Quader, the State Minister for Youth and Sports, said a reliable source.

During a discussion at the National Sports Council (NSC) office, the sports supremo got infuriated following a difference with Ruhul Quddus Chowdhury and all of a sudden he pronounced the dreaded word, leaving everybody in a state of deep shock, said the person preferring anonymity.

"I want you to resign," demanded the NSC chairman after a heated exchange with Quddus.

When contacted, the usually-amicable state minister told The Daily Star over the telephone that he was not aware of such incident. "I didn't tell anyone to quit. I have a very good relationship with the BOA."

Sources at the NSC however told that Quader was quite unhappy with the existing set up of BOA. And there was a wide speculation over there the NSC chairman was all set to bring in some changes in the existing ad-hoc committee of BOA president, Chief of Army Staff Maj. Gen Mahabubur Rahman.

If Quddus steps down, Zafar Imam, the general secretary of Rajshahi DSA, is being tipped as the most likely candidate for the job.

ECNSC okays new sports policy

A meeting of the Executive Committee of National Sports Council (ECNSC) held yesterday with State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader in the chair primarily approved 'sports policy of Bangladesh 1997', reports BSS.

It was formulated in the light of recommendations of the National Sports Conference held at the BKSP last year, has been forwarded to the cabinet for final approval.

The policy has given more emphasis on finding out talent at the grass roots level. Keeping this in view, sports was recommended as compulsory subject upto class eight and as optional subject at secondary, higher secondary and degree levels.

Formation of a National Sports Authority was proposed bringing presently working National Sports Council, BKSP and Directorate of Sports under the same umbrella.

The sports policy is also committed to patronising private entrepreneurship accordingly, the limit of income tax free investment in sports has been increased from Taka five lakh to ten lakh.

The proposed policy has attached priority to nine events and games.

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BCB's '97-98 calendar

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has drawn up a busy domestic as well international schedules for the 1997-98 season. The board made it public yesterday.

The domestic cricket season will begin with the Damal Smriti Tourney which kicks off on September 26. But the cricketing activities will actually begin from September 7 with the commencement of the four-day inter-club players transfer.

Unlike the previous years, the prestigious Premier league will be a 75-over-a-side match for the six-team Super league instead of a traditional 50-over affair. Besides, the BCB has also decided to introduce the longer version of the game under the banner of Super Cup, where top four finishers of the league will be pitting in either three-day or four-day matches.

DOMESTIC Sept. 26 to Oct. 22: Damal Smriti Tourney Oct. 24 to Dec. 25: Premier League (First phase) Dec. 1 to Dec. 18: Bijooy Dibash Tourney Feb. 1 to Feb. 28: Premier League (Second phase) February: Nat'l Youth Championship March: Super Cup March: Nat'l Championship

INTERNATIONAL Oct. 10-21: Tour to Kenya to feature in a three-nation meet Nov. 15 Dec. 16: Tour to New Zealand Dec. 1-8: Youth team's tour to Hong Kong Jan 10-18: Independence Cup (India, Pakistan and Bangladesh) February-March: BCB XI to feature in both First Class tourneys in India and Pakistan

Herbert, Heys make SA proud SICILY, Aug 30: Emerging hurdler Llewellyn Herbert and double Olympic champion swimmer Penny Heys took gold and silver for South Africa at the World University Games on Friday, reports Reuters.

Herbert won the 400 metres hurdles in 48.99 seconds to add gold to the surprise silver medal he claimed at the World Championships in Athens earlier this month.

Away from the track and pool, Italy claimed gold in the football tournament by beating South Korea 1-0 with a golden goal after their match finished 0-0 after full time.

Rivals' test to resume Test

NEW DELHI, Aug 30: India and Pakistan have agreed to resume Test stours, suspended since 1989, but will make a careful start by exchanging junior squads, a senior Indian cricket official said on Friday, reports Reuter.

"Both India and Pakistan are keen to revive the Test series and the cricket boards have agreed to resume reciprocal tours," Jaywant Lele, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told the agency over telephone from Bombay.

Lele said the second-string India A team will tour Pakistan in February and March next

year to play three Tests against Pakistan A. The Pakistan A team will return the visit in 1999, he said.

"Restoration of Test series has been agreed in principle but the timetable has not yet been chalked out," Lele said.

Test series between the political arch-rivals have been suspended since 1989 when India last toured Pakistan.

Plans for a return visit were twice aborted after Pakistani cricketers were refused clearance by their government on security grounds.

But the two teams have been facing each other in one-day internationals, often in other countries.

Though Test tours have been suspended India and Pakistan

were joint hosts along with Sri Lanka in the World Cup last year, and played each other in a hotly-contested quarterfinal in Bangalore which India won.

Earlier this year, Pakistan's cricketers played in the foundation Independence Cup in India along with New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

The Indians are scheduled to play three one-day matches in Pakistan next month in the Jinnah Cup, Pakistan's equivalent of the Indian tournament marking 50 years of independence from British rule in 1947.

Pakistan toured India for their first Test series in 1952 but tours were stopped after three series for a 17-year period that ended in 1978.



Scene from the Second Division chess league after the fourth round yesterday at the NSC. — Star photo

Mates fail to match Such

LONDON, Aug 30: An eight-wicket haul for off-spinner Peter Such failed to save Essex from defeat inside three days against Warwickshire in the county championship on Friday, reports Reuter.

Such, who took six for 94 in Warwickshire's first innings, watched in disbelief as his team were skittled for just 101 in their own second innings, leaving the Midlanders needing only 43 to win.

Warwickshire duly completed the task, winning by eight wickets, but not before Such had snared both David Hemp and Dominic Ostler for ducks.

Durham captain David Boon made 117 against Northamptonshire to press home his team's advantage at Northampton.

Boon hit 11 fours and two sixes, sharing in a third-wicket stand of 103 with opener Stewart Hutton (95), to help Durham to 376 and a lead of 232, even though Pakistani pacesman Mohammad Akram polished off the tail to finish with five for 100.

Northants then kept race bowler Melvyn Betts, who took

nine wickets in the first innings, at bay to close on 52 without loss.

Derbyshire's ex-England man Dominic Cork gave the national selectors a double hint that he is approaching his old fitness and form with bat and ball at Derby.

Somers set had to recover from a sticky start following overnight rain after Cork removed both their openers, Marcus Trescothick (83 not out) and Mike Burns (50) later added 102 for the fifth wicket, and Somerset declared on 251 for five in reply to Derbyshire's 323.

But Cork, who could not follow up his early blitz with the ball, was not finished for the day and promptly hit an unbeaten 55 out of 97 for two, after going in first.

Surrey have Sussex by the throat in their match at Hove, where the hosts ended on 20 for four in their second innings and 243 runs short of avoiding an innings defeat.

The visitors' Graham Thorpe made 106, passing his ton in 135 balls, with 11 fours and a six along the way, captain Adam Hoolioake added 87 for good measure and then declared on 400 for seven.

Earlier, Chris Lewis (five for 42) and Pakistan spinner

Saqain Mushtaq polished off Sussex for 137, and second time round it was the turn of former Hove favourite, Ian Salisbury to do the damage, taking all four wickets to put the south coast county in jeopardy.

New Zealander Nathan Astle was Nottinghamshire's unlikely bowling hero against Gloucestershire at Bristol, finishing with five for 44 with his medium-pacers.

Gloucestershire flattered after middle-order contributions from Australian Shuan Young (56) and captain Mark Alleyne (71). Both fell to Astle, who took five of the last six wickets to fall as Gloucestershire were bowled out for 262, 32 short of Nottinghamshire's first-innings total.

But Notts batsmen soon found a few demands in the pitch too, ending the day on 134 for five.

A century loomed for Worcestershire's David Leatherdale (88 not out) when Tom Moody declared against Middlesex at Kidderminster.

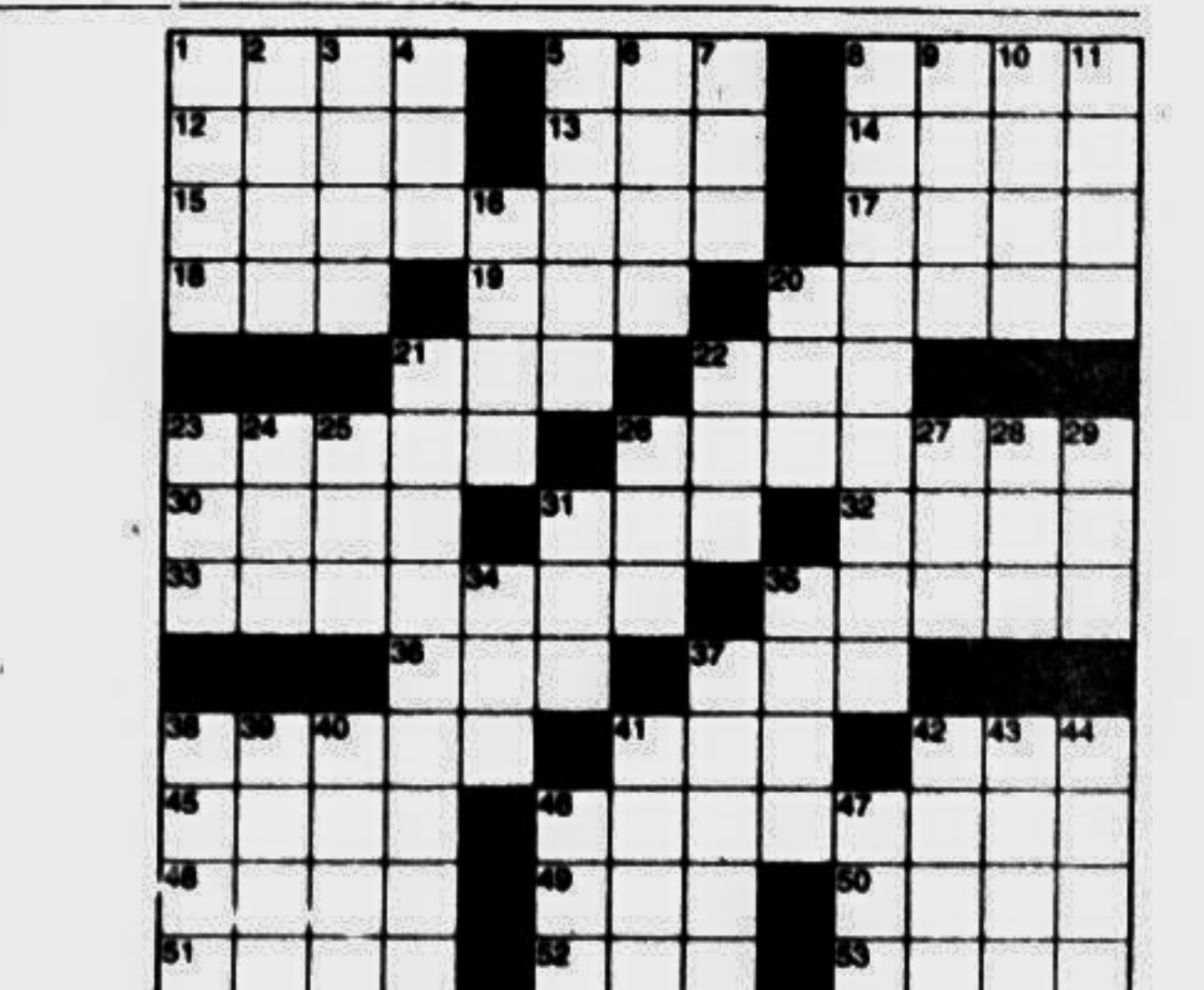
Leatherdale, in company with fellow Yorkshireman Steve Rhodes (59 not out), had put on 111 in an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership when the close came with Worcester-shire 251 for five.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader (C) presiding over a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Sports Council (ECNSC) yesterday. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Summon 37 Possesses 2 - Misbehavin' 21 Lamblike quality 5 Devoured 38 Scatter 3 Musical 22 - 8 Mischief 41 "Crazy" 4 Baton 23 Tiny tale 12 Golfers' positions 42 Eve, Rouge sch. 24 Expert 25 - pros. 13 Punch-bowl contents, at times 45 River in Scotland 5 Bug 26 Auction action 14 Love boat 46 Make changes of immo- 27 "Cabaret" lyricist 15 Subtly 48 Grand-scale 28 Witness 17 Memo shape? 50 Office 9 State of mind 18 Sch. org. 51 11/5/1996 10 Cracker spread 29 Cobb et al. 19 Affirma- 52 Crucial 11 Lean-to 30 Computer symbol 53 Jodie 16 Green-eyed monster 31 Enthusi- 20 Cross-indexed film 20 It's often prepared au vin 32 Do what you're told 21 - League DOWN 22 Happy companion? 1 Movie fragment 23 Early role for Barbra 49 Flushed 8 Harmless 33 Charished 54 Wino LOT OYL 34 Diced and ice 36 Crew's



CRYPTOQUIP MG LYSS RGGUL, DWREM DGLM KPOOWM KYMPWSYKL OY UYHYFU YFM GF EGHWWFR DPSSL? Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE STOLID MATHEMATICIAN ADORDED DANCING TO LOGARITHMS. Today's Cryptquip clue: H equals P The Cryptquip 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.



Emma George of Australia clears the bar in the women's pole vault event at the World University Games in Sicily on Aug 29. George took the gold. — AFP/UNB photo