

Column One

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-83

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm, Nov 28, '97

- Who lifted the Stockholm Open tennis title?

Byrkanan	Rios	Poline
----------	------	--------
- Who was the man-of-the-match in the quadrangular cricket final?

Anwar	Ijaz	Klusener
-------	------	----------
- Which county will Wasim lead next season?

Sussex	Lancashire	Surrey
--------	------------	--------
- Which team won the 18th Damal Smriti cricket tournament?

Abahani	Mohammedan	Biman
---------	------------	-------
- Who won the AB Bank Senior Division table tennis league?

Martinez	Amanitola JS	Utara
----------	--------------	-------

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

POWERED BY EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

Janakantha league starts Giants' mundane show

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra and runners-up Kalabagan Krira Chakra kicked off their Janakantha Premier cricket league campaign with predictable victories against their respective opponents at different city venues yesterday.

But it was by any standard a sluggish start for both the giants where Abahani limped their way to a shabby six-wicket win over Azad SC and Kalabagan recorded an unimpressive 42-run victory against Ajax SC.

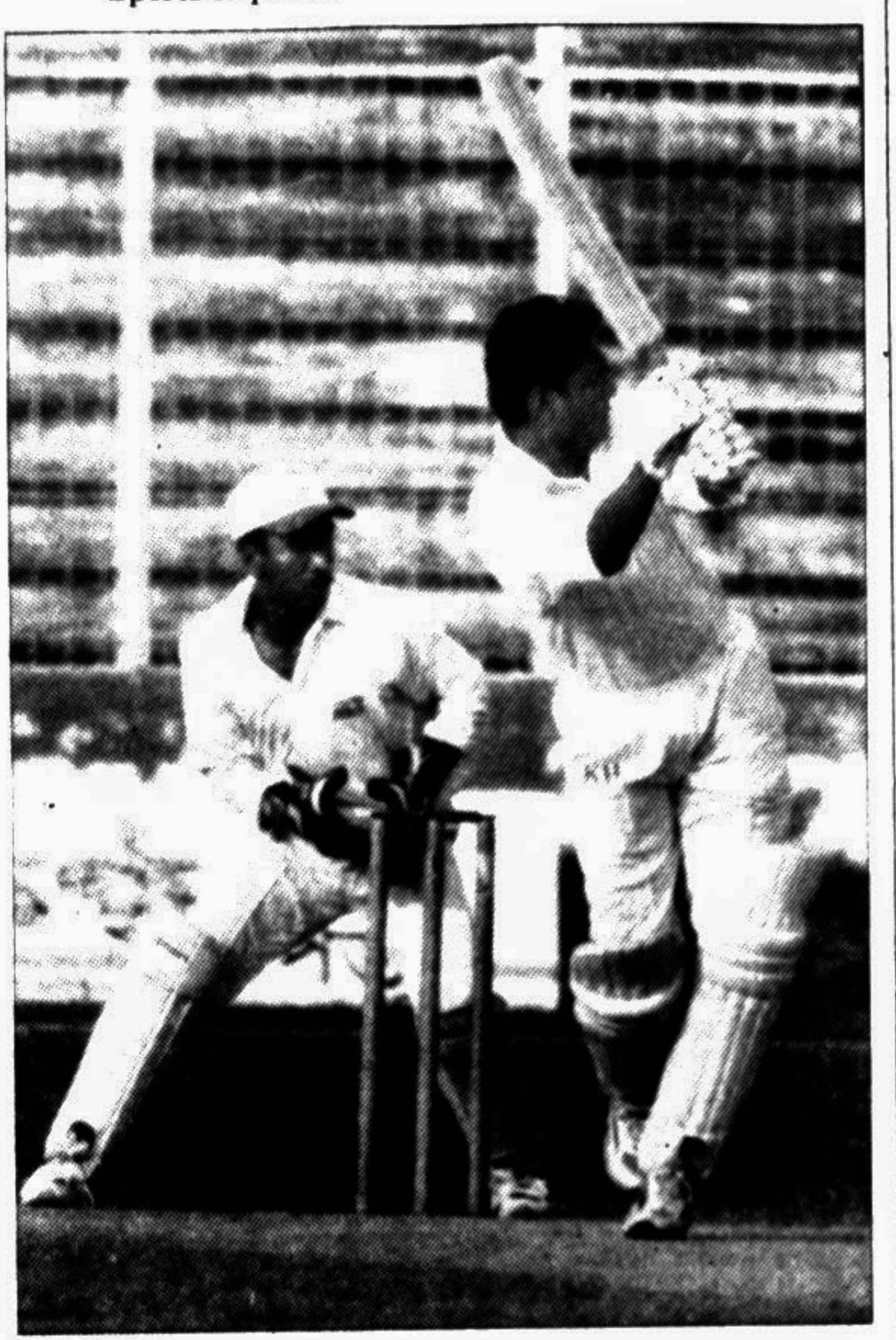
BRIEF SCORES

AZAD SC: 139 all out in 49.4 overs (Biplob 47, Sabbir Khan 30, Iqbal 2/18, Hussain 2/21, Naimur 2/30)

ABAHANI KC: 140 for four wickets in 47.5 overs (Monirul Haq 45 not out, Azam 26, Rahul 15 not out; A Shahab 2/14, Rakib 2/29)
Result: Abahani won by six wickets

KALABAGAN KC: 202 all out in 50 overs (Extras 53, Zakaria 30, Sher Ali 25, Ishtiaq 22, Dola 4/49, Manna 2/8)

AJAX SC: 160 all out in 49.5 overs (Shoab 46, Vola 33, Saikat 3/32, Moni 2/24, Zakir 2/19, Saiful 2/28)
Result: Kalabagan won by 42 runs



Abahani middle order Rahul flicks the ball off his pads during the Premier Division league opener against Azad Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

thanks to a lavish 53 extra runs.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Abahani made heavy weather of a simple task of overhauling a paltry Azad total of 139 before an ever-dependable Monirul Haq helped the holders reach the summit with an unbeaten 45.

The aged but agile Pakistani, who came into bat at number four with Abahani reeling at 69 for three, clubbed a quartet of fours in his plucky 102-ball vigil at the crease. But apart from Monirul's chancy knock, Abahani neither looked comfortable nor impressive in their chase.

Opener Azam Iqbal did score a painstaking 52-ball 26, left-handed Imran Hamid Partho chipped in with 12. Naimur Rahman, who led the popular Dhanmondi outfit in the absence of regular captain Akram Khan, made a rapid-fire 19 and Pakistan left-arm spinner Mohammad Hussain mustered 14. But all the four batsmen, in fact, were allowed to play a second innings by the butter-fingered Azad fielders who demonstrated an ominous catching display as if to let

their more illustrious opponents off the hook.

Earlier, batting first in the Premier Division slump to 42 for five in 21.2 overs, but Biplob and Sabbir Khan put on 43 runs for the sixth wicket to give the total some respectability.

Shabbir, the young off-spinner who later did a fantastic job with the leather, scored a defiant 30 while Biplob made highest 47 runs in the day's low-scoring affair.

Meanwhile, in the other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Kalabagan, aided by a staggering 53 sundry things, managed to score a commanding total of 202 before being all out in the last ball of their share of 50 overs.

Mr. Sundries apart, which eventually decided the fate of the match, middle-order bat Zakaria Imtiaz made 30, Pakistan Sher Ali scored 25 and Ishtiaq chipped in with 22.

In reply, Ajax could muster 160 runs before being skittled out with one ball to spare.

The First Division champions, who were at one stage tottering at 74 for seven, saw a spectacular rescue operation from tail-enders Shoab Hasan and Vola. Together they put on 84 runs for the eighth wicket. Shoab hammered three fours and a couple of sixes in his 56-ball 46 while Vola scored an enterprising 33 off 49 balls. But that was not enough to avoid a defeat.

Dalmiya in the city

Sports Reporter

Jagmohan Dalmiya, president of the International Cricket Council, arrived in the city on a two-day visit yesterday evening to assess the feasibility of hosting the proposed mini-World Cup cricket in Bangladesh next year.

He was received by some officials of the Bangladesh Cricket Board at the airport, and later he attended an informal dinner at Hotel Sheraton.

Dalmiya, a business magnate and an influential cricket organizer from West Bengal, will get down to his official task today.

The ICC boss will start his busy schedule in the morning with the BCB officials and discuss about the mooted one-day carnival featuring nine Test-playing nations -- world champions Sri Lanka, Australia, Pakistan, India, West Indies, South Africa, England, New Zealand and Zimbabwe.

Dalmiya, who masterminded the World Cup in the sub-continent, will call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and the Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia before meeting the local press at the Jiban Bima tower at 3:30 pm. A final decision about the hosts will be taken at the ICC meeting, scheduled to be held in India in December.

Solid start for N Conference

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh cricket team finally got into action in Hamilton yesterday to mark their maiden tour to New Zealand.

But the visitors soon felt the heat of a hostile Northern Conference team, who rattled up a huge 224 for four at stumps on the inaugural day of the four-day affair, as the sun shone after heavy rain for the last couple of days.

According to a faxed message received here last afternoon, middle-order bat Bally (78) and Test-discard Mather (52) were batting when the stumps were drawn after 61 overs were bowled on the day.

The two put on 110 runs to guide the home side to a commanding total evaporating Bangladesh's hopes of a turnaround in the match, which got underway after lunch due to over-night rain.

For Bangladesh, right-arm seamer Saifuddin Ahmed Babu took two wickets for 31 runs while his new-ball partner Hossain Shanto and leg-spinner Al Shahrar Rokon shared the other wickets fell on the day.

Rokon had opener Parlane for 58 while Babu returned Barnes for a duck before scalping Johns for nine.

Abahani drop vital points

Sports Reporter

The battle of the giants failed to live up to expectations as the crucial Premier Division league encounter between Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Abahani Krira Chakra ended in a dull goalless draw at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Both teams played too cautiously and failed to entertain the 10,000 strong crowd.

The outcome of the match left holders Mohammedan Sporting Club at the top of the ten-team table with a point lead over the start-studded Muktiyoddha on completion of the seventh round in the first phase.

Mohammedans, with five wins and two draws, now enjoy a solo lead with 17 points while Muktiyoddha, who had been leading the standings, went down to second spot having raised their tally to 16 points.

On the other hand, the draw was the sky blues' fourth in seven matches which kept them in third with 13 points.

Abahani, desperately needing a victory in order to stay in touch with the top two, suffered an early setback when their inspirational skipper and defender Monem Munna left the ground in the 15th minute with an ankle injury.

However, they remained positive in their approach and produced two good chances in the first session. But midfielder Rumi acted the spoiler.

In the 64th minute Biplab's timely intervention denied the same striker. Three minutes later Nakib's weak header was duly cleared by the Abahani defence.

After surviving the close calls, Abahani staged a late second half rally and could have bagged three points when forward Amin Rana got a defence-penetrating through in the box in the 79th minute. But the ace striker lost his cool sending the ball wide of the far post with an angled shot.

Yellow cards: Jewel Rana, Iqbal, Aliyu, Rajani (Muktiyoddha) and John Odhumbo (Abahani).



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league encounter between Abahani and Muktiyoddha at the Mirpur Stadium. —Star photo

TEAMS

MUKTIYODDHA SANGSAD KC: Aminul, Hasan-Al-Mamun, Jewel Rana, Moon, Tito, Masood Rana, Iqbal Swapan (Barun), Rakib (Rajani), Aliyu (Reaz) and Nakib.

ABAHANI KC: Biplab, Partho, Munna (Tipu), Ali Mansur (Barun), Kingshuk, Anatoly, John, Sentu (Jahangir), Prodeder, Amin Rana and Rumi.

Refere: Ehsanul Haque

PREMIER DIV STANDINGS

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mohammedan SC	7	5	2	0	13	1	17
Muktiyoddha Sangsad	7	5	1	1	11	3	16
Abahani KC	7	3	4	0	7	2	13
Brothers Union	7	2	2	3	6	8	8
Rahmatganj MFS	7	1	5	1	6	8	7
Farashganj SC	7	2	1	4	6	13	7
Victoria SC	7	1	4	2	4	7	7
Agrani Bank	7	1	1	5	6	11	4
YMC Fakirpool	7	0	4	3	1	6	4
Arambagh KS							

Leading goalscorers: 5 goals — Nakib (Mukti); 4 goals — Alif and Don (MSC); Amin Rana (AKC), Bakhtiar (Brothers Union) and Anwar (Victoria SC); 3 goals — Jalal, Jr (Youngmen's Club); 2 goals — Bode Baba (MSC), Tipu (AKC), Masood Rana and Aliyu (Mukti), Jalal Sr. (Youngmen's Club), Ritu and Alamgir (Farashganj SC); Towhid and Milan (Rahmatganj MFS).

REFERE, BADDA DRAW

Earlier, East End Club and Badda Jagarini shared points in the First Division with a 1-1 draw.

Monir put East End ahead in the 52nd minute while Khokon equalised for Badda in the 87th minute. It was Khokon's tenth goal in the league.

East End earned 12 points from eight matches while Badda raised their tally to nine points from the same number of outings.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division: Brothers Union vs Victoria SC (4:30 pm)

First Division: Dhaka Wanderers vs Bangladesh Boy's Club (2:30 pm)



Haroon Rashid
 (Pakistan cricket team manager)

"If I feel sorry for Rameez Raja because he did whatever was possible. He handled the media well and earned a lot of praise for projecting the image of the country. But on the field, he failed and it is the performance on the field which matters in the end."

On the former captain's exclusion from the squad.

FINA defends Sino natants

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17: The world swimming body FINA has again leaped to the defence of China's swimmers over their new record breaking performances which have raised new drug allegations, reports AFP.

"Until one swimmer is caught using the banned substance, we can't say they are on drugs, all I can say now is to congratulate them for a fine performance," Eilon Godfrey, FINA bureau member, said at the World Junior Diving Championships in Panang, Bernama news agency reported.

"Athletes should enjoy his or her moment of success without anyone casting doubt on their performance, don't speculate without any proof," Godfrey added.

Australian swimming coach Don Talbot said last month that Chinese swimmers are drug cheats and rejected attempts by the world swimming governing body to defend China.

Talbot accused Chinese swimmers of doping, amid suspensions aroused after Chinese swimmers set two world records and other outstanding times at the Chinese national games in Shanghai.

Godfrey said FINA had dedicated a lot of money and energy making the sport a drug free one. Adding that they spent 480,000 dollars in 1996 to conduct out-of-competition testings.

"Our desire is to see all of our four disciplines to be drug-free. We are conducting that on a random basis... in and out of competitions," said the FINA member.

"It's a big job and a costly affair if we want to conduct the test on our own. Some of our affiliates have their own programme and we need the cooperation of all our members to make the sport clean," he added.

On the proposal to have blood tests, Godfrey said he personally thought that would not be a good idea at the moment due to various limitations, including the accuracy and religious and cultural beliefs.

Hingis fetches another

VILLANOVA, Pennsylvania, Nov 17: Martina Hingis of Switzerland, battling through a week of four consecutive three-set matches that revealed her rustiness, squeaked past Lindsay Davenport 7-5, 6-7, 7-6 to capture the Advanta Championships on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Hingis had to overcome the 21-year-old Davenport's powerful return of serve, breaking her five times in the match, before finally ending the match with a perfectly-placed drop shot in

the final tiebreak.

That ended the American's 12-match winning run, but the defeat will not prevent her from climbing to No. 2 in the rankings on Monday when the Chase Championships begin in New York.

"I could've been beaten every match this week," said Hingis, who had to go the distance against Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, Anke Huber of Ger-

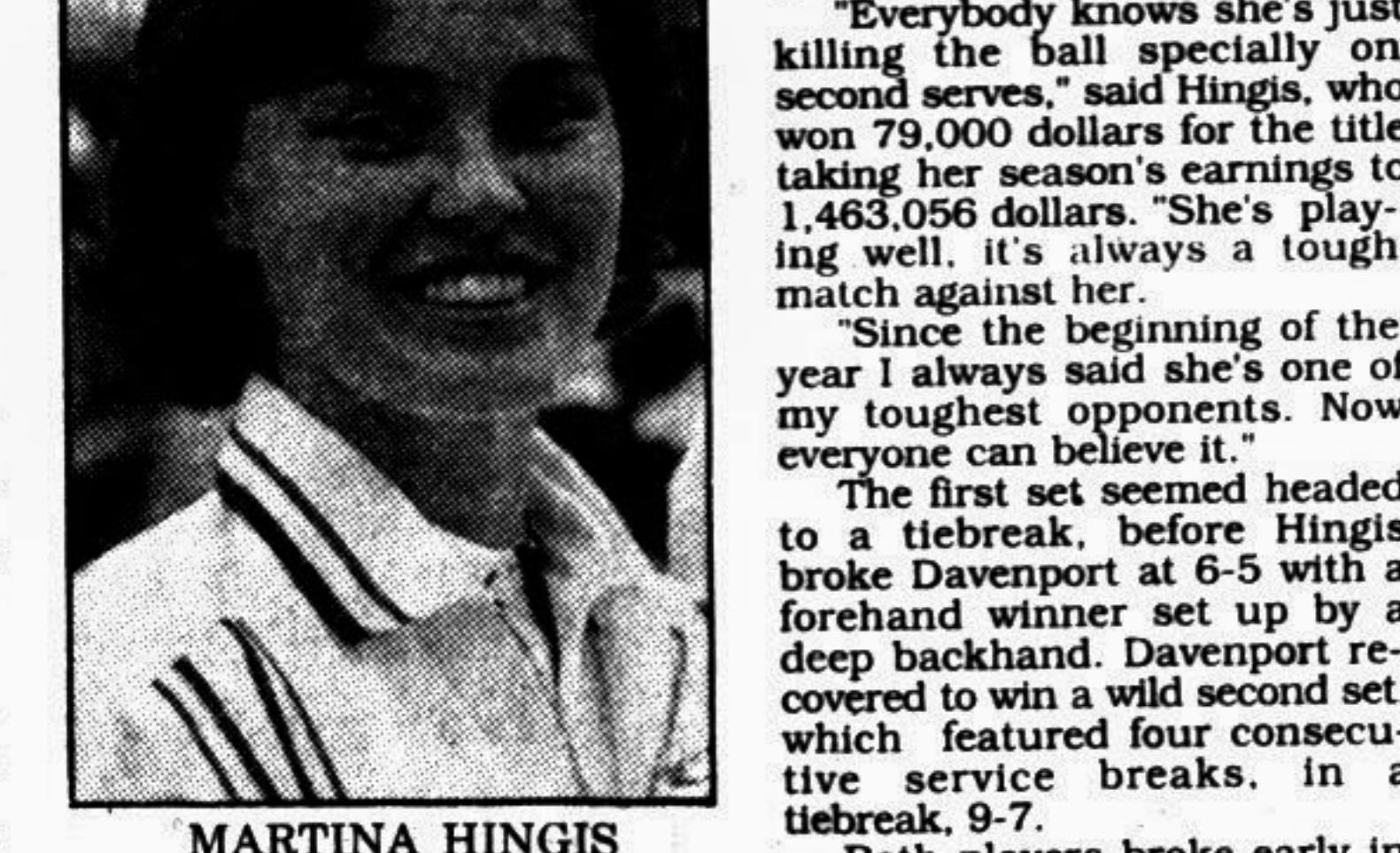
Rusedski enters Colonial Classic

SYDNEY, Nov 17: British super-server Greg Rusedski today clinched the final spot in the eight-man Colonial Classic tournament in Australia in January, reports AFP.

The traditional lead-up to the Australian Open, held at Kooyong in Melbourne, for eight star players boasts seven players from the current top 20.

The odd man is former Australian and Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi, now ranked 122.

The other players nominated are World No. 1 Pete Sampras, Michael Chang (No. 3), Yevgeny Kafelnikov (No. 5), Gustavo Kuerten (No. 14), Goran Ivanisevic (No. 15) and Mark Philippoussis (No. 18).



MARTINA HINGIS

many and Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario just to reach the finals. "But I just don't want to lose."

"Coming into this tournament I was thinking I've won three of four Grand Slams. I've won 11 tournaments. No one could beat me all year, so why should they now?"

"Hopefully, I'm not going to keep thinking like that, because this tournament showed I'm not the only player out there," Hingis said.

Indeed, Davenport had been dominant, reaching the finals

Jones gives a new twist to Aussie dispute

MELBOURNE, Nov 17: Former Test batsman Dean Jones said Monday he was prepared to defy a strike, if one is called by the Australian Cricketers' Association, and would even captain the country if called up by the Australian Cricket Board, reports AP.

There was mounting speculation that elite players would strike in a bid to force the ACB to bow to their demands for increased pay and more power.

The ACB is believed to be prepared to field a back-up Australian team if the ACA decides to call its members out for either the Dec. 4 or Dec. 9 one-day clashes against South Africa.

Jones said he would only support strike action if it was solely for better pay and conditions for players in the domestic Sheffield Shield competition.

He said if the players went on strike to support moves for sports promoter James Erskine to become more involved in the promotion of the game, they would not get his backing.

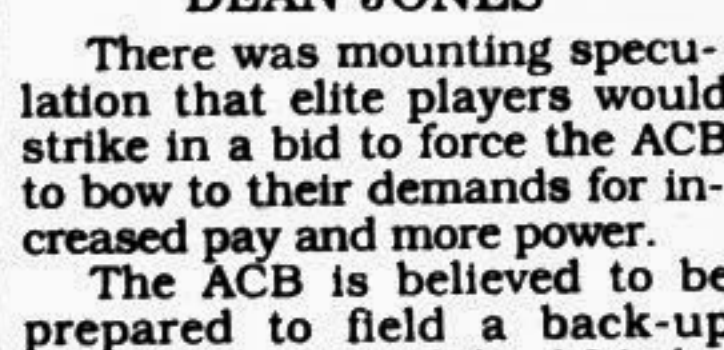
Asked if he would be part of a non-strike team Jones replied, "Yes, I would," adding that he would also be ready to captain the side.

The players' union needs a two-thirds majority of its 120 members to support industrial action for a strike and both parties have been lobbying players over the past few days.

One of the major reasons talks broke down last week was that the ACB believed the union wants control of the game, because part of the claims is for Erskine to promote and market the game through his company SEL.

Jones is the first player to publicly state he is not fully behind the ACA's campaign, but there have been murmurs that the union would struggle to get the majority vote needed.

"Things are getting clouded," Jones said. "I'm not looking for control of the game. I'm looking for better pay and conditions for the young kids coming up through the ranks."



DEAN JONES

There was mounting speculation that elite players would strike in a bid to force the ACB to bow to their demands for increased pay and more power.

The ACB is believed to be prepared to field a back-up Australian team if the ACA decides to call its members out for either the Dec. 4 or Dec. 9 one-day clashes against South Africa.

Jones said he would only support strike action if it was solely for better pay and conditions for players in the domestic Sheffield Shield competition.

He said if the players went on strike to support moves for sports promoter James Erskine to become more involved in the promotion of the game, they would not get his backing.

Asked if he would be part of a non-strike team Jones replied, "Yes, I would," adding that he would also be ready to captain the side.

The players' union needs a two-thirds majority of its 120 members to support industrial action for a strike and both parties have been lobbying players over the past few days.

One of the major reasons talks broke down last week was that the ACB believed the union wants control of the game, because part of the claims is for Erskine to promote and market the game through his company SEL.

Jones is the first player to publicly state he is not fully behind the ACA's campaign, but there have been murmurs that the union would struggle to get the majority vote needed.

"Things are getting clouded," Jones said. "I'm not looking for control of the game. I'm looking for better pay and conditions for the young kids coming up through the ranks."

Pete, top of the tops

HANOVER, Germany, Nov 17 (AP): So, is Pete Sampras the best player ever to hold a tennis racket?

That could be a point of contention. What no one is disputing is that when Sampras is on top of his game, he is unbeatable.

That was the case Sunday, as Sampras trounced Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to capture his fourth ATP Tour World Championship title.

"When my game clicks like that, I feel unbeatable," Sampras said.

Kafelnikov agreed. "When he's hot, he's impossible to beat," the Russian said after his fifth straight loss to Sampras in straight sets.

"I wanted to walk off the court after the first set because I knew it was going to get worse," Kafelnikov said. "I felt so embarrassed, I had no chance."

Before the final, a 100-member panel of current and former players, tournament directors and tennis writers voted Sampras the best player of the past 25 years.

Sampras received 26 first-place votes and finished with 779 points, 25 points ahead of Bjorn Borg, who had 17 first-place votes. Borg won the French Open six times and Wimbledon five years in a row.

John McEnroe was named No. 3 on the 25-year list, with Connors fourth and Ivan Lendl fifth.

Sampras became the first player to defend the title in the season-ending ATP championship since Lendl in 1987.

Sampras also won in 1991, 1994 and 1996 and his four victories in the elite tournament that brings together the top eight players in the world gave him a share of the second place on the all-time list with Ilie Nastase. Lendl has five titles.

Winner of 10 Grand Slam titles in his career, the 26-year-old Sampras has now captured 52 titles, seventh on the all-time list. Connors leads with 109.

"It's very flattering to have the respect from the people in tennis," Sampras said. "It makes you feel like you are making some kind of impact on the game."

Becker, who has had memorable duels against Sampras, has often said he considers the American the best player in history.

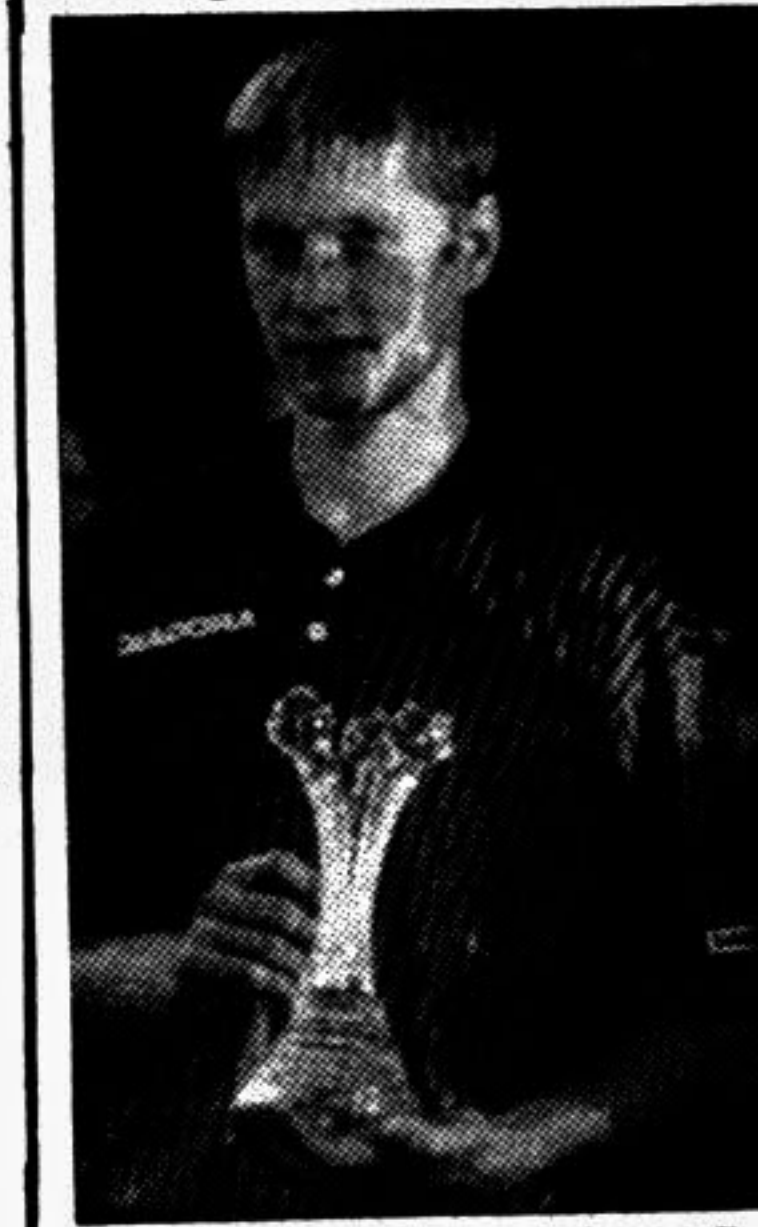
Becker, now semi-retired, was the last to beat Sampras in a final, in Stuttgart in October 1996. Since then, Sampras has won all nine finals he has played.

Sampras was already assured of finishing as No. 1 in the world for the fifth year in a row, a record he shares with Jimmy Connors. He leads the tour with eight titles this year, including Wimbledon and the Australian Open.

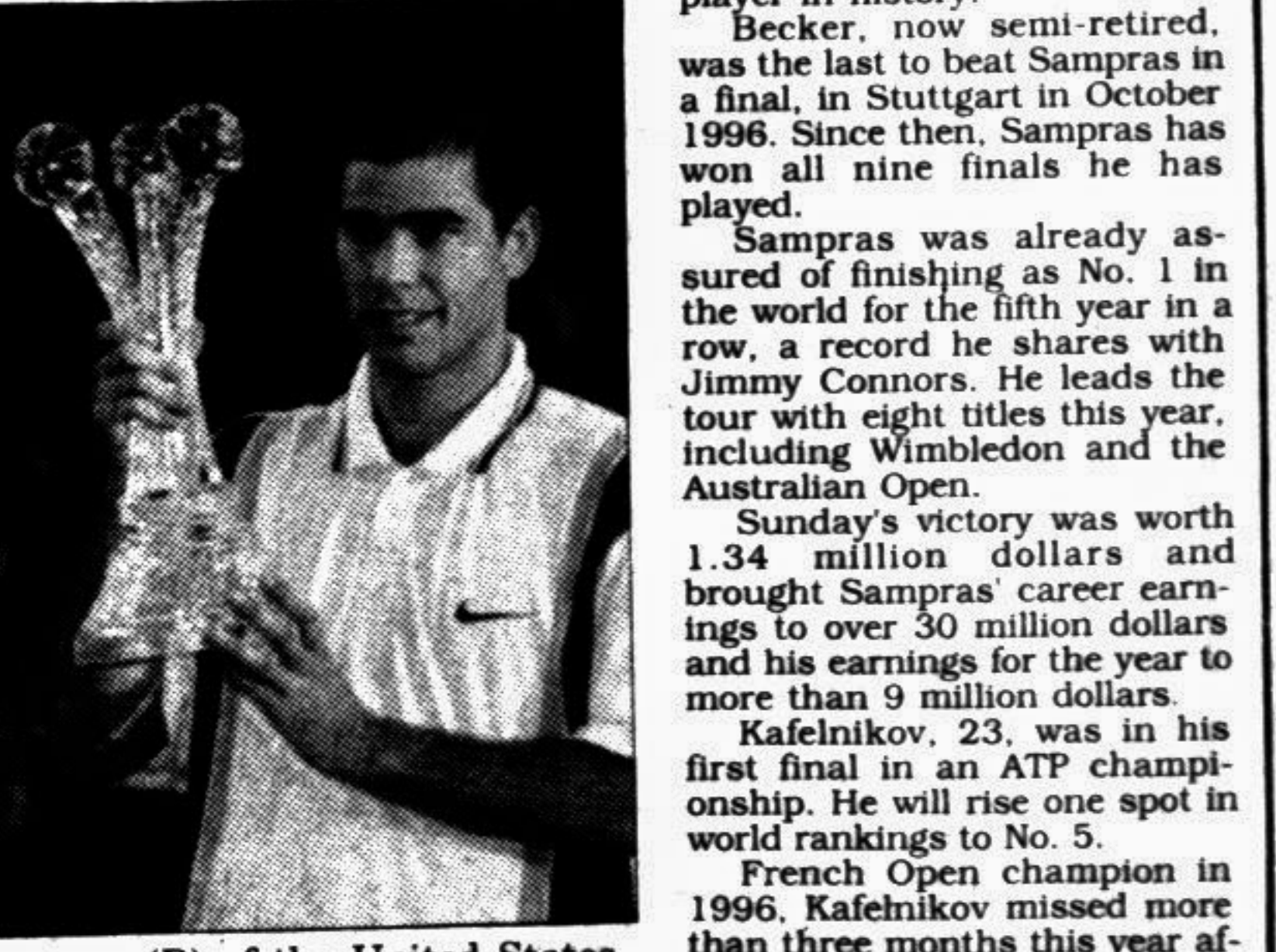
Sunday's victory was worth 1.34 million dollars and brought Sampras' career earnings to over 30 million dollars and his earnings for the year to more than 9 million dollars.

Kafelnikov, 23, was in his first final in an ATP championship. He will rise one spot in world rankings to No. 5.

French Open champion in 1996, Kafelnikov missed more than three months this year after breaking a finger on his right hand just before the Australian Open. He is now 2-9 against Sampras.



World number one Pete Sampras (R) of the United States and Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov pose with their trophies after the ATP Tour World Championship final in Hanover on Sunday. —AP/UNB photo



World number one Pete Sampras (R) of the United States and Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov pose with their trophies after the ATP Tour World Championship final in Hanover on Sunday. —AP/UNB photo

Biman Cup golf ends

The fifth Biman Cup golf tournament concluded at Kurmitola Golf Course on Friday, says a press release.

This year the competition was participated by 240 golfers including a good number of ladies and foreigners.

The winners in different categories are: Most Pars — Faruque Ahmed; Longest Drive — Alok Azeem; Nearest to Pin — Jeong Yong Ryu; Back Nine Winner — Jeong Yong Ryu; Front Nine Winner — Choung Eun Lee; 2nd Runner up — Brig Elahi Akbar; Ladies Runner up — Mr Yun Hwa Lee; Runner up — Maj Gen S Ameer Ali; 2nd Best Gross — Syed Iqbal Azim; Best Gross — Sajjad S Ahmed; Junior Winner — Faisal Khan; Senior Winner — Rear Admiral AA Mustafa; Ladies Winner — Mrs Jung Sik Park; Men's Winner — Maj Gen M Kamal Uddin.

The State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir gave away trophies as the chief guest at a colourful ceremony at Kurmitola Golf Club in the evening.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Mahubur Rahman was also present.



Winners of the fifth Biman Cup golf tournament along with the guests at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday. —Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- One of the Kennedys
- Scenery
- Grow
- Mixed find
- Condo, e.g.
- "Metamorphoses" writer
- Thirteenth president
- Lofoto
- Empty
- Mimic
- Inseparable
- H.G. Wells' doctor
- Nearby
- "Golly!"
- M divided by 4
- Songwriter's subject
- Bear hair
- Lano's prominence
- Blackjack part
- State tree
- Wary's pal
- "West Side

DOWN

- Bean curd
- Green acres
- Farmer's home
- Merciful item
- Battery terminal
- Russian 28
- "Awaiting reply"
- It's a mouthful
- Keayed
- Nicholson
- Deep fissure
- Remnant
- Dermatologist's cases
- Awid
- Unlettered "goal"
- The Music Man's setting
- Snatch
- "The Untouchables' role
- Ally counterpart
- Clairborne of fashion
- Thrusman
- "Lazy River"

Solution time: 28 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP

L R K F . G Z H N Q F U Q K G P
 K N H . A R N H Y H N C H Z W P
 U Z L H O . K E C H I K Y Z W P
 E I H Q Q A Z E I Q F .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD YOU SAY DOMESTIC CATS REALLY LIKE MOUSEWORK?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals F

The Cryptoquip 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.