

Column One SPORTS TALK



Boris Becker (German tennis great) 'I believe the spectators love a spectacle — and for a spectacle you need actors. You need players who smile... players who talk... players who do something. There is absolutely no room for that anymore which is a pity because this is a beautiful game.'

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-83

Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes at 8 pm, Nov 28, '97

- 1 Who lifted the Stockholm Open tennis title? Bjornman, Rios, Poline
2 Who was the man-of-the-match in the quadrangular cricket final? Anwar, Ijaz, Klusener
3 Which county will Wasim lead next season? Sussex, Lancashire, Surrey
4 Which team won the 18th Damal Smriti cricket tournament? Abahani, Mohammedan, Biman
5 Who won the AB Bank Senior Division table tennis league? Mariners, Armanitola JS, Uttara

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone (if any):

Milutinovic sacked

MEXICO CITY, Nov 26: Bora Milutinovic was fired as coach of the Mexican national team on Tuesday, a move that had been rumoured for weeks despite his leading Mexico to an 11th appearance in the World Cup finals as the top finisher in the CONCACAF qualifying standings, reports AP.

Seles beats Coetzer

BALTIMORE, Nov 26: Amanda Coetzer knows her inability to beat Monica Seles lies in her difficulty with Seles' powerful patented two-handed shot, reports AP.

Unfortunately, identifying the problem wasn't enough to help Coetzer post her first career victory over Seles in an exhibition at the first Union/Signet Bank Tennis Challenge on Tuesday night. Seles relied on an overpowering shot, forcing Coetzer to scamper along the baseline in a 6-2, 6-4 victory.

It was the sixth time in as many matches that Coetzer, whose No 4 ranking is the highest of her career, has lost to Seles, who is ranked No 5. Seles was a replacement for Steffi Graf in the charity exhibition organised by former professional player Pam Shriver, a Baltimore native.

Pak players play pivotal role Abahani, Kalabagan win



win over Lalmitia Club, thanks to a gritty half-century from their Pakistani recruit Monirul Haq. But Monirul's defiant 55, which enabled the popular Dhanmondi outfit to garner a fighting total of 216 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, was overshadowed by yet another brilliant effort from his compatriot Abid Hanif, who scored a dazzling 90 for the lost cause of Lalmitia.

On a day where the Pak power ruled supreme, Gaffar Kazmi scored the second ton of the season after his compatriot Nadim Younis' brilliant 107 not out when the tall right-hander stroked his way to a flawless unbeaten 125.

The foreign imports in the local cricket once again provided the fat to the flatter margin victories of the two giants in the Janakantha Premier Division cricket league at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Pakistani Gaffar Kazmi scored a brilliant unbeaten century to mastermind a comprehensive 50-run victory for the last year's runners-up Kalabagan Krira Chakra against Victoria Sporting Club and give his team a solo lead in the race with four wins from as many matches.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Abahani Krira Chakra returned to the winning way after their shocking five-wicket defeat at the hands of Surjo Tarun Club when the holders recorded a facile 53-run victory.

City Club beat Sadharan Bima by six runs in a tense First Division cricket league match at the City Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Abahani KC: 216 for 9 wickets in 50 overs (Monirul Haq 55, Azam 40, Naimur 31; Tarique 6/48, Morshed 2/32) LALMITIA CLUB: 163 all out in 45.3 overs (Abid Hanif 90, Rubayit 22; Salahuddin 3/24, Iqbal 2/23, Zakir 2/28) Result: Abahani won by 53 runs.

KALABAGAN KC: 221 for 4 wickets in 50 overs (Gaffar Kazmi 125 not out, Shipon 43; Al-Amin (Jr) 2/46) VICTORIA SC: 171 for 8 wickets in 50 overs (Imran 49, Moniruzzaman 33, Asgar Khan 33; Salkat 3/34) Result: Kalabagan won by 50 runs.

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Fakirerpool earn full points

Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool finished their first phase of the Premier Division football league on a winning note when they came from behind to register a 2-1 victory over Agrani Bank Sports Club at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw encounter, midfielder Mangal put the bankers ahead with a magnificent 30-yard volley from the centre which rocketed into the far corner of the net.

However, the lead lasted only 14 minutes after Monir scored a simple equaliser. Jalal senior grabbed the winner in the 46th minute following a goalmouth melee.

It was Motijheel club's second victory in nine matches which raised their tally to seven points but kept them at the bottom of the table behind Agrani Bank, Arambagh and Rahmatganj who have finished the first phase with eight points each.

The day's other match between First Division sides Dhaka Wanderers Club and Dhanmondi Club ended in a dull goalless draw.

Wanderers completed their first phase campaign jointly third along with Shantinagar having 14 points each while Dhanmondi finished at the bottom with only five points.

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Titans lock horns today

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club will desperately be looking for a victory when they take on arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in a crucial Premier Division football league encounter at the Mirpur Stadium this evening.

The Dhaka derby will be broadcast by Bangladesh Betar from 4:30 pm. A positive result against their traditional foes will enable the black and whites to finish their first round campaign with a slim but solo lead in the ten-team elite league.

Mohammedans, who are still unbeaten in the league along with Abahani, have 18 points to their credit with five wins and three draws from eight outings so far.

The sky blues also have no choice but to earn three points to remain in the title race. The 1995 champions began the season with three successive draws against Victoria SC, Arambagh KS and Agrani Bank. However, they somehow managed to find

their feet winning four of their next five games which still keeps the club third on 16 points. If Abahani win or the match ends in a tie, second place Muktiyoddha Sangsad, with 20 points will complete the first phase as leaders.

Both crowd-pulling clubs will miss the services of some key players either due to injury or disciplinary grounds. Mohammedans will be without Bode Baba, one of their two Nigerian recruits who is sidelined following a two-match suspension imposed after their clash against Brothers Union on November 11, and defender Nazrul is not available on receiving a third yellow card against the Muktiis on November 20. Besides, skipper and custodian Ponir who suffered a cut on his forehead during that match, is doubtful. If Ponir does not play, mercurial midfielder Arman will don the captain's armband.

Abahani will have a major problem with their defence today. Prodeep has been slapped

with a two-match ban in the game against Rahmatganj and four others. Monem Munna, Ali Masoor, Masum and Sohel Reza are out with injuries. Mamun Joarder, who is basically a winger, Kingshuk, Barun and Partho will have to assume responsibility.

Up front, Abahani can depend on inform Maksudul Amin Rana who scored six goals in last four matches and Tipu while Mohammedan look to ace Alfaz and his partner Don who have scored four goals each so far.

This will be the third clash this season between the two titans. Abahani won the first encounter 3-2 through a Tipu golden goal in the Federation Cup semifinals. Mohammedan exacted revenge in the Mahanagari Cup semifinal with a 2-1 victory.

For statisticians, this will be the 43rd clash since independence. Previously both teams have 13 each triumphs with the other sixteen being drawn.

The cost of a gallery ticket is Tk 20.

Indians well on course

NAGPUR, India, Nov 26: India set themselves up for a big first innings score after an impressive start on the rain-curtailed opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka here today, reports AFP.

Rain and bad light, combined with inefficient drying methods, allowed just 41 overs during the day in which the home side elected to bat and made 133 for one.

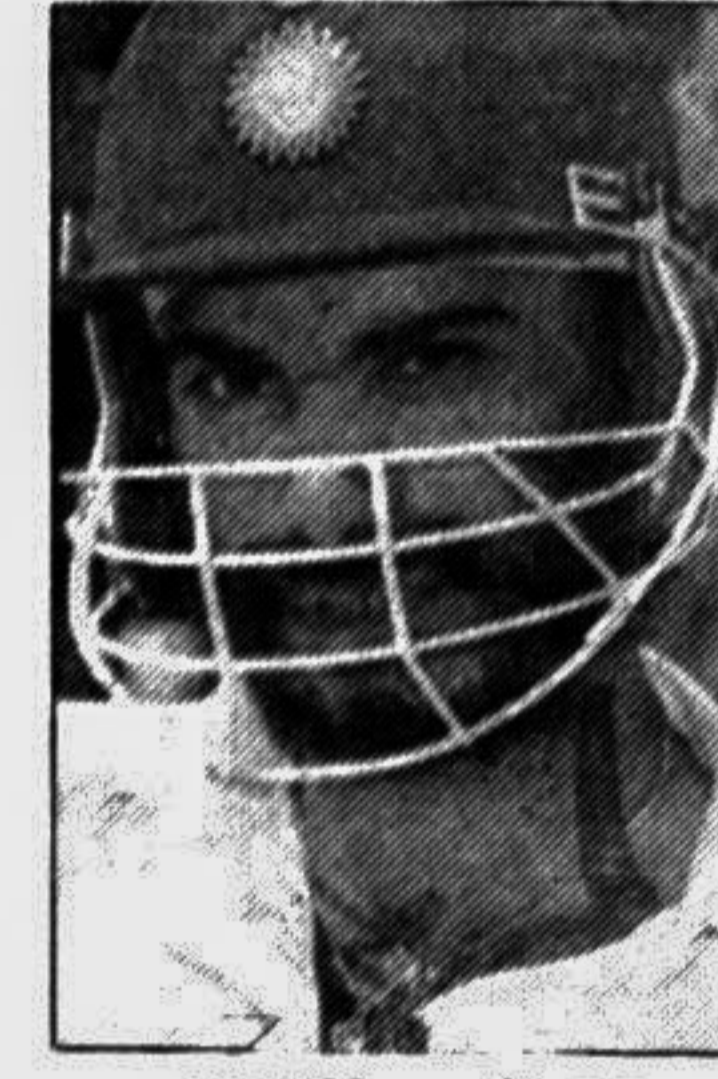
Navjot Sidhu and Rahul Dravid provided the momentum with an unbeaten stand of 118 for the second wicket after makeshift-opener Nayan Mongia had fallen early on.

Sidhu, who made 131 in the drawn first Test at Mohali last week, continued his fine form with 64, studded with 10 boundaries and a massive six over long-on off Muttiah Muralitharan.

Dravid was unbeaten on 47 at close with six fours. Three-and-a-half hours play was lost to the weather, starting with a light shower that swept across the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium after one over had been bowled.

Play resumed after a 15-minute break and the tourists struck the first blow when Mungia (11) cut fast bowler

Ravindra Pushpakumara straight to Muralitharan at point. There were two further breaks for bad light in the morning session which ended 45 minutes early with India on 23 for one from 6.1 overs. Heavy rain during the lunch



SIDHU... 64 n.o.

break made way for sunny skies in the afternoon, but the groundstaff struggled to dry the wet outfield after the 'super

sopper' machine broke down. The entire post-lunch session was washed out, forcing umpires Cyril Mitchell and V K Ramaswamy to extend play for an hour when the players returned to the field after tea.

The Indians went into the match with a third spinner in left-arm Nilesch Kulikarni, who replaced Debashish Mohanty from the side that played the first Test.

Sri Lanka made two changes, bringing in left-arm spinner Jayantha Silva in place of Kumara Dharmasena and Pushpakumara for Sajewea de Silva.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second cricket Test between India and Sri Lanka Wednesday: INDIA: First innings Mongia c Muralitharan b Pushpakumara 11 Sidhu not out 64 Dravid not out 47 Extras: (lb-2, nb-9) 11 Total: (for one wkt) 133 fall of wicket: 1-15

Bowling: O M R W Vass 11 2 21 0 Pushpakumara 8 0 34 1 Jayantha 8 2 29 0 Muralitharan 9 0 37 0 Ranatunga 1 0 8 0 Jayasuriya 4 2 2 0

Biman tennis

Dilip Passia, Fahim Ahsan Rumi, M H Khan Ovi and Taswar moved into the men's singles semifinals of the Biman Open tennis tournament after winning their respective quarterfinal clashes at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

Dilip, the top seed, famed Mustafa 6-1, 6-2, Rumi beat Yasir Huda Sakib 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, Ovi defeated Lakshman 6-1, 6-4 while Taswar posted a 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory over Rahat Kamal.

In today's semis, Dilip will take on Ovi while Rumi will meet Taswar.

In the women's Shathy Sarkar, Tania Farzana, Baishakhi and Ifrat Jahan entered the last four.

Shathy thrashed Chowdhury R Kabir 6-2, 6-1, Baishakhi outplayed Yasmeen 6-1, Ifrat edged past Naomi Cookson of USA 6-1, 6-3 while Tania earned a walkover against Anku Ahsan.

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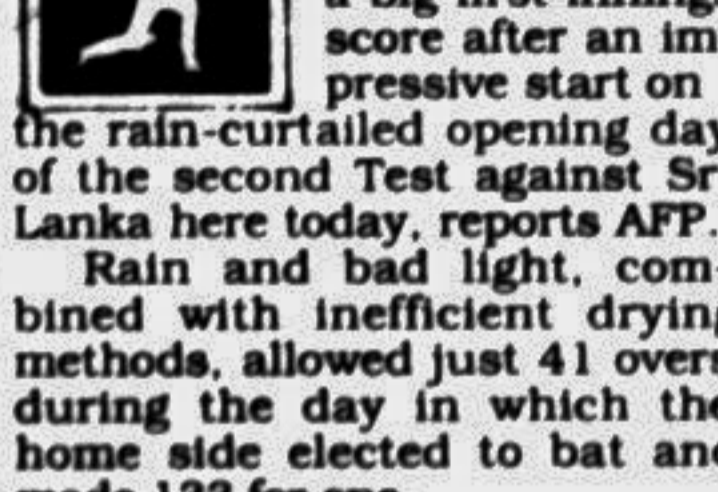
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Div I cricket

City Club beat Sadharan Bima by six runs in a tense First Division cricket league match at the City Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

CITY CLUB: 240 for six in 45 overs, Jahan 54, Julfikar 38, Sajjad 32, Majed 30, Sajjad Hasan not out 17, extras 40; SADHARAN BIMA: 234 all out in 44.5 overs, Tariku Islam 56, Shaquid Islam 47, Kabir 30, Babu 19, Rajender 19, Mainuzzaman 18, extras 18.

Department of Government and Politics moved into the quarterfinals of the Jahangirnagar University inter-department cricket championship with an easy 68-run victory over Department of Statistics yesterday.

Batting first, Government and Politics scored 166 for eight in the stipulated 30 overs with Muazzam hammering highest 49, Rinku (28) and Kabir (27) were the other notable run-getters.

Rupak was the most successful for Statistics who captured three wickets for 19 runs. In reply, Statistics were bundled out for a paltry 98 in the face of some inspired bowling from Shipon who finished with four for 11.

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Kalabagan's Pakistani middle order Gaffar Kazmi, who scored an unbeaten 125, tries to cut a wide delivery from Victoria's right-arm seamer Al-Amin during their Janakantha Premier Division league match.

Naimur while trying to steal a cheeky single. When Abid, who had earlier played for Brothers Union, departed in the 43rd over, leaving his side 155 for six, it was all over for Lalmitia who lost their next four wickets for the addition of only eight runs to the total.

Naimur, who earlier made an useful contribution of 31, played the pivotal role in defence of his side's moderate total when the agile fielder took three catches in the match including two spectacular attempts at gully, which saw the backs of one-down Ridwan (14) and Lalmitia's Sri Lankan middle-order bat Tilkeratne (6).

Earlier, sent into bat in the morning, Abahani total was built around some useful contributions from the top and middle-order batsman. Opener Azam Iqbal made a characteristic 40 off 90 deliveries and Rahul chipped in with 25.

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I was never looking at a century: Ganguly

By C Rajshekhar Rao

Saurav Ganguly keeps growing in stature with each match. More important than his performance as an individual is the way he helps the team's cause, be it one-dayers or Tests.

His first Test century at home, which came in his fourth Test match in India, was another effort that showed the utility of the left-hander. Having scored centuries in his first two Tests in England last year, he repeated the feat of scoring centuries in back-to-back Tests, following up his 147 in the first innings of the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo with a gritty 109 at the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) Stadium in Mohali on Nov 22.

Completing 1,000 runs in Tests during the course of his knock last Saturday, Ganguly said he scored runs on that day for the team, and that it was as satisfying as any century can be. "Every day I get a hundred is a good day for me. But the one at Lord's on my debut remains the most cherished one," said Ganguly after the Saturday's play.

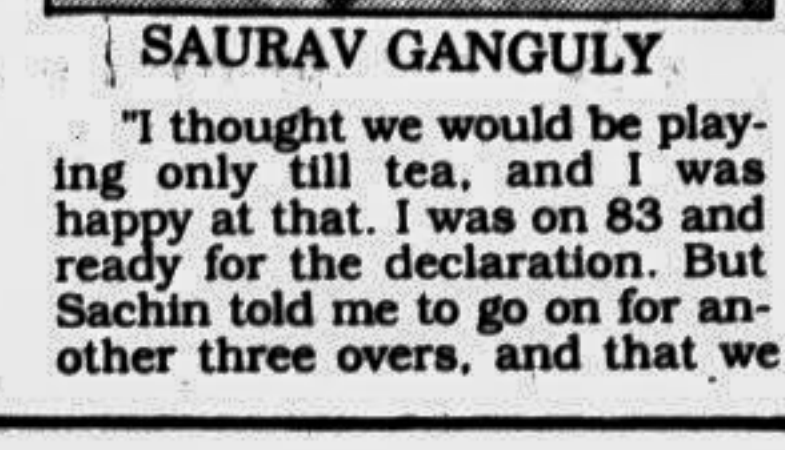
"I was never looking at a century. I just wanted to go out and

play according to the directions I got from the dressing room. I had been told to hang around to begin with, and I slowly opened up. The wicket was doing its bit early in the morning, so it was not that easy," said Ganguly.

About batting four-down, Ganguly said that he was happy batting at any position. "I just try to play my natural game, whenever I go in to bat. I have two hundreds batting at number six, and I feel that if one is destined to get a century, he will get it at any position."

"One has to attack at times, like I did today. It depends on what the situation is like. I wouldn't always go after the bowling like I did today," said Ganguly.

"When Abey was hitting from the other end, my role was to be there and keep the scoreboard moving, try and take singles. I had to be there with Abey, if we were to swell the total," said Ganguly.



SAURAV GANGULY

"I thought we would be playing only till tea, and I was happy at that. I was on 83 and ready for the declaration. But Sachin told me to go on for another three overs, and that we

Iranians skip protocol

MELBOURNE, Nov 26: The Iran football team refused to attend a state government reception here today for their World Cup playoff against Australia saying they were too tired after a marathon flight from Tehran, reports AFP.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword puzzle grid and clues for Across and Down words.