

## Column One

## Sports Talk



Pete Sampras

(American tennis superstar)  
"Watching us lose from the hotel room, that is not how I wanted to finish my year."

After the US team suffered a whitewash at the hands of Sweden in the Davis Cup final.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

## Competition-86

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 9, 1998

1 Who is the Australia cricket coach?	Lille	Marsh	Simpson
2 Who is the Argentina soccer coach?	Passarella	Venables	Cruyff
3 Which county will Lara lead next year?	Essex	Durham	Warwickshire
4 Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league?	Nadim	Saeed	Kazmi
5 Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?	Linu	Tumpa	Zulekha

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

POWERED WITH  
EN-VITS  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

## Popov ready to roll

PERTH, Jan 6: Alexander Popov, supreme champion of the 1990s, is ready in mind if not fully in body to take on all challengers to his titles at the World Swimming Championships next week, reports Reuters.

The Australian-based Russian, who became the first swimmer to retain the Olympic 50 and 100 metres freestyle titles at the 1996 Atlanta Games, aims for an identical "double sprint double" when he defends the world crowns he won in Rome in 1994.

He contests the 100 freestyle on January 14 and the 50 freestyle on January 17 in the Challenge Stadium 50-metre pool.

"Everything is up in your head — upstairs," Popov told reporters. "If the head is ready the body will follow."

The extra physical zing has yet to come for the 26-year-old Russian. "I should have known (the feeling) about three weeks ago but I didn't notice it yet," he said.

Popov proved his full recovery from a knife attack by a roadside melon-seller in Moscow a month after the 1996 Olympics when he set the fastest times in the world for 1997 in both the 50 and 100 freestyle at last August's European Championships in Seville.

"We've done all the mental preparation before. My head is ready but the physical part is not yet," he said.

But Popov, who has won the 50 and 100 freestyle at all his major championships since 1992, is unfazed by any opposition and, with gentle amusement, chided a questioner for wanting to build up "a little bit of a battle," between himself and 20-year-old training partner Michael Klim.

Klim broke the world 100 metres butterfly record last October and was second behind Popov in the 1997 100 freestyle rankings with his winning time at August's Pan Pacific championships.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

## Premier Division Football

League: Mohammedan SC vs Brothers Union  
(Mirpur Stadium, 2:15 pm)

## First Division Football

League: BRTC SC vs Shantinagar Club  
(Army Stadium, 2:15 pm)

## First Division Cricket

League: Dhanmondi Club vs Bangladesh Railway (City Club)

## Bangladesh squad named

Sports Reporter



The national selectors yesterday announced a 14-man Bangladesh squad for the Coca-Cola Independence Cup cricket tournament, scheduled to begin in the capital from January 10. Akram Khan, who was retained as captain, will lead the home-side in the tri-nation tourney, which also includes India and Pakistan.

But in the new-look national team, that has gone through a major reshuffle after the disastrous tour of New Zealand, offered a recall for as many as five players. The most sensational inclusion being off-spinner Shariful Haq Plabon.

The right-arm tweaker, a member of the national team during the infamous Kenya ICC safari in 1994 but was left in the lurch for the last four years, will act as the second recognised spinner alongside Mohammad Rafique, a left-arm spinner who missed the Bangladesh bus to down under due to injury.

Young opener Shahriar Hossain Bidut, who made his debut at the highest level in a three-nation tourney in Kenya last year but was not considered for New Zealand due to poor form, was the other notable inclusion.

## Exhibition h'ball

CHITTAGONG, Jan 6: An exhibition match between the visiting German handball team and Chittagong Mahanagar Krira Sangstha will be held at Dampara Police Lines ground here tomorrow afternoon, reports BSS.

Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan will witness the match as the chief guest.

The prices for different tickets are: VIP (Shaheed Jewel Gate) Tk 1200, Club House (Gate No 2) Tk 750, Western Gallery Tk 150, Ladies enclosure Tk 150, Eastern Gallery Tk 100.

Besides, there are 24 hospitality boxes each containing ten seats. Price of a box for the whole tourney is Tk one lakh.

The Branches are: Principal Office, Imanagar, VIP Road (Naya Paltan), Narayanganj, Mirpur Road, Bangsal, Islampur, Kawran Bazar, Gulshan and Dilkusha.

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