

World Youth Cup

Skipper's heroics powers India

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 25 (AP/AF): Captain Amit Pagnis rescued India with a near century and led them to a 51-run, rain-affected upset of England to keep their hopes alive at the under-19 cricket World Cup.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh — in their second upset of the tournament — won the plate final by beating the West Indies by six wickets.

India's victory leaves Australia atop the Basil D'Oliveira Pool with two victories in two matches. England and India are 1-1 while Pakistan are 0-2. A victory by Australia over England on Tuesday will send the Aussies to the final.

However, a victory by England and another by India over Pakistan will set up a three-way tie atop the group and leave the decision to run-rate, which presently favours Australia.

India were muddling along at 65 for three before Pagnis entered and stroked one six and five fours for 99 off 113 balls, leading India to 252 before rain began to fall.

England's target was reduced to 229 from 45 overs then to 204 from 39 overs.

Bur Virender Shewag took three wickets for 32 runs in 5.5 overs and India bowled out England for 152 in 33.5 overs.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Nabin Sangha and Kathalagan CC won their respective matches in the Acme Second Division cricket league played at different venues of the city yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Nabin Sangha routed Indira Road KC by six wickets.

Set to eclipse a modest Indira Road total of 145 for four, Nabin Sangha put their opponents bowling to the sword by reaching the victory mark in just 8.4 overs out of the stipulated 30.

Way at the T&T ground, a hurricane 95 from opener Sadi saw Kathalagan cruise to a five-wicket win against Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Opting to bat Eskaton amassed a competitive 223 for three in 30 overs, largely due to a blistering 39-ball 87 from skipper Nurul Islam.

Hadi clubbed ten massive sixes and four boundaries during his aggressive knock.

In reply, Sadi slammed seventeen fours and a six in his 60-ball vigil at the crease to guide Kathalagan through with three deliveries to spare.

Zia smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Jan 25: Bosepara Cricket Club defeated Friends Circle Club by six wickets today in the second round of the 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Government College playground.

Winning the toss, Friends Circle batted first and collected 142 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Hittu and Liton bagged 36 and 30 runs.

In reply, Bosepara made 146 runs for four wickets in 22.2 overs.

Boby and Azam collected 51 and 35 runs for the winners.

In the second match of the day at the same venue, Shaheb Bazar Sporting Club defeated Success Sporting Club by 73 runs.

Winning the toss, Shaheb Bazar batted first and made 202 runs for five wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Rozel, Jony and Jafar made 64, 36 and 35 runs respectively.

In reply, Success Sporting failed to reach the target and collected only 129 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Sazal and Sumit scored 45 and 48 runs respectively for the loser.

Rozel of Shaheb Bazar was selected player-of-the-match.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bijoy Dibash Cricket (First semifinal)
Mohammedan vs Kalabagan (NS)

20th national hockey championship (Final)
Dhaka DSA vs Dhaka University
Venue: National Hockey Stadium (2pm)



Abahani's national wicketkeeper Khaled Masood's eyes light up as Biman's Hasanuzzaman misses an attempted sweep during yesterday's Bijoy Dibash cricket quarterfinal fixture at the Dhaka Stadium.

Abahani bring Biman down

Brothers thrive on twin tons

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

BIMAN: 164 for 9 wickets in 50 overs (Hasanuzzaman 41, Mofizur 34; Saifullah 3/20, Colonel 2/33)

ABAHANI KC: 165 for 4 wickets in 44 overs (Azam 64, Imran Hamid 35, K Masud 25; Ziaur Rashid 2/44)
Result: Abahani won by 6 wickets.

BROTHERS UNION: 283 for one wicket in 50 overs (Shahriar Hossain 109 not out, Jahangir Alam 120 not out, Wahidul 24)

SURJO TARUN: 151 all out in 28 overs (Javed 49, Rashid 36; Towhid 3/39, Reaz 2/7, Saifuddin 2/24)
Result: Brothers won by 132 runs.



Abahani Kira Chakra and Brothers Union set up a semifinal clash in the Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament on Tuesday, eliminating their respective opponents with consummate ease yesterday.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Abahani made a mockery of a contest on their way to an impressive six-wicket victory over fellow contenders Bangladesh Biman, the perennial bridesmaid who caved in without offering any challenge.

But the spectators at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium enjoyed an entertaining batting display where Brothers rode on twin tons from their opener Shahriar Hossain and one-down Jahangir Alam to trounce Surjo Tarun by 132 runs.

Shahriar scored an unbeaten 109 and discarded national wicketkeeper-cum-opener Jahangir Alam hammered a magnificent 120 not out to help Brothers amass 283, the highest score in an innings of the season so far. Besides, the undefeated 233-run stand for the second wicket between Shahriar and Jahangir was also a record of sorts in annals of domestic cricket.

Incidentally, it was Shahriar's second century against Surjo Tarun this year. The national opener hammered nine fours in his 146-ball rule at the crease. But it was an experienced Jahangir, the more aggressive of the two, who stole the limelight with a flawless 123-ball 120 inclusive off 11 hits across the rope.

Surjo Tarun, in reply, were shot out in 28 overs for 151 while chasing constantly increasing run-rate, which was 5.66 at the onset. Opener Javed Omar Belim with a breezy 49 off 40 balls and Rashid, who hammered a 33-ball 36, tried to

get the rocking Tarun innings into the groove. But once the two fell in quick succession, leaving their side at 94 in 14.4 overs, the hopes for the mediocre Premier league outfit was well and truly over.

Although Surjo Tarun with their limited local resources tried their best to make a match with giants like Brothers, title-hopefuls Biman were surprisingly subdued while playing against Abahani.

After winning the toss and electing to use the wicket first, the national airline outfit lost nine wickets to garner only 164 on a wicket which only a week ago produced 630 runs in the third and deciding final of the tri-nation Independence Cup tournament between India and Pakistan.

Abahani, in their chase, faced virtually no opposition to rattle up the victory, scoring 156 for the loss of four wickets and with six overs to spare.

Left-handed opener Imran Hamid gave the popular Dhan-

mondi outfit a flying start with an aggressive 28-ball 35 studded with five firmly hits to the fence and a massive sixer against Biman skipper Ziaur Rashid over mid-wicket.

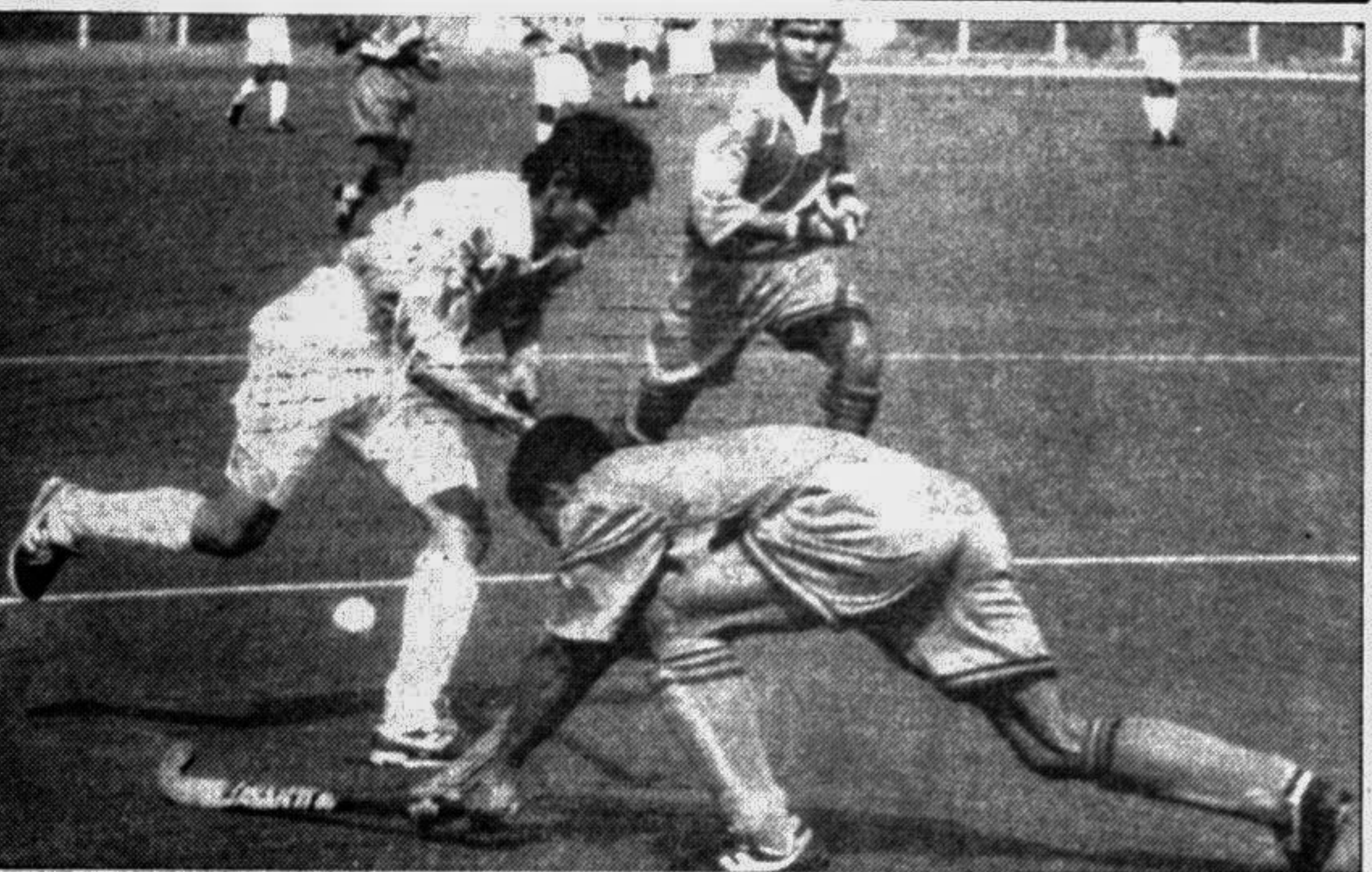
With the dapper southpaw and his more orthodox opening partner Azam Iqbal in full cry, especially in the first 15 overs, the Abahani 50 came in only eight overs.

Azam scored a fine 64 off 99 balls laced with eight fours. Wicketkeeper Khaled Masud after being pushed up in the batting order, chipped in with 25 while skipper Akram Khan remained unbeaten on 13 when Abahani reached home in 44 overs.

Earlier, the Biman total was built around a defiant 41 from middle-order bat Hasanuzzaman. The young right-hander, who showed his consistency with the bat in Bangladesh's disastrous tour of New Zealand recently, once again kept his cool to prove his worth in a pressure situation. Against a never-ending fall of wickets at the other end, the youngster, who was surprisingly ignored for the Independence Cup play-off, held the innings together, guiding Biman to some respectability.

Biman were at one stage reeling at 61 for five. But Hasan and Mofizur Rahman dug deep to do the repair works, putting on 62 runs for the sixth wicket. Mofizur whacked a couple of sixes and a four in his breezy 29-ball 34.

For Abahani, slow-left armer Saifullah Khan Gem returned as the wrecker-in-chief with three for 20 in his 10 overs while rookie right-arm seamer Colonel, who made the early inroads by dismissing discarded national opener Athar Ali Khan, caught at square-leg after scoring three, finished with two for 33 runs in his nine overs.



Action from yesterday's national hockey championship semifinal encounter between Dhaka DSA and Bangladesh Army. Dhaka won 5-4 in the tie-breaker after normal time failed to produce any goals.

Nat'l hockey DU, Dhaka in final

Dhaka University and Dhaka DSA yesterday mered into final of the 20th national championship, reports UNB.

Dhaka defeated Bangladesh army 5-4 in a tie-breaker as the first semifinal match ended in a goalless draw in the stipulated time at the National Hockey Stadium.

In the other semi, Dhaka University eliminated Faridpur 2-1 at the same venue. The winners led the first half 2-0.

Singer award for U-20 cricketers

Sports Reporter

Singer Bangladesh, a multinational company, has announced to present washing machines to the members of the Bangladesh under-20 cricket team as a mark of its success in the World Youth Cup.

Attributing the success of the Bangladesh cricketers, who lifted the Plate title of the second World Youth championship in South Africa defeating the mighty West Indies by six wickets in the final on Saturday, Singer termed the triumph as a significant achievement of the emerging nation in international arena.

"They have placed Bangladesh on the world map," read a press release issued by the company yesterday.

Beating favourites Caribbeans comprehensively, the Bangladesh colts proved that their 3-wicket win over another Test-playing nation, England, on January 15 was no fluke. In the first phase, Bangladesh finished at par with New Zealand and England but failed to qualify for the 8-team Super league. New Zealand and England moved into the next round on better run rate. Eight teams who could not qualify for the Super league featured in the consolatory Plate final.

Khulna cricket

KHULNA, Jan 25: Sabuj Bangla defeated Padma Lotus KC by six wickets in the Second Division cricket league match played at the Khulna Stadium today, reports BSS.

Padma winning the toss decided to bat and scored 99 runs losing all wickets.

In reply Sabuj Bangla reached their winning target for four wickets.

In the second match of the day Tiger Boys Club defeated Musalmannara Juba Sangha by 127 runs at the Khulna Circuit House ground.

Tiger Boys winning the toss batted first and scored 205 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply Musalmannara were dismissed for only 78 runs.

In the third match Krishna Chandra Institute defeated Jogipole KC by 85 runs. Krishna scored 135 runs for nine wickets.

In reply Jogipole were dismissed for 53 runs.

In the fourth match Suchana KC defeated Young Suchana KC by 102 runs. Suchana scored 226 for eight wickets.

In reply Young Suchana were all out for 124 runs.

Crazy fan denied access

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Australian Open organisers have banned a Martina Hingis fan who sends the 17-year-old world number one unwanted flowers and gifts, a newspaper report said today, reports AFP.

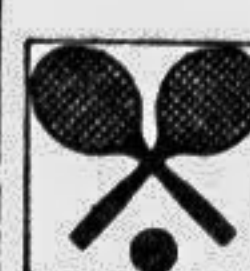
The Melbourne Herald Sun said security guards were under orders to stop the unnamed fan from entering Melbourne Park, where the Swiss tennis star is number one seed for the first Grand Slam event of the year.

It said the fan had tickets for the Australian Open and had already been refused entry on Thursday.

The newspaper said the fan's identity was sent to Melbourne "from overseas tournaments, where he has made a nuisance of himself in his pursuit of the Swiss star."

Security at nearly all tennis events was stepped up after the 1993 stabbing of former number one Monica Seles by a Steffi Graf fan at a Hamburg tournament.

Pete reaches last eight



MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (AP): Defending champion Pete Sampras struggled more than he expected today before securing a quarterfinal berth at the Australian Open with a 7-6 (11-9), 6-4, 6-4 victory over Morocco's Hicham Arazi, the 1.76 metre (5-foot-9) baseliner who knocked out big-serving Mark Philippoussis in the first round.

Sampras, who served 24 aces, couldn't put away the first set until his sixth set point against Arazi, who hustled after everything and often produced brilliant shots that left Sampras shaking his head in disbelief.

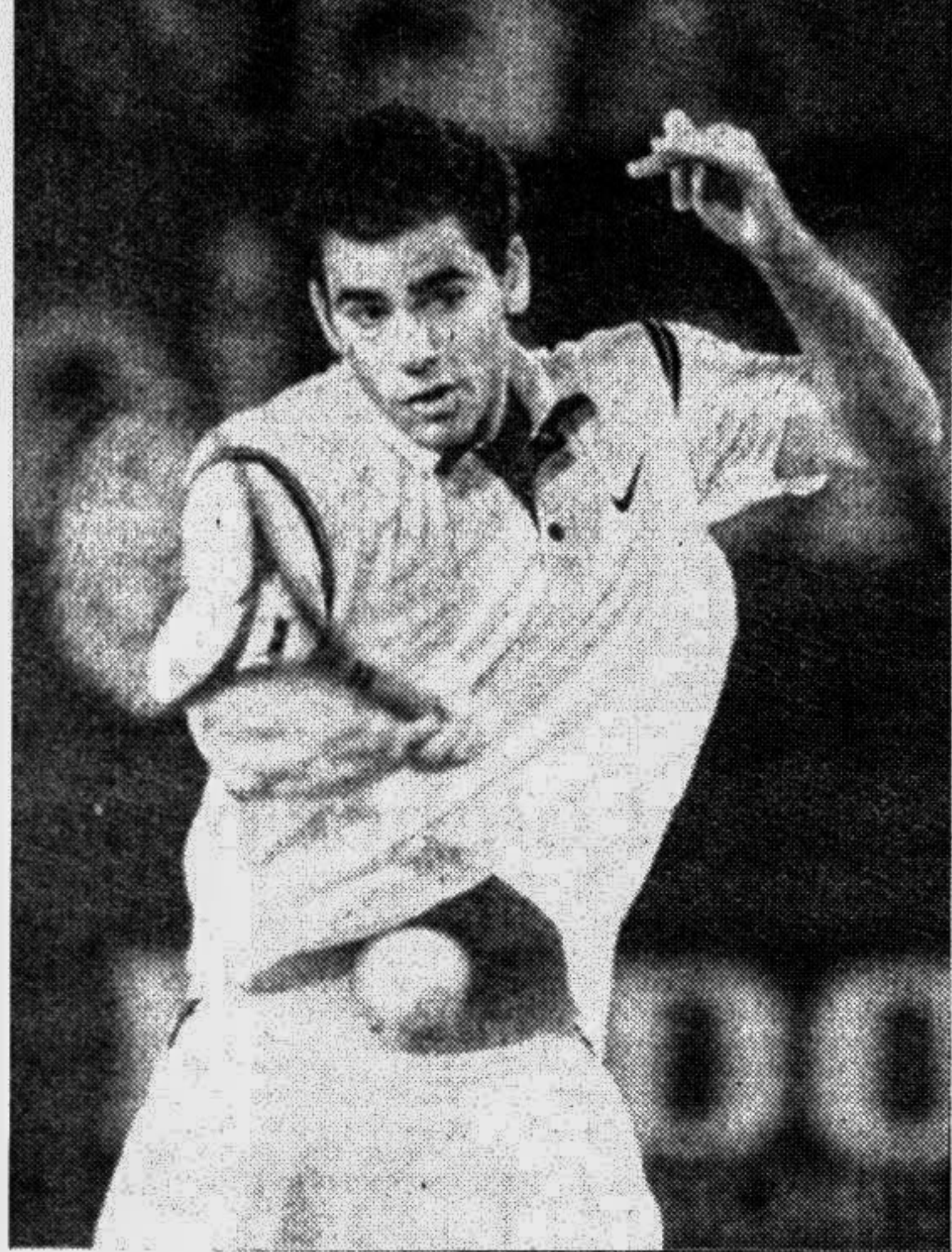
"I didn't have a tactic," Arazi said. "If I was having a great day and he was a little bit not playing good, maybe I have a chance."

Sampras made sure Arazi didn't have much of a chance.

"He's one of the quickest guys I've ever played," Sampras said. "He's up there with (Michael) Chang. He made me work very hard, and he really surprised me with some of the gets he made. He was hanging in there, but in the second and third sets I served pretty well."

In four matches, all against unseeded players, Sampras still hasn't dropped a set. He next meets another unseeded player, Slovakia's Karol Kucera.

Kucera, winner of a tuneup



World No 1 Pete Sampras of the United States goes for his devastating forehand in the match against Moroccan Hicham Arazi at the Australian Open yesterday.

— AP/UNB photo

AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK



MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (AP): A battle of the sexes dreamed up by the irrepressible Williams sisters received the blessing of Australian Open organisers Sunday — but was delayed by rain and other pressing matters.

Serena and Venus Williams approached officials of the men's ATP Tour to line up one-set challenges against male players ranked in the 200s.

Germany's Karsten Braasch, ranked 203 on the men's tour, took up a challenge to play Serena in a set Sunday but rain forced them to postpone their plan.

"I decided I wanted to be part of the (men's) Tour," Serena said. "We can't play today because of the rain, and the indoor courts are booked for practice. I'm looking forward to it, I'm really ready. It'll be fun."

Venus is also looking for a match for "Pride and maybe one ATP computer point."

Australian Open tournament referee Peter Bellenger said he had no concerns about the "Matches" taking place on an outside court as long as the players went through the official channels and booked it for practice.

"I'd say their chances of getting a court tomorrow are pretty slim," Bellenger said after all but six matches were rained out Sunday, causing a large backlog of matches.

"May be they can get on Friday or Saturday if the courts are free."

The matches are sure to attract much publicity for the energetic Williams girls, and Bellenger does not believe they would detract from the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

SURVIVAL RATE: Venus Williams is the only Australian Open newcomer who has reached the fourth round this year.

She went even further Sunday by making the quarterfinals.

Williams also has the fastest serve among women who have survived three rounds here — 184 kph (115 mph).

But only four men's seeds made the fourth round from the original 16 — a record low for Grand Slam events in the Open era, which started in 1968.

The previous record was five at Wimbledon in 1971 and 1996, Roland Garros in 1994, and the 1971 and 1988 US Open.

The women's seeds have done better. Ten got through three rounds.

Sampras has the fastest serve among the male survivors at 205 kph (128 mph).

By country, France led with six male and female players in the fourth round. The United States had four, Spain three and Australia, Switzerland, Germany and Slovakia two each.

FRENCH FLAIR: Four French men this year advanced to the fourth round of the Australian Open, but only one player from France has won the Australian Open men's singles title.

Jean Borotra, one of the famed Four Musketeers of French tennis, won the Open in 1928. He also won the doubles that year, teaming with Jacques Brugnon.

In all, American men have won 15 Australian titles, and one of those did it for two different countries.

Johan Kriek won the title in 1981 for his native South Africa and then again a year later when he had taken on United States citizenship.

MOURNING RAFTER: Australian tennis fans awoke Sunday to a general feeling of despondency as rain scudded across Melbourne Park and they came to terms with Pat Rafter's exit.

tournament in Sydney before the Open, defeated Australia's Richard Fromberg 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

No 4 Jonas Bjorkman breezed past Zimbabwe's Byron Black 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

In the last eight he meets No 6 Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, who earlier became the first player to earn his place when he defeated Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline of France 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Korda breezed through the first two sets, stumbled early in the third when he felt dizzy, then recuperated to come back from 0-2 in the final set. Korda ran off 15 straight points, including three straight love games, to take control at 5-2 in the final set.

Sampras, Bjorkman, Korda and No 9 Marcelo Rios were the only four men's seeds remaining in the round of 16. It was the fewest number of seeds left in that round at any Grand Slam event in the Open era. The previous record was five at the 1994 French Open, the 1971 and 1996 Wimbledon, and the 1971 and 1988 US Opens.

In women's action American teenager Venus Williams rolled into the final eight with her hardest serving and boldest play yet at the net.

Williams took the opportunity against baseline-hugging Patty Schnyder to practice the subtleties of her serve and volley game, and it paid off with a 54-minute, 6-4, 6-1 victory Sunday.

Williams set up match point with the fastest ace of any woman in the tournament so far, a sizzling 184 kph (115 mph), then put the game away at love with a backhand down the line well out of Schnyder's reach.

Runner-up at the US and playing the Australian for the first time, Williams has improved with each match so far the first week. Against Schnyder, Williams won 17 of her approaches to the net, served four aces, and limited herself to one double-fault.

Next up for Williams is No 2 Lindsay Davenport, who blew away No 15 Ruxandra Dragomir 6-0, 6-0.

"That's the first time I've ever played without losing any games," Davenport said. "You don't expect it to be in the round of 16 of a Grand Slam."

"Now, the mourning Rafter," said the main headline on a Sunday Age's sports page.

A great deal of column inches had been devoted to the impending "clash" between Rafter, the US Open champion, and Andre Agassi, the former world No 1 who has soared back into form at the Open.

One of those unable to escape the hype was Spain's Alberto Berasategui.

Berasategui beat a tired Rafter in four sets late Saturday and realised what that meant to the home fans.

"I think most of the people, or everyone, thought it was going to be Agassi-Rafter," Berasategui said. "I knew I had my chances and today I took them. I'm sorry."

NOSE JOB: Hamstrings, elbows and calf muscle are the usual focus of tennis injury stories. But at the Australian Open reporters are sniffing out details about Petr Korda's nose.

Korda's sinuses were bad enough to force him out of the quarterfinals of the US Open after he downed No 1 Pete Sampras in the fourth round.

After Korda's third round match here he went to hospital to have them sucked out with a medical implement he referred to as a vacuum cleaner.

After beating Cedric Pioline in Sunday's fourth round his nose was again the centre of attention.

He attributed his withdrawal against Jonas Bjorkman at Flushing Meadow to spending too long in a cold television studio following his win over Sampras.

"It is like visiting a fridge," Korda said. "It was so cold in the studios and I just got frozen."

"If you look at my body," said the man nicknamed the human toothbrush for his slender frame and spiky hair. "It is not covered with any fat and I can get frozen quite quickly."

The Daily Star TV Guide

Monday 26th January

(All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change.)

BTV

3:00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary 3:10 Recitation from the Bible 3:15 Patriotic songs 3:20 Sports Programme 3:50 Deth O Bopayan 4:00 News in Bangla 4:05 Dolar Change 6:10 Bidhyangon 6:30 News in English 7:05 Health Tathya 7:20 Bansharee 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package Drama 10:00 News in English 10:30 Shiploak 10:55 Comedy Series 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Tuesday Programme summary 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC World Headlines 6:05am Asia Direct 6:30 World Living: Top Gear 7:00 BBC World News in Asia 7:30 World Business Report, 24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Correspondent 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Hard Talk 12:00 The World Today 1:30 World

Living: The Clothes Show 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Top Gear 5:00 The World Today 6:30 World: The Velvet Claw 7:00 BBC World News in English 7:30 World Business Report 7:30 The World Today 8:30 World Living: Film 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Style 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Living: Earth Report 12:00 The World Today 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: Window on Europe 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 World Living: The Travel Show 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Europe Direct 5:00 BBC World News in English 5:30 World Business Report, 24 Hours

Turn on T [V] 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00 House Arrest VJ Ranvir 8:30 Turn On T [V] 9:00 BPL Oye 10:00 Liberty-First Day First Show 10:30 Turn On T [V] 11:00 Over the Edge 12:00 Turn On T [V] 2:30 V News 2:45 Turn On T [V] 3:00 Simply South 3:30 Turn On T [V] 4:30 V News 5:00 Turn On T [V]

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