

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-111

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 19 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who was the man-of-the match in the first Indo-Pak Test?
Afzal Tendulkar Saglan

2 How many Tests has Mark Taylor played?
102 103 104

3 South Africa won the Test series against West Indies
4-1 3-1 5-0

4 How many centuries have so far been scored in the Janakantha League?
29 30 31

5 Who clinched the sub-junior chess title?
Rakib Rajib Tuhin

Name
.....

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Michael Jordan

(American basketball superstar)

"I know, from a career standpoint, I've accomplished everything I could as an individual. Right now, I just don't have the mental challenges that I've had in the past to proceed as a basketball player. This is perfect time for me to walk away from the game. And I'm at peace with that."

While announcing his retirement from the game.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Feb 8: Barisal Cricket Institute defeated Meghadut Krira Chakra by 22 runs in the First Division cricket league here today.

Batting first Barisal Institute scored 208 for five in the stipulated 40 overs.

Oppener Meghadut scored 186 for seven in 40 overs.

Tomorrow Four-H Club face Shuva Smriti Sangha.

Hoddle in demand

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Reuters/Internet): An Indian news editor said on Monday he had written to the country's sports minister to suggest that ex-England soccer coach Glenn Hoddle train India's squad for the Sydney Olympics.

"Karma and reincarnation are cardinal beliefs for Hindus and it is unfair that Hoddle should lose his job for professing faith in it," Maharaaja Features Editor K.R. Padmanabhan wrote in a letter to Minister Uma Bharati.

Hoddle's England contract was terminated last week after a national uproar over his remarks on reincarnation and his reported belief that disabled people are being punished for their sins in a previous life.

His belief in destiny might get a better reception in India where soccer is still far from a source of national pride.

"It would only be fit and proper that India, where the belief in karma and reincarnation originated, should offer Hoddle the job of training the Indian football team for the Olympics," Padmanabhan said.

Two WC broadcast centres planned

SEOUL, Feb 8 (Reuters/Internet): International Broadcasting Centres will be set up in South Korea and Japan during the 2002 World Cup finals, a local newspaper reported.



Biman's Ziaur Rashid is bowled during the Janakantha Premier Division league encounter against Wari at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

Mohammedan in ignominy

Manzoor makes it for Biman

Sports Reporter

A sublime performance by Manzoor Akhter provided Bangladesh Biman the much-needed thrust to burst onto cloud nine with an exciting four-wicket win over Wari Club in their final Janakantha Premier League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The sturdy Pakistani right-handed batsman held an apprehensive Biman together with an unbeaten 77. He steered the national airline outfit, set to score 211 to confirm their fifth League title, to the coast in 53 overs and with four wickets in hand.

Biman made a heavy weather of simple task when they, resuming at 58 for two, plunged into deep trouble losing three more wickets in quick-succession with the scoreboard reading at 83.

Opener Habibul could add 14 runs to his overnight score of 24 before being caught by Nasim off Wari's handy Pakistani recruit Aamir Wasim. Vice-captain Aminul Islam fell for one when he edged an attempted cut into the safe hands of wicketkeeper Mukter, Nightwatchman Ziaur Rashid scored a painstaking three off 31 balls before being clean bowled by Wasim.

But when Biman looked to be witting under pressure, number seven batsman Manzoor trudged on to the field to save his side as the last recognised batsman. The man for crisis, with three centuries under his belt, steered the rocking Biman, putting on 53 runs for the sixth wicket with Jahangir Talukder.

Pushed up in the batting order, Jahangir, the former national left-arm seamer who is known for his highly unorthodox batting style, more than justified his elevation when he scored a priceless 19, that too in an unusually composed style.

He became the victim of a brilliant one-handed diving effort at forward short-leg by Biplob.

Manzoor then found a wily partner in Hasanuzzaman to take the wind out of Wari sails, sharing 75 runs for the undefeated seventh wicket.

Manzoor could not have thought of a better way to wind up an outstanding season both with the bat and ball when the discarded Pakistani leg-spinner hit the winning run, a single towards mid-on in the last ball of the 53rd over, much to the relief of an almost blushed Biman supporters and officials.

The Pakistani was immediately mobbed by his teammates

after yet another tremendous performance. Manzoor, who scored 571 runs in the League, was the toast of an on-field victory celebration after the match.

Scoreboards of the two Janakantha Premier League matches held at different city venues yesterday.

BIMAN VS WARI
(Dhankanta Cricket Stadium)

WARI: 210 all out in 67 overs (Tareq 42, Murad 35, Sadek 25; Nasir Shawkat 5/70, Ziaur Rashid 2/37)

BIMAN: (overnight 58 for two in 13 overs)

Javed Mukter b Zahid 3
Habibul b Nasim b Wasim 10
Ziaur b Nasim 3
Aminul b Mukter b Zahid 1
Jahangir b Biplob b Nasim 19
Manzoor not out 77
Hasanuzzaman not out 27
Extras (lb-4, nb-4, w-19) 33
Total: (For 6 wkt in 53 overs) 211

Fall of wkt: 1/25; 2/49; 3/69; 4/73; 5/83; 6/136

Bowler O M R W

Zahid Solaiman 14 2 54 2
Arifur Rahman 6 0 22 0
Aminul Wasim 16 2 51 2
Nasim Ahmed 9 2 31 2
Tareq Mahmud 4 0 16 0
Murad 4 0 33 0

Result: Biman won by 4 wickets

MOHAMMEDAN VS VICTORIA

(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

VICTORIA: 254 all out in 79.1 overs (Manzoor Elahi 59, Rezaul 35, Rashed Hanif 33, Marwar 31; Rafique 4/37, Shadab 2/23)

MOHAMMEDAN

Rashedul b Mustadir b Al-Amin 0
S Mehmud b R Hanif b Rakib 0
Shahed b Mustadir b Al-Amin 0
Nasirul b Elahi b Sabir 19
Sohel c Altab b Al-Amin 14
Mortaza c Altab b Al-Amin 2
Halim c Imran b Mustadir 10
Shahidul b Ibw b Al-Amin 17
Rafique b Rakib b Mustadir 0
Ashraf c Mustadir b Al-Amin 12
Monjurul not out 7
Extras (lb-2, nb-4, w-8) 17
Total: (All out in 43 overs) 210

Fall of wkt: 1/5, 2/7, 3/7, 4/25, 5/27, 6/49, 7/61, 8/61.

Bowler O M R W

Rakib Hasan 12 3 20 1
Al-Amin 13 1 39 6
Rashed Hanif 6 1 9 0
Sabir Khan 8 3 10 1
Mustadir Litu 4 1 19 2

Result: Victoria won by 151 runs.

Sampras returns today



SAN JOSE, California, Feb 8 (AP): He played a little golf and watched some TV. And, for the first time since he was a high school junior, Pete Sampras didn't play in a tennis tournament for a couple of months.

Now he returns to the game he dominates, starting with this week's Sybase Open. Sampras gets his first chance to show whether he's refreshed or rusty on Tuesday night against 84th-ranked Galo Blanco of Spain.

"I definitely felt like I needed this break to start the year off mentally, physically as fresh as possible," Sampras said. "So I am definitely champing at the bit."

Exhausted after a grueling series of tournaments in late 1998 to protect his No 1 ranking, Sampras passed up the Australian Open in January — the first Grand Slam tournament he has skipped since 1992.

He is just one short of tying Roy Emerson's record of 12 Grand Slam singles titles, and Sampras has said his main motivation is to win more

Grand Slams. But he also focused on finishing last year as the No 1 player in the world, giving him a record six straight years at the top. To protect that ranking, he had to play seven straight weeks in October and November — a process that left him a couple of months.

"I would have loved to have gone down to Australia. I just wish it started in February," he said. "I wanted to give myself a good off-season this year."

Though gone, Sampras certainly was not forgotten at the Australian Open. When Yevgeny Kafelnikov won the title, he immediately pointed out that his job was made much easier by the absence of the world's top player.

"Pete, it's really a great, wonderful feeling," Kafelnikov said after raising the silver trophy. "Thanks for letting me do that."

Sampras is beginning his 258th week at No 1, a dozen short of the record held by Ivan Lendl. Opponents wonder whether he'll be as sharp as usual at the start of the 350,000 dollars Sybase tournament.

"I think there's definitely a

shot that he'll be rusty," said sixth-seeded Jan-Michael Gambill, who would face Sampras in the semifinals. "Pete definitely plays better when he has a few events under his belt."

Gambill has been on the tennis circuit only two years, and he understands the exhaustion that forced Sampras to the sidelines for the past 10 weeks. Yet he thinks Sampras' relentless pursuit of the year-end No 1 ranking was worth the toll.

"To me, that's his most impressive accomplishment," Gambill said. "He's been head and shoulders above everyone else for six straight years, and that's really impressive."

Sampras, a two-time Sybase champion, has a relatively easy draw into the semifinals. But, once there, the top seed may have to face Gambill or No 3 seed Mark Philippoussis, a US Open finalist last year.

Sampras, coming off an uninspired fourth-round loss at the Australian Open is the defending champion of the Sybase Open and the No 2 seed this year. He opens against Todd Woodbridge on Monday night and could face No 4 seed Michael Chang in the semifinals.

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