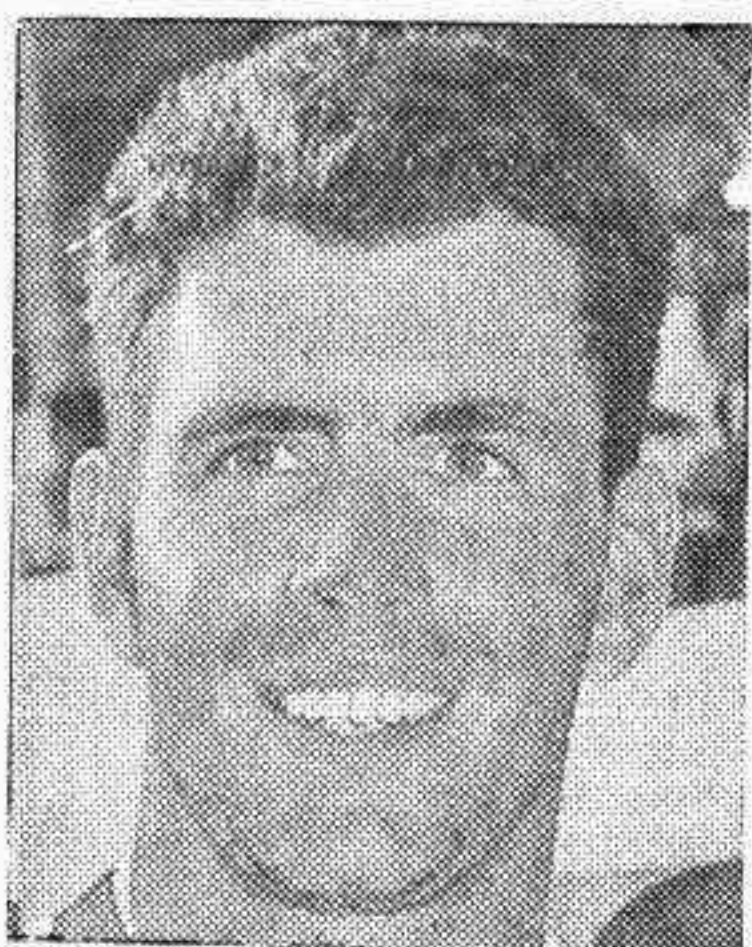


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Hansie Cronje
(South African captain)
"It's always a great honour to play the West Indies even if they are a bit off."

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?

Afidi Tendulkar Sagin

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 Roll No.

Class School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

DPRK woman player in World XI side

SEOUL, Feb 9: A North Korean football player has left Pyongyang for the United States to take part in a game between a women's world team and the United States, officials said today.

Kim Sun-Hui, who left Pyongyang on Monday, is one of the 15 players from across the world selected to play in the match against the United States.

It is rare for North Korean athletes to go to the United States as the two countries have no diplomatic ties.

The first world women's football team is composed of the best players of 15 countries including the DPRK, China, Russia, Brazil and Germany which will participate in the World Cup games to be held in the United States this year, said Pyongyang's official Korean central news agency.

A South Korean football official said it had no players in the world team.

Poland squeeze past Malta

VALLETTA, Feb 9: An injury-time goal by Rafal Siadaczka gave Poland a 1-0 victory over Malta in their friendly international at the Ta' Qali Stadium on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The Poles dominated the match which they seemed to treat as a training session, with seven substitutions being made.

Polish midfielder Radoslaw Michalski came close of opening the scoring after 15 minutes when he wove through the Maltese defence only to see his shot well saved by Ernest Barry.

Barry sprang into action again in the 29th minute, blocking a well taken free kick by Tomasz Klos. Malta's best chance came a minute later but Gilbert Agius snatched his shot just wide.

The home side almost took the lead two minutes into the second half when Adrian Mifsud, winning his first cap, made the most of some uncertainty in the Polish defence but his shot hit the post with goalkeeper Adam Matyszek well beaten.

Poland are in Malta on a 10-day training camp ahead of their March European Championship qualifier against England. They face Finland in another friendly in Malta on February 10.

Rizwan enters elite club

Sajid, Mahbub power Bagan

Sports Reporter

Two half centuries from opener Sajid Hasan and middle order Mahbubur Rahman helped Kalabagan Krira Chakra score a fighting total against promotees Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha in their final Janakantha Premier Division league clash began at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sajid scored a patient 57 while Mahbub hammered a dazzling 66 as Kalabagan, put in to bat, scored 283 in 80 overs.

Right-hander Sajid has been going through a lean patch so far in the season. After seeing two batsmen depart with the score on 60, he added an invaluable 65 runs for the third wicket with Mahbubur Rahman before falling in the 40th over by which time his team had reached 135.

In his three-hour stay, Sajid faced 123 balls and struck five boundaries.

Mahbubur Rahman shared in a 55-run fifth-wicket stand with Mushfiqur Rahman (33) before Tashriqul Islam trapped him leg before in the 54th over. Mahbub faced 96 balls to smash ten fours in a 140-minute vigil.

Lower middle order Abul Hossain chipped in with 38 at the end.

Meanwhile, opener Rizwan Omar slammed a double century as Orient Sporting Club amassed a healthy 370 against Ajax Sporting Club at the BKSP ground in Savar.

As both Ajax and Orient, with one victory each so far,

have been relegated to the First Division, Pakistani right-hander Rizwan made a name for himself blazing an 182-ball 214. The Herculean innings contained no less than 33 boundaries and a massive six.

This was the third such instance in the history of Dhaka league since independence after Syed Ashrafur Haque and



Sajid Hasan (left) and Mahbubur Rahman (right) of Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

Shaiful Haque Hira earned the distinction in late seventies and early eighties.

Opener Biplob scored 53 while one-down Topu contributed 25 runs.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the two Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League matches began at different venues yesterday:

KALABAGAN V SADHARAN BIMA

(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

KALABAGAN
Harun c Saiful b Mahbub 11
Sajid c Shaiful b Moin 57
Masud c Shaiful b Mahbub 24
Mahbub lbw b Tashriqul 66
Sajid lbw b Moin 00

Mushfiqur run out 33
A Hossain c Anwar b Tashriqul 38
Ishlaque c Mizan b Moin 20
Fahim lbw b Moin 17
Saiful not out 00
Jahangir run out 12
Extras: (lb-1; w-11) 5
Total: (All out in 79.4 overs) 283
Fall of wkts: 1-23; 2-60; 3-135; 4-136; 5-191; 6-202; 7-241; 8-243; 9-264.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mahbub	16	3	41	2
Saiful	8	0	30	0
Ismail	5	0	29	0
Moin	16	0	48	4
Tashriqul	15.4	2	64	2
Anwar	8	0	28	0
K Chopra	11	0	42	0

ORIENT V AJAX

(Venue: BKSP)

ORIENT
Biplob b N Hafiz 53
Rizwan c Imran b Ripon 214
Topu run out 25
Asif b Azim 0
Mizan b Imran 18
Mridul c Ranak b Ripon 12
Sohel c Aminul b Ripon 7
Azim c sub b Ripon 9
Jewel c Shanchoy b Aminul 7
Dalim c Nayan b Aminul 0
Lucky not out 3
Extras: (lb-5; nb-2; w-14) 21
Total: (All out in 79.2 overs) 370
Fall of wkts: 1-168; 2-255; 3-256; 4-327; 5-338; 6-342; 7-356; 8-361; 9-367.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aminul	15.2	1	93	2
Nayan	2	0	21	0
Ripon	16	2	55	4
Imran	14	3	47	1
N Hafiz	16	0	58	1
Azim	13	2	66	1
Labbu	3	0	25	0

France taking nothing for granted

LONDON, Feb 9: France's coach Roger Lemerre thinks England will be harder to beat in Wednesday's friendly at Wembley now that Glenn Hoddle has gone, reports Reuters.

The new trainer of World Cup winners France believes that, far from being disrupted by Hoddle's sacking as coach last week, the players will be fired up under caretaker manager Howard Wilkinson.

Lemerre, who took over from Aime Jacquet after France's World Cup final victory against Brazil last July, said: "I think Hoddle's players will fight hard and make it very difficult for us."

"His departure might prove to be important as far as the result is concerned, and the fact that he has gone might have a

motivating effect on the players."

Lemerre said Hoddle still has a lot of admirers in France, where he played for Monaco a decade ago.

"There is a lot of respect for Hoddle in France," added Lemerre. "His human qualities make him respected as a man, and there is nothing nasty about him. I think people should respect his spiritual beliefs."

"What happened had nothing to do with football and it was a shame, but I cannot say if it was fair or unfair because I do not know the whole story."

France are unbeaten in six months, and Lemerre said: "There will be a lot of pressure on us, not only because we are World Cup winners, but also because there are so many French players in England now, and

they have a lot to prove to the English public."

He suggested that Arsenal's French trio of Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira and Nicolas Anelka would play at some stage, along with Chelsea's Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf.

France are unbeaten in five games under Lemerre, and he said: "Our priority is just to play and then perhaps to win. It is very important for the team to keep winning because we are world champions."

Leboeuf, who has been a cup winner with Chelsea at Wembley, said: "I don't think England's players will be affected by the Hoddle affair."

"It doesn't matter who is in charge of the national team. You just have to give everything for your country and the people who support you."

Dixon back in England fold

Cole raring to go

LONDON, Feb 9: Andy Cole is set to win his third England cap in Wednesday's friendly against France, reports Reuters.

Caretaker manager Howard Wilkinson gave every indication on Monday that the Manchester United striker would play some part in the Wembley game.

"It would do him a favour to get some action," said Wilkinson, taking charge following the sacking of Glenn Hoddle. "I can't see other managers not picking him now."

Cole, 27, scored his 100th Premier League goal on Saturday, one of two for the striker in United's 8-1 thrashing of Nottingham Forest.

His form this season had convinced Hoddle to give him a chance to add to his two previous caps — as substitute against Uruguay in 1995 and against Italy two years later.

Wilkinson inherited Hoddle's squad and Cole was the big surprise as the former manager had publicly criticised the striker's finishing last year, sparking Cole to call Hoddle a coward.

"I was very disappointed when I read his remarks, but I'm not bitter towards him," Cole said on Monday.

"He's entitled to his opinions and that is all water under the bridge as far as I am concerned. I've grown up over the past few years and realise that there are ups and downs in football, and there are bound to be a few games where you don't score."

Those have been few and far between this season as Cole has

struck up a devastating partnership with Dwight Yorke and has notched 17 goals in all competitions.

"It's nice to be back in the squad after being out for so long," Cole said. "I had more or less given up on England but Alex Ferguson told me to persevere and not give up hope."

I don't feel I have to prove anything to anybody except myself. I can do it at international level if I get the chance. I'd be surprised to start the game, but if I do get on I'm determined to enjoy it."

Meanwhile, veteran Arsenal defender Lee Dixon was given a surprise recall to the England squad on Monday — more than five years after his last appearance for the national team.

The right back, who is 35 in March, won the last of his 21 caps in England's World Cup qualifier against San Marino in November 1993.

But a series of injuries including an ankle problem for Manchester United right back Gary Neville, has left coach Wilkinson short of a specialist in that position against France.



England captain Alan Shearer (L) and Paul Ince having a chat during their practice session at Bisham Abbey on February 9.

— Internet photo

2nd SAARC Bridge Pakistan A, India rule supreme

Sports Reporter

Pakistan A team lifted the open team title of the second SAARC Bridge tournament which concluded at the Hotel Sheraton last evening.

In the four-day long team event, the number one team of Pakistan finished the competition with 198 points, 84 points ahead of India C team which finished runners up.

In the ladies team event, India won the title with 131 points while Pakistan emerged runners up with 117 points.

Bangladesh ladies team, who took part in an international event for the first time, finished third in the meet.

In the friendship pair bridge event which concluded on February 5, PR Das and SK Saha of India won the title defeating Bangladesh duo of Bahar-e-Alam and Harun-ur Rashid.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad distributed the prizes among the winners as chief guest. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hassan Chowdhury were also present as special guests.

FINAL RESULTS

MEN
Champions: Ihsan Qadir (NCP and manager), Rashidul Gazi, Parvez Mirza, Nafees Jaffar and Rasheed Jaffar.

Runners up: Sudhir Ganguly (captain), Sukho Ranjan Ghosh, Kamal Roy, Kamal Mukherjee, Ajit Sadhu and Dipak Majumder.

LADIES
Champions: Jerroo Mango (captain), Kalpana Misra, Yvette Singapurin and Bashant Shah.

Runners up: Qudsia Dossa (captain), Shirin Bokhari, Rubina Agha, Roshan Ara Bokhari and Samia Rashid.

Chittagong overcome C'ganj

Sports Reporter

Striker Aminul struck two goals in 22 minutes to help Chittagong come from behind and post an emphatic 3-1 win over Chapainawabganj in the Keya Cosmetics Suhrawardy Cup national under-19 football championship held at the Rangpur Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Aminul equalised in the 47th minute. The Chittagonian striker was on the score-sheet again in the 69th minute. Uttam grabbed the port city team's third goal seven minutes from the final whistle.

In another match, Barisal and Rangamati shared points after their Group A encounter ended 1-1.

Barisal went ahead through Shaheen in the 19th minute while Shah Alam of Rangamati equalised in the 78th minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Nilphamari v BKSP (Gp B, 1:15 pm)

Sirajganj v Jessore (Gp A, 3:15 pm)

Hingis back on top

STAMFORD, Connecticut, Feb 9: After 17 weeks of being out of the top spot, Martina Hingis again is ranked the world's top-ranked women's tennis player, reports AP.

The 18-year-old Hingis reclaimed No 1 by winning the Toray Pan Pacific Open at Tokyo on Sunday.

Actually, her semifinal victory over No 3 Jana Novotna Saturday assured Hingis of moving up from No 2 after top-ranked Lindsay Davenport was beaten by Amanda Coetzer in the quarterfinals.

In rankings released by the WTA Monday, Hingis had 5,722 points. Davenport was No 2 with 5,547, followed by Novotna, Monica Seles, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Venus Williams, Steffi Graf, Mary Pierce, Patty Schnyder and Nathalie Tauziat.

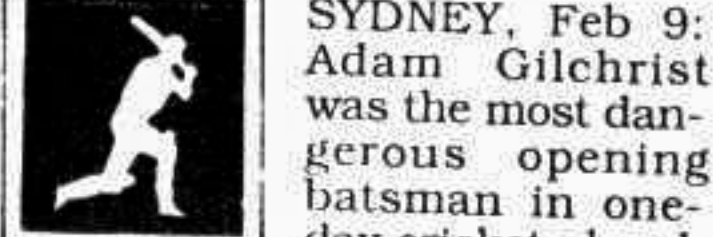
Hingis was No 1 from March 31, 1997, to October 11, 1998, becoming the youngest ever top-ranked player since the computer rankings began in 1975. When Hingis first became No 1, she was 16 years, 6 months, 1 day.

So far this year, Hingis has won 14 of 15 matches, including the season's first Grand Slam tournament, the Australian Open, and her last 12 matches.

Last year, she lost her No 1 ranking when she went six months without winning a title. During that same span, Davenport won six titles, including her first Grand Slam singles championship at the US Open.

"I was 16 when I first got the No 1 ranking," Hingis said. "I just hope I can now hold on to it longer, maybe as long as I play tennis."

First final's fate uncertain



Adam Gilchrist was the most dangerous opening batsman in one-day cricket ahead of Sri Lanka's pair Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana. Australian captain Shane Warne said today, reports AFP.

Warne went into raptures about Gilchrist who last Sunday smashed 154 against Sri Lanka.

opening match of the best-of-three finals of the tri-nation series against England as Sydney Cricket Ground is a washout.

More than 60 millimetres (2.5 inches) of rain fell overnight and the forecast is for more. The outfield is already sodden. A morning pitch inspection will determine the fate of the match.

Thursday is scheduled as a reserve day but that would mean England and Australia have to go to Melbourne on the morning of Friday's second scheduled final.

"It's not the ideal preparation for the final but there's not much you can do about it," said Warne.

"Hopefully we can get on, even if it's a 25-over game. We have trained as if we're playing tomorrow."

Warne was full of praise for Gilchrist, who despite his explosive 129-ball classic was not included in the 15-man squad to tour the Caribbean later this month.

The way Adam is playing I think he's the most dangerous batsman in one-day cricket," Warne said.

"I think he's more dangerous than Jayasuriya and Kalu because he can actually bat. Kalu averages 17 in one-day cricket and Jaya about 27 or 28."

Gilly and Mark Waugh are probably the best opening combination in one-day cricket and the best we've had in Australia

the highest one-day score by an Australian, to give him five centuries in 34 limited-over matches as opener.

But Gilchrist is unlikely to get a chance in Wednesday's

Shane Warne

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for a long time.

"When you get off to the starts we have you can chase anything."

With our bowling