

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Martina Hingis
(Swiss tennis superstar)
"It's so funny. I feel like a teacher out there. A veteran."
After winning the Australian Open this year for the third consecutive time.

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

- Who was the man-of-the-match in the first Indo-Pak Test?
A. Inzamam-ul-Haq B. Tendulkar C. Saqlain
- How many Tests has Mark Taylor played?
102 103 104
- South Africa won the Test series against West Indies
4-1 3-1 5-0
- How many centuries have so far been scored in the Janakantha League?
29 30 31
- 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

Setback for CCDM Cup

Sports Reporter
The fate of the CCDM Cup suffered a setback yesterday when almost all of the leading Premier League outfits expressed reluctance about their participation in the meet with-out a full-strength side.
It was learnt that most of the clubs in a meeting of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) last night demanded an assurance from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to allow the 30 players, who have been called in the national camp, to play for their respective clubs.
The meeting was adjourned till Sunday with a hope that the organisers might be able to convince the BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury to revoke his decision. Saber had earlier announced an uninterrupted training session involving the 30 cricketers from the first week of February as part of preparation for the forthcoming World Cup, beginning in England from May 14.

Ctg Metro champs

Chittagong Metropolitan Shooting Club emerged champions while Kustia Rifles Club became runners-up in the sixth Biman Inter-club shooting competition which concluded at the Gulshan Shooting Complex yesterday, reports APB.
A total of 200 shooters from 46 clubs across the country took part in the four-day meet, organised by Bangladesh Shooting Federation.
Four competitors from each club participated in two events — 177 Air Rifle and .22 Rifle.
State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader distributed trophies.

Schools' cricket

JHALAKATI, Feb 11: Jhalakati Government Boys School outplayed Noulkathi High School in the zonal opening match of the national schools cricket tournament here today, reports APB.
Government School scored 79 in 12.1 overs after bowling out Noulkathi for 78 in 18.2 overs.

BCB to hire Aussie physio for WC squad



Bangladesh will appoint a physio-trainer from Australia next month for their World Cup cricket team, a high official of Bangladesh Cricket Board said yesterday.
Robert Alan Hunt, who is physio of the Australia A and Australian under-19 World Cup teams, will join in the first week of March. BCB president and Deputy Minister for LGRD Saber Hossain Chowdhury told BSS.

Hunt will be with the team till the World Cup to be held in England in May and June this year.

Saber said, "We were looking for a long time to have a physio, and accordingly I talked to Australian Cricket Board president during the executive committee meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in Christchurch last month."

Meanwhile, thirty cricketers have been selected for the residential camp to form the World Cup squad.

They are: Aminul Islam, Akram Khan, Minhazul Abedin, Shahriar Hossain, Ehsanul Haq, Khaled Masud, Hasanuzzaman, Javed Omar, Nasirul Alam, Al-Shahriar, Faruq Ahmed, Sanwar Hossain, Mehrib Hossain, Imran Ahmed, Shafiuddin Ahmed.

Morshed Ali Khan, Khaled Mahmud, Naimur Rahman, Fahim Muntasir, Hasibul Hossain, Mofizur Rahman, Mushfiqur Rahman.

Mohammad Rafiq, Enamul Haque, Manjurul Islam.



SABER HOSSAIN

Aminul Islam, Naimur Rashid, Mahbubur Rahman, Jahangir Alam, and Mohammad Mortuza.

The ICC Trophy champions Bangladesh have been placed in group B with Australia, Pakistan, New Zealand, the West Indies and Scotland.

The Group A consists of defending champions Sri Lanka,

India, England, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Bangladesh will play their first match against New Zealand on May 17 at Chelmsford Essex, the second against the West Indies at Dublin (Clontarf) on May 21, the third against Scotland at Edinburgh on May 24, fourth against Australia at Chester-le-Street (Durham) on May 27 and the last match against Pakistan at Northampton on May 31.

Saber also revealed the BCB has taken all necessary preparations to organise the final of the first ever Asian Test Championship to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from March 12 to 16.

The tri-nation championship, featuring India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, will commence at Calcutta on February 16.

Four pitches of the Bangabandhu stadium have been reserved for the Asian Test final and the three-nation one-day tournament involving the hosts, Kenya and Zimbabwe from March 19.

Trans World International (TWI) will telecast the final. It has offered to telecast delayed the matches of the tournament.

"TWI officials will be in Dhaka soon to discuss and finalise terms and conditions of telecast rights," he said.



David Beckham (C), the England playmaker, tries to go past French defenders Emmanuel Petit (L) and Bixente Lizarazu during their friendly match at Wembley on February 10. — AFP photo

Crucial match for Abahani, Brothers

Sports Reporter

Abahani and Brothers Union will lock horns in the last encounter of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.



The two-day 80-overs-a-side affair will start at 9:30 am.

Both teams have earned 16 points each from 10 matches. The winners of this match will, however, join Biman atop the table who have finished their league campaign with nine victories against two defeats.

But according to the league bye-laws the championship will be decided on superior run-rate.

Biman, with a net run-rate of 1.26, looked almost certain to clinch the championship in comparison to Abahani and Brothers' present rate of .61 and .50 respectively.

As far as the net run-rate is concerned, both Abahani and Brothers can only hope for finishing runners-up behind Biman.

Chittagong, Tangail cruise

Sports Reporter

Two goals from striker Govinda guided Chittagong to their second successive win in the final round of the Keya Cosmetics Suhrawardy Cup national under-19 football championship with a 2-1 victory over hosts Rangpur in one of the two group matches played at the Rangpur Stadium yesterday.



Govinda put the Chittagongians ahead in the 10th minute. But the lead lasted for only 19 minutes as Munayem of the home team levelled the margin in the 29th minute.

Govinda then struck in the very first minute of the second session to snatch the win.

Chittagong, with the win, are now jointly leading the Group B table along with BKSP, both of whom have won two matches.

On the other hand, it was the second consecutive defeat for Rangpur.

In the other match of the day, Tangail beat Rangamati by two goals to nil in a Group A affair.

After a barren first half, So-hag struck both the goals for the winners in the 46th and 56th minutes.

It was the first win for Tangail. They lost their opening encounter to Jessore 0-2 while Rangamati, who drew their first match 1-1 with Barisal, remained glued to their one point.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Barisal v Sirajganj (1:15 pm)
Chapainawabganj v Nilphamari (3:15 pm)

Inter-varsity hockey
Dhaka University and host Agricultural University won their respective matches in the inter-university hockey tournament in Mymensingh today, reports APB.

Anelka again Wembley's hero France outclass England



LONDON, Feb 11: France, displaying the kind of form that brought them victory in the World Cup final last year, destroyed England in 45 scintillating second-half minutes to win their friendly international 2-0 at Wembley stadium on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Their hero was 19-year-old striker Nicolas Anelka, one of six Arsenal players in the starting lineups. He scored after 69 and 76 minutes but was unlucky not to get a hat-trick as television replays showed that a 64th minute shot that hit the bar bounced down over the goal line before being cleared to safety.

"We worked very hard for this win tonight," said Chelsea defender Frank Leboeuf who replaced Laurent Blanc at half-time.

"England made it very hard for us in the first half, but I think we deserved to win."

It was France's first-ever victory over England at Wembley in five matches dating back to 1957 — and their first goals under the twin towers.

Anelka, who also scored at Wembley when Arsenal won the FA Cup last season, broke the deadlock after 69 minutes when he fired past England's substitute goalkeeper Nigel Martyn after Lilian Thuram and Zinedine Zidane scythed open the

England defence. Eight minutes later he raced between two defenders to touch in a Christophe Dugary cross from the left after another telling pass from Zidane. It was his third international goal.

France, starting with eight of the side that won the World Cup final last summer, are now unbeaten in 17 matches since March of last year.

World player of the year Zidane, and Didier Deschamps, winning his 82nd cap to equal Marcel Amoros's French national record, dominated in midfield and always had time and space to create chances for their front men.

Youri Djorkaeff and Dugary, who replaced Robert Pires at half-time, caused England continual problems with their runs from deep and their powerful performances, compared to the ineffective display of England's Alan Shearer and unproductive forays of Michael Owen, only added to an impression that the French were a class apart.

The home side had started brightly with Owen being denied by Fabien Barthez's legs after nine minutes, but reaped few other real scoring chances.

Defender Martin Keown shot over the bar after 32 minutes, but England made little real impression on the famously well-drilled French defence and have now failed to score in

three of their last four home matches.

They were playing under caretaker coach Howard Wilkinson for the first, and perhaps only time, following last week's sacking of Glenn Hoddle and he tried to look for some positive aspects.

"We started brightly but as the game went on we consistently gave the ball away," Wilkinson said.

Their movement and interchange were good but they didn't really get behind us in the first half.

"In the second half we actually got worse at keeping the ball and it just became a slog of chasing it, getting it back, losing it, getting it back."

Whether Wilkinson, the English FA's technical director, keeps the job remains to be seen, but whoever is in charge for their next match, a European Championship qualifier against Poland on March 27, will have to bring some more venom to the England attack.

"They've now got to look forward to the Poland game and make sure there is an improvement," said Wilkinson, who urged the FA to act quickly in deciding who will look after the team.

"It's crucial that the team or the FA knows who is in charge for that game. It's the biggest game for a long, long time."

S Africans land in NZ



CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 11 (AFP/AP/Internet): South Africa's cricketers, fresh from dishing out a humiliating whipping of the once mighty West Indies, arrived here today ready to take on the world's lowest ranked Test-playing nation.

They received a setback however, when head coach Bob Woolmer stayed behind to remain with his very ill father in Cape Town.

Coaching duties will be taken over by assistant coach Graham Ford until Woolmer rejoins the touring party for the seven-week tour.

Captain Hansie Cronje admitted that confidence amongst the tourists was high after routing the West Indies 5-0 in their home Test series and winning the one-day internationals 6-1.

"There's a good feeling, but you've only got to go back four months to see how low we were after the England tour," Cronje said, referring to last summer's 2-1 series loss.

"We realise cycles of professional sport are very short these days and if we don't keep up our discipline and become complacent, we could return to South Africa just like the West Indians did."

This is South Africa's first full tour of New Zealand since 1963-64 when they last visited during the apartheid era.

They played a one-off Centenary Test in 1995 which they easily won, and also played in the 1992 World Cup here, where New Zealand pulled off a surprise victory.

With the historic whitewash of the Windies behind them, it is hard to imagine anything other than a similar result in the three Test series and six one-day matches to be played in this country.

In Alan Donald, Cronje has probably the best fast bowler in the world at his disposal, backed by two of the best all-rounders, Jacques Kallis and Shaun Pollock.

The attack is balanced by

veteran off-spinner Pat Symcox and left-arm chinaman bowler Paul Adams, one of three coloured or black players in the 16-man squad.

South Africa has a powerful and an experience batting lineup led by Cronje. Daryll Cull-

inan, Jonty Rhodes, Gary Kirsten, Jacques Kallis and Lance Klusener.

Although ranked bottom by Wisden, New Zealand will enter the series with rising confidence having beaten India 1-0 in a three-match Test series in the first half of the home season and sharing the one-dayers 2-2.

Under Australian coach Steve Rixon, the Kiwis are beginning something of a revival and are often hard to beat on their own slower, low bouncing wickets. Last season, they had home series wins over Sri

Lanka and Zimbabwe. Cronje said he had limited knowledge of New Zealand but thought they had improved under Rixon.

"I think since Steve Rixon took over as coach, they have become more disciplined and I think generally a stronger side," he said.

Cronje has seen little of that series, and much of his thinking is dictated by what he saw during last season's one-day tri-series competition in Australia.

In that series, New Zealand won only one of four matches against the South Africans, but with some luck could have won three of them.

New Zealand all-rounders Chris Cairns and Dion Nash showed they were in good form against India while strike bowler Simon Doull ripped through the highly rated Indian batting line-up in the deciding Test in Wellington.

However, their batting, led by captain Steven Fleming and the in-form Craig MacMillan remains brittle and Indian paceman Javagal Srinath exposed technical shortcomings against the short-pitched ball which Donald and Pollock will no doubt exploit to the full.

The tour begins with a one-day warm-up match against an Academy Eleven in the south island resort town of Alexandra on Saturday followed on Sunday by the first one-day international in Dunedin.

It is a punishing schedule, and Cronje is hoping his team can retain its sharp edge.

ITINERARY

TESTS

February 27-Mar 3: First Test in Auckland.
March 11-15: Second Test in Christchurch.
March 18-22: Third Test in Wellington.

ONE-DAYERS

February 14: First ODI (D/N) Dunedin.
February 17: Second ODI (D/N) Christchurch.
February 20: Third ODI (D/N) Auckland.
March 25: Fourth ODI (D/N) Napier.
March 27: Fifth ODI (D/N) Auckland.
March 30: Sixth ODI (D/N) Wellington.



Diego Maradona (L) displays his dancing skills with Turkish bellydancer Tanyeli in a televised entertainment programme in Istanbul on February 10. The Argentine soccer legend arrived in the Turkish capital as a guest of private television channel. — Internet photo