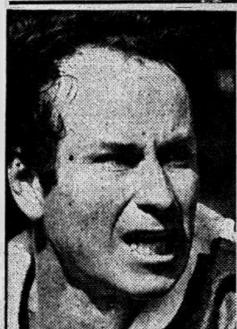


Column One
SPORTS TALK



John McEnroe
(American tennis great)

"From what I saw at the French Open and here at Wimbledon, then he's possibly the best returner around when he's at the top of his game as he has been."
On Andre Agassi.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-117

Tick the Correct Answers
Fast to the Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
July 2, 1999 and draw shortly afterwards

1 How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?

40 41 42

2 Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by

9 wkts 10 wkts 53 runs

3 How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup

18 21 20

4 Saqlain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?

Kenya Zimbabwe Bangladesh

5 How many runs did Minhassul Abedin score in the World Cup

120 140 140

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

New Zealand 226 all out

Sports Reporter
New Zealand were all out for 226 against England in the first Test at Edgbaston yesterday.

The Black Caps won the toss and relied on a fighting 73 by wicketkeeper Adam Parore to reach respectability.

The most successful English bowlers were the recalled duo of Andy Caddick and spinner Phil Tufnell. They both captured three wickets. Left-arm seamer Alan Mullally took two.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the opening day of the first Test between New Zealand and England on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

Wose c Thorpe b Mullally	0
Home l w b Caddick	12
Fleming c Thorpe b Tudor	27
Astle c Read b Butcher	26
McMillan c Thorpe b Caddick	18
Cairns c & b Caddick	17
Parore not out	45
Nash not out	15
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-5)	10
Total: (6 wickets, 59 overs)	170
To bat: Vettori, Doull, Allott.	
Fall of wkts: 1-0; 2-19; 3-55; 4-73; 5-103; 6-104.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mullally	19	4	51	1 (1nb)
Caddick	19	10	39	3
Tudor	11	2	44	1 (3nb)
Butcher	7	2	25	1
Tufnell	3	1	6	0 (1nb)

Sampras a bit surprised

LONDON, July 1: Pete Sampras refused to be spooked by Wimbledon's infamous Court Two, nicknamed 'The Graveyard', on Wednesday as he purred into the last eight of the men's singles, report AFP.

So the American admitted after his 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Canadian Daniel Nestor he had been surprised to be pushed off the main courts onto a stage which is infamous for the number of seeds who have lost there.

"It was a little strange playing on Court Two," said the 27-year-old. "It's been a couple of years since I've been out there."

"It's got some bad bounces," Sampras added.

Busy Bangladesh itinerary
Either Aussie or SA coach



Bangladesh will appoint a new coach either from South Africa or Australia by August next, president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Saber Hossain Chowdhury said yesterday, report agencies.

Speaking at a news conference the BCB chief said both boards have been approached and "We are expecting a reply from either one."

Apart from looking after the national team, the new coach will also work with the regional development officers at the divisional headquarters, Saber Hossain Chowdhury said.

BCB's contract with West Indian Gordon Greenidge expired on June 30.

Saber returned home on Wednesday after attending the Executive Board and annual general meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Saber said Bangladesh will have a busy year from September next as "We received a good number of commitments from different Test playing nations during the ICC meeting."

West Indies will play a few one-day, three-day and four-day matches during their Bangladesh tour in September, England A are expected to visit in November this year, he added.

Sri Lanka and the MCC are expected to visit in January next year while Australia A are likely to visit in March, the BCB president said.

South Africa, during or after the tour of India, may also play at least a one-day international early next year.

Most of the matches will be held at the Bangabandhu Na-



Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain (L) addressing newsmen yesterday. BCB general secretary Ashrafal Huq listens. —Star photo

tional Stadium, which will be handed over to Cricket Board on September 8.

Replying to another query, the BCB chief said, the next Asia Cup will be held in Sri Lanka sometime in April or May next year.

Bangladesh is likely to play in the first World Test Championship to be held in the year 2001 or 2002.

Besides, Bangladesh team will visit India and Pakistan next winter, said Chowdhury, adding, "We took all these international programmes as ICC Executive Board would review Bangladesh's performance before giving it the 10th Test playing status in June next year."

"BCB will take up programmes to increase the longer version of matches round the year regionally and nationally, and a decision will be taken in the next board meeting this month", he said.

He said Bangladesh's performance was lauded in the ICC Executive Board meeting. Five out of required seven members strongly supported Bangladesh's Test status claim.

India, Pakistan and West Indies supported the bid but four members advised to review the Bangladesh's performance for another one year.

Bangladesh need the support of at least seven members to gain the Test status this time, the BCB president further said.

Saber was re-elected ICC Executive Board member from the Associate Members' group.



Action from yesterday's national hockey encounter between Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force. —Star photo

End of the Becker Era



LONDON, July 1 (Reuters/ AFP): Boris Becker, the grizzled old lion of Wimbledon, roared one last time on Centre Court before he was mauled 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 by Australian second seed Pat Rafter on Wednesday.

Becker, 31 but still the youngest men's champion in Wimbledon history, was outplayed by the Australian as the serve that struck a thousand acres on the grass of the All-England Club, lost its bite.

Rafter, the double US Open champion, took victory on his second match point when Becker, who won here in 1985, 1986 and 1989 and was runner-up four times, placed a backhand volley out.

Becker, now ranked 77, plans to bow out of professional tennis in Stuttgart next month and concentrate on coaching.

"It was a great love affair," said Becker as he reflected on his Wimbledon career afterwards. "It was like nowhere else in the world."

The German showed the form which has taken him past Britain's Miles Maclagan, 15th seed Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany and promising Australian teenager Lleyton Hewitt as he clinched the first break of serve.

However, his superiority did not last for long and Rafter, who has won the past two US Opens, started to hit his passing shots with more venom, especially on the backhand side.

He duly broke Becker's serve in both the sixth game and then the eighth as his athleticism gave him an edge while the 31-year-old German was having problems imposing himself at the net.

The German's task then deepened at the start of the second set as he lost his serve in

the opening game to love by serving a double-fault.

However hard Becker tried to cope with Rafter's athleticism, he still had trouble holding his serve almost every time and duly lost the second set 6-2.

Becker continued to be outplayed in the third set and it took only 106 minutes before Becker succumbed to the Australian's second match point by placing a backhand volley out.

For a minute or two, it seemed as the defeat carried little long-term significance, with Becker simply shaking hands at the net and then getting on with packing his bag as the Australian saluted the crowd.

But on their way off, having bowed to the Duchess of Kent, Becker dropped his bag as Rafter walked on and then turned to receive a richly-deserved standing ovation from Centre Court, the scene of his many triumphs, as well as the entire Royal Box.

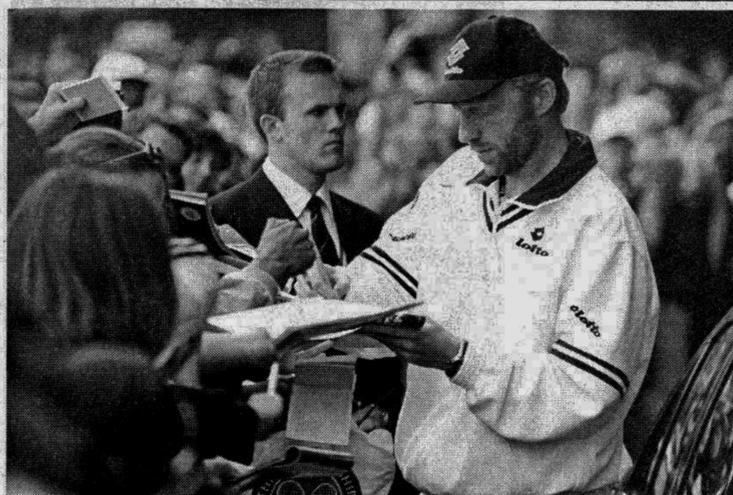
"It was very unfortunate I was not able to give him and the crowd a better match for my last match but that's the way it goes," he said. "The last time I said 99 per cent, this time I say 100 per cent," the German legend said.

"He outplayed me today and it's also time for me to go."

"It made me who I am today and gave me the possibilities and all the freedom to do what I want to do with my life from now on and I'm very thankful," he added.

Asked what he would miss most, Becker said: "For a tennis player it's hard to compare any other feeling than going onto Centre Court, especially if it's in a final, being out there and having the chance to win Wimbledon."

All the players will agree with me, it's one of a kind. "The only thing that really bugs me is losing four finals.



SIGNING OFF: Boris Becker obliging fans before leaving Wimbledon's famous Centre Court for the last time in his illustrious career on June 30. —AFP photo

Special Olympics Bangladeshis excel

Bangladeshi athletes showed super performances in the Special Olympic Games '99 for the disabled, clinching five golds, four silvers and one bronze, reports BSS.

Sharmin Lipi won gold in 25m dash, Sanjida Lity in 25m walk, Abu Ashraf in 100m dash, Syed G Gause in 100m walk and Zakia Sultana in standing long jump.

Monirul Islam won silver in 400m walk, so did Amir Hossain in 400m dash, Kazi Shariful Hasan in 100m dash and Rabaka Sultana Liza in standing long jump.

Monirul Islam also won bronze in 100m walk.

Thirty-one mentally retarded Bangladeshi athletes are taking part in the Olympics, which began in North Carolina in the United States on June 26 and will run till July 3.

Davenport defeats Novotna

LONDON, July 1: Jana Novotna's Wimbledon reign ended on Thursday when she crashed to a straight sets defeat in the quarterfinals to American third seed Lindsay Davenport, reports AFP.

Davenport's compatriot Venus Williams had, meanwhile, clawed back to one-set all against favourite Steffi Graf when rain interrupted play midway through the afternoon.

With all eight singles quarterfinals scheduled to be completed by the end of Thursday,

UPDATE

organisers were facing a headache as they sought to ensure the tournament finishes as planned on Sunday.

Davenport, the reigning US Open champion, won 6-3, 6-4 against fifth seed Novotna on Court One to reach the last four at Wimbledon for the first time.

If Davenport reaches the final she will also re-claim the world number one spot from Switzerland's Martina Hingis, who lost in the first round here.

On Centre Court Graf took the first set 6-2 against sixth seed Williams.

But the American hit back to take the second 6-3 and seventh-time winner Graf was 1-0 down in the third on serve and looking distinctly uncomfortable when the rain halted the action.

In the other women's quarterfinal French eighth seed Nathalie Tauziat was serving at 5-4 in the first set against Croat Mirjana Lucic on Court 18.

Men's second seed Pat Rafter of Australia was 3-3 on serve in the first set against American eighth seed Todd Martin in the only men's last eight match to have started.

In the men's doubles top seeds Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi of India lost the first set 6-3 to Canadian Sebastien Lareau and his American partner Alex O'Brien in their quarterfinal.

Umpire suspended Army in final

Bangladesh Army confirmed their berth in the final of the BRTC 21st national championship beating Bangladesh Air Force by a solitary goal at Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports BSS.

Abu Salam scored the all important goal in the 48th minute.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka defeated Faridpur 3-1.

Meanwhile, umpire Monwar Islam has been suspended following match between Bangladesh Air Force and Faridpur on Wednesday.

The suspension would be effective immediately, the sources added.

Air Force won by a solitary goal. But Faridpur lodged a protest with the tournament committee for ruling out two of their goals.



Arambagh goalkeeper Tony rises to thwart a Muktijoddha attack during their Premier Division encounter yesterday. —Star photo

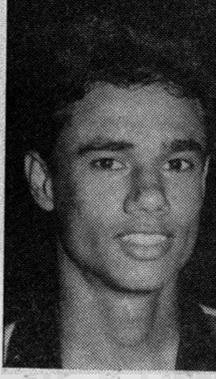
Muktis owe one to Manik

Sports Reporter

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra came from behind to beat Arambagh Krira Sangha 3-2 in the lone Keya Premier football league match at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The keenly-contested match by the scurf of the neck, it were Arambagh who promised to extend their big-bugging run when, following their creditable draws against Mohammedan and Abahani, they

lead at the stroke of the final whistle when substitute Arif Khan Joy came up with a fierce right-footer from the edge of the box, but only to be denied by the cross-piece.



MUJIBAR

The holders got rid of the Arambagh fright finally when central defender Jewel Rana scored the match-winner in the 86th minute. The hard-fought victory gave the all-reds a solo lead in the League with three straight wins.

Although Muktijoddha won



took the lead in the 24th minute.

Mozibur Rahman, who scored his side's one-all draw against Abahani in the opening match, plotted yet another giant-slaying Arambagh act tapping the ball home from close after a pile-driver from Titu slipped out of the grip of Muktijoddha custodian Biplob.

Muktijoddha neutralised the score eight minutes later with Effine, one of the two Nigerian recruits of the defending champions, heading the ball home from a goal-mouth scramble. It was Effine's fourth goal in the league, and incidentally the airborne Nigerian scored all his four goals with his head.

But Arambagh regained the lead once again in the 51st minute after yet another comedy of errors from Muktijoddha and national custodian Biplob, who let off an innocuous shot from Asif. Mozibur, who was standing nearby, made no mistake to push the ball into an empty net much to the horror of Muktijoddha.

The delight of the Mottjheel outfit, however, turned sour, when their midfield playmaker Nurul Haq Manik got the marching order for punching Muktijoddha's Liton on the face four minutes later. The suicidal punch from an experienced player like Manik, the former national player who did the unholy thing apparently without any provocation, not only reduced Arambagh to ten men but also cost them the match.

It was the first red card in this year's league.

As Manik departing the scene, Muktijoddha went all out to cash in on the weakness, driving Arambagh against the wall with a series of attacks. Although Arambagh goalkeeper Tony, a symbol of confidence compared to his rival under the bar, fought a lone battle against a desperate Muktijoddha, but his resistance finally caved in at start of 59 minute.

Liton made it 2-2 with a spectacular low right-footer before Jewel ensured victory for Muktijoddha, heading home a Hasan-al-Mamun corner from the right in the 86 minute.

Muktijoddha, however, got the chance of extending their



MANIK ... red card

TEAMS

Muktijoddha: Biplob, Hasan al Mamun, Jewel Rana, Rajani, Titu, Masud Rana, Tushar (Arif Khan Joy), Liton (Bakhtiar), Aliu Rahman, Effine and Naquib.

Arambagh: Tony, Feroz, Golam Rabbani, Mizan, Aminul Islam, Montu, Asif, Nurul Haq Manik, Tajuddin (Masud Khan), Mozibur Rahman Ritun and Oenu.

Referee: Suvash Rai.

Asian snooker 3-member squad leaves on July 10

A three-member snooker team led by Azimuddin Ahmad, president of the Bangladesh Billiards & Snooker Federation, will leave for Bangkok on July 10 to take part in the 16th Asian Snooker Championship 1999. Other members of the team are Mofazzal Hossain and Syed Md. Sajjad. The tournament will be held from July 11 to 17, at Hotel Montien Riverside, Bangkok, says a press release.

The players have been divided in eight groups.

Mofazzal is placed in Group F with Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Saudi Arabia & Sri Lanka while Sajjad is in Group B with Thailand, Jordan, China & Brunei.

Azimuddin Ahmad will attend the 16th AGM of the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports representing Bangladesh.