

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Monica Seles

(American tennis star)
Tennis gives me some great emotions. When you hit a great shot and play a great point, it can give you a great joy. But I've never looked at tennis that way. I just love to play. It does give me joy, and it doesn't give me sadness. I just enjoy being out there and hitting the ball.

Boost sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-123

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Nov 26, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many Test wickets did Malcolm Marshall grab?

376 380 386

2. Who won the Sirajul Jaleel Cup last month?

Pakistan W Indies S Lanka

3. What is the name of Steve Waugh's son?

Austin Jacobs Larry

4. Who is the vice-captain of India?

Dravid Jadeja Ganguly

5. Who became champions in the Keya Premier Division soccer league?

Abahani Muktiyoddha Mohammedan

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Donald takes a break

BLOEMFONTEIN, Nov 16 (Internet report): South African fast bowler Allan Donald has been omitted from a Free State squad of 12 named on Monday for this weekend's Supersport Series clash against Natal at Kingsmead.

Donald, who picked up just two wickets in South Africa's record innings and a 219-run victory over Zimbabwe in Harare, is suffering from a slight side strain and has decided to take a rest.

Free State will also be without the services of their other new-ball specialist Victor Mpitang who will be on national duty for the SA A side against Sri Lanka in Pietermaritzburg.

Although the outcome of the contest is not of paramount importance - both sides have qualified for the Super Eight stage - Free State will still be looking to their remaining two internationals, captain Hansie Cronje and opening batsman Dippenaar, to keep them on the winning trail.

SQUAD

Hansie Cronje (captain), Gerhardus Liebenberg, Andrew Galt, Boeta Dippenaar, Kosi Venter, Nicky Boye, Gerrard Brophy, Herman Bakken, Johan van der Wath, Andre Abraham, Sarel Cilliers, Matthew Hoggard.

Rackermann

Zimbabwe's choice

SYDNEY, Nov 16: Former Australian Test fast bowler Carl Rackermann is poised to become Zimbabwe's bowling coach, a report said today, reports AFP.

The Sydney Daily Telegraph said he will join the Zimbabwean team next month to help guide it through its home series against Sri Lanka and England.

"I would like to do it - they have a lot of talent and their cricket is in huge developmental stage, which is quite exciting," Rackermann said.

"I would like to think I could make a contribution to that."

Players-clubs-BCB stalemate continues

CCDM banishes 7 top cricketers

Sports Reporter

In an unprecedented move, organisers of Dhaka cricket - the sporting clubs of the city - have decided to boycott seven cricketers including Bangladesh skipper Aminul Islam from any competition under the banner of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) for five years.

The CCDM, who runs the most colourful league, has also recommended to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to ban the seven cricketers from any domestic competition for the same period.

The seven enigmatic cricketers who are facing the wrath of the CCDM are - Aminul Islam, national vice-captain Khaled Mahmud, former national captain Faruque Ahmed, Enamul Haque, Mohammed Rafique, Mahabubur Rahman.

CCDM's sensational decision, which came as a sequel to the Premier cricketers' continued threat of boycott from any domestic meet, was another bombshell in the distressing tug-of-war between the rebel-

lious players and the CCDM, the clubs.

The seventy club representatives of the CCDM, who had a marathon meeting on Monday evening, also threatened to stay away from any competition if the BCB did not fulfill its demand.

The club representatives, who over the years provided the 'bread and butter' of the players, in a press release issued yesterday said that they were ready to support the board to uphold national interest.

The reasons for CCDM's hard-line action was what they termed the players' use of foul language, making misleading and malicious statements, and unlawfully demanding the change of the inter-club transfer schedule.

The CCDM reiterated on Tuesday its commitment to hold the Premier Division cricketers' transfer from January 17-19 next and start the league from February 4.

While the CCDM flexed its muscle, the cricketers, at a loss over the developments in the last 24 hours, were unwilling from their demands.

"Since the National League

has started today sans the leading 105 Premier cricketers, it means that the authorities are not ready to comply with our demands. But we will continue our strike," said the general secretary of Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) after their meeting at the Siddeswari High School yesterday.

In another development, BCB's Director of Coaching Eddie Barlow went to Siddeswari School yesterday and talked to the estranged players for half an hour.

"We have no quarrel with the clubs. It is very unfortunate that the clubs have taken a stand against the players. We have heard that they have suspended seven cricketers of our organisation. We are not only seven players in the association. If they want to suspend us, they should suspend all the 105 cricketers," said Faruque, a former national captain.

Meanwhile, CWAB, who are leading the players' revolt, went to meet the BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury last evening. The outcome, however, was fruitless.

Shhh ..., says Saber

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday urged the officials of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) and Cricketers' Welfare Association not to make any further public comment on the on-going dispute of players' transfer and the starting of the Premier Division Cricket League, reports BSS.

The BCB president made the request to both CCDM and CWAB after his meeting with the CWAB officials, led by its president Minhajul Abedin yesterday evening.

Intervening in a bid to resolve the current impasse between CWAB and CCDM, he said, "I have recommended a 'cooling off' period to prevent further complications from developing."

Saqlain special

HOBART, Nov 16: Saqlain Mushtaq is putting his faith in what he calls God's gift to help Pakistan square their cricket Test series with Australia here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Saqlain dismissed Indian star Sachin Tendulkar twice in Test matches in India in February with his wrong 'un and now he has set his sights on Steve Waugh and the Australians.

Most leg-spinners have a wrong 'un in their repertoire but until Saqlain hit the international scene in 1995-96, it was unthinkable that an off-spinner could deliver a ball that moved from leg to off to a right-hander.

Saqlain, 22, who flicks his thumb and index finger across the seam while keeping his wrist action almost identical to his stock off break, has revolutionised his art with his "doosra".

"I call this a God-gifted ball," he said Tuesday.

"Sachin faced me three times and I got him three times, two times with that ball and another time with my arm ball."

The Urdu word for it is doosra, first is off-spin and second is "doosra" bowl. It's the same grip but I just use my finger and the same spinning finger and my thumb.

"It's God-gifted I think. I reckon God gave me a very great gift."

Saqlain's presence in the Test squad is a gift for the tourists who restored confidence with an innings and 26-run win over South Australia.

Like many spinners, Saqlain is handy with the bat, often filling the role of night-watchman for the tourists.

His highest Test score is 79 against Zimbabwe, when he shared a world record 357-run eighth wicket partnership with captain Wasim Akram.

"Everybody teases me but I always tell everyone I will make 100," Saqlain said.

"That is my wish and ambition to make a century in Test cricket."

Zim fans furious over SA 'snub'

HARARE, Nov 16 (Internet report): Zimbabwe sport fans are furious over what they are calling a snub by South Africa's cricket team for failing to attend a benefit dinner in Harare on Monday night in honour of national XI coach Dave Houghton.

The SA players, they said, were to have appeared at the gala function on the eve of the scheduled close of the five-day Test between the southern African neighbours, with skipper Hansie Cronje pencilled in as the guest speaker.

After winning the match by an innings on the fourth day on Sunday, the SA cricketers changed their flight bookings out of the country from Tuesday to Monday.

But the premature finish was no excuse, according to several of the guests who paid about R250 a head.

"They were committed to coming here," said one.

"Hansie was supposed to speak... The players were supposed to sit at the tables with us. That's why we came."

Cricket goes indoors

MELBOURNE, Nov 16: Australia will play a historic three-match one-day international cricket series against South Africa with the roof closed at Melbourne's new Colonial Stadium next year, it was announced today, reports AFP.

The matches on August 16, 18 and 20 will be the first international cricket matches held indoors in Australia.

It also marks the first time that international cricket matches in Melbourne have been at a venue other than the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Captain Steve Waugh said he was looking forward to the series.

He said the atmosphere under the closed roof would be tremendous, having played an indoor match in Toronto several years ago.

"It's really exciting, players love being part of history and this will be an historic match being the first indoors," said Waugh.



Scene from the first day of the three-day National League cricket match between Dhaka and Khulna yesterday.

National League begins without top players

Pakistan's Maksi hits maxi ton

Sports Reporter

The first National Cricket League of the three-day format began yesterday without much gloss as the national cricketers decided to stay out of the competition to push their demand of holding the inter-club cricketers' transfer in the current month.

Pakistani middle-order Shadullah Maksi scored the first century of the league to take Sylhet to a commanding position against hosts Chittagong at the local MA Aziz Stadium.

Maksi, the right hander who played in the First Division for City Club last season, hammered 173 as Sylhet, opting to bat after winning the toss, were 309 for the loss of eight wickets at stumps.

Maksi, who came to bat at number four with Sylhet on 29 for two in the 13th over, stayed at the crease for more than four hours and took the scoreboard to 266 to help his side cross the 250 mark before he was bowled by Chittagong's new-ball bowler Alamgir.

In his 238-ball innings, Maksi, who made a fourth-wicket 107-run partnership with Alok (39), hammered 21 boundaries.

Niaz was the most successful Chittagong bowler finishing the day with 3 for 61.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, hosts Dhaka, after winning the toss and deciding to bat, were all out for 197 in 96.2 overs against Khulna with middle-order Kabir scoring highest 56.

Manik contributed 47 runs while left-arm national seamer Bikash Rana, who was against CWAB's decision and opted to play in the league, added 15 runs.

Mahfuzur Rahman of Khulna captured four wickets

while Jamal and Khairuzzaman took two wickets each.

Khulna will begin their first innings today.

Away at the Rajshahi Stadium, Barisal were bundled out for 183 in 97.5 overs in the face of some fired-up bowling from Rajshahi's new-ball bowler Saeed.

Saeed grabbed three for 21 from 10.5 overs while he was equally supported by Tarek and Sumon, who evenly shared four wickets.

Moin of Barisal topscored with 44 while Faruque scored 31 runs.

Rajshahi will go for their first innings this morning.

SCOREBOARD

Dhaka v Khulna
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Dhaka 1st innings
Russell b Khairuzzaman 0
Sadek b Tushar 1
Simon lbw b Mahfuz 56
Kabir b Jamal 19
Joy b Khairuzzaman 4
Rasec b Hiplay b Jamal 10
Manik run out 47
Jahangir lbw b Mahfuz 8
Bikash Rana lbw b Mahfuz 15
Riad b Mahfuz 6
Matin not out 1
Extras (b-12, lb-3, nb-15) 30
Total (all out in 96.2 overs) 197

Fall of wickets: 1/0, 2/15, 3/92, 4/92, 5/104, 6/110, 7/143, 8/169, 9/171

Bowlers O M R W
Khairuzzaman 11 3 16 2
Tushar 8 3 14 1
Shaheen 20 9 24 0
Jamal 31.2 10 63 2
Azimul 5 0 20 0
Niaz 5 2 13 0
Mahfuz 15 7 27 4
Biplab 1 0 5 0

Sylhet v Chittagong
(Venue: MA Aziz Stadium)

Dhaka 1st innings
Russell b Khairuzzaman 0
Sadek b Tushar 1
Simon lbw b Mahfuz 56
Kabir b Jamal 19
Joy b Khairuzzaman 4
Rasec b Hiplay b Jamal 10
Manik run out 47
Jahangir lbw b Mahfuz 8
Bikash Rana lbw b Mahfuz 15
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Tushar 8 3 14 1
Shaheen 20 9 24 0
Jamal 31.2 10 63 2
Azimul 5 0 20 0
Niaz 5 2 13 0
Mahfuz 15 7 27 4
Biplab 1 0 5 0

Barisal v Rajshahi
(Venue: Rajshahi Stadium)

Barisal 1st innings
S Rahman b Sumon 15
Ziaul b Tarek 16
Monju c Tonal b Sumon 4
Moit c Tonal b Bidyut 44
SM Rahman lbw b Suja 0
Faruque c Rashid b Tarek 31
AKMS Islam c Bidyut b Saeed 20
Manik run out 16
Rabi b Saeed 0
RK Roy not out 10
AK Das b Saeed 6
Extras (b-9, lb-4, nb-7, w-1) 21
Total (all out in 97.5 overs) 183

Fall of wickets: 1/37, 2/39, 3/54, 4/55, 5/121, 6/138, 7/157, 8/157, 9/175

Bowlers O M R W
Saeed 10.5 2 21 3
Etee 17 0 28 0
Etee 3 1 4 0
Ehtesham 3 1 4 0
Tarek 22 9 24 2
Sumon 31 12 46 2
Koel 1 0 8 0
Suja 12 6 16 1
Raja 2 1 3 0
Bidyut 9 2 20 1

Bowlers put on brave faces

"But they're good now."

All-rounder Abdur Razzaq bruised his lower back when he dived across metal grates inside the boundary in the match

Both sides will train at Bellerive Oval Wednesday. Australia are likely to make Queensland paceman Scott Muller 12th man while the

Shane Warne have dismissed nagging ailments and will play in the pivotal second cricket Test starting here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Akhtar's ankle ligament damage improved overnight and even though he was still limping while the tourists travelled from Adelaide to Hobart via Melbourne Tuesday, he is regarded as a certain starter.

"Shoaib fielded on Sunday (as 12th man against South Australia) and after that I used a technique I have where the injury becomes more sore for 24 hours but is then a lot better than it originally was," said team physiotherapist Dale Naylor. "He will play, believe me."

Akhtar was again reluctant to discuss the injury Tuesday but told a television crew in Hobart: "I'm perfectly alright."

Akram suffered bad bruising to his right little finger during a fielding drill at Adelaide Oval Monday and it was strapped Tuesday.

However, it is not his bowling hand and even though the problem will hinder his batting and fielding, there is no way he will miss such an important Test.

Warne has influenza that should clear in the next 48 hours.

"A day or so of rest and I'll be fine," Warne said late Tuesday.

His condition is not being helped by cold weather in Hobart.

Meanwhile, Pakistan revealed their side was hit by an influenza epidemic when they crashed to a 10-wicket defeat in the first Test against last week.

"We're over it now but we had an epidemic," Pakistan's physiotherapist Dale Naylor said.

"During the last Test match we just had guys lying around all over the place."

"We got off the plane in Perth (at the start of the tour) and played a game the next day, that makes it very hard."

WASIM AKRAM

SHANE WARNE

against Queensland at Allan Border Field two weeks ago. He aggravated the problem at the Gabba.

"He's got major bruising. I'm not sure he'll be right," Naylor said.

Pakistan boosted their confidence with victory by an innings and 26 runs against South Australia on Monday.

tourists are looking at a dangerous bowling attack of Akram, Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq and either Waqar Younis or Mohammad Akram.

Waqar took 4-61 in South Australia's second innings of 250 on Monday, but there is a feeling that Mohammad (0-50) bowled just as well, if not better, without luck.

Bengal beat Badda

From Our Correspondent

CALCUTTA, Nov 16: East Bengal club overcame a resilient Badda Jagarani Sangsad of Bangladesh with a 67th minute strike by midfielder Saroj Das to begin their campaign in the IFA Shield at the Rabindra Sarovar here today.

The goal infused some excitement in a match that tended to border on boredom. East Bengal were without some of their regulars like Suleh Musah, Carlton Chapman and Tushar Rakshit.

However, even then they looked dominant in the mid-

field mainly due to the poor display put up by the Jagarani midfielders. Even though Tanvir Choudhury played well he lacked the support from his fellow midfielders - Abdullah Sayeed and Deepankar Biswas.

The uneven surface troubled the Jagarani players to a great extent. However, that was not the only cause for their downfall.

The Bangladesh side looked more set on individualistic approach. As a result, their side failed to create even a single opportunity during the match. On the other hand, their goalkeeper Titumir saved the club from the

See page 14

Srinath drafted

Series decider today

NEW DELHI, Nov 16: The Indian cricket team was hit by new allegations of match-fixing ahead of the decisive fifth one-day international against New Zealand here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

A senior Indian cricket administrator Sunil Dev created a stir on Tuesday by saying his prediction of a 2-2 deadlock in the series, made two weeks ago in a television programme, was based on information supplied by an unnamed bookmaker.

"I don't bet myself, but I was told by one of Delhi's biggest bookmakers that the series will be tied 2-2," said Dev, a former vice president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

India lost the first one-dayer at Rajkot, then won the next two at Hyderabad and Gwalior before the Kiwis drew level in the fourth at Guwahati last Sunday.

Dev presently runs cricket affairs in the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA), which hosts Wednesday's final encounter at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground.

"I should be happy that we are hosting such a needle match," he said. "But it worries me that dubious people like bookmakers can accurately predict how the series will go."

Dev, who had raised similar doubts when he was manager of the Indian team on the tour of South Africa three years ago, demanded a Pakistani-style judicial enquiry into Indian cricket.

"Somewhere, someone has to speak up," he said. "Someone has to pursue the truth to ensure that cricket stays the institution we have known it to be."

Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar, who completed 10 years of international cricket on Monday, and coach Kapil Dev, refused to comment on the latest charges.

The Indians leave for a 10-week tour of Australia next week to play a three-Test series and a one-day triangular against Pakistan and Australia.

Three years ago, former Indian all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar accused an unnamed team-mate of offering him 25,000 dollars to play badly in a one-day match in Sri Lanka in 1993.

But the BCCI's internal inquiry, conducted by former Indian chief justice Yashwant Chandrachud, absolved the

players of any wrongdoing at Prabhakar declined to reveal the team-mate's identity.

Leading Indian daily, the Hindustan Times, reported that many fans appeared to back Sunil Dev's allegations.

"Not a few conversations at the ageless stadium (Kotla) on Tuesday focussed on the result at Guwahati where India put New Zealand to bat first, let the visitors off the hook and then made a hash of the chase to stretch the competitive interest into the game here," the paper said.

Kumble, had been rested for the last three one-dayers ahead of the Australian tour.

But with key batsman Ajay Jadeja nursing an injured shoulder, Srinath was flown in from Bangalore to bolster the hosts on a specific request from Tendulkar.

Srinath is likely to replace either the erratic Ajit Agarkar or rookie Thiru Kamaran, who took one wicket on his debut in the fourth one-dayer at Guwahati last Sunday.

Jadeja's place may go to opening batsman Devang

Jadeja, who was nursing an injured shoulder, Srinath was flown in from Bangalore to bolster the hosts on a specific request from Tendulkar.

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TARGET GRAND SLAM! Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar uses a tennis racquet during a practice session in New Delhi yesterday.

"It was no surprise that a few tongues wagged too, even as DDCA itself was relieved, even uncomplicated, that the series had remained alive."

India have pulled out pace spearhead Javagal Srinath from a well-deserved holiday to play him in the series decider.

Srinath, along with two other front-line bowlers Venkatesh Prasad and Anil

Gandhi, who was not played in the first four matches. With the trusted pair of Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly taking the opening slots, Gandhi will bat in the middle-order.

The Indians will be wary of the small-sized Ferozeshah Kotla ground, where they have lost their last two one-day international matches against Sri Lanka and Australia.

England record big win