

Nat'l jr chess

The 22nd National Junior Chess tournament began at the Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium yesterday, reports UNB.

Green Delta jr hockey

Barnak Samaj and BPWD SC earned comfortable wins against their respective rivals in the Green Delta Junior Division hockey league at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Yard nabs Chawla

LONDON, Jan 14: Police officers from Scotland Yard have arrested the alleged paymaster of disgraced South African cricketer Hansie Cronje as they investigate allegations of match fixing, it emerged Sunday, reports AFP.

Sajjeev Chawla, a 33-year-old from north London, was arrested by officers from the Met Police's Serious and Organised Crime Group early on December 13 and was interviewed at a central London police station before being released on bail.

Scotland Yard launched an investigation after an allegation of attempted corruption was reported by a player to the England and Wales Cricket Board on August 3 1999.

A 33-year-old man was arrested at his home in north London. Officers from the Met's Serious and Organised Crime Group interviewed him at a central London police station. He was subsequently released on bail to return on a date in January, said a police spokesman.

Run feast

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SCORES IN BRIEF

Dhaka Metro Blues vs Chittagong Titans: 136 all out in 41.2 overs (Riaz 27, Ali Haider 27, Ayub 2/13).

Dhaka Metro Blues: 140 for 6 in 38 overs (Ayub 36, Sajid 28, Nayeem 24, Ashraf 3/25). Result: Dhaka Metro Blues won by 4 wickets.

Dhaka Rangers vs Barisal Maroons: 280 for 9 in 45 overs (Soner 110, Shaheen 39, Kaiser 4/30). Dhaka Rangers: 283 for 8 in 39.2 overs (Rajib 117 not out, Shahin 3/49). Result: Dhaka Rangers won by 2 wickets.

Dhaka Colts vs Sylhet Surma: 139 all out in 33.4 overs (T Chowdhury 25, Bulbul 21, Sakawat 5/35). Dhaka Colts: 140 for 3 in 30 overs (Russel 61, Monti 27, Haque 2/28). Result: Dhaka Colts won by 7 wickets.

Chittagong Karnaphully vs Metro Green: 143 for 9 in 45 overs (Shahinob 19, Sajid 2/32). Result: Chittagong Karnaphully won by 71 runs.

Milo U-15

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BKSP vs Chittagong Titans: 235 for 8 in 45 overs (Naeem 111, Ashiqur 31, Raihan 3/40). Chittagong Titans: 120 all out in 38 overs (Subroto 29, Zia 25, Nadir 3/15). Result: BKSP won by 115 runs.

Chittagong Karnaphully vs Metro Green: 196 all out in 42.3 overs (Illias 60, Kamru 2/14). Metro Green: 198 for 8 in 43.5 overs (Nadir 40, Walid 2/32). Result: Metro Green won by 2 wickets.

Sylhet Surma vs Dhaka Colts: 222 for 9 in 45 overs (Tariqul 64, Nazrul 55, Nahid 3/40). Sylhet Surma: 223 for 9 in 42.5 overs (Golam not out, Pintoo 27). Result: Sylhet Surma won by 5 wickets.

GreenPhone

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Dhaka Metro Blues vs Barisal Maroons: 103 all out in 43.2 overs (Anwar 53, Mond 3/11). Barisal Maroons: 106 for 6 in 37.2 overs (Joy 68, Rahman 2/16). Result: Barisal Maroons won by 4 wickets.

Chittagong Titans vs BKSP: 172 all out in 44.3 overs (Shakil 34, Shawkat 4/28). Chittagong Titans: 68 all out in 30 overs (Nadir 17/19). Result: BKSP won by 104 runs.

Jelena how could you?



MELBOURNE, Jan 14 (AFP) - Australia's tennis fraternity is bemused over teenager Jelena Dokic's decision to switch her tennis allegiance to her native Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

Amid claims by her father that Dokic had been betrayed by Australia and was the victim of a fixed draw at the Australian Open which begins here Monday, she told officials she no longer wanted to be regarded as an Australian player.

Tennis Australia agreed to the request Sunday and the Australian crowd's reaction remains to be gauged when Dokic takes to the court on Monday evening listed as a Yugoslav for her first round match against second seed Lindsay Davenport.

Australia now appears to have lost the youngster it has helped to groom and fund through her teens, with Dokic having secured a Yugoslav passport last November and planning to reside permanently in Florida.

The change of allegiance is yet another chapter in Dokic's brief, but controversy-dogged career -- many of her problems the making of her father Damir who is currently banned from the women's tour.

One of the greats of Australian tennis, Rod Laver, described the Dokic family's claims of a rigged draw as "ridiculous".

The names of unseeded players at the Open are drawn randomly by computer to fill

the gaps around seeded players.

"To me the draw is the fairest thing I have seen on any of the (tennis) tours," Laver said.

He said the Dokic family had no reason to feel, as they claimed, that Jelena was being shunned or taken advantage of by Australian tennis officials.

"To me that is ridiculous,"



JELENA DOKIC

he said. "I have had some pretty bad draws myself."

"I had to play (Ken Rosewall in the first round and I thought well, hey, that is not fair. That's the way the ball bounces."

Former champion Evonne Cawley said when asked what effect Dokic's departure would

have on Australian women's tennis: "Not huge."

"Those sort of things are going to happen -- if she's happy doing that, then good luck," Cawley said.

"She's a great player. As long as she's happy then fine."

Cawley said the off-court controversies that have surrounded Dokic showed what a good player she was.

"It just goes to show how determined she is when she gets out there even though she's had her problems off court. I wish her the best," she said.

Dokic's father had made similar, unfounded, claims about tennis draws a year ago.

Damir Dokic also made headlines with his antics at a number of tennis tournaments, the most recent at Wimbledon last year when he smashed a reporter's mobile phone.

Tennis officials Sunday adopted a diplomatic stand on the latest Dokic drama.

Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard said he would abide by the Dokic request and defended the conduct of the draw.

"We received a note from the WTA Tour saying that she wants her name shown as Yugoslavian and we will recognise that request and show it that way," Pollard said.

"We found out late last night. No reasons were given. It was a very short note on rigging draw claims."

"We know the draw was done publicly in front of media, players so I don't know where that comes from."

Aussie Open: Men's preview

Everything against Andre



MELBOURNE, Jan 14 (AFP) - Andre Agassi has the weight of numbers against him in his bid to defend his Australian Open crown in the year's opening tennis Grand Slam starting here Monday.

Agassi heads into the Open in encouraging form having duplicated his 2000 final win over Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the leadup Kooyong Classic here on Saturday.

In the previous seven Opens, the defending champions have all lost in the subsequent year -- including Agassi in 1996 -- and the sixth seed will have to defy the odds.

Agassi also has the little matter of a potential quarter-final with great rival Pete Sampras should the draw work out for each other.

But although careful not to look too far down the track -- he faces Jiri Vanek of the Czech Republic in Monday's first round -- Agassi, 30, says he would rather meet Sampras in the early rounds.

"If it was to come down to Pete in the quarters I always contend that it's always better to play Pete in the quarters and semis, than it is in the finals," Agassi said.

"Any time you can play him a little earlier it's always better."

The elite pair have played each other in four grand slam finals since 1990 with Agassi winning just one of them -- the 1995 Australian Open.

Agassi heads into the Australian Open on an upswing after admitting he struggled throughout much of last season with injury and concerns over the health of family members.

He slipped and fell on to his back while playing at Queens in London last June and aggravated the back further in a car accident in Las Vegas the following month.

On the first night of the Open Sampras has to negotiate a tricky first round encounter with Slovakia's Karol Kucera, who ousted him in the quarter-finals of the 1998 Australian Open.

"It's on my mind (playing Agassi). I have a tough first-round match and you can't look that far ahead especially in the men's game, there's too many good players that can take you down, there's a lot of floaters in the draw," said Sampras.

"It's a long way away before

we play each other and my main focus is Kucera and I'll have my hands full with him."

Charismatic Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten is the first South American top seed in a Grand Slam since Argentina's Guillermo Vilas at the Australian Open in 1981.

He finished last year as the world's number one thanks to a memorable victory over Agassi in the Masters Cup final in Lisbon in November.

But he has to contend with a poor record in Melbourne -- he's lost more matches than he has won (3-4).

Kuerten has a reasonable start to the tournament, possibly facing big-serving Briton Greg Rusedjki in the second round, before he is drawn to face No.15 Arnaud Clement in the fourth round and Kafelnikov in the quarter-finals.

Moody Russian second seed Marat Safin is in the bottom half of the draw with Agassi, Sampras and local hope Patrick Rafter.

He pulled out of the leadup Kooyong Classic with elbow trouble after his opening match and does not harbour great memories of playing in Australia having fined 2,000 US dollars for not trying in his first round loss at last year's Open.

Yet the 20-year-old Russian won career-high seven titles in

2000 featured by his first Grand Slam success in the US Open beating Sampras in the final.

Australian youngster Lleyton Hewitt showed he was on top of his game after downing world number four Magnus Norman in Saturday's Sydney International final.

It was sweet revenge for the 19-year-old whose 13-match winning streak at the start of last season was ended by the Swede in the fourth round of the Open in Melbourne.

Seventh-seed Hewitt has a gruelling start to his campaign. He is pitted against Swede Jonas Bjorkman and if he progresses there's the probability that he will face the most dangerous unseeded floater in the men's draw, German Tommy Haas.

Kafelnikov is an outstanding chance of adding to his 1999 triumph over Thomas Enqvist, having finished runner-up to Agassi last year.

Kafelnikov, who has lost only four times in 26 matches in Melbourne, has been in magnificent leadup form and doesn't hold back on his chances.

"I feel really, really confident. No matter who I'm playing, when I'm playing, I still believe I can beat anybody," he said.

Forever Sampras



MELBOURNE, Jan 14 (AFP) - The talent-rich Australian Open field includes defending champion Andre Agassi, US Open champion Marat Safin, Olympic gold medalist Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Gustavo Kuerten, who finished last year No.1.

Yet none is the favourite of Aussie oddsmakers. At the start of his 13th year on the ATP tour, Pete Sampras remains the man to beat.

It's been three years since Sampras won a major title other than Wimbledon, and 16 months since he was ranked No.1. Rivals such as Jim Courier and Boris Becker have retired, and Patrick Rafter -- Younger than Sampras -- may call it quits this year.

But Sampras forges on, still a formidable force. He'll bid for his 14th major title beginning Monday night against Karol

Kucera and he pronounces himself rested, relaxed and ready.

"The hunger is still there, and I'm still very motivated," he said. "I must admit I'm very happy with my career and what I've done so far, but I would like to add on to what I have and enjoy these next three to five years -- however long I play."

The Australian Open may offer a hint at how much Sampras, 29, has left in the tank. The match against Kucera will be his first at a major tournament since he was routed by Safin in the US Open final last September.

Perhaps that upset signified a changing of the guard. Perhaps it was merely an aberration. Among those who have yet to detect a decline in Sampras' game is his idol, Rod Laver.

"You don't see Pete play just average matches. He's always playing at his peak," Laver said. "It's good for tennis that he has

Vijay clinches Bhatiary Open golf title

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: No.1 golfer of India Vijay Kumar clinched the Bhatiary Open golf title which concluded at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club (BGCC) yesterday.

Kapil Dev, the former Indian international cricket star and an excellent golfer now, shot the Longest Drive.

Engg Mosharrat Hossain, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism and Housing and Works, gave away prizes among the winners as chief guest.

The five-day meet, inaugurated by Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. M Harun-Ar Rashid, began on January 9.

RESULTS IN BRIEF

Straightest Drive : Gordon Alkison; Longest Drive : Kapil Dev; Closest to the Pin : Saber Afzal; Winner Pro AM : Pro Yousof Ali; Raiyan Rab; Brig Gen Ilyas Iftikhar Rasul; Lt Col Enamul Hoq Chowdhury; Runner up Pro AM : Rahul Ganapathy; Lt Col. Kamal Mustaba Ali; Zulfikar Ali Khan; Lt Col. Nizam Ahmed; Team with Best Gross Score: Rothas Singh, Amunur Rahman, M H Samad, Kapil Dev; Amateur Best Gross: Md. Milon; Amateur Runner up: Raiyan Rab; Amateur Winner: Siddiqui Rahman; 3rd Place: Digvijay Singh; Runner up: Mukesh Kumar.

Waugh will miss 2 ODIs

BRISBANE, Jan 14: Captain Steve Waugh said today he would miss Australia's next two limited-overs internationals because of a groin strain, reports Reuters.

"It's obviously frustrating to miss any cricket but I felt a niggle in my groin over the weekend and it has to be best to just miss a couple of matches now rather than trying to play and risking a more serious problem," Waugh said.

"I hope it's more a precaution than anything else. We are hoping to rotate batsmen and bowlers during the Carlton series so this can be my turn."

The 35-year-old Waugh, a late withdrawal from Sunday's triangular series game against West Indies in Brisbane, was replaced by Darren Lehman in the side and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist took over as captain.

Gilchrist, 29, successfully led Australia in the third Test in Adelaide against West Indies in December when Waugh was unavailable because of a buttock muscle strain.

A replacement player will be named and a formal announcement will be made on the captaincy and vice-captaincy.

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a respectable total, they needed to produce an extra special effort in the field to have a real chance of beating the highly-flying Australians on a Gabba ground which has long been friendly to one-day batsmen.

Opener Wavell Hinds (54 from 72 balls), wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs (44 not out from 50) and skipper Jimmy Adams (44 from 65) played important hands as the tourists gave Gilchrist something to think about.

In an innings of fluctuating fortunes in front of a full house of about 36,000, champion Australian leg-spinner Shaun Warne announced his return to international cricket with three wickets. Warne took 3-41 from 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular limited-over series day-night match between Australia and West Indies on Sunday:

WEST INDIES

Campbell c Gilchrist b McGrath 0 Hinds c & b Warne 54 Lara c Gilchrist b Ponting 19 Samuels c Waugh b Warne 20 Adams c Martyn b Lee 44 Powell c Waugh b Warne 19 Jacobs not out 44 Williams run out 15 Nagarmootoo c Symonds b Bracken 0 McLean not out 6 Extras: (lb-1, w-5, nb-7) 13 Total: (For eight wickets in 50 overs) 234

Did not bat: M Black Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-36; 3-86; 4-103; 5-145; 6-174; 7-203; 8-207

Bowler O M R W McGrath 10 2 42 1 Lee 7 0 40 1 Bracken 8 0 46 1 Ponting 5 0 28 1 Warne 10 0 41 3 Symonds 10 0 36 0

AUSTRALIA Gilchrist c Williams b Powell 98 M Waugh not out 112 Ponting not out 10 Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-3, nb-7) 16 Total: (For one wicket in 43.4 overs) 236

Did not bat: M Bevan, D Lehmann, D Martyn, A Symonds, S Warne, B Lee, N Bracken, G McGrath. Fall of wicket: 1-206.

Bowler O M R W McLean 9.4 0 38 0 Black 10 0 55 0 Williams 5 0 22 0 Samuels 5 0 38 0 Nagarmootoo 8 0 43 0 Adams 3 0 19 0 Powell 3 1 15 1

Result: Australia won by nine wickets. Next match: Australia v West Indies (day/night), Sydney, January 17.



Defending champions Lindsay Davenport of the United States practises in Melbourne yesterday prior to the Australian Open. - AFP photo

Aussie Open: Women's preview

All eyes on Davenport



MELBOURNE, Jan 14 (AFP) - Defending champion Lindsay Davenport has inadvertently found herself in the middle of a volatile opening round match with complex Australian Jelena Dokic at the Australian Open to be played here Monday night.

Controversy seems to be a constant companion of the Dokic family with the latest episode coming Sunday when Dokic announced she wants to play as a Yugoslav in the Australian Open rather than for her adopted country and intends to move to Florida.

Her outspoken father, Damir, said the last straw came when his 25th-ranked daughter was drawn to play second seed Davenport in the first round of the Open.

He said he believed the draw was "fixed just for her (Jelena)". Now Davenport, returning to defend her Australian title after trouncing Martina Hingis here last year, will have to contend with an emotive match with the reponse of the home crowd to the latest Dokic developments a major factor.

"It's a tough spot to be in to defend a Grand Slam title. I got a tough draw first match up," said Davenport Sunday.

"I've got to be ready to go on

Monday. So I don't really worry about about where the focus is and who it's on and all that stuff."

"It's more just knowing I need to play well from Monday on and know that I have a good opportunity to repeat, knowing I've won there before. And that's basically my concerns during Grand Slams."

When Dokic was randomly selected by computer to play Davenport in Friday's official and televised draw, the audience gasped at the match-up.

Dokic has yet to win a WTA Tour title, but stunned the tennis world when she upset Hingis 6-2, 6-0 in the first round in 1999 Wimbledon when she was ranked 123 in the world.

That alone will signal to Davenport the potential minefield she faces against the big-hitting Dokic.

The pair met the one and only time in the semi-finals of last year's Wimbledon, with Davenport winning 6-4, 6-2. Hingis will take a key psychological advantage over arch-rival Davenport into the Open after beating her in the final of the Sydney International Saturday.

The world number one rallied from 3-1 down in the third set to win 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

"My standard right now is very high," she said. "I feel con-

dent and I think right now I have a little edge over her because I played the Hopman Cup already."

"I have played more matches than her and tougher ones. Hingis must beat both Williams sisters. Serena possibly in the quarters and Venus likely in the semi-final, if she is to make the Open final."

"You can't really compare them. They're different players. I mean the Williamses, you never know how good they're going to play. At certain times Venus or Serena, they're almost unbeatable," said Hingis.

Venus goes into the Australian Open having just three sets of match practice after preferring to play doubles in Sydney with Serena, but losing their opening match to Hingis and Monica Seles.

"I refuse to kill myself," she said when asked if she had played enough tennis. "If I don't feel I can play or if I'm hurt or injured or even tired, I won't force myself to do anything."

"I love my life, and tennis is just not my life and it never has been," said Venus, who won the US Open and Wimbledon last year along with the Sydney Olympics gold medal.

Since her breakthrough season in 1999, Serena has rocketed up the rankings, winning three times last year to follow on from her US Open triumph in 1999.

"I am determined to take my game to a new level this year," she said. "I have done well, but professionally, not as well as I would have liked."

"I'm not even halfway to where I want to get. I really want to get to the top."

Sino paddlers pocket series

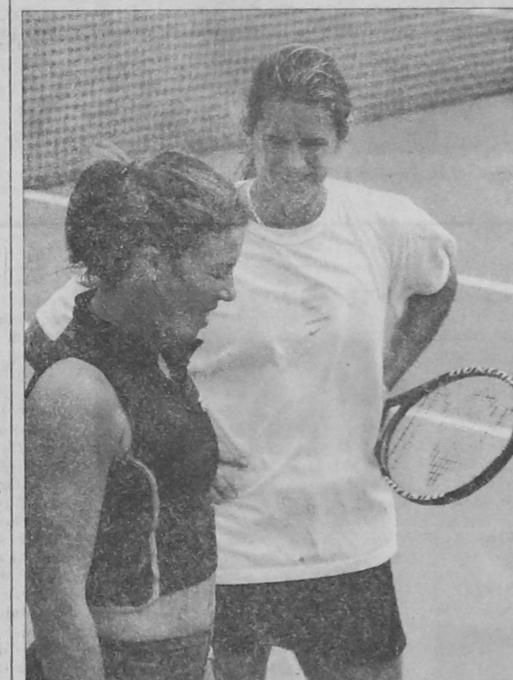
YOKOHAMA, Jan 14: Olympic champions Wang Liqin and Yan Sen completed China's sweep of all four titles by winning the men's doubles at the Pro Tour grand finals table tennis tournament here today, reports AFP.

Wang and Yan steadied themselves at two games and 7-10 down in the third before narrowly beating South Korea's Kim Taek-Soo and Oh Sung-Enn 18-21, 17-21, 21-19, 21-14, 22-20.

Earlier in the day, Sydney Olympic silver medalists Sun Jin and Yang Ying quashed a challenge from Japan's Akiko Takada and Mayu Kawagoe with a 21-13, 21-11, 21-11 victory in the women's double final.

China already secured the men's and women's singles titles by making it an all-domestic affair.

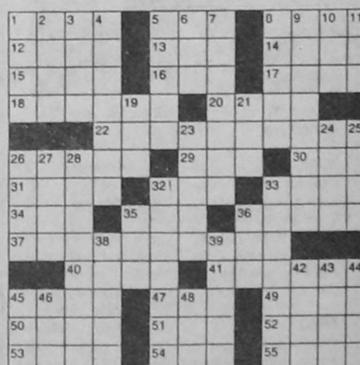
"All the players in this tournament are at the same level. That's why there were so many close matches. But I think we are a bit stronger mentally as a national team, we try to fight together as a team," said Yan.



Amelie Mauresmo of France (R) shares a light moment with American Jennifer Capriati during a practice session in Melbourne yesterday. - AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Court 54 Imogene's 11 Stick co-star with a kick 19 Conditions 21 Clue 23 Hurl 24 Dix or Ticonderoga 25 Unravel 26 Farming (Prefix) 27 Staff leader? 28 Cup 32 Forces 33 School 35 Abbott's first baseman 36 Mrs. Andy Capp 38 Sweetie 39 Winning 42 Pedestal statue 43 "The King and I" locale 44 "Take your leader" 45 Upper limit 46 Phony story 48 Swiss canton



CRYPTOQUIP BVOFIAV ZUYG LG O ZGLSBVLS CKOHZ SK YKW FLAC HCUIW Yesterday's Cryptogram: PUGNACIOUS KING ANGRILY CHALLENGES HOSTILE LORD: "PUT UP YOUR DUKES!" Today's Cryptogram Clue: Z equals S The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



World No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil is surrounded by the jubilant fans during a warm-up match in Melbourne yesterday. - AFP photo