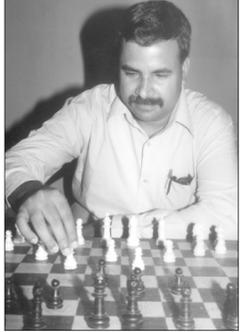


Rawnak JPC chess champ

UNB, Dhaka

Kazi Rawnak Hossain emerged champion yesterday in the chess competition organised on the occasion of the 47th founding anniversary of Jatiya Press Club.

In the final Rawnak defeated Sirajul Islam while Abdur Rahman Khan beat Saleh Chowdhury in the



KAZI RAWNAK HOSSAIN

third place deciding game.

Meanwhile, the table tennis competition begins today at 10:30 am at the hall room of Press Club. The competitors have been asked to report at 10 am.

Cronje gets

FROM PAGE 13 International Cricket Council (ICC) president Malcolm Gray declared last week at Lord's that even if Cronje succeeded in lifting his ban that would not be the end of the matter as far as world cricket was concerned.

"Our point of view is that a life ban means 20 years. Any change to that would have to be ratified by our code of conduct commission," Gray explained.

Mixed bag

FROM PAGE 13 ICC president Malcolm Gray told the agency: "It's bitterly disappointing that cheats turn to legal procedures in an attempt to get their own way."

"It's extremely pleasing that in this case justice has been seen to be done."

Gray was speaking before a meeting of the ICC executive board scheduled for Thursday and Friday, when the Cronje affair will be analysed further by the code of conduct commission.

"Any other verdict would have sent the wrong message to cricket and its followers around the world."

BD A win

FROM PAGE 13 Total: (all out in 38.3 overs) 124 Fall of wickets: 1/22, 2/55, 3/60, 4/108, 5/110, 6/113, 7/117, 8/117, 9/119.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Kowshik, Mushfiq, K Mahmud, Fahim, Rafique, Ashraf.

BANGLADESHA

Table with columns: Player, Runs. Rows include Ashraf, Mehra, Tushar, Sanwar, Hasanuzzaman, Rafique, Extras.

Total: (for 4 wks in 24.4 overs) 128

Fall of wickets: 1/15, 2/22, 3/24, 4/85.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Hazare, Thakur, Bahutule, Singh, D Sawant, Moris.

Result: Bangladesh A won by six wickets.

Lleyton sails, Gustavo fails



AFP, Stuttgart

Lleyton Hewitt managed a 15th straight victory with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 fight-back Tuesday night at the 2.95-million-dollar Masters Series while top seed Gustavo Kuerten was bundled out in his opening match.

Hewitt, the third-seeded red-hot U.S. Open champion who picked up his fifth trophy this season just over a week ago in Tokyo, overcame a fast start from Czech Bohdan Ulihrach to earn the victory.

But Kuerten slumped to his second consecutive opening exit in as many weeks as his game fell to pieces in the closing stages.

The 24-year-old Brazilian, a three-time French Open winner and holder of six 2001 titles, was eliminated in the second round after an opening bye, going out to Belarus dangerman Max Mirnyi 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Kuerten won the opening set and scraped his way into a second-set tiebreaker.

The drama which was to characterise the night was evident as the seed escaped from a 1-4 deficit, winning five points in a row to reach two match points.

But Mirnyi, still smarting from a marathon third-round loss to the South American in New York last month, saved them both before levelling the match at a set each.

The East European kept up his momentum for the upset victory.

Hewitt admits that he is building for a closing season run at the Masters Cup in Sydney and the Davis Cup final against France in Melbourne next month.

The third seed also has a chance to overhaul Kuerten on top of the season-long Champions points race with a trophy here. He was beaten in the final a year ago by South African Wayne Ferreira in five sets.

"My goals are the Davis Cup and Masters," said the 20-year-old. "If I take an early loss in the next week or so, it won't bother me."

"I've got that winning feeling. The way I'm playing now, I know I can fight my way out of tough situations. I've got a lot of confidence."

Goran Ivanisevic continued his run for a spot at Sydney, taking a tighter grip on his position with a 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 defeat of Australian Mark

Philippoussis in the second round.

The Croatian Wimbledon champion automatically qualified for the elite eight-man Masters from November 12 by virtue of his Grand Slam crown on the lawns last summer. But Ivanisevic must maintain a top 20 spot.

The serving sensation's spot looks secure, with a comfort cushion of 55 points clear of Jan-Michael Gambill, beaten 7-5, 7-5 at the

to check his daily standing.

"I've dwelt on the consequences (of matches) too much in the past - that isn't the way to approach it. The way I'm going to qualify for the Masters is to win matches."

"I'll win matches if I go out there and play each point and the next point as hard as I can."

In other second-round results, defending champion Wayne Ferreira of South Africa handed 11th



PHOTO: AFP

Australian Lleyton Hewitt is jubilant after beating Max Mirnyi of Belarus at the Masters Series tournament on Tuesday.

Schleyer Halle by Romanian Andre Pavel.

"I'm serving and playing well, everything is under control," said the Croatian. "I have nothing left to prove. I proved all to myself earlier this year."

Brit Tim Henman, the world number seven, continued his quest to squeeze into the Sydney field, ousting German Axel Pretzsch 6-3, 6-0. Henman is sitting on ninth position in the points chase but won't bother pulling out a calculator

seed Roger Federer a 7-6, 3-6, 6-2 setback as he sent out the slumping Wimbledon quarterfinalist.

In first-round play, Morocco's Hicham Arazi beat German Rainer Schuttler, the Shanghai champion, 6-4, 6-2, while Austrian Stefan Koubek knocked out Spain's Tommy Robredo 4-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Czech Jiri Novak, Swede Thomas Enqvist, Guillermo Canas of Argentina and Austrian Stefan Koubek all advanced.

HOLDERS bow out India, Argentina in semis



AFP, Hobart

Defending champions Australia were knocked out of the junior men's hockey World Cup Wednesday when they crashed 2-1 to Argentina in a top-eight pool game.

India then defeated the Netherlands 4-3 to qualify with Argentina for the semifinals.

Germany, yet to lose a match, qualified for the semifinals on Tuesday with a 7-3 demolition of Korea. England secured their place despite losing to Germany Wednesday, courtesy of Korea beating Spain 5-3.

Juan Garetta scored the winner for Argentina 18 seconds from full-time, to put his country into the semi-finals of a men's hockey championship for the first time at any level.

Australia were forced into play-offs for minor placings.

Juan Gilardi opened the scoring for Argentina with a smartly-taken penalty corner strike which took them into half-time with a one goal advantage.

The second half was dominated by Australia who had eight goal shots to Argentina's three and 29 circle penetrations to Argentina's

15. Lachlan Vivian-Taylor's first goal of the tournament with a reverse stick scoop into the net from a penalty corner brought Australia level but Garetta broke their hearts when he swooped for the winner.

"Our finishing and penalty corner execution were not good enough," Australian coach Colin Batch said.

Argentina coach Alejandro Verga admitted the Australians had put them under tremendous pressure.

"It was a very good, tough game and Australia made it very difficult for us to get space," Verga said.

"But we showed character by hanging on and went for that late winner which gave us a fantastic result."

India led 2-0 against the Netherlands after 10 minutes from a brilliant field goal to captain Gagan Ajit Singh and a penalty corner high into the left of the goal by Jugraj Singh.

Lack of discipline by Ignace Tirkey two minutes later saw him warming the suspension bench and Netherlands mounting attacks for the first time.

Roderick Weusthof powered in a penalty corner flick while Tirkey was suspended to get back to 2-1, and the Netherlands then drew level 2-2 at the 22 minute mark when Mathijs

van Weerd scored a field goal.

Prabhjot Singh regained the lead for India 3-2 after 13 minutes of the second half, before Rob Reckers levelled again for the Netherlands when popped in a goal off the pads of Devesh Chauhan after he blocked a penalty corner drive.

India threw everyone forward as a draw would eliminate them from the semi-finals in favour of Netherlands.

Five minutes of end-to-end hockey earned India its fourth penalty corner which Kanwal Preet Singh converted to put India ahead 4-3 with 13 minutes to play.

The Netherlands had one last chance with a penalty corner in the last 20 seconds but the drag flick from Roderick Weusthof found the stick of India's rusher.

Spain was bitterly disappointed to lose to Korea when it lead 2-0 after 28 minutes and 2-1 at the break. But the Spaniards had no answer to four second half Korean goals.

Thursday is a rest day with the semifinals starting Friday. Germany take on India while England meet Argentina.

Agassi, Sampras security to be tightened

AFP, Paris

Security for Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi will be beefed up when they take part in the ATP's Paris Masters Series event here, following last month's United States terror attacks.

Matches involving the American stars will be subjected to security measures used for the finals at the French Open, France tennis federation president Christian Birmes said.

Vehicle and body searches would be carried out with dog handlers also on duty.

The Paris Masters Series indoor event takes place from October 29 to November 4 at the Paris Bercy Palais Omnisports.

Hewitt in Hopman Cup

AFP, Perth

US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt will team up with Alicia Molik for Australia in the Hopman Cup mixed team tennis event here from December 31.

It means the 20-year-old will not play in the Australian Hardcourt Championships in his home town Adelaide because the events clash.

Lee told to take wickets

AFP, Sydney

Australian cricket selectors have told fast bowler Brett Lee to start taking wickets when he returns from a side strain next week if he wants to make the Test side to play New Zealand from November 8.

Otherwise the selectors will look elsewhere for a new partner for Test regulars Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie.

Queensland's Ashley Noffke, Michael Kasprovic and Andrew Bichel and Victoria's Damien Fleming are the front-runners to take over if Lee fails to prove his fitness.

"The main criteria for selection will be form, which is taking wickets, and current form is the most important," chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said Wednesday.

"It's a good opportunity for all the fast bowlers around the country at the moment and most of the bowlers are fully fit."

Lee, 25 on November 8 when Australia open their three-Test series against New Zealand in Brisbane, took only nine wickets at 55 apiece on the recent Ashes series Australia won 4-1.

He was overlooked for a four-day Sheffield Shield match between New South Wales and Tasmania which started at Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Three jailed for Black attack

LONDON, Internet

Three men have been jailed in Melbourne for assaulting West Indian fast bowler Marion Black.

He was knocked down by a car and attacked by a group of men outside a Melbourne nightclub on February 11 after celebrating the end of the West Indies tour with two team-mates.

The fast bowler was knocked unconscious and left lying face down on a road with shoulder, facial and head injuries. He was sidelined for the West Indies' tours of South Africa.

He has since returned to the national squad, although he reportedly took four months to recover and was deprived of an estimated 34,600 pounds in income.

Brian Siale, 24, Gideon Tuinauavi, 21, and Sione Puamau, 21 all pleaded guilty to one count of intentionally causing serious injury when they appeared in a Victoria state court.

Judge Meryl Sexton ruled that there was no racial element to the attack, but that alcohol consumption had been a major factor.

The court heard that the three men chased Black for more than one kilometre, then punched and kicked him after he fell to the ground.

Judge Sexton said it was a savage and vicious attack made without reason.

Becker backs Henman

AFP, London

Retired German tennis ace Boris Becker is backing Tim Henman to follow in his footsteps and fulfil his dream of lifting the Wimbledon title.

"There is no reason why Tim should not win it next year," said Becker, who believes Henman has the character to bounce back from his heartbreaking semifinal loss against eventual champion Goran Ivanisevic in this year's tournament.

"Tim was just a rainy evening away. If it had not rained he would have beaten Ivanisevic."

"And Goran won the whole tournament so he was that close. That was probably the toughest loss he has had in his whole career."

"Maybe the loss this year will help him next year. Tim has improved each year and is at a stage where he is coming full-term with his ability."

Becker was in London to promote the Seniors Tour event at the Royal Albert Hall, where he makes his own return to the game from December 5-9.

No room

FROM PAGE 13

still on. "I have heard numerous rumours from so-called informed sources which claim that England will not be travelling to India later this year," ICC communications manager Mark Harrison told AFP.

"But as far as the ICC is concerned, this is entirely misleading. I can assure you that the ICC will not put any player at risk and therefore we are monitoring the situation in Afghanistan closely."

"Both the English and Indian authorities are in constant contact and they have yet to inform us of any change in their plans."

ENGLAND Nasser Hussain (captain), Andy Caddick, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, James Foster, Ashley Giles, Darren Gough, Matthew Hoggard, Ben Hoolioake, Nick Knight, Owais Shah, Jeremy Snape, Graham Thorpe, Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan, Craig White.

Coetzer shocks Kournikova



AFP, Zurich

South Africa's Amanda Coetzer compounded the miserable run of Anna Kournikova serving up the Russian glamour girl's fifth first round defeat of the season here Tuesday.

Coetzer, who turns 30 years next

month, came back from a slight setback in the second set to overcome Kournikova 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 at the 1.185-million-dollar WTA tennis tournament here.

It was another painful blow for the 20-year-old Kournikova who has struggled to regain form since returning from a serious stress fracture to her left foot at Leipzig a fortnight ago.

"I still have a long way to go after

eight months out," said Kournikova, who has slipped from world number eight to number 24.

"I work hard every day to regain my old form. I'm also lacking some concentration. To regain this I have to start by beating a good player."

It was also an off day for compatriot Elena Dementieva with the seventh-seed going out in straight sets 6-2, 6-4 to unseeded home hope Marie-Gaiane Mikaelian, ranked just 105 in the world.

Mikaelin, who came through the qualifiers, proved that she was a match for the Olympic silver-medallist, holding her nerve to take the tie in just 61 minutes on her fifth match point.

The 17-year-old, who carries Swiss hopes after the elimination Monday of Patty Schnyder, showed a maturity beyond her years dominating from the outset with a powerful return of serve.

"It's like a dream," said a delighted Mikaelian. "I can't believe that I've beaten one of the best players in the world. It's by far my greatest win."

Sixth-seeded Meghann Shaughnessy of the United States suffered her second straight opening round defeat going out 6-3, 6-4 to Slovak qualifier Daniela Hantuchova.

Her first-round action Lisa Raymond scored a 7-6, 6-3 win over fellow American Alexandra Stevenson.



PHOTO: AFP

Russian Anna Kournikova reacts after losing a point against Amanda Coetzer of South Africa at the Swisscom Challenge on October 16.

Daddy Agassi's challenge



REUTERS, London

August 1979.

For the likes of John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg, the little dried up as soon as they embraced the new additions to their family.

And with Agassi approaching a

He has already been hailed as a future Wimbledon champion and his every move will be scrutinised by the world's media fascinated by his spectacular sporting potential.

But his father 4 had better watch out because the arrival of Graf-Agassi junior in mid-December could spell the end of his own impressive sporting career.

While Agassi and his partner Staffi Graf, the former world number one, eagerly await the arrival of their first child, Agassi should worry about his own career as history is not on his side.

Australian Evonne Goolagong may be the only mother to have won a Grand Slam in the open era at Wimbledon in 1980 but since then only six men have managed to win a major title after experiencing the joys of fatherhood.

While three Pat Cash, Andres Gomez and Petr Korda were one-slam wonders, multiple champions Boris Becker and Yevgeny Kafelnikov managed to add just one further Grand Slam title after becoming parents.

Jimmy Connors was the only player to successfully combine family life with playing on the tour winning three of his eight majors after the birth of his son Brett in



ANDRE AGASSI

crossroads in life at the age of 31, there is bound to be speculation that the Las Vegas will slowly apply the brakes to his career and ease off his demanding schedule.

Having won all four Grand Slams at least once, Agassi also has little left to prove.

But the world number three, who has already learned that the baby is a boy, says he has no intention of easing up.

He plans to defend his Australian Open title in January, only a month

after becoming a father.

"I have no plan on missing anything, including the birth of my child," said Agassi, the winner of seven Grand Slams, after his quarter-final loss to Pete Sampras at the US Open last month.

"I'll do my best to balance everything. I have every intention of working hard and coming back next year and I think I can do that."

"My goal has always been to play this game as good as I can, as long as I can."

"My goal has also been for a while to have a family. I don't know how it's all going to play out. I feel a strong sense of responsibility and obligation to the game."

Although Agassi believes he can win more major titles over the next few years, three-time Wimbledon champion Becker said the American should be more realistic.

"(Fatherhood) is going to change his life dramatically and he still has no idea how big the change will be," Becker told Reuters yesterday.

"Yes Andre's a good enough player to win again but it would be more difficult to focus on one thing alone because your main focus is for your child and your wife, and tennis becomes secondary. That's a fact. It changes your priorities and it is a healthy change but I would be very curious to see how Andre would handle that," added the former world number one, who won the 1996 Australian Open after the birth of his first son Noah.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 25 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-55 and letters ICM KMGZRWMGMJYBIB.

ICM KMGZRWMGMJYBIB V P Z R L P K P N Q L R E M W P J D Q P N D U I P E R W E I T P M I T P N V G P C T Y B I M U. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WANT TO KEEP A SNAKE FROM STRIKING, MAKE SURE YOU PAY IT FAIR WAGES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T