

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Agamani Krira Chakra defeated Boikali Sangha by four wickets in the match of the Premier Division cricket league at the local divisional stadium yesterday.

Proteas post

FROM PAGE 13
Rhodes and Boucher, coming together at the start of the 13th over, forged an invaluable partnership which became worth 100 in 94 minutes from 141 balls by the 36th over.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard of the South Africa-New Zealand tri-nation series one-day day-night international at WACA Ground Friday. SOUTH AFRICA: Gibbs c Fleming b Nash 8...

NEW ZEALAND

Vincent c Boucher b Donald 22
Astele c Kallis b Ntini 0
Adams c Boucher b Ntini 10...

Result: South Africa won by 67 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Jonty Rhodes.

Next match: Australia v South

Jahangir's ton

FROM PAGE 13
Mehrab c Rajin b Hasibul 24
Sajjad lbw b Hasibul 9
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Scene from the 15th Barda Memorial Open Pair Bridge Championship which began at the Victoria Sporting Club premises on Friday.

Barda Open Bridge

SPORTS REPORTER

The 15th Barda Memorial Open Pair Bridge Championship began in the city under the auspices of Victoria Sporting Club on Friday. A total of 26 pairs took part in the qualifying session in the morning and later 14 pairs moved into the final session in the afternoon.

Natore cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Eleven Star Cricket Club (ESCC) won the first match of Group B of Natore Cricket League at the Shankar Govinda Chowdhury Stadium yesterday. ESCC defeated BNCC by 121 runs.

Lewis, Tyson may fight in Manila

AFP, Manila

The Philippines may bid to host the fight between world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and controversial challenger Mike Tyson in Manila this year, a senior official said Friday.

Big tons

FROM PAGE 13

which he hit 18 boundaries and a six. There was, however, no respite for the tiring West Indians as Saqlain Mushtaq (17) helped Latif add 56 for the seventh wicket.

Latif himself went soon after tea when he was bowled by Gayle, who also dismissed Shoaib Akhtar in similar fashion and ended the innings with a return catch off last man Danish Kaneria.

Shoaib hit a run-a-ball 20 and captain Waar Younis remained unbeaten on 25 as the last five Pakistani wickets added 315 runs.

The morning session was extended by 30 minutes to accommodate an hour-long lunch break for Friday prayers.

But even the weekly holiday failed to attract more than 500 spectators to watch the first Test ever in this Gulf emirate that has hosted more one-day internationals (181) than any other venue in the world.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first cricket Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Friday. PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 230-5)...

AFP, Bamako

Egypt reached the quarter-finals of the African Nations Cup with a 2-1 victory over Zambia on Thursday as World Cup qualifiers Tunisia crashed out after only drawing with Senegal.

The Egyptians clinched Group D's runners-up spot behind Senegal thanks to goals in each half from Ajax Amsterdam centre-forward Ahmed Hossam and midfielder Hazem Emam against Zambia.

But it was a disappointing after-

Youthful diplomacy

ICC U19 CRICKET WORLD CUP

REUTERS, Lincoln

The Under-19 teams of India and Pakistan came together on Thursday for a touch of youthful diplomacy after their match in the ICC World Cup at Lincoln near Christchurch.

The senior players from the two nations have been prevented from meeting on the field recently as the traditional antipathy and mistrust between their respective politicians has spilled over to the cricketing arena.

After the match, won by Pakistan, both sides got together and embraced, said the cricket website Cricinfo.

There wasn't a politician in sight as the two sets of teenagers and

their management teams congratulated each other for a fine match.

The getting together of the two sides after an exciting match was a statement for the moment with a view to the future, said Cricinfo.

When cricketing ties between the two countries get back to normal, the two Under-19 teams could meet again as full internationals.

Pakistan captain Salman Butt, who scored an unbeaten 85, summed it up when he said the players taking part in the match wanted to set aside the problems associated with the Kashmir border tensions.

"We are not at the border, we are not at the war," Butt was quoted as saying.

"We are going to play at the next level of the game against each other. We want to play in a brotherly manner."

Pakistan manager Brigadier

Javed Tipu said he had approached the Indian management to see if the representatives of both teams would get together to point out that despite whatever else might be happening, they were there to play cricket and the game should be played in the best traditions.

Both management spoke to their players and the get-together was a formality.

Brigadier Tipu said: "Cricket should be kept away from politics, but unfortunately we have not been able to do that."

"We hope and pray that today's match is the beginning of coming back to normal cricket relations between our two countries."

While Pakistan won the match it was not enough to get them into the semifinals.

India had already booked their place in the last four.

Was taken by surprise

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

England left-arm spinner Ashley Giles conceded on Thursday he had not been expecting a second spell which eventually helped his team win the fifth one-day international against India here.

"I got a message from coach Duncan Fletcher to bowl round the stumps to the left-handers. I did that and fired in the balls rather than fighting them," said Giles, who gave away just 25 in his disciplined second and last six-over spell.

India, chasing 272, were 211-3 in 40 overs when Giles turned the match around with the crucial wicket of Ganguly (74), caught in the deep by substitute Owais Shah while going for another six.

"That was the turning point," said Giles. "But I would say there was some amount of luck in that dis-

missal as he holed out in the deep."

England captain Nasser Hussain was all praise for Giles, saying the spinner had always fancied his chances. He said that Giles' five quick wickets turned the match on its head.

"Giles is a pretty positive player," Hussain said. "It was a display of great character to come back the way he did."

But Hussain said he felt his side

crack and let us through," he said.

Indian skipper Ganguly admitted that Giles' second spell made all the difference.

"He won the game for England," Ganguly said. "There was pressure on us, but I thought we were doing a good job of the run-chase till Giles was brought in for a second spell."

Ganguly regained form with his first half-century of the series, but said the runs did not matter as his team had lost.

"The runs count only when we win," Ganguly said. "Now the last match at Bombay becomes all that more important."

Ganguly lauded middle-order batsman Mohammad Kaif (46), who shared a 111-run stand for the fourth wicket with his captain.



ASHLEY GILES

always had a chance after posting 271 for five from their allotted 50 overs having been asked to bat first.

"Getting runs on the board is the key in any one-day game. You always have a chance until the other side has got the runs," he said.

"Posting 270 runs on that wicket was a good score. We knew if we put India under pressure they might

Whizz Kid-165 winner

Omar Bin Nasser

(Rifles Public School & College, Dhaka) Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on February 7.

Whizz Kid-165 correct answers

- 1. How many Test matches did Muttiah Muralitharan play to take 400 wickets? Ans: 72
2. Who won the Sydney Int'l tennis title? Ans: Hingis
3. What was the result of the Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe Test series? Ans: 3-0
4. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan? Ans: Abdur Razzak
5. Who clinched Kooyong Int'l tennis title? Ans: Sampras

Seles, Hingis in semis

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

Former world number ones Martina Hingis and Monica Seles earned their semifinal places in radically different style at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament on Friday.

The Swiss top seed, the finalist here in the past five years with victories in 1997, 1999 and 2000, fended off a spirited challenge from Thai ace Tamarine Tanasugarn for a convincing 6-3, 6-2 victory in 65 minutes.

Third seed Seles, the losing semifinalist to Hingis in the Australian Open, had to save numerous set points in two nerve-whacking tie breakers before overcoming fellow American qualifier Alexandra Stevenson 7-6, 7-6.

Neither Seles or Stevenson could break each other's serve throughout the 115-minute battle with Stevenson, who caused a sensation by reaching the Wimbledon semifinals in 1999, playing aggressive serve and volley tennis.

After recovering from 0-40 at 5-5 in the first set, Seles saved set points at 4-6, 5-6 and 7-8 in the first tie-breaker before forcing Stevenson to hit a backhand return into the net on her second set point.

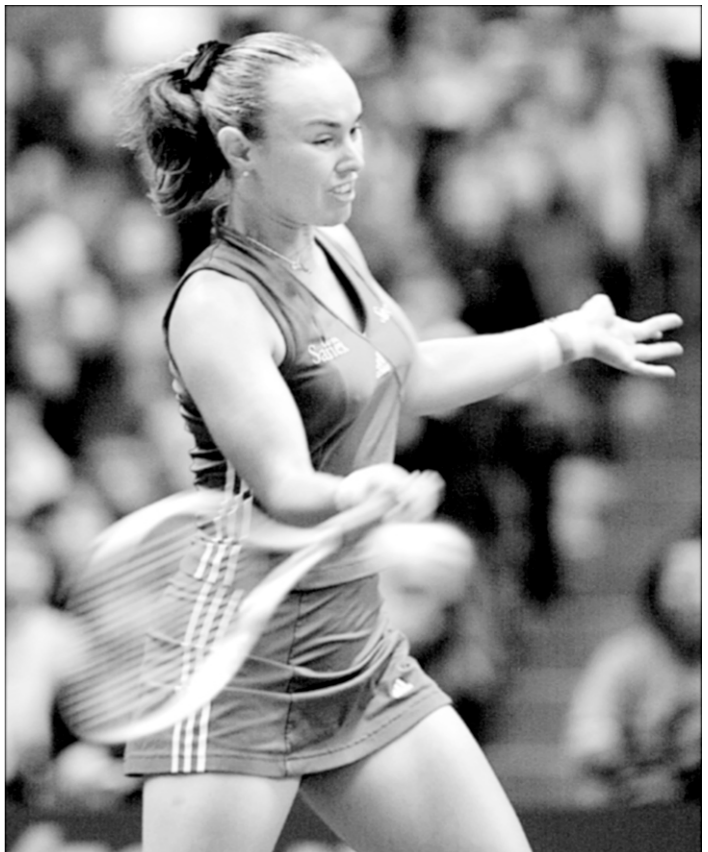
Seles was again 4-5 and 15-40 down in the second set, and 30-40 at 5-6 before forcing another tie-breaker, in which she had to save five set points her before taking a commanding 10-9 lead.

Once she got the chance to close out the match, Seles made no mis-

take as she watched Stevenson's forehand stroke went wide.

In the semifinals Saturday, Seles will take on Russian pin-up girl Anna Kournikova, who shot down Anne

Kremer of Luxembourg 6-4, 6-2. Hingis will play Silvia Farina Elia of Italy, who defeated fourth seed Sandrine Testud of France 6-4, 6-3.



Martina Hingis in action against Tamarine Tanasugarn in the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Friday.

Not at all ordinary

Chess

AFP, Moscow

From a small provincial Ukrainian town, 18-year-old Ruslan Ponomarev may look like any other teenager, but the youngest ever FIDE world chess champion is a ruthless operator on the chess-board.

Like former world champion Anatoly Karpov, this rather frail-looking young man has an unremarkable appearance, with his medium height, high cheekbones and parted blonde hair. And like Karpov, he wipes the board with his

opponents.

"He does look a little like Karpov," said his training partner and friend, under-12-year-old world champion Sergei Karyakin, also of the Ukraine.

"He has the same style, even when he plays chess: like Karpov, his strategy is to suffocate his opponent," added Karyakin.

Not even the 500,000 dollars Ponomarev won when he defeated fellow-Ukrainian Vassily Ivanchuk in the finals on January 23 are likely to add much glamour to his character.

"I have to pay FIDE 20 per cent of that money, and as for the rest, I do not have any particular plans for it, it might come in handy sometime later," he said soberly.

In any case, Ponomarev is not

going to blow it on some luxury car, since he "would have no use for it" in the small town of Kramatorsk where he lives, in his native Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine.

Tributes and honours, which have been heaped on him from all sides since his victory, are also unlikely to turn his head.

A recent party thrown in his honour at the Ukrainian embassy in Moscow seemed to prove the point: as the Ukrainian ambassador lavished praise on him, saying how he was proud of him, his parents and the Donetsk region, Ponomarev seemed not to hear, alternately biting his lip and gritting his teeth.

From time to time, he would slip in a word to Karyakin, who he calls "Seryozha" (the diminutive of "Sergei"), a rare friend he can relax with in the often tough chess world where he mostly has to deal with sponsors, FIDE officials and politicians.

However, when his turn came to speak at the party, he displayed unexpected self-assurance, and later explained that he had long been used to such socializing.

In spite of his young age and unassuming appearance, Ponomarev is already an old hand at chess, a game he started playing with his father when he was seven.

He soon attracted the attention of chess officials and sponsors - all of them Ukrainian companies - and, by the age of eleven, he was already playing blind in exhibition games.

"Some days, I would play up to four simultaneous blind games," he recalled.

After becoming under-12s world champion in 1995 and under-18s champion in 1996, he has now succeeded India's Viswanathan Anand as FIDE world champion and has stolen the title of youngest ever champion from Gary Kasparov, who beat then champion Karpov in 1985, when he was 22.

With most of his chess future still before him, Ponomarev - who is also a law student - now wants to "get some rest," before getting "back to work" to prove to his rivals that his triumph was no accident.

Egypt in last eight, Tunisia out

CAF



AFP, Bamako

Egypt reached the quarter-finals of the African Nations Cup with a 2-1 victory over Zambia on Thursday as World Cup qualifiers Tunisia crashed out after only drawing with Senegal.

The Egyptians clinched Group D's runners-up spot behind Senegal thanks to goals in each half from Ajax Amsterdam centre-forward Ahmed Hossam and midfielder Hazem Emam against Zambia.

But it was a disappointing after-

noon for Egypt's bitter north African rivals Tunisia, who saw their miserable campaign brought to an end by a 0-0 draw against what amounted to Senegal's reserve team.

Thursday's results mean Senegal will now play the Democratic Republic of Congo in next Monday's quarter-finals, with 1998 winners Egypt facing a last-eight tussle with reigning champions Cameroon.

Egypt opened the scoring on 35 minutes when a lovely ball from Emam split the Zambian defence wide open to send striker Hossam through on the opposition goal.

Zambia keeper Phiri Davies was a fraction too slow advancing, and Hossam toe-poked past him neatly before coolly stroking the ball home from a tight angle.

Emam put Egypt 2-0 up eight minutes after halftime, capitalising on some sloppy opposition defence before rounding Davies and shooting past the back-peddalling Zambian cover.

Zambia pulled one back when Gift Kampamba got a decisive touch on Elijah Tana's bullet-like low freekick from the left.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 38 Dawdle 1 "I never care" rival 41 Preamble 43 Trousers 47 Old French coin 48 1938 Clark Gable movie 51 Turn on the water-works 52 Tom Joad, e.g. 53 Singer Mouskouri 54 Single 55 Office expense 56 Clear the decks? 57 Princess's insomnia cause 28 Expansive 31 Pub brew 32 Request 33 Envision 34 Mini statue 36 "My Party" Ring out
DOWN 23 Forest flora "— man I didn't like" 24 Critical remark 25 Director partner 26 Lab vessel 27 Poker hand 29 Vast expanse 30 Aviv 35 Sailor Jimmy Carter's home 39 Chopper top 40 Matter-horn, for one 41 "And what — rare ..." 42 High time 43 Dele canceler 44 Talon 45 Hawaiian coffee area 46 Pierce 49 — out a living 50 Moral error

Cryptoclip grid with numbers 1-56 and letters Q, S, Z, Y, H, T, Y, W, H, L, U, S, C, Y, S, M, Y, U, W, R, Q, M, X, I, T, W, I, X, S, N, P, Y, H, U, M, Y, Z, Y, H, X, Y, I, C, W, L, I, T, Y, R, S, M, N, R, X, Y, I, I, Y, L, S, P, P.

CRYPTOQUIP

Q S Z Y H T Y W H L U S C Y S M Y U W R Q M X I T W I X S N P Y H U M Y Z Y H X Y I C W L I T Y R S M N R X Y I I Y L S P P.

Yesterday's Cryptoclip: THE REASON YOU WON'T EVER NOTICE BEES IN THE WINTER IS BECAUSE THEY "HIVERNATE."

Today's Cryptoclip Clue: I equals T The Cryptoclip 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.



Begum Fatema Jalal, wife of the Adjutant General of the Bangladesh Army Major General Jalal Uddin Ahmad, giving away prizes to the winners of the annual sports competition of Shaheed Bir Uttam Lieutenant Anwar Girls' College that was held on Thursday.