

## Pete, Lleyton showdown

AFP, Indian Wells

Reigning US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt and Pete Sampras set up a rematch of their Flushing Meadows final Friday as they advanced to the semifinals of the 2.95 million-dollar Tennis Masters Series here.

Hewitt, the top seed, downed unseeded Swede Thomas Enqvist 6-4, 6-4, while 10th-seeded Sampras beat unseeded German Rainer Schuttler 6-2, 6-4.

Wildcard Todd Martin upset second seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-6, 6-3 to line up a semi-final clash with ninth-seeded Briton Tim Henman, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Argentina's Gaston Gaudio.

Hewitt's victory over Sampras in the US Open final last September insured 2001 was the first year Sampras went without a Grand Slam title since 1992.

## Bashar toast

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Kalabagan have Mushfiqur Rahman and Rajin Saleh staying back. Young all-rounder Anisur Rahman, who played for Abahani last year, might join them.

Surjo Tarun's leading prospects are Mohammed Ashraful, Hannan Sarkar and Mohammed Sharif. If they ensure the services of batsman Mazharul Huq, who played exceedingly well in the West Indies for Bangladesh A, and off-spinner Fahim Muntasir they can surely count on the youthful energy to deliver.

Traditional giants Brothers Union are destined to suffer the most in the players' bourse. With the country's top players preferring other clubs, the Gopibagh outfit have little to bargain.

## DU-Dhaka

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women's volleyball title defeating the Ansars and VDP by 3-sets.

BJMC hardly faced any resistance in the first two sets as they won 25-12, 25-17. However, the Ansars and VDP came back strongly in the deciding third set although they could not stop BJMC from winning 25-21.

Dhaka University won the bronze defeating Rajshahi by an identical 3-0 margin in the third-place deciding match.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh will lock horns in the men's final today.

## TENNIS

Shibu Lal clinched the men's singles gold in the tennis competition at the Ramna National Complex yesterday.

Shibu won the battle of brothers against his elder Hira Lal 6-4, 6-5.

## 'The Big Eye' blinks



MONZURUL HUQ

With seventy-five more days to go for the start of much awaited first World Cup football in Asian continent, Japan's southern town of Oita is eagerly waiting for the arrival of teams and spectators to its brand new covered stadium named 'The Big Eye'.

For the first time in World Cup history, 20 brand new stadiums have been built in twenty different locations in two host countries for the final stage of the competition. Out of Japan's share of ten new stadiums, only two have been built with facilities that also include option for a full covered venue.

The two are incidentally located in northernmost and southernmost of Japanese cities chosen as World Cup 2002 venues. The northernmost Japanese venue Sapporo has completed building its new fully covered stadium with a seating capacity of 42,585. Particularly striking feature of the Sapporo Dome is its moveable pitch that can be slid outdoor to make the stadium usable for different kinds of sporting events.

Hosting international sporting event is nothing new to Sapporo. The city with a population of more than 1.8 million is the fifth largest

urban centre of Japan. It was the venue of Winter Olympics back in 1974 and numerous international events are regularly being held in Sapporo. As a result, Sapporo Dome, with its multi-purpose sporting facilities, is supposed to be in regular use long after the concluding match of World Cup 2002 for the venue takes place on 7th June when England is to face her 1986 'God's Eye' Argentina.

The southern city of Oita, on the other hand, has little of fame as an international sporting venue that Sapporo enjoys. Located in southern Kyushu island Oita has a population of 436,000 and ranks 35th among Japan's urban centres. Yet the city authority did not hesitate to spend huge amount of money to build a ambitious brand new stadium that can rival any other within the country and overseas.

The new Oita World Cup stadium named the "Big Eye" has a retractable roof capable of eliminating weather worries. The dome-shaped structure of the stadium has a sliding roof that can convert the whole arena into a huge indoor sporting facility with a seating capacity of 43,000. The local authority of the Oita City claims that as the facility has been designed for many uses, including cultural events, it will be able to generate revenue on a regular basis by attracting not only national events but also those of international and regional importance.

Monzurul Huq is our correspondent in Tokyo

But the problem is, the stadium is

located in a city considered remote even within Japan. With a population of little over 400,000, the city itself is in no way capable of providing spectators to fill even half of the capacity. After the World Cup 2002 the Stadium will be designated as the venue for local football team 'Oita Trinita'. The team is playing in country's J-2 soccer league for several years. The second division soccer in Japan is yet to attract spectators in a large scale. As a result, most of J-2 teams depend heavily on subsidies coming from parent organisations. Oita Trinita came into existence with financial support and cooperation of the local government and businesses and yet to become financially solvent. A stadium as lavish as the 'Big Eye' can only add further worries to the team if it fails to attract other sporting or cultural events that would allow the management to generate appropriate income.

The city of Oita at this stage seems not to be worried at all about such gloomy future prospects. It has three World Cup games to its share, including a second round match. For the initial group stage competition the city will see the arrival of national teams from Italy, Belgium, Mexico and Tunisia. All is now set for the 'Big Eye' to host its first World Cup game on 10th June when Belgium is to meet Tunisia.

The former England captain had angered India with a series of decisions in its second Test against South Africa after he handed out suspended bans to six of its players including one for ball-tampering against leading batsman and national hero Sachin Tendulkar.

Such was the furore in India that effigies of Denness were burnt on the streets and their board said they would refuse to take the field in the third Test if the 60-year-old former Kent captain was the match referee.

The ICC subsequently stripped the test of its official status.

Denness rejected the commission and rallied enough support from the ICC to postpone a planned meeting of the commissioners until after the executive board discussions here.

## Dhaka champs

FROM PAGE 13

Ashraful 17 10 2 9

Mossaraf 2 0 7

**Result: Dhaka won by 109 runs.**

**Sylhet vs Barisal**

**Venue: Sylhet Stadium**

**SYLHET:** First innings 200 all out in 93 overs (Rajin 69, Imtiaz 36; Ashfaq 3-27)

**BARISAL:** First innings 151 all out in 73.2 overs (Shaheen 42; Kapai 7-33)

**SYLHET:** Second innings 206 all out in 94 overs (Imtiaz 44, Parvez 40; Saleh 3-33)

**BARISAL:** Second innings (overnight 56 for one in 25 overs)

Imranlbw b Enamul 21

Ranim b Joy b Kapai 29

Nayan lbw b Nayeem 19

Sanwar c Tanna b Nayeem 22

Kamal c Nayeem b Kapai 35

Shahin c Parvez b Nayeem 14

Moin lbw b Nayeem 1

Samuil b Kapai 1

Sohel not out 27

Ashfaq b Kapai 7

Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-1, w-8) 18

Total: (All out in 96.2 overs) 206

Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-59, 3-6, 4-

103, 5-151, 6-155, 7-160, 8-161, 9-187

**Bowler O M R**

Yaseem 30 9 4 7

Kabir 3 1 1 1

Parvez 0 0 2 8

**Result: Match drawn.**

## Annual sports

PRESS RELEASE

The annual sports competition of Petrobangla was held at the Armed Policy Battalion ground in Uttara on Friday

Abul Kashem became individual champion in the men's events while Montaz Begum and Tanniza Nasrin finished joint-champions from the women's section.

Chairman of Petrobangla Syed Sajedul Karim formally inaugurated the meet, in which more than 100 men and women participated, was at 9 in the morning. Later, major (retd) M Moktadir Ali, director planning, gave away the prizes.

## M'singh cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Pandit Para AC became unbeaten champions in the Premier Division Cricket League defeating Mukul Fouj Sabuj by six wickets at the local stadium Saturday.

Batting first, Mukul Fouj scored 124. In reply Pandit Para made 127 for four wickets.

In another match on the day at the Circuit House ground, Abahani defeated Al-Helai AC by 10 wickets.

Al-Helai scored 147 for nine. In reply Abahani made 151 without losing any wicket.

Richardson c Foster b Caddick 76

## Dalmiya being tested?

AFP, Cape Town

The executive board of the International Cricket Council (ICC) met for nine hours in Cape Town Friday, but refused to disclose any details of their discussions.

"There will be no announcements Friday, but there will be a media briefing on Saturday afternoon" after the meeting ends, said ICC spokesman Mark Harrison.

Indian cricket's strongman, Jagmohan Dalmiya, was expected to test his power at the meeting, where the most controversial item on the agenda is the issue of a referees' commission that was set up by the ICC to look into the decisions made by match referee Mike Denness during India's tour of South Africa last November.

The former England captain had angered India with a series of decisions in its second Test against South Africa after he handed out suspended bans to six of its players including one for ball-tampering against leading batsman and national hero Sachin Tendulkar.

Such was the furore in India that effigies of Denness were burnt on the streets and their board said they would refuse to take the field in the third Test if the 60-year-old former Kent captain was the match referee.

The ICC subsequently stripped the test of its official status.

Dalmiya rejected the commission and rallied enough support from the ICC to postpone a planned meeting of the commissioners until after the executive board discussions here.

## Lee, Warne wreck SA

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Shane Warne and Brett Lee sent South Africa crashing to 167 all out as Australia regained control on the second day of the third and final Test at Kingsmead here on Saturday.

Spin king Warne took four for 33 and Lee four for 82 as Australia took a 148-run first innings lead.

At tea, Australia were 22 for two in their second innings.

It was a powerful comeback by the world champions after Australian vice-captain Adam Gilchrist said Friday he was disappointed that Australia had been bowled out on a good pitch for 315, their lowest total in six Tests against South Africa this summer.

There were still no mysteries in the pitch as South Africa crumbled against the pace of Lee and the spin of Warne.

Herschelle Gibbs made 51 but no other South African reached 30 on another disappointing day for the home side.

Lee, who dismissed Gary Kirsten shortly before bad light stopped play Friday when South Africa were 48 for one, struck in the eighth over of the morning when nightwatchman Paul Adams fell to a diving catch by Matthew Hayden at gully.

It started a collapse in which three wickets fell for 11 runs in five overs with Graeme Smith and Gibbs following Adams in quick succession.

Left-hander Smith made only one before flashing at Glenn McGrath to be caught behind by

Gilchrist in the next over.

Gibbs played a succession of sparkling back-foot coverdrives to reach his 50 off 59 balls with 10 fours but added only one more run before he was caught behind in Jason Gillespie's first over of the day.

Leg-spinner Warne was hit for six off his first ball of the match, a full toss to Neil McKenzie, but claimed the key wicket of Jacques Kallis in his third over when Kallis mistimed an attempted lofted shot and hit a return catch to the bowler.

Ashwell Prince batted for 27 minutes before lunch without opening his score and he was still on nought when he hit a full toss from Warne to a diving Lee at mid-on in the second over after the interval.

Astonishingly, South African captain Mark Boucher fell to another Warne full four balls later, the ball looping to the bowler off a leading edge as Boucher tried to work it to leg.

McKenzie and Andrew Hall put on 29 before McKenzie fell to a remarkable catch by Damien Martyn at point after he square-cut Lee. Martyn leapt high and to his right but seemed to have gone too far before stretching his left hand upwards to clutch the ball.

South African opening bowler David Terbrugge struck in his first over for the second time in the match when Matthew Hayden drove straight to cover to be out for four, after surviving a confident appeal for lbw in the same over.

Terbrugge followed up by having Justin Langer caught behind for 18 in his second over.

Australia won both the first two Tests and are seeking a six-match

clean sweep over South Africa after winning all three Tests in Australia earlier in the season.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between Australia and South Africa Kingsmead on Saturday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 315 (A Gilchrist 91, R Ponting 89, M Waugh 45; Terbrugge 2-61, Nitini 2-87, Kallis 2-95)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings (overnight 48-1)

Gibbs c Gilchrist b Gillespie 51

Kirsten c Gilchrist b Lee 21

Adams c Hayden b Lee 6

Smith c Gilchrist b McGrath 1

Kallis c and b Warne 16

McKenzie c Martyn b Lee 25

Prince c and b Warne 0

Boucher c and b Warne 0

Hall not out 27

Nitini c McGrath b Warne 14

Terbrugge c Gilchrist b Lee 0

Extras: (lb-1, nb-4, w-1) 6

Total: (All out in 55.2 overs) 167

Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-74, 3-75, 4-85, 5-109,