

JFA Cup
Rajshahi in
final round

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi moved into the final round of the JFA Cup Under-16 football tournament with a 3-1 win over hosts Natore in the zonal final yesterday.

Enamul put the visitors ahead in the first half at the Natore Stadium while Palash struck two late goals to seal the victory. Nasir scored a consolation goal for the home side.

Ctg table
tennis

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Royal Cement District Table Tennis League begins at the CJKS gymnasium today. The Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha (CJKS) is organising the competition.

A total of sixty players including 10 ladies from 12 clubs, are taking part in the open event. CJKS vice-president, AZM Nasiruddin is expected to inaugurate the meet in the afternoon.

Lindsay wins
at
Amelie's cost

AFP, Filderstadt

Lindsay Davenport closed in on Amelie Mauresmo's world number one ranking Sunday when the top seeded Frenchwoman was forced to retire injured in the final of the 650,000-dollar WTA event here.

Mauresmo withdrew after losing the first set 2-6 with a recurring left-thigh strain, handing a 45th career title and a luxury Porsche car to second seed Davenport.

The 25-year-old Frenchwoman had assured her world number one spot by winning Saturday's semifinals, but Davenport is now just 15 points behind and could reclaim the spot she last held in June 2001 after the Kremlin Cup in Moscow next week.

"I couldn't move so I preferred to stop," said Mauresmo.

"Except for this injury I was playing great and really enjoying it. It's a bit disappointing because I wanted to play a great match with Lindsay, but that's the way it is."



PHOTO: STAR

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel's general manager Grant Gaskin (2nd R) addressing a press briefing before an agreement signing ceremony between BCB and Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Rain dampens Zim's chance



AFP, Rawalpindi

Incessant rains threaten Zimbabwe's last chance of finishing the tri-nation one-day tournament on a high note as they square off with Asian champions Sri Lanka at Pindi Stadium here on Monday.

An overnight storm waterlogged the venue and a forecast for further rain threatens no play in Zimbabwe's last match of the competition.

"There are a few things which are out of control and weather is one. But we are not looking at the match as our last chance in the series but for us every game is important and we must learn," said Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu.

Both teams had indoor workouts as rain continued intermittently on Sunday.

Taibu's squad, depleted by the absence of 15 senior white players who were sacked after a strike in April this year, have managed just

one bonus point from their previous three matches.

They lost the first two matches to Pakistan, who have already qualified for October 16 final in Lahore, and were routed by Sri Lanka by seven wickets on Saturday.

Sri Lanka, with seven points, needs just one point from Monday's match and would get three from the available six points if the match is not completed due to rain.

"We are moving two steps forward and one backward which is not good for us. We showed complacency after being 50-1 in Saturday's match," said Taibu, referring to his side's meagre 104 which Sri Lanka chased comfortably.

The Zimbabwe captain said he would recover in time from a shoulder injury he sustained during Saturday's match.

Sri Lanka captain Marvan Atapattu said his side will go all out despite comfortable win in the last match.

"It was a comfortable win but we will treat every game with the same intensity level and all the focus is on the next game," said Atapattu.

"Complacency is one thing we always guard our team against and we have played Zimbabwe more than any other team and know they can come back at us," said the Sri Lanka captain.

TEAMS

SRI LANKA (from): Marvan Atapattu (capt), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Saman Jayantha, Avishka Gunawardene, Farveez Maharoof, Chaminda Vaas, Upul Chandana, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Thilina Kandamby, Rangana Herath, Kaushal Lokurachchi.

ZIMBABWE (from): Tatenda Taibu (capt), Brendon Taylor, Vusumuzi Sibanda, Dion Ebrahim, Mark Vermeulen, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Alestar Maregwede, Muleki Nkala, Elton Chigumbura, Edward Rainsford, Tawanda Mupariwa, Prosper Utseya, Douglas Hondo, Tinashe Panyangara, Alexandar Graeme Cremer.

Umpires: Simon Taufel (Aus), Aleem Dar (Pak).

Dissent costs
Sehwag

AFP, Bangalore

India's batsman Virender Sehwag was on Sunday fined 65 per cent of his match fees for misconduct during the first Test against Australia.

Sehwag was seen exchanging words with umpire Billy Bowden of New Zealand and the Australian players after being given out leg-before off Glenn McGrath on Saturday.

International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Ranjan Madugalle said Sehwag was charged for showing serious dissent at the umpires' decision.

"Sehwag pleaded guilty of the charge," Madugalle said in a statement.

"This offence falls under Level Two of the ICC Code of Conduct and after due consideration of the evidence, circumstances and the player's previous disciplinary record, I have fined him 65 per cent of his fees."

Sehwag will lose approximately 2,500 dollars because of the incident.

The batsman was unlucky to be given out as television replays showed the ball hit the pad off the inside edge of the bat.

Madugalle said Sehwag had apologised during the hearing on Saturday evening which was also attended by Indian captain Sourav Ganguly and umpires Bowden and Steve Bucknor.

Sanath keen
on
Scottish stint

AFP, Rawalpindi

Hard-hitting Sri Lankan opening batsman Sanath Jayasuriya is hoping to play for Scotland next season.

"It would be a nice experience if the deal comes through because I have never played for any English club," Jayasuriya said on Saturday.

Crickit authorities in Scotland, which fields a team in the second division of English cricket, said they were in talks to sign the player for the 2005 summer to help them in their third season in the league, reports said.

"I have been so busy at the international level that despite several offers I could not spare time to play in England, but let's hope the deal comes through," said Jayasuriya, one of the top batsmen produced by the Pearl Island.

The 35-year-old has played 330 one-day internationals and 92 Tests for his country and led Sri Lanka until last year.

Another international star India's Rahul Dravid was the first international player to feature for Scotland last year followed by countryman Sridharan Sriram, who played this season.

Women's football

FROM PAGE 13

already qualified for the semis from Group A with maximum nine points. VDP, who have a match in hand against Jessore Education Board, looks the likely team to advance into the last four from this group.

The day's matches were shifted to the Dhanmondi venue due to a dawn-to-dusk ban. Matches will be played at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamapur again from today.

Sonargaon Hotel

FROM PAGE 13

provide catering in the hospitality boxes, dressing rooms and the press box. And this deal will be more beneficial for us rather than getting cash," said BCB advisor and chairman of commercial committee Aziz Al Kaiber.

BCB, however, will bear accommodation expenses of both teams in Chittagong.

Abahani rule

FROM PAGE 13

(Ajah), Isha (Sonali Bank), Rana Das (Farashgani) and Russeluddin Bachchu (Usha) but it would be difficult for the holders to make up for the loss of Tuhin, Rajan, Habul and Shishu who all joined the Mohammedan on the first day.

Abahani officials are also expecting striker Shamim Reza, winger Sheikh Ramiz and midfielder Mahbub Ehsan Rana to play for the popular Dhanmondi outfit this season.

Abahani official and Bangladesh Hockey Federation's joint-secretary Zahidur Rahman Pushkin said last night that they are waiting for the federation to lift suspensions on Abahani players Shamim and Rana. "Shamim has already arrived in Dhaka from London and Ramiz is due any day," informed Pushkin adding that the federation will soon sit to discuss the bans on Shamim and Rana.

Shamim was banned after he stayed back in England following the national team's World Cup qualifying tournament played in Scotland while Rana was banned for life last year for assaulting an umpire.

"We have secured 13 players and that is all for this season. We hope to have these three players in the squad as well as three foreigners," Pushkin told.

The transfers will end today.

Asians adore her



AFP, Tokyo

Asia has fallen in love with Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova -- and the feeling is mutual.

The 17-year-old Russian starlet left here Sunday with two more WTA titles safely packed away in her luggage after a successful three-leg swing through the Far East which won her a new legion of admirers.

The last of her victories was a 6-0, 6-1 destruction of American Mashona Washington in the Japan Open final which attracted 9,288 spectators despite a howling typhoon which battered the region.

It followed her victory in the inaugural Korea Open a week earlier, a win watched by around 8,000 spectators, an unusually large audience for tennis in South Korea.

The only blemish was Sharapova's defeat to US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in the China Open semifinals two weeks ago, but it has not dampened her fondness for playing in Asia.

"I want to come back," said Sharapova when asked about her Asian tour. "I just, for some reasons, I don't know why, play well and feel really good here, and fans are amazing."

"That's the reason why I want to come back and always see them again and try to play my best, so I definitely want to come back."

Despite the Japan Open women's tournament being a substantially poorer event in terms of prize-money than its men's counterpart, all the attention last week was focused on Sharapova.

Men's finalist Taylor Dent said he was not bothered by being overshadowed by Sharapova and the women's event.

"I think the women are great

assets to men's tennis and tennis in general. I think the more attention they create the more events we will have, so it's vice versa," said the American.

"So if they are getting attention, it's great for us, it's great just to be a part of that. Hopefully, the matches are up to everybody's expectations, and we provide good entertainment."

Sharapova captured her first career WTA singles and doubles titles a year ago here, and also won her first professional title in the ITF Circuit series in Gunma, north of Tokyo, two years ago.

The only disappointment for Sharapova in Tokyo was that her name was not carved on the winner's trophy.

"By the way, they haven't updated this trophy, there's not my name on it, the last person is 2001, which is (Monica) Seles. We are in the 21st century. Come on! three years behind," complained Sharapova.



PHOTO: AFP

Fifth seed Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic poses with the trophy after winning the Japan Open tennis final in Tokyo yesterday.

Novak dents Dent



AFP, Tokyo

Fifth seed Jiri Novak came from behind to win his first title of the year by overpowering American Taylor Dent in three sets at the Japan Open tennis tournament here Sunday.

The Czech, who eliminated former world number one and 2002 Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia in the semifinals, pulverized Dent's aggressive serve and volley game for a 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 victory.

"I have five titles in the singles, and this is my sixth title, so I'm excited and very happy about it," said Novak.

"I think that we just started a little bit nervous, both players, because we made so many breaks, we were losing our service games very often, but from the second set I just started to play better, my confidence was getting a little bit higher, and in the second and third sets I was better on the court."

"I felt great during the whole week, because I'm still in the doubles final. I beat so many good

players -- Paradorn Srichaphan (of Thailand) in the quarters and in the semis Lleyton Hewitt. In the final I beat Taylor Dent, so it's a great feeling," added the 26-year-old Czech.

Dent hit two double faults twice in a row at 15-40 in the first game and at a deuce in the seventh, while breaking Novak in the second and sixth games.

And it was Novak's turn to double fault at 5-6 and 15-40, which handed the first set to the American.

But Novak, who often misfired his usually accurate strokes in the first set, was a different player for the remainder of the match, never facing another break point again hereafter.

He started to trouble Dent with low returns and lightning passing shots to break the American's serve three times to even the contest and then hit a sizzling service return winner and a couple of passes to score the only break in the fourth game of the decider.

"We played a lot of rallies from the baseline in the other matches, but today, he (Dent) was attacking the net so often. It was completely a different game," Novak said of his

first set loss.

"After the first set, I didn't drop my service game and that was the key of the match, because I was a little bit better from the baseline. I was making so many passing shots. I was just better on the court."

It was Novak's first title since winning at Gstaad last year, and also the first on hard court since his first title at Auckland in 1996.

And now Novak, 28th in the world, looks forward to be back to fifth he reached two years ago, saying: "I believe this tournament helps me to get confidence. I was playing great tennis this year but I was just missing good results."

"So I hope that everything going to be changed a little bit and I will improve my ranking again. Right now I'm close to top 20, I just think about top 10 again," added Novak, showing his winner's ceremony for the first time to her wife Katerina.

Novak, however, felt pains to his stomach muscle during the match and abandoned the doubles final with Petr Pala at 5-1 down to the American-Czech duo of Jared Palmer and Pavel Vizner.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post

The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 15, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:	2 wickets	50 runs	33 runs
2. Who won the China Open tennis title?	Serena Sharapova	Hingis	
3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?	83	84	81
4. Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?	Sarwan Flintoff	Lara	

Name

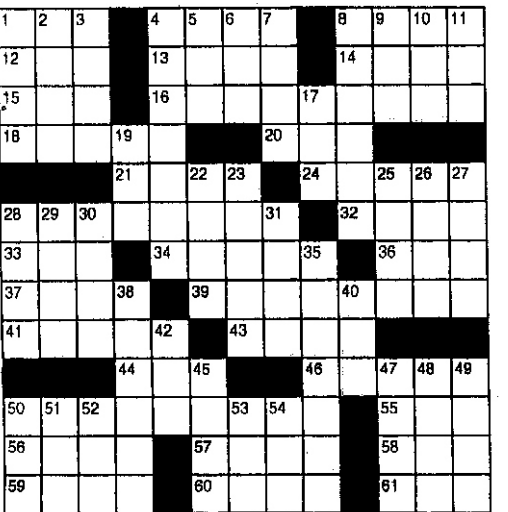
Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43	Burpee	buy
1 Move up and down	44	Inventor	Whitney
4 Spilled the beans	46	Mystery	writing
8 Entirely	50	Sherlock's head	award
12 Swelled	55	Glass	Drop
13 Shaving cream	58	Drop	from the payroll
14 Dag-wood's neighbor	56	Grade	scale
15 Blueprint extra	57	Gratis	— -de-
16 Mississipp	58	Chromo-	some part
18 Sick and tired of it all	60	1/220	furlong
20 As well	61	Actor	Beatty
21 Bridge coup	62	Teensy bit	Gold-
24 Substan-	63	Complaint	25 Touched
26 Attractive?	64	Look	26 Christmas
32 Unembellished	65	lowly	symbol
33 Past	66	Solution time: 21 mins.	
34 Six-pack, maybe	67	ROTH DUMPE LAD	
36 Actress Thompson	68	ASIA ONOR ALI	
37 Mascate	69	FUNNYCROD NED	
39 Biz	70	SETUP DENR	
41 Buck-wheat porridge	71	CLAP CHANDLER	
	72	ASK AUDIT TIRE	
	73	NEEDLESS BOND	
	74	ALITUS DUNNO	
	75	HARPO BEAT	
	76	ORBIT WORLDWIDE	
	77	OLD EVIL TIDOL	
	78	FEE DIAMS TANK	



CRYPTOQUIP

R N S U L N V S S N J U Y S D

A N W D A U W E U W K R D , K

Y J N W D K J N V Z C I U R E N R

V R S K Z S I D L V S S D W D R C .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'M REALLY SKILLED AT MAKING LIGHT DONUTS. YOU MIGHT SAY I'M CRULLER-COORDINATED.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals T

The Cryptquip 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.