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Indians, Abahani rule team events

Table tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

India's Salt Lake TT Academy lifted the men's team crown in the Beximco-Abul Hashem Smriti Table



Abahani's Tumpa (L) and Soma smile after winning the women's team title in the Beximco-Abul Hashem Smriti Table Tennis Championship at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Tennis Championships by winning an all-foreign final against Nepal in straight sets at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium yesterday.

The Indian team, made up mostly with Kolkata-based players, entered the final by thrashing Pakistan Wapda 3-0 in the second

semifinal. They were however stretched in the first set by Nepal who had won the SAF Games bronze medal.

Salt Lake TT Academy's Amit began well when he took the first two games 11-6, 11-5 but Nepal's R Kapali fought back to win the next two games 11-4, 11-9. Amit, however, relieved his teammates when he outplayed his Nepalese rival 11-5 in the decider.

There were no more hiccup for the Indians. Anirban came from behind to beat Nepal's S Powdel 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-3 while Pritviraj wrapped up the show blanking R Kapali 11-6, 11-6 and 11-9.

Earlier, Nepal dashed local hopes when they handed Bangladesh Biman a 3-0 defeat in the first semifinal.

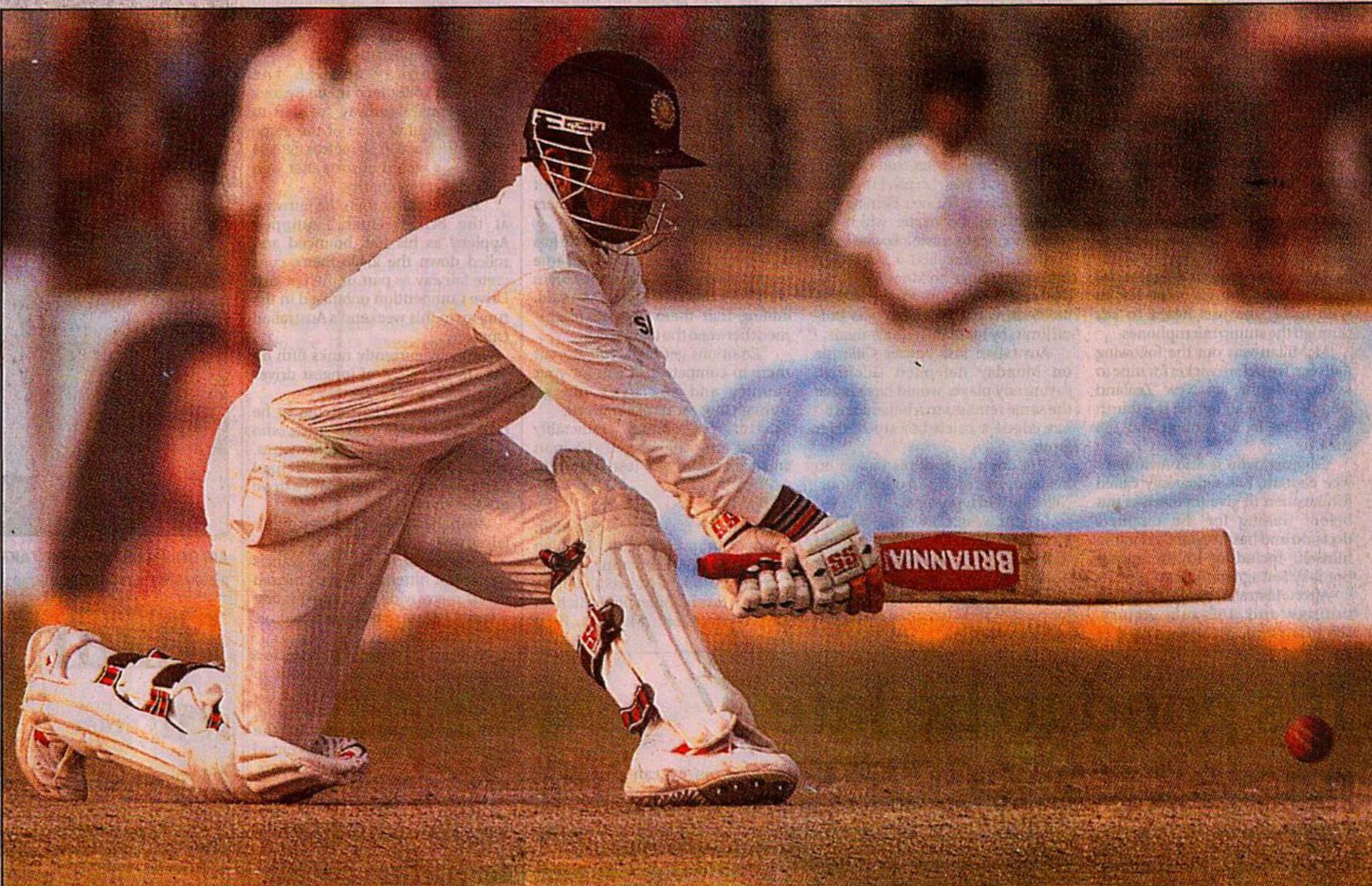
Biman, who had the country's top players like Mosaddekul Haque Rochi, Mahbub Billah and Hamlet, had ignited hopes by beating Pakistan 3-2 in a thrilling group match on Sunday.

The Indians are also favourites in today's men's singles final.

Meanwhile, Abahani won the women's team title by outplaying crushing Bangladesh Biman 3-0 in yesterday's final.

Tumpa beat Jayati of Biman 11-6, 5-11, 11-8 and 11-8 before Soma made it 2-0 for the Sky Blues defeating Rumi 11-8, 12-10, 4-11, 11-2. Tumpa and Soma then paired to win the doubles match against Biman's

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IT'S TIME TO TOY WITH HIM: Indian opener Virender Sehwag plays a reverse sweep off South African left-arm spinner Robin Peterson during the Kanpur Test yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

India kabaddi kings

SPORTS REPORTER

India lifted the first World Cup Kabaddi Championship title when the hosts put an end to Iran's fairytale run in the competition with a 55-27 victory in yesterday's final in Mumbai.

India, who dashed Bangladesh's hopes winning the clash of the two pre-tournament favourites 39-19 in the semifinal on Sunday, led the first half of the final 27-12 before 3,000 home fans at the Bharatiya Krida Mandir, Wadala.

Surprise package of the tournament Iran reached the final ousting Canada 54-28.

Bangladesh, who eyed a berth in the final, earlier defeated Japan 33-24 in the quarterfinals and collected 50,000 rupees as prize money as the losing semifinalists. However, they were forced to line-up against mighty India in the last four due to their shock 54-39 defeat to eventual finalists Iran in the last group match on Saturday.

Bangladesh beat Germany 96-19 and Nepal 65-24 in their other group matches.

Bangladesh will now play five test matches against India in different cities.

India pocketed two lakh rupees while Iran collected 1.25 lakh as prize money. Indian captain Sanjeeva Kumar was adjudged man-of-the-tournament.

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India reply in style

Cricket

AFP, Kanpur

Indian openers Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir gave the perfect reply after South Africa posted their highest total on Indian soil in the first Test here on Monday.

The Delhi pair were closing on centuries at 85 apiece as India reached 185 without loss at stumps on the third day after South Africa declared at 510-9 on a placid Green Park Stadium pitch.

Big-hitting Sehwag was overshadowed by his left-handed partner Gambhir as the visiting side were knocked all over the field, largely because of their indiscipline and bowling.

Gambhir, featuring in his second Test, played very well off the legs to strike 11 fours and a six off left-arm spinner Robin Peterson during a spirited 11-ball knock.

Sehwag, always ready to give the spinners a charge, was a bit sloppy towards the middle of his innings but still struck 15 fours off 151 balls to make the most of a chance he got on Saturday.

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the wicket to a delivery pitched around the leg stump.

"The way the Indian openers batted was fantastic," said South African coach Ray Jennings.

"They showed how easy it was to bat on this pitch which has nothing in it for the bowlers."

"They also proved that our decision not to declare early this morning was right as they have again pushed us on the back foot," said Jennings, who took his tally of Test wickets to 430 to close in on Kapil Dev's Indian record of 434.

South Africa's declaration came at the fall of Peterson's wicket, who made 34 off 24 balls before being bowled by off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

"It was not a very good pitch to bowl on since the ball did not even carry to the close-in fielders from the bat," said Kumble, known not to turn the ball much.

"Our job is to get wickets and sometimes you don't get them because you turn the ball but get them because you don't," said Kumble, who took his tally of Test wickets to 430 to close in on Kapil Dev's Indian record of 434.

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the third day of the first Test between India and South Africa at the Green Park Stadium on Monday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 459-7)

Smith b Kumble 37

Hall b Kumble 163

Van Jaarsveld lbw b Kumble 2

Kallis lbw b Kumble 37

Rudolph b Kumble 0

Dippenaar c Karthik b Ganguly 48

De Bruyn c David b Harbhajan 83

Pollock not out 44

Tsolekile lbw b Kumble 9

Peterson b Harbhajan 34

Extras: (b-9, lb-22, w-1, nb-16, pen-5) 53

Total: (For nine wks dec'd in 190.4 overs) 510

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Blatter tells to walk against racism

INTERNET SOURCE

Arsenal have been given the go-ahead to walk off the pitch if any of their black stars suffer racial abuse in Holland this week.

Ashley Cole and his Arsenal team-mates play PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League on Wednesday in the scene of racist chants against them two years ago and exactly seven days after Spain's night of shame against England.

But FIFA president Sepp Blatter Sunday backed the Gunners to walk off the pitch if they suffer racist taunts.

Blatter, the most powerful man in football, said: "We are going to give out an instruction in this matter because we have to maintain discipline and respect, on and off the field of play.

"If such incidents happen during the match, and in such a manner as we witnessed the other day in the Bernabeu Stadium, then walking off could be a possibility."

Blatter claims he would have backed England if they walked off in Spain.

He added: "I would have understood such a movement. I would have backed them walking off."

"In such a circumstance that

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'Dizzy' likes to rotate

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Australia's fast bowlers in the lead-up to next year's Ashes tour of England.

Gillespie, who also posted his highest Test score of 54 not out against the Kiwis last weekend, said he wouldn't have a problem with sitting out a Test match if it was in the best interests of the team and himself.

After this week's second Adelaide Test against New Zealand, Australia has three home Tests against Pakistan, a one-day tri-series here and then another three Tests in New Zealand before flying to England next June for the Ashes.

Australia still rests players in one-day cricket despite dumping an official "rotation policy" following below-par results this summer.

Gillespie said Monday that a resting policy would only occur when frontline pacemen were felt to be overworked or unwell.

"It may be something we might consider, particularly if someone is tired or a little bit under par given what lies ahead," Hohns said the day after Australia's thumping innings victory over New Zealand in the first Test at the Gabba here.

Hohns said Monday that a resting policy would only occur when frontline pacemen were felt to be overworked or unwell.

"It will never be done for no reason, either. We're not about to rip anyone out of a Test match for the sake of it."

Gillespie, Australia's seventh highest wicket-taker with 229 Test wickets, said he supported rotating

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TEN Sports

India vs South Africa

First Test, Day Four

Live at 9:50 am

ESPN

Football Focus

Live at 6:30 pm

Sportcentre

Live at 8:30 pm

UEFA Champions League

Monaco vs Liverpool

Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

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STAR Sports

Sportline

Live at 8:00 pm

UEFA Champions League

Real Madrid vs Bayer Leverkusen

Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

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TALK TURKEY

Andrew Hall

(South Africa all-rounder)

"Battling with de Bruyn was a pleasure because we have played a lot of cricket together since our school days. Having him in the middle with me was very special as he is a tough guy."

On debutant all-rounder Zander de

Bruyn.

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SWEET SWISS STORY: Roger Federer leaps into the air after winning the Tennis Masters Cup for the second year in a row in Houston yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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