

Gaibandha win Pepsi v'ball

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha Jubo Sangsad became champions of the Pepsi Volleyball League defeating Agomony Kriha Chakra 3-1 in the final at Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Police Super of Gaibandha Bhanu Lal Das gave away trophies.

Watch out

FROM PAGE 13

"Not only me, I think most of the bowlers will look forward to that," he said.

"Always I bowl well with the doosra."

Muralitharan, the former world Test wicket recordholder who is returning after six months recovery from surgery, will bowl in tandem in the three-match series with Australia's Shane Warne, the man who overtook his haul.

Muralitharan had surgery on his bowling shoulder last August, which ruled him out of international cricket until last week's tsunami relief match in Melbourne where he took three for 59 off 10 overs.

Muralitharan, who has 532 wickets from 91 Tests and 369 wickets from 238 one-day internationals, said his shoulder was still sore and he remained one or two months away from his best form.

Having been deeply affected by the tsunami tragedy in his homeland and played a significant role in the relief effort, he was determined to give a good account.

He said he enjoyed the tsunami relief match and the response he received from the Australian public made him rethink his stance on not touring Australia.

He opted out of a tour of Australia last July due to the heckling he received from crowds on previous tours.

Return tsunami

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Other venues considered in case the Indian government did not grant the tax exemption.

Other countries are also organising matches in aid of tsunami victims.

New Zealand is hosting a three-match series against a World XI starting Saturday, while England has announced a Twenty20 tie between an Asian XI and an International XI at the Oval on June 20.

Nearly 220,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands made homeless by the giant tsunamis that hit Indian Ocean coastlines on December 26 following an earthquake off the Indonesian coast.

Last chance for SA

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

Fast bowler Andre Nel practised with the South African team ahead of the fifth and final Test against England starting at Centurion Park Friday -- a match South Africa must win to square the series.

Nel was brought in as cover for Charl Langeveldt, who also practised. Langeveldt missed the fourth Test in Johannesburg because of a broken bone in his left hand. A decision on his fitness was not expected until late Thursday.

While Nel was called up, fast bowler Dale Steyn and batsman Hashim Amla were released to play domestic first-class cricket.

All-rounder Andrew Hall remained with the squad, however, and could be called up to strengthen the bowling in place of a specialist batsman, either Boeta Dippenaar or AB de Villiers.

The England team, meanwhile, took a second successive day off following their 77-run triumph at the Wanderers in Johannesburg.

They will have a single practice Thursday before the match in which they will seek to become the first English team to win a series in South Africa since 1964-65 and the first team other than Australia to win a series in South Africa since the host country returned to international cricket in 1991.

England's injured bowlers, Steve Harmison, Andrew Flintoff and Ashley Giles, are all expected to be fit to play, although it was announced that Flintoff would have an operation after the series to solve a long-

term left ankle condition.

Flintoff will have pain-killing injections to enable him to play at Centurion but may return to England ahead of the seven-match one-day international series which starts January 30 in order to be fit for the home series against Australia later this year.

Harmison was off the field for most of the first innings in the fourth Test because of a left calf strain but was able to bowl in the second innings.

The biggest question mark over Harmison has been his form. He arrived in South Africa ranked as the world's leading Test bowler but has only taken seven wickets at an average of 74.42 in the first four Tests.

Left-arm spinner Giles suffered a dislocated right thumb in Johannesburg and has been having treatment but is expected to play.

South African captain Graeme Smith, who was disappointed with the capitulation of his middle order batsmen on the last afternoon in Johannesburg, takes heart from what happened to his team in reverse in England in 2003. South Africa led the series 2-1 but England came back to win the final Test at the Oval to share the honours.

Although Smith suffered concussion when he was hit on the head by a ball at fielding practice during the fourth Test, he said he was determined to play.

Both teams have yet to hit consistent form in a hard-fought series which has been watched by the biggest crowds for Test matches in South Africa for many years.

Jacques Kallis has dominated South Africa's batting performances, scoring 481 runs at an

average of 60.12, although Herschelle Gibbs returned to form in spectacular style by hitting 161 and 98 in Johannesburg to record the sixth highest number of runs in a match by a batsman in a losing team.

Openers Andrew Strauss and Marcus Trescothick, with 612 and 421 runs respectively, have stood out for England.

The bowling statistics also reveal a lack of depth in both teams. Makhaya Ntini (22) and Shaun Pollock (18) have taken 40 wickets between them with six other bowlers having contributed just 27 wickets.

Matthew Hoggard has taken 24 wickets for England and Flintoff 17, with five other bowlers sharing 30 wickets. Simon Jones is expected to return in place of James Anderson.

Weather conditions are expected to be unsettled as they were during the Johannesburg Test, just 50km away, with swing bowlers likely to get assistance if there is cloud cover as there was for much of the play at the Wanderers.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Rudolph, Jacques Kallis, Boeta Dippenaar, AB de Villiers, Mark Boucher, Andrew Hall, Nicky Boje, Shaun Pollock, Makhaya Ntini, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel.
ENGLAND (likely): Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Andrew Strauss, Robert Key, Graham Thorpe, Andrew Flintoff, Geraint Jones, Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, Steve Harmison, Simon Jones.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

'Hafeez to keep on bowling'

AFP, Sydney

Pakistan skipper Inzamamul Haq Thursday vowed to keep using off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez in the triangular VB Series despite his being reported to the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a suspect bowling action.

Inzamam admitted his country's bowlers had a throwing problem but said he had few selection options and it wouldn't stop him using Hafeez.

Hafeez became the fourth Pakistani in recent times and the second off-spinner in two months to be cited for a suspect action.

He was reported by umpires Rudi Koertzen and Peter Parker Brisbane on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

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5-137 (Kapali), 6-143 (Mashud), 7-165 (Ashraf), 8-207 (Mahmud), 9-214 (Razzaq), 10-229 (Nazmul)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	7.1	0	31	2
Mpofu	7	0	34	1
Hondo	10	0	36	3
Chigumbura	9	0	62	0
Matsikenyeri	3	0	16	0
Utseya	10	1	37	2
Rogers	2	0	10	0

Result: Zimbabwe won by 22 runs and take 1-0 lead in the 5-ODI series.

Man-of-the-match: Douglas Hondo.

Toss: Zimbabwe. Umpires: Akhtaruddin (Bangladesh) and Nadeem Ghauri (Pakistan).

Second match: Jan 24, Chittagong.

Holiday-style

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Khaled Mahmud (34 off 30 balls) and Tapas Baishya (30 off 26 balls).

The victory however leaves a big smile on the faces of the inexperienced Zimbabwean side going into the second match at Chittagong on January 24.

For Bangladesh, on the other hand, the result gives selectors plenty to think about over the holidays especially at the selection of left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak ahead of fellow tweaker Enamul Haque, who was man-of-the-series in the Tests with an amazing 18 wickets.

Aussies stronger

FROM PAGE 13

He has been electrifying domestic one-day form during that time but is still no certainty to play at ad of Simon Katich and Darren Lehmann.

Captain Ricky Ponting said Symonds was often on "a hiding to nothing" while trying to score quick runs late in the innings.

Ponting had a lengthy chat with Symonds at training on Thursday and said he felt he was ready to return to the form which had earned him 1,525 runs at 54.46 from the 2003 World Cup until the start of the current season.

"I've watched him closely at training the last couple of days and he's striking the ball nicely," Ponting said. Ponting said he had been toying with promoting Symonds to number four since he went for a duck in the four-wicket win against Pakistan on Sunday.

WEST INDIES (likely): Brian Lara (captain), Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Marlon Samuels, Dwayne Bravo, Courtney Browne, Ian Bradshaw, Mervyn Dillon, Pedro Collins, Xavier Marshall (12th man).



SANIA MIRZA... first Indian woman to reach the third round of a Grand Slam.

Head over heels for Sania

Australian Open

AFP, New Delhi

India discovered a new sporting star other than a cricketer Thursday as petite teenager Sania Mirza hit the headlines after winning two rounds of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne.

The 18-year-old may only have entered the third round -- where she runs into the formidable Serena Williams -- but the usually cricket-obsessed Indian media celebrated as if she had won the title.

Colour pictures of the Hyderabad girl were splashed on the front and back pages of all major dailies with the Hindustan Times running a banner headline: "Game, set, match milestone."

"Super Sania" said The Times of India over a front-page picture of Mirza, while the Statesman described the ensuing euphoria as

'Sania Mania'.

It was the first time an Indian woman had reached the third round of a Grand Slam event and the country will tune in to Mirza's clash with Williams on Friday even though few give her a realistic chance of defeating the former champion.

"My family and I will be watching the match for sure and cheer Sania on every point," said Indian Tennis Association secretary Anil Khanna.

"Win or lose, she has already done the country proud."

Added college student Rakesh Verma: "The girl's a stunner. She deserves more endorsements than Anna Kournikova. Hope she gives Serena a fight."

Even as Mirza's parents followed her trail from Mecca where they are on the hajj pilgrimage, her first coach Narendra Nath said he could not keep his eyes off the television during Mirza's first two matches.

"A wildcard for the Australian Open was just the break she needed," Nath said.

"She is a big match player and I think she will surprise a few people on Friday."

Mirza, ranked 166th in the world, breezed past world number 84 Petra Mandula of Hungary in the second round on Wednesday dropping just three games. She had defeated Australian Cindy Watson in the first round.

The youngster's achievement betters the second round showing of Nirupama Vaidyanathan at Melbourne Park in 1998.

India has produced several famous male tennis stars such as Vijay Amritraj, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi but the world's second-most populous nation has had few female representatives in the upper echelons.

Bhupathi, whose sports management company signed Mirza last year, predicted a top-50 placing for her in the current season.

"She has the game to go so far," Bhupathi said. "This could be her year to break into the big league."



Syed Marghub Murshed, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, presents the trophy to Adil Faisal of Indonesia, who emerged boy's singles champion defeating Tejesvi Rao of India 6-3, 6-3 in the final of the GreenPhone 19th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

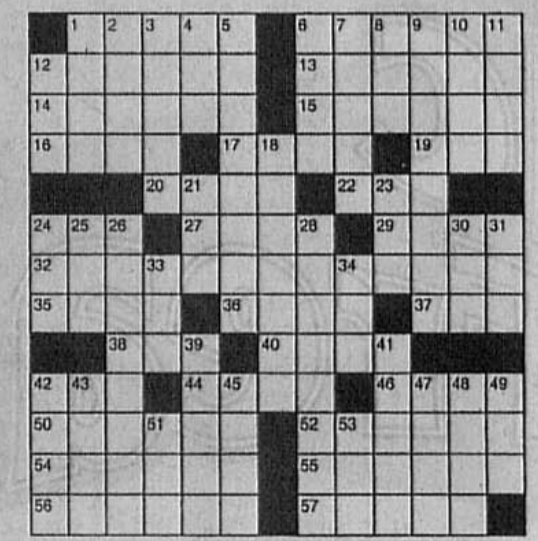
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Moving smoothly
6 "Little Shop of Horrors" command
12 Plaster art
13 "Yes"
14 Nut with a toxic shell
15 Goalie's ballwick
16 Just adorable
17 Staff member?
19 Dapper fellow
20 Streamlet
22 Bill
24 Abbr. after a surname
27 Concluding passage
29 Plumbum
32 Crude but effective
35 Country singer
36 Plummot
37 Pivouette

38 Eucalyptus product
40 Urban area
42 Navy rank (Abbr.)
44 Sends out invitations
46 Send forth
50 Lebanon's capital
52 Overly decorated
54 Get there
55 Snatched (on)
56 Bore more
57 Tic
21 Pronoun in a JFK quote
23 Potation
24 Historic period
25 Impresario
26 Precarious predicament
28 Staff, often
30 Fuss
31 Go blue
33 Wildebeest
34 On pens.
39 Strong purple
41 Meddler
42 In a way (lit)
43 "Ta-Ra-Boom-Boom!"
45 British gun
47 Wrestling surfaces
48 Particular
49 Cartoonist
51 Wardrobe malfunction
53 Eminence's genre

Solution time: 27 mins.

DOWN
1 Lady of the Haus
2 For fear that
3 "My Boo" singer
4 Lamieux
5 Recieve a file
6 Datum
7 Heron's cousin
8 Prior to
9 Recidivist
10 Small plateau
11 Paradise
12 Stern
13 Disciplinary
18 Satan
19 Reek
20 SERA
21 Pronoun in a JFK quote



CRYPTOQUIP
MV SRAXA'C CZEASRMOP
LZY TZO'S IWOS EZSRAX
SZ VMOT ZYS, TZ LZY CWL
"EZE'C SRA IZXT" ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO CHEER UP A SAD PERSON ON VALENTINE'S DAY, I RECKON YOU HAVE TO SAY "TAKE HEART!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals M
The Cryptoquip 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.

India name

FROM PAGE 13

Former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad disapproved of using Ahmedabad for one of the Tests.

"Instead of Ahmedabad, which has always been a troubled venue, I would have liked Mumbai to have hosted a match, because it's a great, cricket-loving city," Miandad told AFP.

"When a city is so troubled and has a history of riots they should not take such a risk. We had to field in helmets when we played a Test in Ahmedabad in 1987," added Miandad, who coached Pakistan when they last toured India in 1999.

Miandad said major cities Mumbai and Kolkata should not have been excluded.

"Pakistan last played in Mumbai in 1979, which is a long way back, and after I met Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray last year I see no problem in hosting an Indo-Pak match in Mumbai."

Hewitt, Davenport toil

FROM PAGE 13

I just had to try and do my best to get a win and do what I needed to do," said Davenport, blaming poor concentration for her first-set loss.

Russia's third-seeded French Open champion Myskina was similarly slowly away, trailing 1-3 in the first set, before pulling clear.

Myskina, well-known for having a fiery temperament, showed flashes of her passionate nature when things weren't going her way early on, yet kept her emotions in check to prevail.

The talented right-hander said she had been working hard to exercise her on-court demons in the close season.

"We have been talking to my coach a lot about this," Myskina said.

"You know, I saw myself on TV, and I don't really like it. So I think that maybe change a lot," added Myskina, who now plays American veteran Lisa Raymond on Saturday.

Venus Williams overcame the challenge of rising Chinese star Peng Shuai to record a 6-3, 6-1 to reach the third round, where she will face Israeli Anna Smashnova, seeded 27.

Peng, who last week defeated world number three Myskina on her way to the Sydney semifinals, gained the early advantage, breaking in the opening game when Williams netted.

But Williams broke back immediately in a lengthy second game before asserting her authority to advance.

Williams saw the match as an improvement on her first round struggle against Greek Eleni Daniilidou. "Still had a few errors," said Williams. "I definitely want to bring those down. But just in general I think my game was very solid."

"I think when I needed my serve, it was there. When I needed to get to the ball, I was there. When I needed to make my shots so."

"You can't expect every match to be perfect. First round for me still was a very good match because I got to hit a lot of balls. With each match I'm playing better, serving better, returning better."

In other action Thursday, Russian sixth seed Elena Dementieva -- a beaten finalist in the French and US Opens last year -- was a comfortable 6-2, 6-1 victor over compatriot Anna Chakvetadze.

Last year's beaten semi-finalist Patty Schnyder, seeded 12, was made to sweat before quelling the challenge of Netherlands' Michaella Krajicek, winning 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

But Russia's Russian-born teenager Tatiana Golovin, seeded 20th after reaching the quarterfinals here last year, was bundled out by American Abigail Spears, losing 7-5, 6-1.

Invitation for Tender

1. Name of procuring entity	Superintending Engineer, C&D Circle, Dhaka WASA.
2. Source of funds	Dhaka WASA Revenue Fund.
3. Tender name	Procurement 10,000 nr. of 20 mm dia (0.75 inch) C-Class Water Meter.
4. Tender No.	29/20-pra/04-05.
5. Time for completion of delivery	120 days from the day of contract signing.
6. Eligibility of tenderers	(i) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. (ii) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 2 (two) years of specific experience in the supply of similar goods and related services. (iii) The minimum production capacity or availability of equipment is/are: 5 lakh nrs. of Water Meter per year. (iv) The minimum supply value of goods under a single contract in the last five years is Tk 20 lakh. (v) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk 25 lakh.
7. Price of tender document	Taka 5,000/- (Five thousand) only.
8. Amount of tender security	Taka 3,50,000/- (Three lakh fifty thousand) only.
9. Name and address of the office (s) selling tender document	1. Janata Bank, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch/Fakirapool Branch/Posta Branch. 2. Agrani Bank, WASA Branch. 3. Uttara Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch.
10. Address of the office(s) receiving tenders	Superintending Engineer, C&D Circle, DWASA, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
11. Name and address of the office opening tenders	Superintending Engineer, C&D Circle, DWASA, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
12. Date and time for selling tender document	During office hours from 19.01.05 to 08.02.05.
13. Last date and time for submission of tenders	On 09.02.05 up to 12.00 noon.
14. Date and time for opening of tenders	09.02.05 at 2:00 pm.
15. Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders prior to acceptance.
16. Brief description of goods and services	20mm (0.75 inch) dia C-Class Water Meter to be installed in DWASA's consumers service line.

WASA - PI - 16/2005
DFP - 1468 - 17/01/05
G-81

Superintending Engineer
C&D Circle
DWASA, Dhaka.