

SCANDEX TENNIS
Arif lifts U-12 boys' crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Arif Hossain clinched the Under-12 boys' singles title in the Scandex Bangladesh Open Tennis Competition when he beat Jamil 6-3, 6-2 in the final at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Amol Roy and Prithul Mondal were set to play in the men's singles final while Baishakhi and Ruma moved into the women's singles final. Both the finals will take place today.

In the men's singles semifinals, Amol thumped Alamgir Hossain 6-3, 6-3 and Prithul beat Dipu Lal 3-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Baishakhi handed Sathi Sarkar a 6-3, 6-3 defeat while Ruma eliminated Bhabna 6-3, 6-4 in the semis.

DIV I SOCCER
Another draw for Victoria

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club registered another draw in the First Division Football League when Mohakhali XI held them 1-1 at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After two consecutive victories Victoria drew goalless with BRTC in the previous match.

Victoria went ahead through a 27th strike by Mamun but Alaudin equalised for Mohakhali in the 42nd minute

Both teams secured eight points from four outings.

Youhana missing second Test also

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan batsman Yousef Youhana will miss the second Test against West Indies after visiting his ill father.

But captain Inzamamul Haq is set to return after serving a one-match ban for excessive appealing.

Youhana returned home on Saturday and said: "I don't have enough time to make it back to Jamaica."

"My father was very ill and I want to be close to him at this time. I don't think I would have been able to concentrate on my cricket."

Men's champ

FROM PAGE 12
the final four games and the last seven points.

The 2003 champion and seeded tenth, Henin-Hardenne won her third three-set match in four rounds. She improved to 24-1 since returning in March from a seven-month layoff because of a blood virus and knee injury, and extended her winning streak to 21 matches, all on clay.

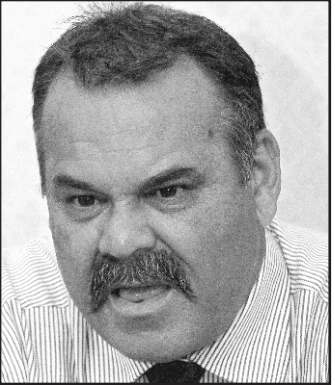
When Henin-Hardenne double-faulted on break point to fall behind 4-3 in the final set, she clutched her back and walked gingerly to the chair. Kuznetsova, seeded sixth, hit three big serves in the next game to hold at love.

But Henin-Hardenne overcame two match points in the next game, both thanks to Kuznetsova errors, and held serve. Three more errors by the Russian in the next game allowed Henin-Hardenne to break and pull even at 5-all.

Kuznetsova lost the final two points by misfiring on forehands. She finished with 68 unforced errors, including 10 double-faults.

The Russian missed plenty of opportunities in the 78-minute first set, failing to convert her first five break-point chances. She rallied from a 5-3 deficit, took a 5-2 lead in the tiebreaker and served for the set at 6-5. But she hit a backhand in the net for 6-all, then double-faulted and dumped a forehand in the net to lose the set.

Sharapova's match was halted Sunday night because of drizzle with the second set 3-3 and resumed on a 60-degree afternoon. She needed 17 points to complete the win, with Llagostera Vives shanking a backhand on match point.



Dav Whatmore

(Bangladesh cricket coach)
"Trying to achieve what everyone wants us to achieve is tough but to solely take Bangladesh out of international status full representation is just pure folly, ridiculous. We need to have a means to an end."

A win for WI finally



AFP, Bridgetown

Shahid Afridi's third Test hundred could not prevent West Indies from winning their first Test in a shade over one year, when they completed a comprehensive 276-run win over Pakistan in the first Test on Sunday.

Chasing a highly improbable, if not impossible target of 573 runs to win, Pakistan were dismissed for 296 in their second innings about 40 minutes after lunch on the fourth day at Kensington Oval, despite a typically belligerent 122 from Afridi.

Chris Gayle was the chief wrecker of the Pakistan innings, taking five wickets for 91 runs from 18.3 overs, and Daren Powell snared two for 47 from 11 overs to give him support.

The result gave West Indies a 1-0 lead in the two-Test series, and their first victory in a Test, since an innings and 99 runs win over Bangladesh at Kingston last June.

"This win is for the fans that stuck

PRIMERA LIGA

Final day drama



AFP, Madrid

Villarreal and Real Betis secured their entry to next season's Champions League after respective must-win games on the final day of action in the Spanish league on Sunday.

Villarreal were sitting in third place before their final encounter at home to relegation-threatened Levante but only a point ahead of Real Betis and two ahead of Sevilla in the chase for the final Champions League places.

However the east coast side maintained their respectable form this season with a 4-1 drubbing of Levante who will be playing football in the second division next season.

Villarreal won 18 of their 38 games to finish third behind winners Barcelona, who drew 0-0 away to Real Sociedad on Saturday, and runners-up Real Madrid, who were 3-1 winners at Real Zaragoza on Saturday.

In fourth place and grabbing the final spot for next season's

TOP SCORERS

List of leading goal scorers in the 2004/2005 Spanish football league which ended on Sunday (+ corresponds with goals in last match):

- 25: Eto'o (Barcelona), Diego Forlan (Villarreal, +2)
- 22: Oliveira (Real Betis, +1)
- 21: Ronaldo (Real Madrid, +1)
- 18: Baptista (Sevilla)
- 16: Fernando Torres (Atlético Madrid)
- 15: Villa (Zaragoza), Riquelme (Villarreal), Maxi Rodríguez (Espanyol, +1)
- 13: Nihat Kahveci (Real Sociedad), Michael Owen (Real Madrid, +1)

Note: the Spanish Football League (LFP) registers goals based on referee reports and has attributed Samuel Eto'o with 25 goals. Spanish sports daily Marca, which awards the trophy for the league's top scorer (pichichi), has only gives the Cameroonian 24 because they attributed one of his goals to his Portuguese teammate Deco.

with us throughout the season," remarked West Indies captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who was also named man-of-the-match.

The second Test in the series begins at Kingston on Friday, when Pakistan will be hoping to regroup and earn a series-levelling win.

Afridi powered his way to his second hundred in Tests against West Indies, when he moved down the pitch and clouted fast bowler Daren Powell -- one bounce -- into the long-off boundary for four.

All but 32 of his 122 from 95 balls in a shade under three hours were in boundaries comprising nine fours and six sixes.

Afridi added 115 for the fifth wicket with Asim Kamal, who was caught at slip off Gayle for 55 that contained eight fours and one six from 100 balls in a little under 2-1/4 hours.

West Indies, who were beaten 2-0 at home by South Africa in their most recent Test series and then lost eight consecutive one-day internationals to the Proteas and Pakistan, have never lost a Test at

Bridgetown, much less a Test series in the Caribbean, to Pakistan in five previous trips.

The match was also the final international fixture at Kensington Oval before it undergoes major renovations ahead of the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean.

BRIEF SCORES

WEST INDIES: First innings 345 (Lara 130, Chanderpaul 92, Hinds 28, extras 38; Razzaq 3-58, Shabbir 3-66, Kaneria 3-114)

PAKISTAN: First innings 144 (Younis 31, Butt 27; Edwards 5-38, Collimore 3-20, King 2-46)

WEST INDIES: Second innings 371 (Chanderpaul 153 not out, Hinds 52, Gayle 50, Lara 48; Afridi 3-49, Razzaq 2-36, Shabbir 2-70, Kaneria 2-115)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 296 (Afridi 122, Kamal 55, Razzaq 41; Gayle 5-91, Powell 2-47)

Result: West Indies won by 276 runs and tale 1-0 lead in the 2-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

that was perhaps the worst thing they could have done as Villarreal hit back with a vengeance.

Josico levelled in the 40th minute then Diego Forlan gave the hosts a half-time lead in first half injury time.

In what was largely a one-way encounter Forlan added his second of the game in the 89th minute before Figueroa finished off in style for Villarreal, scoring in injury time to leave Levante well and truly buried.

Valencia, last year's champions, ended their season in distant seventh place which means their only ticket to Europe will be through the Intertoto Cup.

On Saturday matches Real Madrid in recorded a 3-1 league win over Real Zaragoza.

Recently-crowned champions and arch rivals Barcelona, played out a scoreless draw at Real Sociedad.

FINAL STANDINGS

Final Spanish league table of the season on Sunday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Barcelona	38	25	9	4	73	29	84
Real	38	25	5	8	71	32	80
Villarreal	38	18	11	9	69	37	65
Betis	38	16	14	8	62	50	62
Espanyol	38	17	10	11	54	46	61
Sevilla	38	17	9	12	44	41	60
Valencia	38	14	16	8	54	39	58
Deportivo	38	12	15	11	46	50	51
Bilbao	38	14	9	15	59	54	51
Malaga	38	15	6	17	40	48	51
Atletico	38	13	11	14	40	34	50
Zaragoza	38	14	8	16	52	57	50
Getafe	38	12	11	15	38	46	47
Sociedad	38	13	8	17	47	56	47
Osasuna	38	12	10	16	46	65	46
Racing	38	12	8	18	41	58	44
Mallorca	38	10	9	19	42	63	39
Levante	38	9	10	19	39	58	37
Numanzia	38	6	11	21	30	61	29
Albacete	38	6	10	22	33	56	28

Note: if teams are tied on points but have played each other home-and-away then positions are decided on head-to-head results, not goal difference. Barcelona and Real Madrid qualify for direct Champions League entry Villarreal and Real Betis qualify for the Champions League third qualifying round Espanyol, Sevilla and Osasuna (as finalists of Spanish Cup against Real Betis) qualify for the UEFA Cup Levante, Numanzia and Albacete are relegated to the second division

Most players are not internally

FROM PAGE 12

Over time they will be good enough players and will be very competitive at Test level.

You have to stick with them. For example, some of the older players who are giving you 30 in a Test match now, will still give 30 in five years time. On the other hand, if you pick one of the younger guys who is scoring 30 at the moment, after five years, that chap will give you 130. They have the physical skills to become good players. Nobody can predict the future but I think in about 12 months from now, they (the selectors) should have a squad of 15 to 18 players who they need to pick for 5-10 years. Just stick with them.

Ri: What was it like for you when you first arrived and what have you spotted as the biggest problem with our cricket?

RM: It was a cultural shock. In Australia, even children grow up in a highly competitive culture. Nobody tells them that they have to win. They are just motivated that way. Here it is different. But in sports, you have got to have that winning mentality. We have tried to instill that. The problem with Bangladeshi players is that most of them are externally motivated and that goes for some of the officials and administrators too. From that aspect, the under 19s or the under-15 are very different. They are internally motivated. They are not like some of the past and present players national who say I am this and that. The young guys are not motivated by money or fame. They want to win.

Ri: But isn't it a select group of players who are being benefited from the development programme?

RM: I can't work with all the players.

But what we have done is we have worked with a lot of coaches and now they are teaching the same things. It's like a bush fire. You light one here, one there and then the whole place is on fire. By training the coaches, we have tried to get that effect all over the country.

I am pleased that Fahim (Nazmul Abedin) has worked with the young guys for three years. Salahuddin, who is about my age, is a very fine young coach also. They are qualified and have the quality and there are a few other guys also. So I am pretty sure that there will be continuation of the process we have put together.

Ri: What were the things that you have changed during your time?

RM: It was tough in the beginning. There was no systematic training in place although the players were working as hard as anybody in the world. For example, you would go to the Bangabandhu Stadium and you would see a national player knocking the ball against a 12-13 year old. Now you tell me what good would that do when you'll be playing international matches against Harrison or McGrath. So we tried to put together a system first for the younger players. Food and nutrition were major factors too. At first there was a lot of hard work and they did not like it. But even in Australia people don't like to work hard but now you talk to those players and all the guys appreciate that it was worth it.

Ri: Being a passionate person, how do you react to the calls for Bangladesh's Test status to be scrapped?

RM: I get excited. But put yourself in their shoes and you can realise where they are coming from. I don't think it is the worse idea in the world to have a

second tier. But that should also involve teams like Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Pakistan and the West Indies although I don't think those countries are going to like that idea too much. There are a whole range of issues. Some people have suggested that we play against the associate members more. We sent a young A team to UAE and they just walloped that side who are supposed to be one of the stronger associate members. So we can't go a step back as the difference between the associate members and us is huge.

Ri: Why do you feel that Bangladesh will eventually prosper in international cricket?

RM: The passion. You can see people playing cricket everywhere. On the other hand, in Australia we are trying to sell the game to young people. Just imagine if even half of the 140-million population are playing cricket, even then that is massive. The talent here is as good as anywhere in the world if not better. That is what gives me hope.

Ri: Do you have any criticism about the officials and administrators here?

RM: If you want to be successful in anything, there has to be a combination of three things -- ability, willingness and availability. I have found some of the administrators here have the ability, they want to do good for the cricket but because of their business and other commitments, they are not available when required. Also, everyone seems to be interested in the national team. There is not enough being done for the domestic structure and competitions.

Ri: Does Dav Whatmore take information from you regarding your boys who have graduated to the main team?

SERIE A

Udinese leave it late



AFP, Rome

Udinese clinched the final Champions League place up for grabs, while Brescia were relegated on Sunday, the final day of the Serie A season.

Udinese snatched fourth spot despite drawing 1-1 with beaten Champions League finalists AC Milan, while Sampdoria, their rivals for the money-spinning European place, could only manage a goalless draw at lowly Bologna and go into the less glamorous UEFA Cup along with Palermo and Roma.

Davide Di Michele put Udinese ahead 11 minutes after half-time, twisting past Giuseppe Pancaro and Dario Simic before firing an angled shot across Nelson Dida and into the far corner.

But Serginho, who missed Milan's first spot-kick in their agonising penalty shoot-out with Liverpool in Istanbul on Wednesday, equalised with a cheeky lob four minutes from time.

Nine clubs were fighting to avoid the drop, but the axe fell on Brescia whose 3-0 defeat at fellow strugglers Fiorentina condemned them to Serie B along with Atalanta.

Bologna will have to take part in a two-legged play-off in June against Parma - who drew 3-3 at Lecce - to decide the one remaining relegation place.

Parma were thankful to Alberto Gilardino's stunning overhead kick

TOP SCORERS

Leading scorers in the Italian league after the final round of matches:

- 24 - Cristiano Lucarelli (Livorno)
- 23 - Alberto Gilardino (Parma)
- 21 - Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
- 20 - Luca Toni (Palermo)
- 19 - Mirko Vucinic (Lecce)
- 17 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)
- 16 - Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Juventus), Adriano (Inter Milan), Mauro Esposito (Cagliari)
- 15 - David Di Michele (Udinese)
- 14 - Francesco Flachi (Sampdoria), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)
- 13 - Valeri Bojinov (Lecce/Fiorentina), Christian Vieri (Inter Milan), Vincenzo Iaquinta (Udinese)

Abahani, Mukti off the mark

FROM PAGE 12

Rajani, Belal, Saiful (Rana), Biddut, Hassan Al Mamun, Titu, Arman, Paul and Kanchan.

WANDERERS: Sohel, Govinda (Masud), Jamal, Mostafizur, Jhontu, Jahangir, Aou, Nurul Islam, Jalaluddin, Milon and Sadeq (Shakil).

A B A H A N I - FAKIRERPOOL

An 83rd minute strike by Ujjal helped Abahani seal three lucky points against a lively Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool but the 11-time league champions did little to impress their few thousand loyal supporters after Farhad put the side ahead.

The Sky Blues were under tremendous pressure once Robin made it 1-1 for Fakirerpool in the 37th minute but Abahani goalkeeper Nizam's spectacular one-on-one saves before the break saw them through.

It was Ibrahim who got the first real chance for last year's third-

placed Abahani but the Ghanaian forward, who intercepted a backheader by rival defender Ariful, powered a left footer straight to goalkeeper Nayan in the 19th minute.

Three minutes later, Ibrahim dashed down the left after a through from Parvez and his low cross was nicely sidefooted home by Farhad, the first local player to don the No 10 Abahani shirt after legendary striker Salahuddin.

Fakirerpool hit back with Baten and Robin joining to trouble the Abahani defence, which badly missed the services of centre-back Pradeep, who was pulled off from the starting line-up in the last minute.

Robin twice forced good saves from Nizam before the striker slotted the ball into an empty net when impressive midfielder Chanchal's header from a Baten cross came off the sidebar.

The rest of the first half belonged to the Fakirerpool boys but Ariful and Baten both failed to beat last man Nizam after splitting the Abahani backline.

Despite enjoying superior ball possession, Fakirerpool could not repeat their first half performance as Abahani pressed hard for a winner. Joy's header on a

parried by Gennaro Iezzo.

Ghanaian midfielder Stephen Appiah cut in from left and drilled a right-footed shot into top corner to make it 3-0, before Gianfranco Zola pulled one back for the Sardinians.

Trezeguet doubled his tally with a stooping header, before Zola did likewise with a beautifully-placed volley.

Livorno captain Cristiano Lucarelli finished top scorer for the season, edging Parma's Gilardino into second place with 24 goals thanks to his equaliser in the 1-1 draw at Messina six minutes from time.

Inter Milan, who were already guaranteed third place, drew 0-0 at home to Reggina.

FINAL STANDINGS

Italian football league table after Sunday's matches, the final round of games of the 2004/05 season (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Juventus	38	26	8	4	67	27	86
Milan	38	23	10	5	63	28	79
Inter	38	18	18	2	65	37	72
Udinese	38	17	11	10	56	40	62
Sampdoria	38	17	10	11	42	29	61
Palermo	38	12	17	9	48	44	53
Messina	38	12	12	14	44	52	48
Roma	38	11	12	15	55	58	45
Livorno	38	11	12	15	49	60	45
Lazio	38	11	11	16	48	53	44
Lecce	38	10	14	14	66	73	44
Cagliari	38	10	14	14	51	60	44
Reggina	38	10	14	14	36	45	44
Siena	38	9	16	13	44	55	43
Chievo	38	11	10	17	32	49	43
Fiorentina	38	9	15	14	42	50	42
Bologna	38	9	15	14	33	36	42
Parma	38	10	12	16	48	65	42
Brescia	38	11	8	19	37	54	41
Atalanta	38	8	11	19	34	45	35

Champions: Juventus

Qualified for Champions League: AC Milan, Inter Milan, Udinese

Qualified for UEFA Cup: Sampdoria, Palermo, Roma (via Italian Cup)

Relegated: Atalanta, Brescia and either Bologna or Parma (play-off)

Parvez corner was saved from the goalline by Ariful while Farhad twice fired the ball over the lone keeper.

It seemed a bad omen for Abahani when substitute medio Zahid drove an angled shot onto the sidebar in the 73rd minute but the pressure finally told ten minutes later, thanks to a moment of brilliance from Ndem. The indefatigable Cameroonian midfielder sent Ujjal racing into the box with a high ball over the entire Fakirerpool defence and Abahani's national striker neatly scooped the ball past an on-rushing Nayan to make it 2-1.

Yellow cards: Parvez, Tipu (Abahani) and Shipon, Rajan (Youngmen's)

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Nizam, Obaidur, Shawkat, Shipon, Lajuk, Ujjal, Joy, Ndem, Parvez (Zahid), Farhad (Tipu) and Ibrahim (Ruku).

FAKIRERPOOL: Nayan, Ismail, Ariful, Mamun (Shipon), Monaem, Ripon, Rajan, Chanchal, Baten, Tabith (Jewel and Masud), and Robin.

Referee: Azad Rahman.

Ronaldo still wants out

AP, Rio de Janeiro

Three-time FIFA Player of the Year Ronaldo on Sunday reiterated his desire to skip the Confederations Cup even though coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has hinted that the striker could lose his spot on the national team if he refuses to play in next month's tournament in Germany.

The Brazilian striker said last week that he was irritated at having to play in the Cup because he would end up without a lengthy vacation until after the 2006 World Cup.

Two days later, in an apparent response to the Real Madrid player, Parreira said he would replace players who wouldn't be willing to make personal sacrifices for the national team.