

Wari register sixth win

UNB, Dhaka

Wari Club recorded their sixth successive victory in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League beating Bachelors Sporting Club 3-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The match was locked 1-1 at first half.

Tanjid Ahsan Babu struck twice and Aminul Haque Babu scored one goal for the winners, all from penalty corners, while Shabbab scored the lone goal for Bachelors.

In the day's other match, Dhaka Wanderers beat Shishu Kishore Sangha 2-0 goals after leading the first half 1-0.

Afsaruddin and Mohammad Jamal scored for Wanderers.

Swadhinata KC keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace by Gafur and a lone strike by Harun helped Swadhinata Krira Chakra maintain their winning run in the Pioneer Football League central zone with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Khilgaon Jubo Sangha at the Basabo Torun Sangha ground yesterday.

Nasirabad Udayan SKS blanked Painadi Agragati JS 4-0 in another match at the same venue with Mosharrarfiring twice.

Both the north zone matches -- Maghbazar KC v Khelghar KC and Modhubagh Friends Club v Maghbazar Sabuj Sangha -- at the Mohakhali T&T ground ended in goalless draws.

At Mohammadpur Eidgah ground, Dhanmondi Football Academy beat Mohammadpur SKS 2-1 while Prasanna Poddar Lane SKP split points with Mohammadpur Sonali Sangha after a goalless draw in south zone.

Jatrabari Jhatika Sangsad handed a 3-0 defeat to Haji Jumnon SS while Red Sun KC edged Euro Famous by a solitary goal in east zone matches at the Dhupkhola ground.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY ICC extends Eng deadline

REUTERS, London

England will be given more time to name their squad for the Champions Trophy in India next month, after picking up several injuries during the current one-day series against Pakistan.

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) deadline for naming squads was Sept. 7, but it accepted England's request for an extension until after the final match of the series in Birmingham on Sunday.

"We are extremely grateful to ICC for this concession," Chairman of Selectors David Graveney said in an England and Wales Cricket Board statement.

"We have collected injuries during this series and we will now have more time to evaluate some of the replacements."

The extension will also give England time to monitor the progress of fast bowler Steve Harmison, who missed the Pakistan series with a back injury, and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who is recovering from ankle surgery.

BFF not to pay

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Helal added that the SA Games football manager's report has accused two under-23 footballers for lack of discipline. The executive committee has requested the team management to submit a full report before the next meeting.

The BFF has also accepted the AFC's proposal to play permanent hosts to the AFC Under-13/14 football festival for 12 nations of south and central Asia. The next tournament will be held in Dhaka in March-April 2007.

A three-batsman

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Jayawardene (SL), Muttiah Muralidaran (SL), Rahul Dravid (Ind), Kevin Pietersen (Eng), Mohammed Yousof (Pak), Herschelle Gibbs (SA), Brett Lee (Aus), Shahid Afridi (Pak), Inzamam-ul Haq (Pak), Adam Gilchrist (Aus), Kumar Sangakkara (SL).

EMERGING PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Monty Panesar (Eng), Alastair Cook (Eng), Dinesh Ramdin (WI), Malinga Bandara (SL), Mohammad Asif (Pak), Upul Tharanga (SL), Ian Bell (Eng), Shahriar Nafees (BD).

CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR

Michael Vaughan (Eng), Rahul Dravid (Ind), Ricky Ponting (Aus), Mahela Jayawardene (SL).

UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

Simon Taufel (Aus), Aleem Dar (Pak), Rudi Koertzen (SA).

WOMEN'S CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

Karen Rolton (Aus), Cathryn Fitzpatrick (Aus), Anjum Chopra (Ind), Neetu David (Ind), Claire Taylor (Eng), Katherine Brunt (Eng), Emily Drumm (NZ).



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division Hockey League match between Bachelors SC and Wari Club at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Coach irate at picky players



AFP, Southampton

England coach Duncan Fletcher warned his players against picking and choosing their tours after opening batsman Marcus Trescothick withdrew Wednesday from the squad for next month's ICC Champions Trophy one-day tournament in India.

The 30-year-old left-hander, England's leading century-maker in one-day internationals with 12 hundreds, pulled out on the advice of specialists who said he'd been suffering from the ongoing symptoms of a stress-related illness dating back to his early exit from England's tour of India in March.

However, in a statement Wednesday, Trescothick -- who has played in all of England's matches since coming back from India -- said he was "well on course" to make a full recovery and feature in the team's Ashes defence in Australia starting in November.

But Fletcher, due to meet with fellow selectors David Graveney (chairman) and Geoff Miller later Wednesday, insisted: "I've said all along we've just got to come up with a method of making sure players don't pick (and chose) these tours. I would want my players available for all tours that are played."



AP, New York

There won't be too many surprises when Andy Roddick and Lleyton Hewitt square off in a U.S. Open quarterfinal scheduled for Wednesday.

They've played eight times previously, and Hewitt holds a 6-2 career edge, including 3-0 in Grand Slam matches. One of those was a 2001 quarterfinal, in which Roddick lost his temper after a fifth-set overrule by the chair umpire.

Hewitt went on to win that U.S. Open on his way to No. 1. Roddick would win the tournament two years later, also a step toward the top of the rankings. Both have slipped since: Roddick is seeded ninth here, Hewitt 15th.

"Both of us are in the same boat in a lot of ways," Hewitt said. "We both know what to expect from one another's games. We've played enough big matches, as well. At the end of the day, it's going to be who can execute well on Wednesday, and who does that best is going to win."

Back in 2001, on the first point of what would be the final game, Roddick hit a forehand that a linesman called good but the chair umpire called out, even though the ball landed on the sideline farthest from his chair. Roddick let loose with a racket-slaming, body-twisting tantrum -- "Are you an absolute moron?!" he yelled at the umpire -- and five points later, the match was over.

Odds are, there won't be any sort of similar display this time, and not merely because Roddick has learned to manage his emotions much better on court. Nowadays, there's recourse for players who feel they've been robbed: An instant replay system is making its Grand Slam debut at the U.S. Open.

Something else that's new, for Roddick: He's been playing with a lot more confidence since recently teaming up with Jimmy Connors. "The passion he brings to the court is huge. It's contagious," said Roddick, who owns a 10-

Trescothick's exit is just the latest blow to an England side that this home season in particular has seen its one-day form slump in the absence of injured players such as Ashes-winning captain Michael Vaughan, Andrew Flintoff, Simon Jones, Ashley Giles and Stephen Harmison.

Veteran quick Darren Gough, recalled to the squad, then dropped out last weekend with a shin injury.

England were due to name their Champions Trophy squad on Thursday but have been granted an extension until after the end of the Pakistan series, which finishes on Sunday, because of their injury problems.

This home season they have lost all seven of their completed one-day internationals, a worrying record heading into next year's World Cup in the West Indies.

But former Zimbabwe captain Fletcher also told reporters at the squad's hotel here Wednesday that England, who've won just four out of their last 24 limited overs matches, were a good one-day side when at full strength.

"When we had our full side, close to our Test side, we got to the Champions Trophy final (against West Indies at The Oval in 2004) and we competed very well with (world champions) Australia."

"Since then we haven't had that side. Continuity is important but you can't have continuity if people keep coming in the side because of

injuries."

England went 2-0 down in their five-match series against Pakistan with a two-wicket defeat under the Rose Bowl floodlights here Tuesday, where Trescothick was bowled by Shoaib Akhtar off the first ball of the match.

And Fletcher admitted the Somerset star could not be certain of his place for the concluding matches against Pakistan on Friday and Sunday in Nottingham and Birmingham respectively.

"We'll just have to see what we do with the side over the next two games."

In the meantime Fletcher said he was pleased by his novice team's attitude. "There's been a really good work ethic and they've maintained that intensity on the field."

And he also praised the way Trescothick's opening partner Andrew Strauss -- who made 50 at the Rose Bowl -- had led the team despite being England's third-choice captain behind Vaughan and potential Ashes skipper Flintoff.

"For a young, inexperienced captain to step in and captain England under these circumstances is very difficult. He's done a very good job. Yesterday (Tuesday) I thought he had a great game and a great knock."

match winning streak that began at the Cincinnati Masters. "But first and foremost I get the opportunity on a daily basis to have information from one of the greatest players that ever played."

HALL OF FAME
Pete Sampras heads the list of nominees for the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Sampras, who won a record 14 Grand Slam men's singles titles, is joined by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the "recent player" category, the Hall announced Tuesday from its home in Newport, R.I.

Sampras was ranked No. 1 for a record 286 weeks, including 102 in a row from April 1996 to March 1998. He won a total of 64 singles titles, including his haul of majors: seven at Wimbledon, five at the U.S. Open and two at the Australian Open. Sampras was the last match of his career, beating Andre Agassi in the 2002 U.S. Open final.

Sanchez Vicario won three French Opens and was the first Spanish woman to win the U.S. Open singles title in 1994. In addition to those four major singles titles, she won six doubles and four mixed doubles Grand Slam championships.

Other nominees for the Hall: Sven Davidson (the first Swedish man to win a Grand Slam title), and Christine Truman Janes (won the French Championships in 1959 at age 18) in the "master player" category; Russ Addams (photographer) and the late Robert Johnson (credited with launching the careers of Arthur Ashe and Althea Gibson) in the "contributor" category.

DAVIS CUP
As expected, Andy Roddick, James Blake and the Bryan brothers will represent the United States against Russia in the Sept. 22-24 Davis Cup semifinals.

U.S. Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe announced his roster Tuesday at the U.S. Open, where Roddick already is in the quarterfinals and Blake was wait-

Forensic test for Oval ball

AFP, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) said Wednesday forensic tests may be conducted on the ball used in the controversial Oval Test to ensure a fair hearing for Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq.

"A forensic test is being suggested," ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed told reporters. "The laws of cricket are clear on what constitutes changing the condition of the ball."

"Lawyers of Pakistan and the ICC are studying what evidence can be put forth."

The fourth and final Test between England and Pakistan ended in fiasco at the Oval last month when Pakistan refused to take the field after tea on the fourth day to protest being accused of ball-tampering.

The move led to umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove awarding the match to England -- the first forfeit in the 129-year history of Test cricket.

Inzamam was subsequently charged with ball-tampering and bringing the game into disrepute. He now faces an ICC hearing scheduled in the last week of this month.

Speed said the sport's world governing body will take every step to ensure a fair hearing.

"We want a fair hearing," he said. "No final date has been agreed upon, but it will be announced in a day or two."

"We don't want to sit on the side of the umpires. We don't want to sit on the side of the team. We want to sit in between them and accept whatever decision is made by the adjudicator."

Speed denied the ICC had delayed the hearing, initially to be held soon after the Test, to allow matters to settle down.

"We were very keen and would have preferred to have the hearing in the match referees' room right after the match as it happens in normal circumstances," he said.

"But Ranjan Madugalle (the Sri Lankan adjudicator) had a serious personal problem which needed his urgent attention. In no way we were seeking to defer the hearing."

When asked if the power of awarding a Test would be taken away from on-field umpires, Speed said the ICC could only consider the proposal if it came through its cricket committee.

"We must bear in mind that on-field decisions have been made by umpires for a long time," he said. "It has stood the test of time. We have certain processes in place in the ICC to consider changes in the laws."

More surprise

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Aftab Ahmed was chosen last year for the award won by stylish England batsman Kevin Pietersen.

The biggest competition for Nafees would be Pakistan paceman Asif who had a wonderful first year in international cricket. The 23-year-old took 30 wickets in 6 Test matches including a best of six for 44 against Sri Lanka.

The final selection will be voted by a 56-member ICC academy comprising the 10 Test captains, 18 members of the umpires and match referees panel and 28 legends of the game and members of the media.

Thuram invites

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Sarkozy tightened immigration rules after the riots and has vowed to expel thousands of illegal foreigners this year.

About 4.9 million immigrants live in France, official data show. Officials estimate 200,000 to 400,000 illegal foreigners live in the country.

Brazil too

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United winger, playing against Brazil for the first time in his long and illustrious career, split the defence with an astute pass.

Robert Earnshaw latched onto the through ball and accelerated past Anderson Silva, but Gomes was equal to his left-foot strike and turned it away for a corner.

Vagner Love was giving the Welsh defence a torrid time with his movement off the ball and the CSKA Moscow striker drew a good stop from Jones after a smart one-two with Kaka.

Brazil thought they had scored when Vagner Love finished well just before half-time, but the livewire forward had strayed just outside as he collected Kaka's pass.

Although Wales were competing well against technically superior opponents, Brazil's shrewd passing always looked likely to find a way through eventually.

And the breakthrough finally arrived after 60 minutes when left-back Marcelo took aim from 25 yards and drove his shot into the far corner of Jones's goal.

Ronaldinho's influence on the game was intermittent but he produced one moment of sublime skill as he eluded Carl Fletcher with a 105-ball hundred with one six and 13 fours.

Vagner Love put the result beyond any doubt in the 74th minute when he beat James Collins to Cichinho's cross and glanced a header past Jones.

Inzamam to lead Pakistan



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket selectors Wednesday announced a 14-man squad for next month's Champions Trophy in India, retaining under-scrutiny Inzamamul Haq as captain.

Inzamam is to face an International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct hearing at the end of this month and faces a possible suspension.

"We have proceeded as if Inzamam is available for selection," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman Abbas Zaidi told AFP.

The Pakistan captain was charged on two counts after Pakistan forfeited the fourth Test against England at The Oval last

month, first his team was charged for ball tampering, and second for bringing the game into disrepute.

Pakistan refused to take the field after umpires Darrell Hair of Australia and Billy Doctrove of the West Indies changed the ball on suspicions of ball tampering and awarded five penalty runs to England.

Zaidi said PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan has put his weight behind Inzamam.

"There are no reservations over Inzamam's captaincy and the PCB chairman has assured he will continue and if any other situation arises we will cross the bridge when it comes," said Zaidi.

If Pakistan team is found guilty of ball-tampering then the Pakistan captain faces a fine of between 50 and 100 percent of his match fee and a one Test or two one-day international (ODI) ban.

If he is found guilty on the second count he faces a ban of

between two and four Test matches or four to eight ODI matches.

The biennial Champions Trophy begins with a qualifying phase in India from on October 7 and the group stage starts on October 15.

Pakistan take on a qualifier at Jaipur on October 17 and meet New Zealand and South Africa in later matches. The final will be held on Nov. 5.

Pakistan's Champions Trophy squad bears two changes from the team currently playing the five-match one-day series in England. Middle-order batsman Shahid Yousof and leg-spinner Danish Kaneria are dropped.

SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan, Imran Farhat, Mohammad Yousof, Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Navedul Hasan, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul, Mohammad Hafeez, Rao Iftikhar.

'Just picking dust'



AFP, Southampton

Pakistan vice-captain Younis Khan insisted too much had been made of an incident showing team-mate Shoaib Akhtar working on the ball during the tourists' two-wicket win in the third one-day international win over England here at the Rose Bowl.

Pictures screened by host broadcaster Sky Television showed fast bowler Akhtar flicking at the ball with his left thumb as he walked back to his mark.

However, umpires Nigel Llong of England and West Indies' Billy Doctrove having reviewed the footage alongside match referee Mike Procter, did not take any action.

"In my eyes it looked like he was picking some dust," Younis, named man-of-the-match for his 101, told reporters.

"Why do we make it a big issue every time the ball is reverse swinging?"

"In the last 20 years it has been made a big issue but to me it is a small issue, cricket is a gentleman's game so let's make it simple."

"Reverse swing is happening all the time -- Australia do it, England did it in the Ashes last year -- because pitches are dry, everybody is used to

it in these conditions."

Pakistan forfeited the fourth Test against England last month having refused to take the field following the fourth day tea interval at The Oval in protest at being penalised five runs for "ball-tampering" earlier in the day.

Disciplinary charges arising from that match against Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq have still to be heard although he, his team-mates and the Pakistan management have continued to protest his innocence.

But on Monday International Cricket Council chief executive Malcolm Speed warned Pakistan they risked fresh charges if they continued to break the global governing body's code of conduct by making public comments about Inzamam's case in advance of the hearing, due to take place later this month.

The Oval forfeit saw Pakistan lose the Test series 3-0. But it has been a different story in the one-dayers where Tuesday's victory under the Rose Bowl floodlights left Pakistan 2-0 up in the five-match series.

Younis's hundred, which came up off 105 balls with one six and 13 fours was only his second one-day international century in 137 matches and first against a Test nation after his 144 against Hong Kong at Colombo in 2004.

But it is only recently that the 28-year-old right-hander, who had

batted at No 6, has nailed down the same No 3 berth he has in Test cricket where his impressive average is currently just a shade under fifty.

"It was a big hundred because against England it's a dream come true," said Younis. "But for me the most important thing is that the team wins. If I make 50 or 60 and the team wins then I am still happy."

"This (No 3) is a good position for me as it gives me time."

Defeat was England's seventh in eight one-day international matches -- the other was washed out -- this home season.

But they did at least give Pakistan more of a contest Tuesday by posting 271 for nine, a total featuring fifties from Jamie Dalrymple (62), Paul Collingwood (61) and captain Andrew Strauss (50).

England then sparked a late order collapse that saw Pakistan wobble before the tourists won with seven balls to spare.

"We can take a lot of positives out of today's (Tuesday's) game," all-rounder Collingwood said. "The way we scrapped all the way through was a really good effort."

The series continues Friday at Trent Bridge with another day/night clash.

Rain ruins Day Nine

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good shape here. That's why it is sad."

Jankovic, the 15th seed from Serbia, will meet one of two former champions Lindsay Davenport (1998) or Justine Henin-Hardenne (2003) for a place in the final.

Jankovic reached the quarter-finals by dismantling former champion Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-2.

She also stunned Czech ninth seed Nicole Pietrangola 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 in the third round and is now headed for the biggest payday of her career since making her tour debut five years ago in Indian Wells, California.

The heavily-favoured Federer will have at least one more day of waiting before squaring off against Cicoquel as he bids to become the first player in the Open Era to complete the Wimbledon-US Open sweep for the third consecutive

year.

Top talents Henin-Hardenne and Davenport also had their match postponed.

Henin-Hardenne will be showing off her new game and renewing an old rivalry with another former champion Davenport, the 10th seed who has struggled with back and shoulder problems this year.

The Belgian won 19 of 20 points at the net in overpowering Israel's Shahar Peer 6-1, 6-0 on Monday. Henin-Hardenne sees the serve and volley game as the route she will have to take if she wants to extend her career.

"It is going to be the kind of game I will have to play in the next few years if I want to stay on the tour a couple more years," the second seed Henin-Hardenne said.

"I am not as tall, I'm not as strong as the other players. I save more energy to play like this."

NCL prizes

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runs in 17 innings) and Faisal Hossain clinched the one-day man of the series trophy with highest 423 runs in 10 matches.

Right-arm paceman Hasibul Hossain scalped 57 wickets in 16 innings to emerge as the best bowler in the longer-version while Mohammad Sharif, who returned from long-term injury, captured 26 wickets in ten matches to be adjudged the best one-day bowler.

Young opener Nazmus Sadat of Khulna snatched the best all-rounder award while Syihel's Golam Mabud was named the best wicketkeeper. Rajshahi pacer Shafaq Al Jabir received the emerging player of the tournament award.

The winners received trophies and cheques from chief guest Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Youth and Sports, who took the opportunity to make it appear as his farewell party.

Younis ton fashions win

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Malik edged him to Collingwood at backward point.

And when Mohammad Hafeez was run out by England captain Andrew Strauss's direct hit from cover, Pakistan were 29 for two.

But, as happened in the recent Test series against England, Younis and Yousof took charge after the openers had faltered.

Younis played some superb shots. He went down the pitch and square cut Broad for four before pulling the 20-year-old quick to the boundary.

He then lashed Sajid Mahmood through point.

Lewis too came in for the Younis treatment, umpire Billy Doctrove forced to take evasive action as he struck another powerful blow down the ground.

But Younis, on 38, escaped when a pull off Mahmood was