F'ganj, Police win bia

UNB, Dhaka

Farashganj Sporting Club posted their fifth win in six matches in the Green Delta Metropolis First Division Hockey League beating Mukta Bihanga Torun Sangha 4-2 at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Shahjahan sounded the board twice while Panna and Ujjal added the rest for Farashganj, who led the first half 2-0.

Nurul and Mahmudul scored one goal each for the losers in the second half.

In the day's other match, braces by Hasan and Rana helped Police AC taste their second victory with a 5-1 thrashing of Victoria Sporting

Pioneer Football League results

SPORTS REPORTER

Goals by Rubel, Narayan and Nippon gave Bangladesh Sporting Club a convincing 3-0 win over Titu Smriti Sangsad in yesterday's Pioneer Football League at the Dhupkhola ground in east zone.

Mansoor Sporting Club rode on Amjad to edge Babubazar Uttaran Sangsad 1-0 in the other match at the same venue

In west zone, Dhaka Mahanagar JKS beat Ramjan Football Kishore XI 1-0 while Golam Mostafa Lane KC drew goalless with Lalbagh Torun Sangha.

In north zone, Tongi KC defeated Gandaria Power Sun by a solitary goal at the Mohakhali T&T ground.

Akhtar found not guilty

CRICINFO, undated

Shoaib Akhtar and the rest of the Pakistan team were cleared of any wrongdoing after a controversial incident during the third one-day international against England at the Rose Bowl

Pictures from Sky Sports appeared to show Akhtar flicking his thumb at the ball as he walked back to his mark, but Mike Procter, the match referee, issued a statement saying that no action would be taken: "After viewing television footage the match umpires have decided no action should be taken against any Pakistan players."

It is quite possible that Shoaib was removing mud or dirt from the ball, but if so that is still illegal as only the umpire can do so. The incident did not appear to be seen by either

PCB will turn to others if needed

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan cricket authorities on Thursday said they would not hesitate to seek support from other countries like India and West Indies to back their case if the ball-tampering issue was given a political twist.

"We don't want to make it a political issue. We feel it should be decided as purely a cricket matter. But if it is made political then obviously we could seek the support of other countries like India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and West Indies to back our case." PCB chairman Shaharvar Khan said.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq is due to appear at a disciplinary hearing of the International Cricket Council on September 27 and 28 in London and could be banned for a minimum of four Test matches or eight one-dayers if found guilty of violating the code of conduct.

MSC to groom

Mohammedan Sporting Club will train 30 young players for one year with a view to strengthen the base of their football

Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan announced at a press conference at the club tent vesterday that their selection panel has chosen 30 players from a preliminary camp of 400 after a month long

The local giants had picked up the young footballers after the National

"We will take care of their food, accommodation and education for one year at the residential camp," Lokman

saw bright future for the kids and hoped they would fill the void of budding players.

"There are a few among the selected 30 who could make it to our first team by the end of the year if they perform consistently. The rest will make up our B team,"



Despite the loss, Murray left the

Highest on his list of achieve-

Open feeling encouraged about his

ments was an upset of Roger

Federer at the Cincinnati Masters.

The 19-year-old Murray also beat

and kind of take in everything that's

happened the last few months

because it's been pretty special,"

the world, I've gotten to the top 20,

made the semifinals of Masters

Top-seeded Roger Federer didn't

mind that his last two matches

were scheduled on the smaller

Louis Armstrong court, instead of

Trying for his third straight US

Open title, Federer beat Vince

Spadea at Armstrong in the third

round. He played there again

Thursday and reached the

quarterfinals with a 6-3, 7-6, 6-3

anything. It's a great court, with

great atmosphere," he said. "I don't

think I've played much over there

the last couple years, so for me it

build-up play by France almost led

to their third goal, however Buffon

this time managed to push away

Govou's low drive across the

Govou was replaced by Sylvain

Italy looked determined. Three

minutes after Govou's exit a well-

struck Pirlo free-kick found the head

of Cannavaro whose effort was

again in the final minute of regula-

tion time, rising to catch a lob from

Pirlo after the midfielder surprised

Coupet was called to action

was good fun to play there again."

Les Bleus

FROM PAGE 24

goalline

"It's not like this court is dirt or

"I've beaten the No. 1 player in

"Í want to take a bit of a break

accomplishments this year.

Andy Roddick at Wimbledon.

Murray said.

Series, quarterfinal."

PICK A COURT

at Arthur Ashe Stadium

win over Marc Gicquel.

Russian superstar Maria Sharapova blows a kiss to the crowd after her straight-sets victory over Frenchwoman Tatiana Golovin in the quarterfinals of the US Open at Flushing Meadows in New York on Wednesday



OPEN SECRETS

AP. New York

The racket-throwing tandem of Marat Safin and sister Dinara Safina got tossed out of the US

The 12th-seeded Safina lost first, falling to No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo 6-2, 6-3 in the quarterfinals Wednesday. Then her older brother got beaten by No. 14 Tommy Haas 4-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 in the fourth round.

Safin slammed his racket to the court with both hands after a bad shot. Safina also gave her racket a

So, did she get the habit from her brother?

"Might be instinct," she said. The 20-year-old Safina said the 26-year-old Safin has talked to her about such tantrums.

"If I am doing it too much, before he was telling me like, 'Listen, this is too much," she said. "It's okay if you hit it once in a set, but not every

As her brother put it, "Some things I didn't really like."

"I really told her ... it's unacceptable from her side to do some things on the court, what she was doing before," he said.

They agree, meanwhile, that she doesn't tell him what to do

"He's too old." Safina said. "It would never happen," Safin

Safin, who won the 2000 US Open and the 2005 Australian Open, said he doesn't feel it's his place to be advising his sister because he hasn't been playing in

"She's doing much better than he said. "She made the quarterfinals. She's basically on her way to become a top 10 player in a couple of weeks. So I'm not worried about her. I should worry about a little bit more myself."

Currently ranked No. 104, Safin sat out the second half of the 2005 season nursing an injured left

Safin believes that reaching the fourth round at the Open was a step in the right direction.

"If you look at the big picture, the way I played during last six months, right now I'm playing some of my best tennis," he said. "I couldn't think that I would beat anybody coming to the US Open. The way I played the whole sum-

ON MARAT'S MIND

When Marat Safin was asked about the rise of Russian players, he quickly separated the men from the women

"With all due respect, you cannot compare the men to the women," Safin said Wednesday. "Women's tennis is a little bit more simple than the men's, unfortunately, with all the respect to the

"It's a bit easier to become a pro, a top 100 player. Right now we have, I don't know how many girls, maybe 20, 30 girls, that make it,'

While Safin said the men take longer to progress because there's more intense competition, he said the young women players seem to be more committed to the sport.

"We have great players in Russia, juniors, but somehow nobody knows how to explain to them what to do," he said. "All the time ... they come with excuses, 'I'm not going here, I'm not going there.' You don't see them do anything in a year, they quit."

"The women are more consistent. They work much harder. They dedicate themselves fully to tennis and they can stay on the court forever," he said. "The guys, it's just way too many temptations."

MINUS MURRAY

Highly touted British teen Andy Murray's time at the US Open ended at the hands of Nikolay Davydenko 6-1, 5-7, 6-3, 6-0

Wednesday. Ahead by two sets to one when play was suspended because of rain Tuesday, Davydenko won all six games when they resumed Wednesday.

"I never played against someone who's played a set as well as that," Murray said.

the entire French defence.

Qatar blank

punched out by Coupet.

Wiltord in the 74th minute.

FROM PAGE 21 today," he added

Bangladesh coach Hassanuzzaman Babloo was also content to keep the scoreline rather slim.

"I said on Tuesday that we came here to play football, not win a match. With the kind of (ageing) players we have in the team, we simply could not have beaten a strong team like Qatar. Before this match, we had played three games and lost all of them. We were in no condition to compete against the

"Seven or eight of the players from this match will quit the national team soon. We will pick a new team for our next match against Hong Kong. Our next target is Asian Games and you will see a young team for that event. Our players haven't played much football in the last two years. After our loss against Qatar in Chittagong, we have been simply training at home.

"We had no match practice before coming to Doha. And when you don't have match practice, you can't beat a team like Qatar. I am hopeful that a professional league -which will be introduced soon in Bangladesh for the first time -- will help us produce quality players and achieve better results," the former national winger said.

Meanwhile, reigning champions Japan, three-time winners Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined Australia -- the first qualifiers -- and co-hosts Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand

next year's finals. The Japanese earned their place in South East Asia with a 1-0 win over Yemen in Group A while Saudi Arabia maintained a perfect record in qualifying as they came back from a goal down to pummel India 7-1 in

Inzy hearing **Sept 27-28**

AFP, Mumbai

The International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Thursday that . Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq's hearing in the ball-tampering controversy will be held on September 27 and 28.

The much-awaited hearing will be conducted by chief match referee Ranjan Madugulle of Sri Lanka at a yet unspecified venue, ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed told reporters here.

Inzamam faces charges of balltampering and bringing the game into disrepute following the Oval Test fiasco when Pakistan refused to take the field in protest at accusations of cheating by umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove.

The umpires awarded the match to England, the first forfeit in the 129-year history of Test cricket.

Inzamam, who has been retained as captain for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in India, faces a ban of 2-4 Test matches or 4-8 one-day internationals if found

Speed, who regretted the delay in the hearing, clarified that it was not entirely accurate to say that Pakistan will be cleared of balltampering charges simply because there was no video evidence.

"If video evidence was the only criteria, taking the analogy of crime, we would not be able to prove a lot of murders and half the jails would be empty," he said.

"I cannot say much, except that there are other forms of evidence and all will unfold at the hearing.

"There is the ball, the accounts of other people who were present, and there's the umpires' version, which is the most important."

Speed, meanwhile, backed umpires around the world and called on players to respect their deci-

Van Persie stars

FROM PAGE 24 It was Van Persie's 17th cap and he has scored four of his five goals in the last six matches.

Netherlands top Group G with a maximum six points from two matches, two above Bulgaria and Romania. They travel Bulgaria on Oct. 7 and host Albania four days

Lama threatens

FROM PAGE 24

contract spelling out the terms and conditions of his employment from the Kenya Football Federation

He has returned home and said he may not return unless his conditions of employment are met. "I want basic conditions met by

KFF but I see them reluctant to do so. I am going to France to see my family and I will only return if the conditions are met." Lama, who assumed his post in August, told reporters before flying to Europe or Wednesday.

KFF secretary-general, Dan Omino, said Lama wanted three months' salary in advance, which amounts to 1.8 million Kenya shillinas (\$24,760).

"As far as we are concerned, he has gone to see his family and will return in two weeks. But I think he was firm in his condition that we remit the money in his account in France," Omino told Reuters.

Lama's baptism of fire started when Kenya lost two build-up matches to Éthiopia last month.

The east Africans were also beaten 2-1 by Eritrea last Saturday in a 2008 African Cup of Nations qualifying match in Nairobi.

Dravid seeks

FROM PAGE 21 the series has gone on. England is playing Pakistan in a good one-day series, and the game of cricket goes on. I don't think it (ball-tampering episode) is going to be a major blow to the game or make an impact.

"I think, we have got to learn to move on and focus on what's happening," he said. "I think there needs to be some

kind of conclusion, and I am sure towards the end of the month, they will find that.'

BOA keeps

FROM PAGE 21

The BOA handed over cheques for six months and it will review the performance of the athletes before giving them the second instalment.

Shahiahan and Mahfuz were present but the general secretary of taekwondo federation received the to receive the cheque on behalf of absent Mizanur. Meanwhile, BOA's six-member

selection committee for the coming Asian Games failed to reach any conclusion after its yesterday's meeting, which was adjourned till Saturday. It was learned that the BOA is considering sending teams for nine

disciplines: football, athletics,

swimming, shooting, chess, weightlifting, kabaddi, golf and taekwondo. It was also learned that due to a large number of entries, football teams will have to go through qualifying rounds before the main event

to be held in December in Doha.

Burning like an inferno

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Justin Langer says his hunger to retrieve cricket's Ashes from England later this year is akin to a raging inferno.

The doughty left-handed opening batsman, who celebrates his 36th birthday two days before the November 23 first Ashes Test in Brisbane, was constantly reminded of Australia's 2005 Ashes demise during his short English county stint with Somerset last July.

England rocked the heavilyfancied Aussies with a momentous 2-1 series victory to regain the Ashes after almost two decades of being second-best.

Langer, who wears his heart on his sleeve and lives for his cricket, says the needling he received from English fans has revved him up for one of cricket's most anticipated series.

"The kindling was on the fire then (losing the Ashes), but now its like an inferno." Langer said at the recent Australian team camp in Queensland.

Langer showed he is in great

scoring touch for the coming five Test matches when he broke legendary West Indies batsman Viv Richards's Somerset county record

with 342 against Surrey in mid-July. But now his sights are set on helping Australia regain the urn in what he regards as a massive

"In India (2001) we thought then that it could not get any bigger than

this." Langer said. "I thought it was the summit of my career, then we played the Ashes last summer and it was another summit. The summits keep presenting themselves and this is another

Langer, who ranks as Australia's seventh all-time highest run-getter with 7,393 runs in 100 Tests at 45.35, said relinquishing the Ashes was an "awesome learning experi-

ence" for Ricky Ponting's team. "What happened last time was disappointing but it was an awesome learning experience for the team and a lot of the things that we learnt have just come together over five days of the (Australian) team boot camp," he said.

"The sign of a great team is how you come back and We've won every Test bar two draws since we got beaten (in England), so We've obviously learnt our lesson.

"If you do that you get better and that's where the challenges come

"Were ready to face up to this challenge. We are ready for them. We've had 12 months of brilliant preparation, guys have had a good

off-season. "We've had the boot camp which is one of the great five days of my life in terms of personal development. It

was an incredible experience. "We've learnt our lesson and were ready for this next challenge."

But Langer is deeply respectful of England and their chances of holding on to the Ashes in this year's

"We expect the danger. We are expecting them to be better against us than they were last summer," he

"I'm not sure that's possible because they were at their peak. We expect them to be better but I can assure you well be better as well.

"What's happened in the last Ashes, since the Ashes, is irrelevant. It's going to be about momen-

Andy, Kevin could open

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England are contemplating opening the batting with big hitters Andrew Flintoff or Kevin Pietersen in future one-day internationals

Flintoff could return as a batsman only as early as next month's ICC Champions Trophy as he builds up his fitness following ankle sur-

And Pietersen may also be given a chance at the top of the order as England look for an aggressive start. The changes could come about

because of Marcus Trescothick's It was confirmed on Wednesday

would not be heading to India for next month's Champions Trophy as he is having treatment for a stress

But England stressed he would be available for selection for the Ashes squad, which is being announced on Tuesday. England coach Duncan Fletcher

said: "We've just got to come up with a method of making sure players don't pick tours," he said. 'I would want my players available for all tours that are played

Continuity is important." However he conceded England were considering making changes up the order as they try and reverse a torrid run of form in the one-day

They have won only once in the

last 10 completed one-day interna-

tionals and that was against Ireland.

thinking about changes because I don't think you can stand still in the "We've considered Fred and we've considered Pietersen up

there, but you have to get the bal-

Friday's day/nighter against

Pakistan but he could be a shock

call for the ICC Champions Trophy

squad, which is being revealed on

Fletcher said: "All the time we're

ance of the side right. "You can have a flexible batting order, but I don't think it's ideal to keep chopping and changing every day. Now and again you can spring a surprise and that's when it pays

Jones gets all-clear



AFP, Los Angeles

Triple Olympic champion Marion Jones has been cleared of potential doping charges for use of EPO after the "B" sample analysis of her test was negative, a statement issued by her attorney said Wednesday.

"I am absolutely ecstatic." Jones

said in a statement released by her

attorneys after she had been informed of the negative backup sample analysis on Wednesday. "I have always maintained that I have never, ever taken performance

enhancing drugs, and I am pleased that a scientific process has now demonstrated that fact. I am anxious to get back on the track.' Jones' 'A' urine sample from the US Track and Field Championships on June 23 in Indianapolis, where she

won the 100 meters, had been reported positive for the banned endurance-booster EPO. Jones said when she learned of that result in August that she was "shocked."

US media first reported the apparent positive test, with several newspapers, including the Washington Post and New York Times, citing anonymous sources with knowledge of the

USA Track and Field declined to comment at the time, and the US Anti-Doping Agency never confirmed the reports in line with its policy of not commenting on cases in progress

USADA officials were not immediately available for comment on Wednesday. Jones abruptly withdrew from a

United States as the news surfaced in August, and later issued her statement calling for the testing of the "B" sample to be expedited. The scientific part of the testing protocols worked, but it is unfortunate that because of the leak of the 'A'

sample results Marion was wrongfully

accused of a doping violation, and her

reputation was unfairly questioned,"

said Howard Jacobs, one of Jones

meeting in Zurich and returned to the

attorneys. That kind of question is nothing new for the 30-year-old sprint star, whose five medals at the 2000 Sydney

Olympics included three golds. Jones has never faced a formal doping charge, but even so she was effectively declared persona nongrata in Europe last season after being linked to the BALCO steroid distribution scandal that erupted prior to the

2004 Athens Olympics. Her former partner Tim Montgomery, who is the father of Jones's young son, was banished and his world 100m record run erased based on evidence collected in the

BALCO criminal investigation. But Jones has soldiered on, and mounted a comeback this season that she has said she hopes will see her contend at the Beijing Olympics in

At the Golden League meeting in Paris on July 8, Jones broke the 11second barrier for the first time since 2002 to win the women's 100m in



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman is seen with winners of UIU banglalink table tennis champion-

ships after the prize giving ceremony at the UIU yesterday. Nadal knocked out

FROM PAGE 24

quarters where he will meet fifth seeded American James Blake who ousted Czech Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 on Wednesday.

Russian Nikolay Davydenko

another quarterfinal. Roddick has put an end to a miserable run of form this year by winning five straight matches in

meets Germany's Tommy Haas in

New York. "The losses have been a little too frequent for my liking this year. I'm the new Andy Roddick. I spent too much time this year looking back. I feel like it is a new chapter." Roddick

The 24-year-old Roddick ousted Hewitt in almost two hours in the night match to reach the semifinals where he will face Youzhny. "I am not going to give him as

Roddick said of Youzhny

many balls to hit as Nadal did." next game. They stayed on serve

This was his ninth career meeting between the two former world number ones with Hewitt still holding a 7-2 lead overall.

'He came out serving so well

didn't give me too many looks at second serves," Hewitt said. "When Andy is serving that well you have got to clean up your own service games and I didn't do that.' Roddick posted an 80 per cent

success rate on his first serve points

and survived a key set point to win the second set in front of a crowd of about 21,000 at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. The American won seven

straight points on serve late in the first set then broke Hewitt in the last game of the first to clinch it.

He broke Hewitt again in the third game of the second set but the Australian returned the favour in the

until Roddick broke the Aussie again in the 11th game to go ahead 6-5. Roddick finished off Hewitt in just

38 minutes in the final set as he stepped up his game on big points and on service breaks The 14th seeded Haas advanced to the quarterfinals of the US Open for the second time in

three years, rallying to beat former champ Marat Safin of Russia and win his second five-set match in a The 26-year-old Haas beat Safin

4-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, 7-6, equalling his best performance when he reached the round of eight in 2004. Davydenko needed just 36

minutes on Wednesday to end Andy Murray's hopes of a first US Open quarterfinal berth.

30 for future SPORTS REPORTER

programme School Football Championship for the camp which ended on September 2.

told reporters Chief coach Shafigul Islam Manik

said Manik Former national footballer and coach Golam Sarwar Tipu was also present at the press conference.

Mehrab in, Javed out

levels like Under-19 competition. with the A team and the domestic

"He is basically an opener but we

used him as a middle-order bats-

competitions

Whatmore.

man in the last Under-19 competition because there were too many openers in the team. It's a great quality that one player can bat in any position," he added

Coach Dav Whatmore said that the youngster had the prospect to represent the national team. "I have seen him in Under-19 competitions and some other tournaments and what I have seen is that he has a very bright future. But lot depends on him whether he

wants to realise his potential." said

player. He can make up for a slow

start, ending with a strike rate of

over 70." he added when asked

about the strengths of the all-

rounder that prompted the final

"Mehrab is a very methodical

his left metacarpal.

the real battle

Replying to a question, Faruque said that they were pleased with the progress in fitness of Bashar, who returned home after the second one-day international against Zimbabwe at Harare after injuring

"We can't give you hundred per

cent assurance about his recovery but the current state has given us the confidence that he will be fully fit well before time," he informed. Bangladesh will play the qualifying round of the tournament along with Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe, starting on October 7 Top two finishers will join the six seeded teams -- Australia, South

Zealand and England -- in the final round. The Tigers are expected to play two practice games at home and one in Mohali before embarking on

Africa, India, Pakistan, New



(R) addressing a press conference at the club tent yesterday.