

## Rain washes out first day's play at Edgbaston

**BIRMINGHAM, England.** June 4: Rain washed out the opening day of the first Test between England and Pakistan at Edgbaston here today, reports AFP.

Fine drizzle turned to rain on a murky morning and although it eased briefly around lunchtime, it had intensified throughout the early afternoon. Play was finally abandoned soon after tea.

It was a disappointingly familiar start to the five-match series. Five years ago, when the countries last met in England, the first Test lost almost 16 hours to the weather, which also ruined the second Test.

England were expected to leave out Mark Ramprakash and Tim Munton from their 13, and give a Test debut to 22-year-old leg-spinner Ian Salisbury.

However, the delayed start might cause a rethink as well as give Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram more time to recover from his stress-fractured right shin.

In 1987 more than half the available playing time was lost at Old Trafford, while only seven hours 10 minutes were possible in the second Test at Lord's.

The day's wash-out will cost the Test and County Cricket Board 150,000 pounds (\$270,000 dollars) in returned ticket money.

## Gower's first ton for Hampshire

**LONDON, June 4:** Former England captain David Gower hit his first county championship century for two years yesterday, reports Reuters.

The stylish left-hander, who was at the receiving end of some harsh criticism in England skipper Graham Gooch's recent book captaincy, stroked a superb 155 as Hampshire dominated Yorkshire at Basingstoke.

They scored 351 for nine declared in reply to Yorkshire's first innings 210.

Gower, ignored by England since the 1990-91 Test series in Australia, took centre stage for most of the day, hitting 18 fours in a 254 ball innings.

Afterwards he said, "I told someone yesterday that if you needed to reply to the sort of criticism I've had lately, the best way to do it would be on the pitch."

Phil Edmonds completed a dream return to the Middlesex side with four first innings wickets at Trent Bridge.

The former England left arm spinner, who quit first-class cricket in 1987, was called in to replace Phil Tufnell who is recovering from an emergency appendix operation.

Edmonds quickly made up for lost time, returning four for 48 from 28 overs as Nottinghamshire slumped to 211 all out in reply to Middlesex's first innings 401 for two declared.

Edmonds, 41, joined forces with longtime spin twin John Emburey, who bagged four for 55.

Following on, the home side were 53 without loss — still 137 in arrears.

## Peter Taylor retires

**BRISBANE, June 4:** Australian off-spin bowler Peter Taylor on Thursday announced his retirement from first class cricket, reports AP.

"I have had a good innings and enjoyed my time playing for Australia, but I'm now married and the time has come for me to spend more time on family and business matters," Taylor said.

Taylor, 35, made a sensational Test debut against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground during the 1986-87 season, returning career-best figures of six for 78 to win the man-of-the-match award.

He played in a total of 13 Tests, taking 27 wickets at an average of 39.56. He also was a handy left-handed batsman, amassing 431 Test runs at an average of 26.94.

Taylor also played in 83 one-day internationals, taking 96 wickets at an average of 28.60 and scoring 437 runs at an average of 19.86. He also took 34 catches.

## Friendly squash

The first match of a friendly squash challenge series between Dhaka Club and Sonargon Hotel team will be held tomorrow, Saturday at the Dhaka Club squash court.

The venue for the contest will shift to the Sonargon Hotel courts for the second leg while the final match of the best-of-three series will be held at the BTC courts.

Following are the teams: Dhaka Club: Rashid Chowdhury, Anisul Haq, Irfan Hussain, Ono Jagdir, Nail Islam and Nawshad.

Sonargon Hotel: Andrew McBurnie, Muslim Lakhani, Malcolm Fry, Tanveer Imam, Brian Challis and Aziz Ahmed.

# Brothers end with flourish

Sports Reporter



Federation Cup champions Brothers Union were left pondering what might have been as they concluded yet another failed bid for the First Division football championship. Yet they finished their 1992 league campaign with quite a bit of flourish, handing out newcomers Eskaton Sabuj Sangha a 4-1 pasting at the barren Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The result, of very little consequence to either side, left Brothers with 27 points out of a possible 38 while Eskaton ended their maiden season in the big league with a not-too-disappointing 15 points.

In the other match of the day, held earlier in the afternoon, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society earned a solitary goal victory over

Farashganj Sporting to take their points tally to 21 from 19 engagements.

Arambagh, too, have 21 points with a game in hand and should they not lose their last encounter against Mukti Joddha Sangsad Saturday they will finish fourth in the 20-team league table. But if Mukti Joddha win they, along with Arambagh and Rahmatganj, will be tied on 21 points each, behind Brothers Union who yet again finished third.

Brothers shot into the lead yesterday through skipper Manik in the 24th minute from a Jilani cross. Then it came Jilani's turn to score his maiden goal of the league in the 35th minute to make it 2-0, the halftime score.

Ripon made it 3-0 six minutes after resumption by pouncing upon a defensive error.

Daboo pulled one back for Eskaton in the 56th minute but Jilani, obviously enjoying his first success in putting the ball in the opponent's net, felt in the mood to celebrate the day with another one nine minutes from time.

In the day's other match, marked by the referee having to caution four players with the yellow card for their physical play, Shah Alam Babu made Rahmatganj's day with the only goal of the game in the 81st minute.

Following is the points table for the clubs finishing their 19th matches yesterday:

## TODAY'S MATCHES

BRTC vs Wari Club (4 pm, Mirpur)

Fakirpool vs BJMC (5 pm, Dhaka Stadium)

PWD vs Wanderers Club (7 pm, D Stadium)

# Platt goals rescue England



**HELSINKI, June 4:** David Platt scored twice to rescue England and lead them to a morale-boosting 2-1 victory over Finland in their last dress rehearsal for the European Championship on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

But England's joy was clouded as Liverpool's injury-plagued winger John Barnes, in only his second international appearance of the season, limped out of the game — and the championship — after just 10 minutes with a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Finland, who have never beaten England in 55 years, started aggressively and rocked them when took the lead with a penalty through Ari Hjeltni in the 27th minute.

England were caught short at the back as the Finns broke, and Trevor Steven was penalised for catching Jari Litmanen's ankle as he reached for Kimmo Tarkkila's cross.

England stepped up the pace and went close to equalising two minutes before halftime when Stuart Pearce's shot was palmed on to the post.

and the rebound hit the underside of the bar.



DAVID PLATT

But before the Finns had finished exhaling a breath of relief, an unmarked Platt picked up a through ball from Steven and beat goalkeeper Olli Huttunen with a low shot.

Platt, who is expected to leave Bari for top Italian club Juventus next season, grabbed his 10th goal in 29 internationals and his third in the last two with a powerful volley from a corner in the 62nd minute.

Barnes, who was replaced

by Arsenal's Paul Merson in the 16th minute, was not the only England casualty.

Defender Gary Stevens was substituted at halftime after suffering a nasty kick on his foot and may also miss the championship. He will have an X-ray on Thursday.

"I don't know what will happen with Stevens until we have the medical report," manager Graham Taylor said.

But he said Barnes was definitely out.

"He will be out of the European Championship, out of football for a period of time," he said.

"Obviously I am very disappointed. But won't knock out. When things like this happen so very, very late you just have to take it on the chin."

England, who start their Championship campaign on June 11 against Denmark, looked unconvincing against the Finns, and Taylor admitted: "It was not the greatest of games."

He said, however, he was pleased with Platt's performance and the way Mark Wright filled his unaccustomed sweeper role.

# Americans beat Portugal 1-0



**CHICAGO, June 4:** Forward Roy Wegerle scored his first international goal yesterday as the United States beat Portugal 1-0 in the US Cup '92 soccer tournament, reports Reuters.

Wegerle, who set up a pair of goals in his victorious US debut against Ireland last Saturday, struck 10 minutes before halftime and a determined US defence held the advantage over a talented opponent un-

able to finish their chances.

"We didn't play as well as we did against Ireland," said Wegerle, who will play in the English Premier League next autumn for Blackburn Rovers.

"We were disoriented, especially at the start. But we won even though we didn't play well, and that's a good sign."

Portugal held the edge possession for the first half, but couldn't test keeper Tony Meola. None of Portugal's five shots was on target.

The Americans shook off Portugal's early assaults and began to push into the attacking third of the field midway through the half.

Bruce Murray, the US all-time goal scoring leader with 17 goals, created the US goal with a superb through ball from midfield.

Wegerle beat the Portuguese back line. He cut around goalkeeper Neno at the edge of the penalty area and easily left-footed the ball into an empty net from 15 yards.

# Danes warm up by holding CIS



**COPENHAGEN, June 4:** Igor Kolyvanov scored early in the second half to salvage a 1-1 tie for the Commonwealth of the Independent States against

Denmark Wednesday in both teams' final warmup game before the European Soccer Championships, reports AP.

Striker Bent Christensen of Germany's Schalke opened the scoring in the 35th minute after intercepting a poor back-pass in centre-field by defender Kakhabe Chkadze that was intended for goalkeeper Stanislav Chertchov.

After that blow, Chkadze was substituted by Andrei Ivanov in the CIS back line.

Kolyvanov, a midfielder who plays for Foggia in Italy, tied it by shooting past Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel in the 52 minute before a surprisingly small crowd of 5,339 at Brondby

Stadium in suburban Copenhagen.

Both teams made four substitutions. Danish coach Richard Moller Nielsen said there were so many changes "because of lack of fitness and minor injuries."

## Papin returns

**LE TCQUET, France, June 4:** Jean-Pierre Papin, who missed the mid week defeat in Switzerland, returns to lead the attack in France's friendly against Holland at Lens on Friday, reports AFP.

Coach Michel Platini has left out captain Manuel Amoros, still limping with a calf strain, and calls up Monaco defender Emmanuel Petit.

## Graf to meet Seles in final

**PARIS, June 4:** Former world number-one Steffi Graf finally woke up from a twelve-month nightmare here on Thursday when she defeated Arantxa Sanchez to reach the final of the women's singles at the French Open, reports AFP.

She will now play three-time champion Monica Seles for the title on Saturday. Seles beat Sabatini 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 in the other semifinal today.

Graf, who won only two games when she was humiliated by the Spanish player in last year's semifinal scored a 0-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory in welcome sunshine in just over one and three quarter hours.

## Chess players off to Manila

Sports Reporter

Seven of the eleven members of the Bangladesh men's and women's teams for the 30th World Chess Olympiad left Dhaka yesterday for Manila. The meet begins in the Philippines capital June 7 and runs until June 26.

Those who left yesterday include Ziaur Rahman, Syed Tahmidur Rahman, Jamilur Rahman and Rani Hamid who will play in the men's competition and Tanima Parveen, Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa, Afroza Khanam Babee who will play in the women's meet.

Team leader and current Chess Federation secretary K M Shakoor along with three others, Niamul Haq Niru, Khandaker Kayes Hassan and Rukhsana Gulshan, Nikkon, leave on June 7.

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed pulled out of the team at the eleventh hour due to indisposition.

## Olympic torch to be lit today

**ANCIENT OLYMPIA (Greece), June 4:** The rays of the noonday sun lit the Olympic flame Thursday, in a rehearsal of the ceremony that will send the flame to Spain for the Barcelona Summer Olympics in July, reports AP.

The official ceremony will take place amid the ruins of Ancient Olympia at noon on Friday.

It is performed by young women dressed as ancient Greek high priestesses.

The flame is lit by the sun's rays concentrating in a concave mirror placed on the altar of Hera, one of the principal ancient gods honored at Olympia.

From Olympia, runners will take turns carrying the torch to Athens, from where a Spanish navy frigate will take it to Spain.

It will cover 5,940 kilometers (3,691 miles) until arriving in Barcelona on the eve of the games' start on July 25.

Ancient Olympia is the site where the original Olympic games were born to honor the gods in 776 BC. They took place there every four years, with participants from all Greek city states.

For their duration, the normally quarrelsome states had to declare a truce so that athletes could train, travel and compete in the games without hindrance.

The games were abolished by the Roman Emperor Theodosius I in 394, as they were judged pagan after Christianity took root.

The modern games were revived in Athens in 1896.

## Lucky Scots draw

**OSLO, June 4:** Scotland were outplayed during the first hour and had to settle with a 0-0 draw against Norway Wednesday in their final warm-up game before the European soccer championship finals, reports AP.

# Leconte meets Korda in semis



**PARIS, June 4:** The crowd chanted, "Henri, Henri, Henri!" The stands shook; the mood was electric.

It could have been Lyon, six months ago, when delicious French fans cheered Henri Le-

conte and Guy Forget to a Davis Cup championship over a heavily favoured US team, reports AP.

This time the site was Stade Roland Garros, the event was the French Open. But Leconte again was the star, roaring back from two sets down

Wednesday to reach the semi-finals.

His emotional play, and the wild crowd reaction, brought back memories of Lyon, where he was the inspirational leader as France regained the Davis Cup for the first time in 50 years.

Ranked 200th in the world, Leconte is in the French Open as a wild-card entry. Even when he was invited, he hesitated before accepting because he was concerned about being out of shape.

A series of ups and downs, including back surgery, have brought him in and out of the spotlight after rising to No 5 in the world in 1986.

But on Wednesday, for his compatriots, he was the stuff of legends.

Supposedly in trouble in a long match, the 28-year-old Frenchman came back to beat 21-year-old Nicklas Kulti of Sweden 6-7 (8-10), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 to advance to the semifinals.

"The fans were fantastic, especially when I won the third set," Leconte said. "But I can't really explode yet because I have another match to play."

With his fists pumping after nearly every winning shot, Leconte was swept to victory by an emotional wave, similar to his third-round victory over Michael Stich, the Wimbledon champ and No 4 seed here.

This time, Leconte had to go five sets and play more than 3½ hours, not counting a one-hour rain delay. In his four previous matches, he won in straight sets, spending an average of about two hours on the red clay court.

Leconte next will play Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia who completed a quarterfinal victory Thursday over Andrei Cherkasov of Russia.

# Krabbe to run on her home track June 13



**NEUBRANDENBURG, Germany, June 4:** Germany's double world sprint champion Karin Krabbe

plans to return to action for the first time since the lifting of her doping ban at a meeting on her home Neubrandenburg track on June 13, reports Reuters.

Krabbe, who is waiting to see whether officials will allow her to run at this year's Barcelona Olympics, will run over 100 metres in regional championships, meeting organiser Ulrich Krueger said on Wednesday.

"Karin will compete on the Saturday over 100 metres and should be able to meet her Olympic qualifying time," Krueger said.

Krabbe's plans were also confirmed by the former East German's Neubrandenburg club.

An International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) arbitration panel will meet later.

## Pakistan beat Germany 3-2

**AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, June 4:** Germany, winners of their last four hockey tournaments, including two Championships Trophies, were beaten 3-2 by Pakistan in their opening match of a five-nation tournament yesterday, reports Reuters.

The German men's team, strongly fancied for the Olympic title, had won their four previous matches against Pakistan and looked to be heading for another success as they dominated the first half.

# Div II qualifying cricket results

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Pragati Sangha and Evergreen Club have qualified for the finals of the qualifying meet for the 1992-93 Second Division cricket league.

Dhanmondi beat Lalkuthi Cricket Club by 75 runs in the Group H final at the Mohakhali T&T ground while Evergreen emerged as the Group B champions outplaying Mohakhali Cricket Club at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Maghbazar Kishalay and Nayapalita Club are the two other teams who have so far made the finals.

Electing to bat, Dhanmondi made 160 for six wickets in their allotted 35 overs with Shamik scoring 41 and Biplob 32.

Lalkuthi were bundled out for a poor 85 in 24 over with sundries being the main contribution with 30.

Biplab, Mohsin and Shamik who took three wickets each. At Mirpur Pallabi, Mohakhali Cricket Club were all out for 142 in 34.1 overs with Maksud making 33.

Zayed of Evergreen took four for 23 while Imtiaz claimed three for 31.

Evergreen cruised past Mohakhali's total scoring 147 with five wickets to spare in 30 overs.

Bapfi and Humayun scored 49 and 47 respectively for Evergreen.

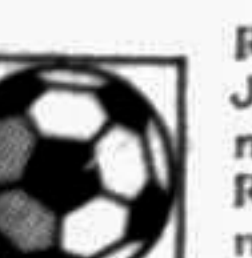
At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, DOHS (Jrs) recorded a convincing 107-run victory over Kalpataru Club to move into the Group F final.

DOHS will now play Cate Star to decide the group champions tomorrow, Saturday.

Batting first, DOHS Juniors reached the 200 mark for six wickets in the stipulated 35 overs with Kaiser topscoring with 85, a knock that included a dozen hits to the fence.

Kalpataru, in reply, were bundled out for a poor 93 in 26.5 overs.

# Michels banks on his vets for glory in farewell campaign



**ROTTERDAM, June 4:** Renowned Dutch coach Rinus Michels, nicknamed "The General," takes a squad of battle-hardened veterans to the European Soccer Championships as he bids for glory in his last major campaign, reports Reuters.

Michels, 64, who is to step down after the finals in Sweden, retains the nucleus of the exciting and stylish team which he guided to the title four years ago.

AC Milan Trio Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard are still the stars of the show.

The tough disciplinarian, who led Ajax Amsterdam to European Cup success in the early 1970s and the national team to the 1974 World Cup final, has stuck by the old hands despite their miserable showing at the World Cup in Italy two years ago.

The Netherlands have been impressive in recent friendlies against Austria and Wales and, with a strongman Michels again at the helm, there is little risk of the divisive infighting which ruined their World Cup chances.

A players' revolt just before the World Cup forced out coach Thijs Libregts, who had succeeded Michels in 1988. Leo Beenhakker, now at Real Madrid, eventually took charge of a team fatally divided between feuding factions.

The Dutch flopped badly in

ling at Voeller further tarnished the team's reputation.

The Dutch soccer association asked Michels to find a new coach for the European qualifying campaign but the bluff Amsterdammer promptly reappointed himself, saying there were no other suitable

petus.

The three Milan players enjoyed splendid domestic seasons as their club swept to the Italian league title without tasting defeat.

Rijkaard played superbly in midfield while Van Basten returned to form with a

given up the struggle long ago but the dreadlocked Dutchman stormed back with fine goals in his last two league matches in Italy.

Veteran PSV Eindhoven goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen will again be between the posts in what he says will be his international swansong.

Barcelona sweeper Ronald Koeman, whose superb long-range goal gave his side the European Cup last month, has settled his differences with Michels and will command a defence long on experience if short on pace.

Craggy midfielder Jan Wouters, who had a difficult season with struggling German giants Bayern Munich after moving from Ajax, will need to play a key role in protecting a somewhat suspect defence.

Michels has drafted a few younger troops into his orange army.

Emerging striker Dennis Bergkamp and exciting left-winger Bryan Roy are two of eight players in the 20-man squad from this year's UEFA Cup winners Ajax.

Midfielder Wim Jonk, who has blossomed at Ajax since the departure of Wouters, is another young player keen to

make a name for himself on a wider stage.

The Dutch are likely to provide plenty of thrilling soccer in Sweden.

"The way Ajax play — attacking and sparking — suits all the players in the squad and fits the Dutch type of play," Gullit said.

The Dutch captain is confident the players remain highly motivated after the success they have enjoyed with their clubs.

But Michels is more cautious.

"We are trying to create a good atmosphere in the group but many players have a season behind them. I wonder how they will react to that in the coming weeks?" Michels said.

"Two years ago in Italy the players were keen as well, but in the vital moments the psychological pressure was too great and nothing went right."

"I hope that it will be different this time."

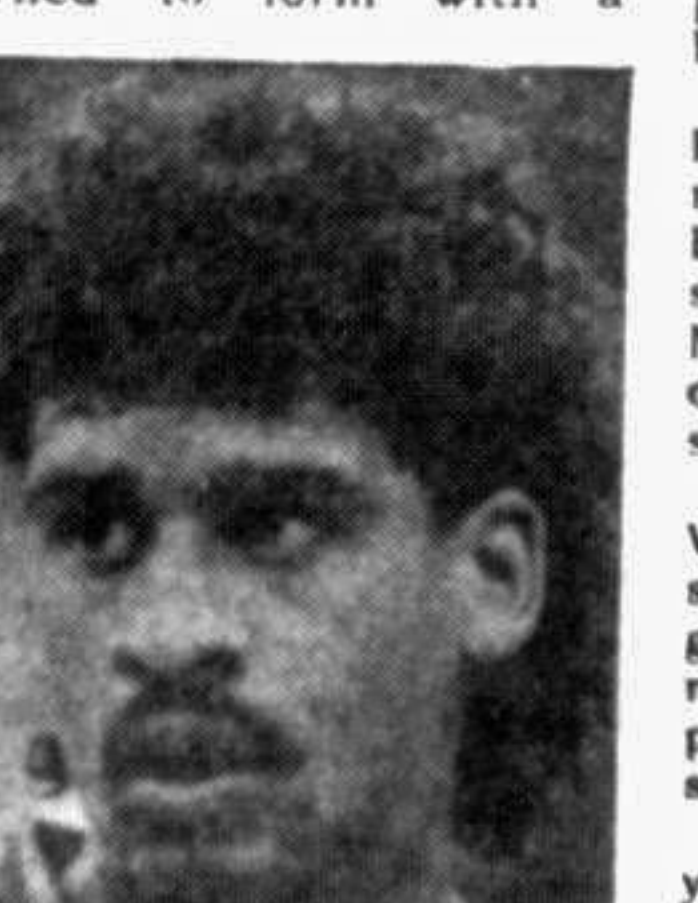
Recent results: Netherlands 1 Poland 1; Netherlands 1 Portugal 0; Greece 0 Netherlands 2; Portugal 2 Netherlands 0; Netherlands 2 Yugoslavia 0; Netherlands 3 Austria 2; Netherlands 4 Wales 0.



MARCO VAN BASTEN



RUUD GULLIT



FRANK RIJKAARD