

Sport

Div II cricket qualifiers on

Sports Reporter

The Second Division cricket qualifying tournament got under way yesterday at different venues across the capital. Four matches were held on the opening day. Zinjira KC, Shatgaon, Pragati Sangha, Sacheton Goshti and Malibagh Bright Cricket Club registered victories in their respective matches. Zinjira KC recorded a comfortable 83-run victory over Unity Sports Academy at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. At the Mirpur Pallabi ground Shatgaon Pragati Sangha crushed Farashganj by 124 runs. Sacheton Goshti registered a dramatic one-wicket victory over Tarulata Sangha at the Dhanmondi Club ground. Malibagh Bright Club narrowly beat Purana Palton Youth Club by two runs at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University.

BGIC basketball

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club maintained their hundred percent winning record in the ongoing BGIC Second Division basketball league with a thumping 76-33 victory over Bakshibazar Club at the basketball court adjacent to the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday. Mariner Youngs, boasting a string of national players, dominated the match from the very beginning and raced to a very comfortable 42-12 lead at the end of the first session. One again it was Zaheer who top-scored for the winners with 20 points. Abid and Moby played their role slam dunking 14 and 12 respectively. Tanveer kept the losers score rolling with 14 points. In the other match of the day Victoria Sporting Club, after trailing 13-14 in the first half, squeezed out a slender 31-30 win over Mitford Friends Club. Sohail top-scored with 14 for the winners while Shahinur notched up ten points for the vanquished. Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club led the points table with 12 points from six outings. Kurmitola Young Star with four wins and two defeats are two points adrift.

BHF picks 16

The Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BHF) picked 16 of the initially selected 29 men spikers yesterday for further training for the forthcoming sixth SAF Games, scheduled to be held next December, reports UNB. Bangladesh won bronze in the men's volleyball in the 5th SAF Games held in Colombo in December, 1991. The second selection of 16 spikers was made after a month-long first-phase coaching at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan under Chinese coach Li Jinying. The BHF is expected to announce the final 12 before the squad leaves for Bangkok to participate in the Asian volleyball championship in September. The selected players are: Zakir Hossain, Jahangir Alam, Sohrab Hossain, Ertajul Islam, Nur Ahmed, Kabir Hossain (Bangladesh Army), Nayem Chowdhury, Faruque Hossain, Asit Kumar, Abul Kalam (Bangladesh Rifles), Abdus Salam, Ali Farhad, Janc Alam (Bangladesh Navy), Golam Mustafa (Air Force), Momtaj Hossain Murad (Bogra) and Kayesul Haq Mukul (Rajshahi University).

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Motijheel T and T club will take on Swadesh Samaj Kallyan Jubo Sangha in the first semifinal of Janata Bank Pioneer football league tomorrow at the Outer Stadium. In the second semifinal Dipal Jubo Sangha will be up against KR Boys on the following day (Wednesday) at the same venue.

Army soccer

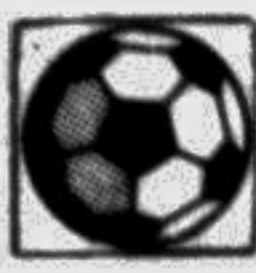
BOGRA, May 9: Savar Area drew 2-2 with Dhaka Signals in a Group A match of the Army football championship at Bogra, Cantonment today (Sunday), reports UNB. In another match of the group, Anti-Aircraft Artillery beat Mymensingh Area by a solitary goal here on Saturday.

Leng on course

BADMINTON, England, May 9: Britain's Virginia Leng rode Welton Houdin through a faultless cross-country test Saturday, keeping her in the lead after the second phase of the dhrs 128,000 Badminton Horse Trials, reports AP. Leng, who won at Badminton in 1985 and 1989, finished the 30-fence course well inside penalty time to give her a two-day score of 43.0. Tanya Cleverly of Britain, aboard Watkins, also rode a perfect round to remain in second with 43.2 points.

DMFA Cup kicks off today

Sports Reporter



The 1993 football season commences this afternoon when Adamjee Sports Club take on Pioneer Soccer Eleven in the opening match of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) Cup at the Dhaka Stadium. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka is expected to formally inaugurate the tournament, organised by the DMFA. In the second match of the day, Muktijoddha Sangsad will be up against Dhanmondi Club in the evening. The tournament is once again being held after a break of several years. Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union finished joint champions in the last DMFA Cup held way back in the late 80s. Nineteen teams, split into

four groups, will vie for in the elimination round. The group champions will earn qualify for the round robin league. The top four finishers of last year's Star Senior division league have been placed directly in the round robin league. Reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra and Arambagh Krira Sangstha are drawn into Group A while Mohammedan Sporting Club, last year's runners-up, and Brothers Union are expected to fight it out for the top two places in Group B. The top two outfits from each group qualify for the semifinals, scheduled for May 25 and 26. The final is billed for May 28. The following are the groupings of the first phase: GROUP A: Rahmatganj MFS, Muktijoddha Sangsad, Dhanmondi Club, Adamjee Sports Club and Pioneer Football XI. GROUP B: Agrani Bank, PWD Sports Club, Dhaka Wan-

derers Club, Sadharan Bima KS, and Badda Jagarani Sangha, last year's Third Division runners-up. GROUP C: Victoria Sporting Club, Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club, BRTC SC, 1992 Third Division champions Lalmatia Club and Bangladesh Boys Club who earned promotion last year as the Second Division champions. GROUP D: Wari Club, Farashganj Sporting, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and East End Club. The tournament committee has earlier disclosed the rates of tickets on Thursday. Season tickets for VIP Gate Nos 2, 3/A and 3/B will be up for grabs for Taka 250, 225 and 200 each respectively. Gallery tickets for the first leg and round robin league matches will be Taka 70 each while the semifinal and final tickets will be Taka 20 and 25 each respectively.

Mushtaq makes English county debut today

LONDON, May 9: Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed is expected to make his English county debut for Somerset on Tuesday in their Benson and Hedges Cup first round match at Nottingham, reports AFP. Mushtaq, who pulled out of the recent Test series against West Indies because of back problems, has recovered after treatment here. Meanwhile, Warwickshire wicket-keeper Keith Piper is likely to be sidelined for six weeks after badly dislocating his right thumb at Edgbaston on Friday. Piper, who was injured dropping a chance from Derbyshire's Tim O'Gorman, underwent surgery on Friday night and the injury will be in plaster for three weeks.

N'ganj cricket

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, May 9: Narayanganj Cricket Club Reds reached the final of the Gulbux Bhuiyan Smriti Second Division cricket league when they beat Three Star Club in the second semifinal at the local Osmani Stadium today. Batting first the Narayanganj Cricket Club batsmen rattled up 166 runs in the stipulated 25 overs losing five wickets. Alam top-scored with 69 followed by Milton and Ranjeet making 39 and 31 respectively. Mridul with 18 was the other notable contributor. Bapji claimed two wickets for 18 and Trishna took one for 17 for the losers. In reply, Three Star were all out for 152 with Shyamol notching up the highest score of 36. Sajal and Alam made 22 and 20 respectively. Anjan picked up four scalps for 28 while Rezaque and Mridul took two and one respectively. Meanwhile at the same venue, three matches of the Azad Products First Division volleyball league were held. Sonu Mian Smriti Sangsad reached the semifinals with a 15-6, 6-15, 17-16 win over Kashiipur Club. They will face Shumo Hosiery Club, who beat Mandalpara Jubo Sangha 15-7, 15-6, in the first semifinal tomorrow. The day's other match saw Dredger Directorate polishing off an easy 15-8, 15-1 victory over Chaurapara Jubo Sangha.

New MSC hockey committee

Sports Reporter Amin Ahmed and Dr Wali Ahmed Fattah have been elected the president and general secretary respectively of the newly constituted 16-member Mohammedan Sporting Club hockey committee. The other members of the committee are: Pratap Shankar Hazra, Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed, Delwar Hossain Dilo, Zakir Hossain, Emdadul Huq, Robul Islam, Asad Mian, Belayet Hossain, Taraq Md Iqbal, Hossain Imam Chowdhury, Sajed A A Adel and Ijaz Akhter Toufique.

Div I hockey

Sports Reporter Independence Day hockey champions Usha Krira Chakra made an unimpressive start to this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league when they struggled to a solitary goal victory over Bachelors' Club at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Usha Krira Chakra, who beat Mohammedan Sporting Club in the semifinal and Abahani Krira Chakra in the final en route to the Independence Day tournament title, got the winner through Qamrul Islam Kismat in the 13th minute. In the other match of the day Ajax Sports Club drew goalless with Sonali Bank.

Slater leads Aussie blitz



TAUNTON, England, May 9: New-comer Michael Slater led an Australian boundary blitz here on Saturday on the first day of their three-day game with Somerset, reports AFP. The 23-year-old opener set the tourists a selection pacer for the forthcoming one-day series with England by blasting 122 out of a total of 431. Needing to make up lost ground on Matthew Hayden after his rival had compiled his third big score of the tour against Worcestershire on Friday, Slater responded by thumping 20 fours in a high-class knock lasting 149 balls. Slater took full advantage of Somerset attack missing seamer Neil Mallender (groin injury) and all-rounder Graham Rose (side strain) after senior opener Mark Taylor had fallen for a duck to Dutchman Andre van Troost. The Aussie vice-captain was

Somerset's only cheap success as all the tourists' main-line batsmen reached double figures. Skipper Allan Border (54) and Mark Waugh (68) crashed 11 boundaries apiece and even fast bowler Merv Hughes, making his first appearance of the tour, rushed to 36 with the help of a huge mid-wicket six off Andy Caddick. Caddick, widely tipped to be in England's one-day squad, may have played himself out of it after being thrashed for 90 runs in 22 overs. The New Zealand-born 24-year-old claimed just one wicket in front of England manager Keith Fletcher, that of former Somerset favourite Steve Waugh (38), who edged a catch behind. Australia were denied the chance to make early inroads into the Somerset innings by bad light and rain, which halted play an hour early.

Scoreboard table for Slater's match with Somerset. Includes columns for batsmen (MJ Slater, M A Taylor, Van Troost, etc.), runs, and bowling figures (Caddick, Hughes, etc.).

Derby, Surrey easy winners



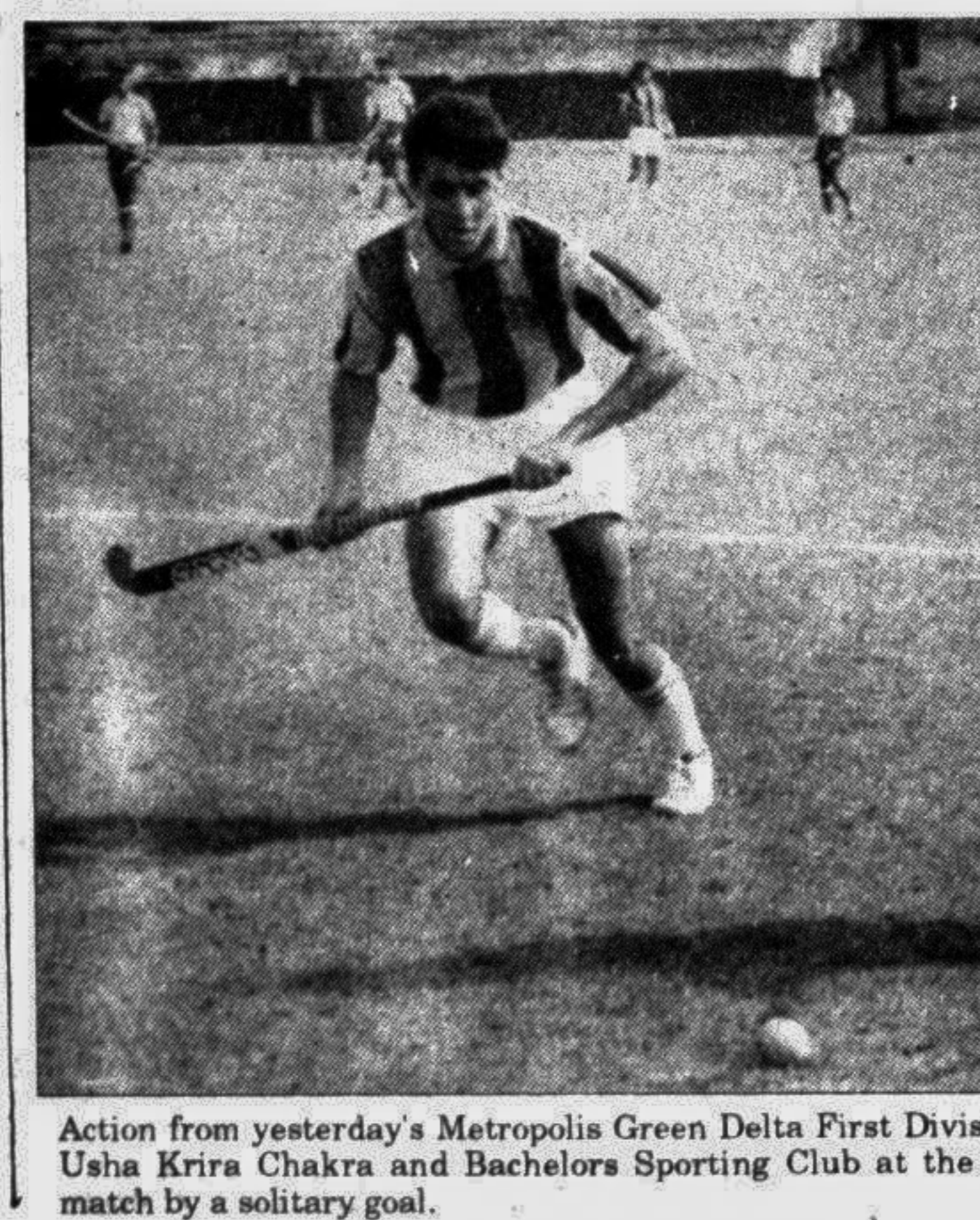
LONDON, May 9: Surrey and Derbyshire stormed to easy victories in the English County Championship on Saturday with a day to spare, reports AFP. Derbyshire scored their second consecutive innings win over Warwickshire, this time by 72 runs, while Surrey trounced Sussex by 10 wickets. Jason Ratcliffe made a battling 64 at Edgbaston, but it was all in vain as Warwickshire slid from an overnight 29 for two to 115 for nine, wicket-keeper Keith Piper being unable to bat because of a thumb injury. England A paceman Dominic Cork and slow left-arm Richard Sladdin were Derbyshire's match-winners with three wickets apiece. Meanwhile, Martin Bicknell finished with career-best match-figures of 11 for 108 in Surrey's romp at Hove after grabbing five for 65 to help dismiss Sussex for 243 and leave Surrey requiring just one to win. Elder brother Darren, who earlier compiled a career-best 190 off 417 balls with 23 fours in a Surrey total of 456, appropriately hit the winning run to give Surrey their second successive win and Sussex their second heavy defeat. Sussex, 243 behind on the first innings, lost their last five wickets for only 73, with Bicknell seizing four to record his first 10-wicket match haul. Gloucestershire would also have slumped to a three-day defeat had captain Tony Wright not scored a painstaking 75 against Northamptonshire at Northampton. Wright's four-hour stay enabled the visitors to wipe off their 186-run deficit and steered Gloucestershire to 281 for seven, just 95 runs ahead. Leicestershire look poised for defeat as well after Nottinghamshire claimed their last five wickets for only 15 runs in nine overs at Leicester. Spinners Andy Afford and Michael Field-Buss did the damage with three wickets each as Leicestershire were

skittled for 203. That left Nottingham a victory target of 143 and by the close they had reached 46 for one. Leicestershire's plight would have been even worse but for a fine 93 from James Whitaker, his first championship half-century for 11 months. Centuries by Mark Benson and Nigel Long, who shared a second-wicket stand of 203 in 57 overs, gave Kent a commanding lead over Middlesex of 289 with five second-innings wickets standing and a day to go. Durham, meanwhile, are 107 in front of Lancashire with all their second-innings wickets standing at Old Trafford. That Lancashire came so close to Durham's mammoth total of 515 for nine declared was due to England batsman Mike Atherton. Atherton, who had a disappointing tour of India and Sri Lanka, bounced back with a classy 137 including 14 boundaries to lift Lancashire to 442. Long's 108 was his first championship hundred. He completed it in 178 minutes off 158 balls with a six and 14 fours. Skipper Benson was rather longer reaching three figures, taking 265 minutes and 211 balls. He was eventually out for 107. Kent reached 335 for five by the close, with Matthew Fleming unbeaten on 53.

Derbyshire's 103-year history has made more in the fourth innings to win - Middlesex when scoring 502 to beat Nottinghamshire in 1925. Half-centuries from Richard Blackey, David Byas and Paul Grayson had earlier boosted Yorkshire from their overnight score of 11 for three to 307. Declarations will be needed if the two other championship games are going to produce decisive results. Centuries by Mark Benson and Nigel Long, who shared a second-wicket stand of 203 in 57 overs, gave Kent a commanding lead over Middlesex of 289 with five second-innings wickets standing and a day to go. Durham, meanwhile, are 107 in front of Lancashire with all their second-innings wickets standing at Old Trafford. That Lancashire came so close to Durham's mammoth total of 515 for nine declared was due to England batsman Mike Atherton. Atherton, who had a disappointing tour of India and Sri Lanka, bounced back with a classy 137 including 14 boundaries to lift Lancashire to 442. Long's 108 was his first championship hundred. He completed it in 178 minutes off 158 balls with a six and 14 fours. Skipper Benson was rather longer reaching three figures, taking 265 minutes and 211 balls. He was eventually out for 107. Kent reached 335 for five by the close, with Matthew Fleming unbeaten on 53.

Bicknell... 11 for 108

A closer finish looks likely at Chelmsford, where champions Essex made a rapid start in their bid to earn another place in cricket's record books. Set to score 455 to beat Yorkshire, they ended the day on 98 for one from just 23 overs with England skipper Graham Gooch unbeaten on 46. Only one side in the cham-



Action from yesterday's Metropolitan Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Usha Krira Chakra and Bachelors Sporting Club at the Hockey Stadium. Usha won the match by a solitary goal. —Star photo



Spaniard Conchita Martinez makes of forehand smash against American Mary Joe Fernandez during their Italian Open semifinal in Rome on May 8. Martinez made it to the final with a 7-5, 6-4 victory. Martinez faces Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, who beat another Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez in the final. —AFP photo

Martinez's best showing ever



ROME, May 9: Spain's Conchita Martinez, the sixth seed, beat holder and third seed Gabriela Sabatini in straight sets to win the final of the Italian Open here on Sunday, reports AFP. Martinez claimed the biggest title of her career 7-5, 6-1. Earlier on Saturday, Gabriela Sabatini refused to let a rain delay or the fearsome clay-court reputation of top seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario put her off as she reached the final by winning 6-1, 6-3. Sabatini, seeded third, is the defending champion at the Foro Italico and has won four titles here in five years. Banners around the stadium proclaimed the centre court "Gabrylnadia." The Argentine's sharp play under difficult, muggy conditions put an end to the three-tournament winning streak of Sanchez-Vicario, drafted in as a draw-card substitute for the injured Monica Seles. Sabatini ran her career record to 12-7 against the Spaniard. "I played my best match of the year today," she said. "I was sick at the start of the year and didn't really have

a lot of time to get back to full fitness. "But I'm feeling great now, both physically and mentally. I had to attack. I knew that it would be impossible to win by staying on the baseline." The 90-minute defeat, interrupted by an equally long rain delay after the first game of the second set, left the Spaniard with only her fourth loss of the year, against 39 victories. Sanchez-Vicario was unbowed in defeat. "I'm proud of my week here, and I'm not disappointed at all," she said. "Gabriela was more consistent than I was today, but that was about the only difference. I made some errors that I don't normally make." Sabatini will now play Spaniard Conchita Martinez, seeded sixth, who won a battle of attrition against No 4 Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States 7-5, 6-4. Martinez made 20 unforced errors, her opponent 42. Fernandez said a late night of doubles had left her tired. "I was not as fresh as I could have been. I was fit enough to play and win but I was very tired," she said. Both Martinez and Fernandez had trouble holding serve but the sixth-seeded

Spaniard was more consistent. Fernandez, the No. 4 seed, sought to keep Martinez moving and tried numerous drop shots to make her run, but the American's game was clearly off and she failed to score on her attacks. When Fernandez moved toward the net, Martinez passed her frequently with ease. The one-hour-48-minute match was marked by long exchanges from the slow red clay courts. The match before a near capacity crowd of 9,000 on the Foro Italico center court was played in bright sunshine in contrast to the torrential rains that have interrupted play over the past few days. "I played calmly and without too many problems," said Martinez. Fernandez wore a bandage over her right thigh, apparently the result of a muscle strain suffered in a practice session. The 21-year-old Spaniard served for the match at 5-3, but Fernandez broke her. But Martinez came right back on the American's serve, rolled to 40-15 with the help of two unforced errors and won the match when Fernandez hit a volley into the doubles alley.

Stich only one match away



LIAMBURG, Germany, May 9: Michael Stich was just one match from his first clay court title in 19 months on Satu-rday, after beating Emilio Sanchez in a thrilling semifinal at the German Open, reports AFP. The sixth seeded German, whose last clay triumph was in Vienna, edged through 5-7, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/2) after more than two and a half hours' play. And the final result was in doubt until the last moment. There were few opportunities to break the deadlock in the first set, and that proved to be a foretaste of what was to come. A backhand pass gave Stich a break point to lead 3-2 but he returned a serve into the net post. A second chance came at 4-4 but he again missed a return. Sanchez then held two set points at 5-4, but Stich saved one with a second serve ace and the Spaniard returned his next serve long. A backhand volley into the net at 6-5, however, gave Sanchez a third opportunity, and he took the set with a winning return. Stich responded to that by breaking Sanchez in the next game, and although Sanchez broke back to 4-4 he was unable to gain the second break that he so desperately needed to prevent the set going to a tiebreak. "I started well and was able to return pretty well. But he broke me in the first game of the second set and got more confident," said Sanchez. "After I broke back to 4-4 I wanted to break him again because I thought he would do better in the tie-break with his

incredible serve and volley. But I couldn't do it." With little to choose between them, the final set moved inevitably towards another tiebreak. Sanchez did hold a break point in the first game but netted a return, and then Stich held three match points at 6-5 before taking the tie-break with ease. "I won and that's the most important thing," said Stich. "I didn't play as well as against Lendl, but Emilio played very well and I had to fight for every ball." An all-German final failed to materialise when Andrei Chesnokov beat Bernd Karbacher 6-2, 6-4. It was the Russian's 250th career victory and one of his easiest. After claiming the first two games, Karbacher struggled to keep the ball in court and Chesnokov had little time to wait for his opponent's errors. Although the second set became more competitive, that was due as much to Chesnokov's carelessness as the German's ability to keep more balls in play. The Russian had to hit just nine winners in the 78-minute encounter.

Magic amidst familiar faces

HELSENKI, Finland, May 9: Magic Johnson was reunited with some of his former Los Angeles Lakers teammates Saturday to play his first competitive basketball game since retiring from the National Basketball Association, reports AP. "I'm looking forward to playing with the guys, see the country and have fun," Johnson said. "And I hope it's going to be fun for the fans and the Finnish team." Johnson will join former Lakers Michael Cooper, Bob McAdoo and Kurt Rambis, who still plays in the NBA with the Sacramento Kings, for a NBA all-star team's second game in Finland on Sunday. The all-stars, led by 29 points each from Moses Malone of the Milwaukee Bucks and McAdoo, a former three-time NBA scoring champ, beat the Finnish national team 120-108 Friday in Turku, western Finland. Sunday's game at Helsinki's 11,000-seat hockey arena will be broadcast live or on a delayed basis to 74 countries, organizers said. Other players on the all-stars include Kyle Macy,

Marques Johnson, Alex English and Ralph Sampson. The NBA career leader with 9,921 assists and perhaps in game's greatest guard in history, Johnson retired from the NBA after announcing in November 1991 that he had the AIDS virus. Johnson played in the NBA All Star game last season and on the Dream Team in the Barcelona Olympics six months later, but he decided against an NBA comeback last fall after playing a few pre-season games for the Lakers. "Everything is great," Johnson said. "I've been working out five days a week. I lift weights, for two hours or so, and then play ball. Everything is going according to plan." Johnson said he will keep on playing in exhibitions and in the summertime in Los Angeles, but said this tour, which also includes games in the Netherlands and Belgium next week, is not a stepping-stone to an NBA comeback. "I'm not really looking forward to going back," he said. "I'm not going to try that. It was hard the first couple of months after I retired." "But life goes on. You got to

continue to live. I still get to play. That's the main thing. I get a chance to play here and there will be other opportunities. Everybody's calling and want me to play all over the world." Last month, Johnson reportedly was offered the job as the Lakers coach next season. But he said he's not interested in coaching right now. "I've been offered a couple of jobs, but I turned them down," Johnson said. A group led by Michael Kohl and Bill Ballard that also includes Johnson put in an application for a NBA expansion team in Toronto. The NBA Expansion Committee is also reviewing two other applications from Toronto and one each from Vancouver and Tampa-St. Petersburg. Indications are that a Canadian team will get first crack at a new NBA team, probably in 1995-96. "We'll know in about three or four months whether we'll be accepted or not," Johnson said. "My future plans is just to continue to be a businessman, to enjoy life, my son and my wife, and continue to go after my goal to own a team."