Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between Dhanmondi Club and Dhaka Wanderers at the Dhaka Stadium. The match ended in a goallesis draw. Star photo

A sud den and swi

ft breakdown in

the Anambagh de-

fence helped Bro-

thers Union reco-

rd a cleceptively

impressive 3-0 win in the Star

Premier Division foctball lea-

gue at the Dhaka Stadium

Brothers led the first half

Arambagh, who finished

fourth in last year's league,

were expected to give a tacky

Brothers Union a real run for

their money. But they failed to

drive home the initial advan-

tage and on a slushy ground

Brothers with their heavier

and stronger Russian midfield-

ers gradually assumed control.

To cap it all two goals in the

space of two minutes midway

through the second half and

the Gopibagh side were well

and truly on course for their

match was launched by Ara-

mbagh when a stinging shot by

Zakir hit the cross piece and

went out of the play with

Ponir, the Brothers custodian,

ductive, pedestrian football,

After 33 minutes of unpro-

well beaten under the bar.

The first sortie of the

third victory in five matches.

yesterday

one-nil.

#### Maradona gives it a second thought

BUENOS AIRES, July 7: Diego Maradona, who announced two weeks ago that he was giving up football for good, is having second thoughts, reports AFP.

The Argentine was sacked by Sp.anish club Sevilla last week after a dismal comeback season, following a 15-month ban for excaine. Maradona, once the world's greatest footballer, returned here saying it was all

But he told a radio interviewer on Tuesday that he was now bein g tempted back.

Maradona said he had been contacted by Prosperc Consoli, who was president of Argentions Juni ors when the star made his debut for the First Division club at the age of 15. He did not give details.

saying only that Consoli wanted him to return to his old team.

#### Iran con iplete a deadly quorum

DAMASCUS, July 7: Iran completed the setting of a diplomatic minefiela for World Cup organisers after they won their Asian qualifying group on 7 uesday, reports AFP.

A 1-1 draw in Da maiscus with hosts Syria was en ough to give , ran the top spot in Asia's qualifying Group B - and a place in the last stage of the continent's battle to neach next year 's finals in Americ 11.

The International Foot ball Federation, FIFA, could not have chosen six more diffic ult teams to put in competiti on for Asia's two pilaces.

Iran will take on Iraq, uni il five years ago the!r sworn enemies. Also in the group the are Saudi Arabia, who led the Arab coalition against Iraq in the Gulf War. FIFA's problems will be completed by the presence of communist North and capitalist South Korea.

Japan are the only side not to pose a political quandary. But the Japanese have their own reason for being quietly successful in this potentially explosive second round tournament. They want to be the first Asian country to host the World Cup finals in 2002. The world body has spent

weeks trying to find a neutral country to stage the Asia tournament. After much discussion, FIFA announced Tuesday that should be held in Qatar, probably in late October.

The draw for this six-team event, with the top two qualifying for the finals, will be made in Zurich on July 15.

Iraq has already declared its intent on winning one of the places as a way of redeeming national honour after the Gulf

"Your mission is part of the confrontation between Iraq and the "Forces of Evil" as embodied by the Untied States and their allies," the army newspaper Al-Qadissiya told the team recently.

FIFA were also warned of the protocol problems ahead by Iraqi television. "For the others, football may be a game, for us its is a battle" went a song played by government broadcasters after Iraq's 1-0 victory over China in their

qualifying tournament in May. That battle cost nine lives and left 120 others wounded by celebration gunfire in Baghdad after the win, according to Iraqi press reports.

#### **STANDINGS**

Group B standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for goals against, points).

6 3 3 0 15 2 9 lran 6 3 3 0 14 4 9 Syria Aman 6 2 2 2 10 5 6 6 0 0 6 331 0

# Deceptively easy win for BU

Sports Reporter

Brothers shot into the lead through midfielder Uttam. Boris and Ripon teamed up to lay the ball on the path of the speeding medio who dodged two Arambagh defenders inside the box and place the ball into the net past Bijoy (1-0). The second of the match

did not see any marked improvement in the standard of the game. Brothers, who lacked pace upfront, controlled the midfield better mainly because of the three Russians who outweighed their Arambagh counterparts not by sheer by physical weight but also by their better ball sense.

Arambagh could not make any headway in this session mainly because of the Brothers defence who backed up the hardworking midfield with a no-nonsense approach in the

Skipper Moon was particu larly impressive in the Brothers defence nipping any Arambagh ambition in the bud with some clinical tackling.

Boris Spyrin, the most imaginative of Brothers' Russian trio, helped his side's defence breathe easily when he paved the path for the second goal 29 minutes into the

second half. He freed Ripon with an excellent through ball and the forward, who has been scoring almost regularly these days, hit the back of the net

Two minutes later the shabby Aramibagh defence allowed Rakib to force his way through following a Manik through and the striker of the national team had little problems in beating a muzzy Bijoy (3-0).

With this win Brothers now take their points tally to seven from five matches while Arambagh remain glued to their collection of four from as many

#### GOALLESS DRAW

Dhanmondi and Wanderers Club shared points in the Star First Division football league encounter held earlier at the same venue yesterday.

Unbeaten still Wanderers upped their collection to seven from five matches with yesterday's one point.

Dhanmondi have four points from five matches.

#### TODAY'S MATCHES

Farashgani Vs BRTC (4-30) Mohammedans Vs Rahmatgani (6-30).

### League suspended till tomorrow

### Pandemonium puts play off



The crucial Green Delta First Division hockey league encounter between Abahani Krira Chakra and

Usha Krira Chakra was abandoned after four minutes of the second half play as players of the two teams indulged in a brawl at the Hockey Stadium y esterday.

The match was going goalless when trouble broke out.

It all started when Abahani's s tar Pakistani forward Qamar Ib rahim stormed into the Usha de fence where his compatriot an d Usha defender Sarfraz ble cked his way and a skirmish foll owed. Sarfraz hit Qamar and as soon as the local players rus hed to aid their respective gues its, all hell broke loose.

Ush, a's Kismat stole the show of the e lay by getting involved in a duel with Abahani's Piru. Later the temperamental Usha forward chased the Abahani officials aus extra players and officials of both sides intruded the field lo oking more like the tele snippets showing clashes between the different rival groups in South Africa or elsewhere. Some of Usha's extra players roughed tup Qamar Ibrahim a bit as the vaunted Pakistan star seemed to be the target of a pre determined assault. The reason

#### H'ball training course ends

for this wra th could be traced in

MAIJDEE COURT (Noakhalf), July 7: A we ek-long handball training course for the female players conciluded at the Chatkhil Gov ernment Girls' High School ground Sunday, reports UNB.

Thirty female players, below 16 from Chatklail, Azam and Panchgaon Girls ' High Schools and Taltala Adars ha Girls' High Schools took part in the course.

A handball competition among the participants, organised by the District Sports Association, was a lso held on the final day.

Chatkhil Thana Nirbahi Officer distributed certificates among the trainees.

Sports Reporter the recent allegations of duplicity against Qamar by some

Usha officials. According to Usha officials, Qamar had earlier gave them word to play for them and took clearance from the Karachi Hockey Association but later opted to play for Abahani to go back on his word The flare-up in the field re-

sulted in heavy brick batting in the galleries which left two spectators injured.

Meanwhile, the league committee suspended Green Delta First Division hockey league upto July 9. The committee will met in an emergency meeting to decide the fate of the match between Abahani and Usha. With the first big match of the league leading to serious law and order situation it looks like

the authorities will find it difficult to complete league unless they come up with some exemplary punishments for the culprits of yesterday's match.

Abahani Krira Chakra have collected full 20 points from ten matches while Usha, who underlined their emergence as the new forces in the domestic hockey by winning Independence Cup tournament earlier this year, have 16 points from nine matches.

#### GOALLESS DRAW

The day's first match between Police and Sonali Bank ended in a goalless draw.

With yesterday's one point Bank now have ten points from eleven matches while Police have seven points from ten matches.

# MCC membership

LONDON, July 7: Indian batting legend Sunil Gavaskar has done an about turn and accepted an honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club, reports AFP.

Three years ago the second highest run scorer in Test history snubbed the honour because of a row with a Lord's gateman, who refused him entry to the ground. However, the former Indian

captain has now changed his mind, much to the delight of MCC secretary Colonel John Stephenson. Stephenson said: "It was an

unfortunate incident, but obviously he now want to forget about it and we're delighted he's accepted this second invitation. He was such a great

player and we felt we should ask him again." Gavaskar is one of nine new life members. The others are former teammate Dilip Vengsarkar, ex-West Indies batsmen Gordown Greendge and Steven Camacho, former New Zealand batsman John Wright, South Africans All Bacher and

#### Shelton follows the trend

Geoff Dakin, and Zimbabweans

David Ellman Brown Alwyn

Pichanick.

NEWPORT, R I, July 7: Top seed Bryan Shelton fell victim to a long-held tradition at the 200,000 dollar Hall of Fame tennis championships when he was knocked out of the tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

No top seed has won this tournament since it became a regular stop on the tour 16 years ago and Shelton is no exception. Despite winning the only grass court event in the United States the past two years, the 64th-ranked American was unable to avoid that top seed jinx as he dropped a tight first-round contest to Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3).

The other high seeds — Luis Herrera of Mexico. Javier Frana of Argentina and South African Grant Stafford - managed to survive their firstround tests.

Herrera, the second seed, struggled to defeat Mauricio Hadad of Colombia 3-6, 7-5, 6-

Third-seeded Frana cruised by American Richard Schmidt 6-3, 6-4, while fourth seed Stafford pulled out a 6-3, 4-6 6-3 victory over Gilad Bloom of

Matsuoka, whose ranking slid from 64 to 171 due to a six-month bout with mononucleosis, got an early break in the first set to go 2-1 up and never relinquished his advantage, serving out the set.

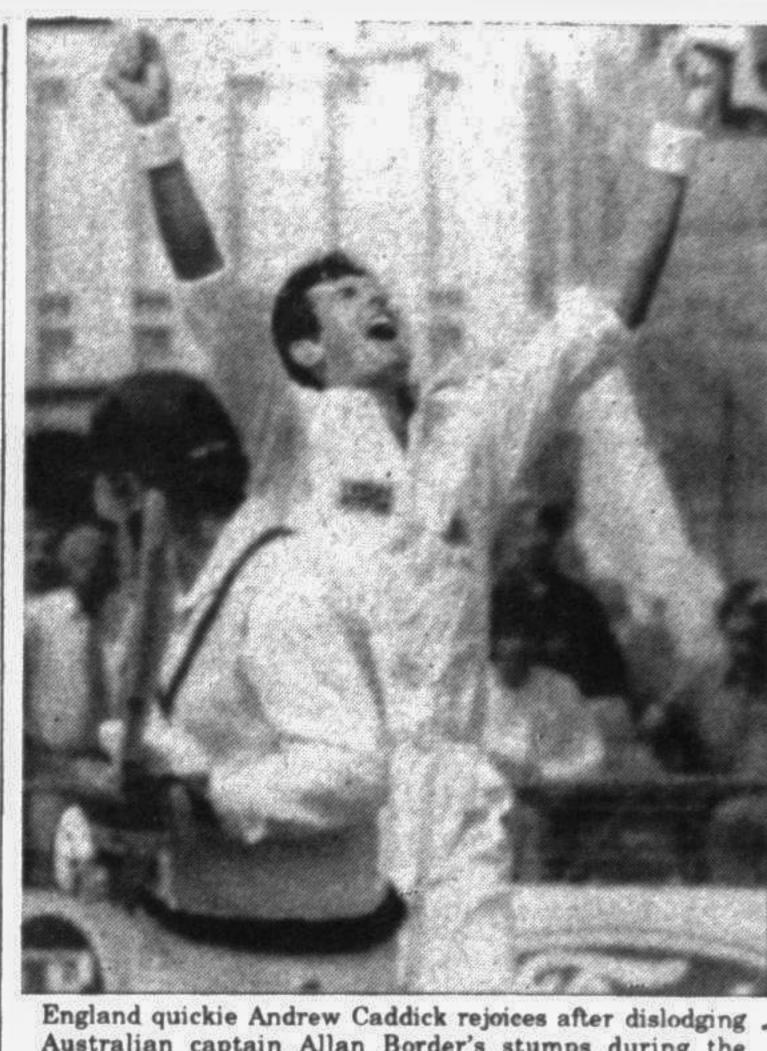
Both played a rapid-fire serve-and-volley style in the two hour 28 minute battle and a double-fault by the Japanese Davis Cupper in the eighth game of the second set gave Shelton his first break opportunity.

The American seized the opportunity by firing a return at Matsuoka's feet and later saved three break points to send the match into a third

Each player was in control from the service line and the match headed to a third set tie-break when Shelton failed to convert two break points in game nine and Matsuoka proved unable to capitalise on a pair of Shelton double-faults in the 12th game.

Matsucka finally found his return in the tie-break when a low backhand return gave him a mini-break for 4-3.

After winning the next two points on big first serves, he rifled a low forehand return to dethrone the champion.



Australian captain Allan Border's stumps during the touring side's second innings on the fifth and final day of the third Ashes Test in Trent Bridge on Tuesday. - AFP photo

#### Tillekeratne to lead Board XI

COLOMBO, July 7: Shri Lanka Test batsman Hashan Tillekeratne will lead a strong Board XI including four other Test players in the opening three-day match against India next week, it was announced here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Besides Tillekeratne, opening batsman Chandika Hathurusinghe, all-rounder Sanath Jayasuriya, middle-order batsman Marvan Atapattu and wicket-keeper Romesh Kaluwitharna will be the other Test players in the Board XI

India arrive here on Friday and will play the tour opener from July 12 to July 14 in northwestern Kurunegala.

In addition to the Test play-

ers, the local side will also have

the services of one-day allrounder Ruwan Kalpage, while promising teenage paceman Ravindra Pushpakumara will be seen in action for the first time against a Test side. The board XI team: Hashan

Tillekeratne (capt), Chandika Hathurusinghe, Chaminda Mendis, Dulip Samaraweera, Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Romesh Kaluwitharna, Ruwan Kalpage, Piyal Wijetunga, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Ajith Weerakkody.

## England regenerate Gooch

England, July 7: Graham Gooch, who had threatened to resign as captain had England lost again, said on Tuesday he wanted to carry on playing

reports Reuter. But he said he still planned to give up the leadership later this year and would not go on

next year after seeing his team

"turn a corner" in the drawn

third Test against Australia,

The man, who almost set up a dramatic victory over Australia with a brilliant 120 on Monday, said he was keen to help England - and his successor as captain - in next year's series against New

On Tuesday Gooch watched with undisguised pleasure, and some relief, as a seven-Test los-ing streak came to an end.

first Englishman for 20 years to score a Test debut hundred -

draw, taking the Australians to 202 for six as they fought tigerishly to protect their 2-0 Ashes

Gooch said: "Hopefully we

have turned a corner in this match. We had a new-look team and those new players have lifted team spirit.

"I was disappointed that we couldn't go on to reduce the deficit by winning this match and having six of them out by tea put us in with a real chance.

the West Indies tour.

Zealand and then South Africa.

Graham Thorpe became the

and then England's revitalised attack had Australia reeling at 115 for six by tea. But Brendon Julian and Steve Waugh hung on for a

series advantage.

than they had been in the first

GOOCH... one more year "But it was still a good pitch

> and you have to give credit to the way Julian and Waugh played in the final session. "It was nice to put pressure on the Australian batsmen for a change."

Gooch, who also scored a century in the first Test, added: "I've ben very happy with the way my own batting has gone this summer and I shall be making myself available to play next summer if (team manager) Keith Fletcher and whoever is the new captain want me. "Perhaps they may not want

someone to do the fielding for me, but if I am still scoring runs I think I would want to play." Opposing captain Allan Border said he had also de-

a 40-year-old, and I wish I had

tected a new spirit in the England camp. This was a real Test match. England appeared to be more enthusiastic and to be a lot more aggressive and positive

two Tests. "They played really well throughout the match and we were quite relieved to escape with a draw. England gave us a scare."

Border said that injured fast bowler Merv Hughes should be fit for the fourth Test at Headingley on July 22, but he admitted that he needed at least a fortnight's recuperation.

Man-of-the-match Thorpe, who hit an unbeaten century, said: "I'm so delighted at just being able to do the job I was picked for.

"It would have been an even greater day for me if we had managed to force the win, but it's still a fairy tale to score a century on my debut."

### Pakistan trim Dutch chances



July 7: World hockey champions the Netherlands Tuesday saw their chances for the

Champions Trophy narrow after being battered 3-1 by a vengeful Pakistan who scored their first victory in the tournament, reports AFP. The Dutchmen, who had

dazzled since the tournament opened Saturday with wins over Malaysia and Australia, looked lethargic and hopeless as they tried in vain to stop a battery of Pakistanis swarming all over their territory. The loss left the 1990

World Cup champions at the third rung of the tournament table with four points and a three-goal tally.

Pakistan, who lost 1-2 to Australia and 2-3 to Germany,

started aggressively and got their first break in the 33rd minute through a penalty corner by Khalid Bashir.

Barely had the shock in the

Dutch camp subsided when

Kamran Ashraf slammed in another goal off a cross from Mussadiq Hussain a minute Ashraf was on cue again in the 50th minute when he slot-

ted in a tap from Shahbaz Ahmad who beat three defend-Jacques Brinkman gave the

world champions a consolation by scoring from a penalty corner in the 57th minute.

#### GERMANS ROLL ON

corner.

Meanwhile, defending champions Germany continued their unbeaten run by crushing Malaysia 4-1 to stay at the top of the pack. The Germans played a tac-

tically superior game to score

twice in each half but toiled to protect their defence which was torn to tatters by the hardfighting Malaysians. The win was their third consecutive victory since the tournament opened Saturday

and left them at the top of the

table with six points and a goal-tally of 10 - ahead of the Netherlands, Australia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Spain. "Our grip on the trophy is still tight... we're not about to let go," jubilant German coach Paul Lissek told reporters as he wiped the sweat off his

charged game. Bjorn Michel put Germany ahead in the match shortly after it began by converting two penalty corners in the ninth and 15 minutes.

brow after the excitement-

The Malaysians, stung by the closed-spaced goals, immediately tightened defence and launched a series of counter attacks that had the Germans locked in their own goal - half until the breather. All in, Malaysia earned six

penalty corners and a flick in the first- half but missed scoring from any, including a penalty corner shot by Nor Satful Zaint which was disallowed for going too high despite beating German keeper Michael Knauth.

Germany remained bogged by Malaysia's attacks in the second half but Dirk Dorflinger got a break in the 53rd minute

when he turned home a cross from Michael Green to get a Michael Waldhauser followed up the effort within two

minutes when he made a solo

run on the left wing and shot

straight into the board past

charging Malaysian keeper

Paul Lopez. The Malaysians continued to hunt the German goal-mouth unsuccessfully until Mirnamwan Nawawi broke the jinx in the 61st minute through a rebound off Nor Saiful's penalty

#### **STANDINGS**

The standings of Champions Trophy: Standings (tabulate under

played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points): Germany 3 3 0 0 9 3 6 Australia 3 2 0 1 7 3 4 Netherlands 3 2 0 1 4 4 4 Pakistan 3 1 0 2 6 6 2 3 1 0 2 4 7 2 Malaysia

#### Qatar puts Gulf War behind

3 0 0 3 2 9 0

MANAMA, July 7: Qatar has put the Gulf War behind it and renewed sporting links with Iraq, much to the distress of Kuwait, reports AFP.

A club funded by the sports authority, Al-Waqra, has signed up two star Iraqi internationals and will also play a friendly in Baghdad against Al-Zawra on August 23, according to Qatari officials. Midfielder Leith Hussein

and striker Ahmad Radhi have been snapped up for 45,000 dollars and 50,000 dollars respectively, and will earn 2,000 and 4,000 dollars each a month. The contracts were signed

ibn Hassan al-Thani, who also congratulated Iraq on reaching the second round of the Asian qualifiers for the 1994 World Cup, Qatar press reports said. Khalifa has, meanwhile, also invited the Iraqi national

by Al-Waqra chairman Khalifa

squad for a training stint in "This wonderful news is proof of Qatar's favourable atti-

tude towards Iraq, said Anwar Sabri Abderrazak, Iraqi ambassador in Doha.



crucial Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Abahani and Usha Krira Chakra at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. The match ended in a fiasco after 39 minutes. - Star photo