

21-man team for Obaidullah hockey Gold Cup

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) have announced a 21-member team for the Obaidullah Gold Cup hockey tournament which is already underway in the Indian city of Bhopal.

Bangladesh which is preparing a team for 12th Asian games to be held in the Japanese city of Hiroshima on October, will play their first match on June 9 in the warm-up tournament.

The players are: Abu Zafar Tapan (captain), Irteza Kader Guddu (vice-captain), Rahmat Ali Asir, Jahangir Alam, Mamunur Rashid, Mahfuz Alam Nixon, Rabiuddin, Jahurul Islam Mitul, Khurshid Alam, Mahbub Harun, Hayder Alam, Musa Miah, Abdullah Piru, Zahid Hassan Raju, Alamgir Alam, Rafiqul Islam, Biaka Lusa and Ehtesam Hossain.

Besides three officials will accompany the team. They are: Abdur Rahim (team leader), Nurul Amin (manager), Protap Shankar Hazra (coach).

Div II qualifying cricket results

Sports Reporter

Sunrise SC, Shreejon KC and Falcon Eleven moved into the quarter-finals of the Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket as champions from their respective groups yesterday.

At the Jagannath Hall ground Shreejon KC earned a massive 10-wicket win over Nawabbari SSC.

Sent into bat, Nawabbari were bundled out for a meager 95 in 29.4 overs, with Itrat scoring 25.

Arun and Farhad of Shreejon who tore the Nawabbari innings apart finished with four wickets apiece. Arun the most economical among the two, gave only eight runs in 6.4 overs for his four-wicket haul.

In reply, Shreejon reached the 96 for no loss in 21 overs with both their openers Siddik and Monju remaining unbeaten on 48 and 34 respectively.

On the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Sunrise SC humiliated Friends Association by eight wickets.

Chasing an easy target of 79 runs for victory, Sunrise reached the total in 16.4 overs for the loss of two wickets with Solimuddin hitting an unbeaten 29.

Earlier, batting first, Friends were skittled out for a paltry 78 in 23.2 overs of the 35-over-a-side match.

Masud who was the pick among the Sunrise bowlers finished with an excellent analysis of 3.2-1-5-4. He was well supported by Imran who took three for 11.

In the other match, of the day on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Falcon Eleven thrashed Moghul Sporting by the same margin of eight wickets.

Batting first Moghul Sporting were bowled out for 81 in 22.1 overs.

Sabet with 20 and Nazim 14 were the only batsmen to reach double scores for the losers.

In a day with bowlers dominating the matches Feroque claimed four wickets for 20 while Khalid took three for only six runs.

In reply, Falcon Eleven made 84 for two wickets in 14.3 overs.

Rana remained not out on 32 to guide his side to an easy victory.



The players of the victorious Abahani Krira Chakra who won the DMFA Cup for the first time beating Brothers Union 1-0 in an action-packed final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Akram, Lara turn up heat

LONDON, May 31: Wasim Akram captured 8-30 to sweep Lancashire to their first English county championship victory of the season on Monday while West Indian Brian Lara hammered his sixth century in seven innings, reports Reuter.

A superb century from Darren Bicknell and a scampered by off the final ball of the match against Gloucestershire earned championship-leaders Surrey their fourth victory in five matches by one wicket.

Pakistani all-rounder Akram eclipsed his previous Lancashire best of 8-68 against Yorkshire last season to lead them to a crushing innings-and-88-run victory over Somerset.

Somerset, resuming on 136 for five, tumbled to 160 all out in 29 minutes to register their eighth defeat in nine matches as Wasim claimed five wickets for nine runs in 28 balls.

After taking 5-117 in the first innings, Wasim ended the match with a total haul of 13-147.

West Indies star Lara continued to rewrite the cricket record books as the match between Warwickshire and Middlesex at Lord's ended in a draw.

The 25-year-old left-hander made 140 — his second-highest score in his first championship season.

It was an innings too late to equal the world record of six successive hundreds but the Trinidadian became only the eighth batsman to make six centuries in seven innings, joining such illustrious names as CB Fry, Don Bradman and Wally Hammond.

Bicknell, who score 129 with his century coming up in 219 minutes off 163 balls, shared a first-wicket stand of 121 with Alec Stewart (44) as Surrey successfully chased a stiff target of 354 in 90 overs.

Victory came when Cameron Cuffy played and missed at the final delivery from fellow West Indian and Gloucestershire captain Courtney Walsh only for wicketkeeper Jack Russell to miss the stumps with his throw.



AKRAM ... 8 for 30



LARA ... 140

NZ-Essex match drawn

CHELMSFORD, England, May 31: New Zealand completed a satisfactory dress rehearsal on Sunday for the first Test against England this week with a draw in their three-day match against Essex, reports Reuter.

The New Zealanders, who have struggled with both bat and ball during a bleak English spring, followed up their first innings 428 for five declared by dismissing Essex for 334. They then batted out time, finishing on 108 for three.

Left-arm spinner Matthew Hart was the most successful of the New Zealand bowlers, taking four for 106 in a marathon spell of 44 overs while paceman Dion Nash captured three for 77.

Nash's form was one of the heartening aspects of the game for New Zealand, who lost their last first class match to Yorkshire by an innings.

But New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford said there was major injury worries over Chris Pringle and Michael Owens and said key pace bowler Danny Morrison, who has played only one first class match on tour, could yet win a Test spot.

"Pringle could have a ruptured disc in his back," he said. "He can hardly move and we're very concerned and it doesn't look good for him."

"Owens has a groin strain and his general fitness is not what it should be. We could have only four seamers available for the Test and Danny is one of them."

Morrison, New Zealand's only genuine world class bowler, has been bowling at a reasonable pace in the nets but Rutherford added: "We're getting paranoid about our bowlers' fitness now. Every time we go into the nets for practice we're expecting a bowler to pull up."

Leicester win

LONDON, May 31: Leicester beat Derby 2-1 (halftime 1-1) in the English First Division promotion play-off soccer final at Wembley on Monday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Leicester— Steve Walsh (41st and 87th minutes) Derby — Tommy Jonson (27th minute) Attendance : 73,67

Full Norway WC squad named

OSLO, May 31: Norwegian coach Egil Olsen gambled on inexperience by selecting little-known midfielder Dan Eggen and two international novices when he completed his World Cup squad on Monday, reports Reuter.

Olsen, leading Norway to the World Cup for the first time since 1938, said he put emphasis on players with attacking ability in choosing the last six for the 22-strong squad who will travel to the United States in June.

He named the first 16 earlier this month.

"These are six players who'll probably come on mainly as substitutes," Olsen told a news conference. "So, we've looked for an attacking ability."

"I've been looking for a good header of the ball on the right and Dah (Eggen) was the strongest," Olsen said.

Eggen, 23, who plays for Danish club Brondby and is likely to be an understudy for Joestein Flo of Sheffield United, has made only one international appearance.

Olsen named Sigurd Rushfeldt of Tromsø as his third attacker — alongside Jan Aage Fjorloft and Goeran Soerloth. Rushfeldt, 21, has made just two appearances for the under 21 team.

Uncapped midfielder Roar Strand, 24, of Rosenborg was included after a good start to the domestic season.

Chelsea defender Erland Johnsen, veteran Rosenborg goalkeeper Ola By Rise and Rosenborg midfielder Karl-Petter Loeken completed the squad.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers — Lerik Thors-tvedt (Tottenham), Frode Grodaas (Lillestrom), Ola By Rise (Rosenborg).

Defenders — Gunnar Halle (Oldham), Rune Bratseth (Werder Bremen), Stig Inge Bjoernebye (Rosenborg), Roger Nilsen (Sheffield United), Alf Inge Haaland (Nottingham Forest), Henning Berg (Blackburn), Erland Johnsen (Chelsea).

Midfielders — Joestein Flo (Sheffield United), Erik Mykland (Start), Oeivind Lenhardsen (Rosenborg), Kjetil Rekdal (Leerse), Jhan Ivar Jakobsen (Young Boys), Lars Bohinen (Nottingham Forest), Karl-Petter Loeken (Rosenborg), Roar Strand (Rosenborg), Dan Eggen (Brondby).

Forwards — Jan Aage Fjorloft (Swinnow), Goeran Soerloth (Bursaspor), Sigurd Rushfeldt (Tromsø).



World number one German Steffi Graf plays a forehand return to Argentine Ines Gorrochategui during the quarter-finals of the French Open in Paris yesterday. Graf won 6-4, 6-1. — AFP photo

Graf, Pierce sail into semis

PARIS, May 31: Top-seeded Steffi Graf and record-setting Mary Pierce set up a semifinal showdown in the French Open, reports AP.

Pierce, the No. 12 seed, routed Austrian Petra Ritter 6-0, 6-2 to reach a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time. In her five matches through the quarterfinals, Pierce has lost only six games, the best showing ever in the tournament.

Graf overcame 36th-ranked lines Gorrochategui of Argentina, 6-4, 6-1. She has reached at least the semifinals in every French Open since 1987, when she won the first of her three titles.

In another quarterfinal, No. 3 Conchita Martinez rallied to beat 16th-seeded Sabine Hack of Germany, 2-6, 6-0, 6-2. She will play the winner of a late match between No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and France's Julie Halard.

Pierce, raised in Florida but playing for France, already is assured of moving into the Top 10 for the first time when the next women's rankings come out next week. She is the first Frenchwoman to make the Top 10 since Francoise Durr in 1976.

"She's been playing very, very well, so I've heard ... She's definitely on a roll," Graf said of Pierce. "Hopefully it will be a good match."

Was she scared of Pierce? "I'm not scared, at all. About anything,"

Pierce insisted she had a chance to reach the final.

"I do expect it to be a very, very hard match," she said. "I'm not expecting to win, I'm not expecting to lose ... I'll try to concentrate on the ball that's coming to me and be aggressive."

Against Ritter, Pierce won the first seven games before the 103rd-ranked Austrian finally held serve. Ritter, who had never before advanced past the second round of a Grand Slam, came back in the fifth game to break Pierce's serve for only the second time in the tournament, but failed to sustain the momentum.

Pierce made only four unforced errors and hit 25 outright winners, compared to only three for Ritter, in the 58-minute match. French Open semifinals was eight, by Andrea Jaeger in 1982, but she had a bye in the first round. Graf, by comparison, has lost 26 games in her five matches here.

"I've played better the last two matches, and hopefully I'll be able to step up an extra gear in the next," said Graf, who has beaten Pierce in their two previous meetings.

Among the men, four big names squared off in two quarterfinals Tuesday: Top-seeded Pete Sampras vs two-time champion Jim Courier, and fourth-seeded Andrei Medvedev vs defending champion Sergi Bruguera.

The other quarterfinals, set for Wednesday, match Spain's Alberto Berasategui against fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic and 19-year-old German Hendrik Dreckmann against 46th-ranked Magnus Larsson of Sweden. Should Ivanisevic lose in the quarters or semis, the tournament would have an unseeded finalist for the first time since Mikael Pernfors in 1986.

"I can't believe it," said Dreckmann, ranked 89th, after beating Aaron Krickstein in a fourth-round match Monday. "If I lost I was going to get a holiday for maybe three or four days ... but it is better to play here than have a holiday."

Berasategui and Bruguera give Spain two quarterfinalists in the men's event for the first time since 1972. They are only men's quarterfinalists to have avoided losing a set here, although Berasategui's task was eased because his first-round and fourth-round foes withdrew with pulled stomach muscles.

Berasategui has played three previous Grand Slams, but never got past the second round. Dreckmann made his Grand Slam debut in January at the Australian Open and lost his first match in straight sets.



Nazar Ali Hossain (R), Abahani's Iraqi recruit, who scored the match decider of the third DMFA Cup final, gets his head to a lob but fails to find the mark with the Brothers custodian Ponir (L) well out of his position at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 The gamut

5 Ingrid's daughter

8 Shock

12 "Fame" singer

13 — Alamos

14 Hodge-podge

15 Aubergine

17 "Pretty Woman" star

18 Remit

19 In tatters

21 Beckoned on a beeper

24 Swiss river

25 "Zounds!"

26 New York City fountain specialty

30 Heavy weight

31 Another name for a criminal

32 Cagers' org.

33 Off-white

35 Sword handle

36 Pre-Velcro shoe

DOWN

1 Skilled one

2 Play-

3 Staffers

37 Owing

41 Send out invitations

42 Paddock parent

43 Intellects

48 On

49 Listening device

50 Perlman of "Cheers"

51 Broom closet

52 Resort

53 Chopin's love

1 Skilled one

20 Circle parts

3 Assoc.

4 Used a ray gun

5 "Macbeth," e.g.

6 Charged particle

7 Beadlike molding

8 He's in the running

9 Designer

10 Italian bread

11 — the line (behaved)

16 Young fellow

20 Circle parts

37 Penitent's smudge

38 Moham-medan VIP

39 Defense alliance

40 Rainstorm minutia

41 Taj Mahal site

44 Space

45 "Caught you!"

46 Lair

47 Blue

Solution time: 24 mins.

JOG BEAST BAG

ABE ANGLE IRA

BILLYGOAT LAG

ELL THELMA

GIBBON EELY

ALI RED RICHE

SILL SIR SLOW

HELOT PEP UNE

YOUR PROBS

MAITRE UAR

MAID BILLYBUDD

IDO ANISE FOE

MAL NADER OWN

CRYPTOQUIP

ANS TQVHU JNZBL
ESNAWPPRNVBT MBSBIW
RVPJSQHJNS BPMWZ
ANS HUNE PQWL

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE EXPERT REPAIR-MAN, FORCED TO RETIRE, HAS A FIXED INCOME.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals L

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.