

Sport

2 more Iraqis join Abahani

Sports Reporter Local football giants Abahani...

Skating competition

The third Dhaka skating championship was held at the Shishu Academy premises in the city yesterday...

Morris cracks first double ton

LONDON, June 3: John Morris scored Durham's first double century in first class cricket...

The former England and Derbyshire batsman, in his first season with Durham...

Morris reached three figures with one of his five sixes and also hit 24 fours as he ripped into seam and spin alike in a five-and-a-half hour innings from 282 balls.

Bill Athey also scored quickly, hitting 166 not out as Sussex made 305 for seven off 102 overs against neighbours Kent at Tunbridge Wells.

The former England batsman will resume today 18 runs short of his career-best 184 made in Sri Lanka nine years ago.

Paceman Greg Mike produced career-best figures of five for 44 as Nottinghamshire dismissed Yorkshire for 181 at Middleborough.

Only Simon Kellett's determined 50 from 128 balls prevented a complete collapse as Yorkshire struggled without Test debutant Craig White.

Another young seamer to notch championship-best figures was Peter Martin, who took five for 61 as Lancashire dismissed Northamptonshire for 330 at the county ground.

The 25-year-old paceman accounted for Nigel Felton and Allan Lamb in the morning session before returning to clear up the tail.

Pall Princhard, captaining Essex in the absence of Graham Gooch, hit a superb century as he led his side to 361 for eight from 107 overs against Gloucestershire at Chelmsford.

He stroked 20 fours on his way to 119, made from 174 deliveries, and shared in a stand of 192 for the second wicket with Jonathan Lewis who hit 109.

Tim Curtis also made a return to form, hitting a cultured 117 off 277 deliveries and steering Worcestershire to 398 for six against last season's champions Middlesex at Lord's.

DeFreitas returns in style

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 3: New Zealand were all out for 251 in their first innings on the second day of the first Test against England at Trent Bridge on Friday, reports Reuter.

On Thursday Phillip DeFreitas returned to the England side with a vengeance with a four-wicket haul to leave New Zealand struggling on 236 for eight on the opening day.

Only a fluent half-century by left-hander Stephen Fleming bolstered New Zealand but when he had made 54 he became DeFreitas' fourth victim, brilliantly caught by Test debutant Craig White, flinging himself to his right in the gully.

White had earlier marked the start of his Test career with the prize wicket of Martin Crowe, caught off a careless one-handed waft at a ball down the leg side by wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes, also his first victim on his debut.

New Zealand struggled throughout the day after winning the toss and deciding to bat on an easy-paced pitch which gave little help to the England bowlers.

But DeFreitas, dropped after the opening Test against Australia a year ago, was quick to make an impact when he came on as first change.

With his sixth delivery he had Blair Hartland caught by Graeme Hick at second slip for six and soon afterwards dismissed fellow opener Bryan Young for 15 in similar fashion.

Captain Ken Rutherford and Crowe, the pair on whom so much responsibility lies in this largely inexperienced New Zealand team, began to build a partnership but shortly before lunch White struck to dismiss Crowe for 16.

Immediately after the interval DeFreitas, truck again to

trap Rutherford leg before for 25 when he played down the wrong line and when Angus Fraser induced Shane Thomson (14) to give Hick his third wicket of the innings New Zealand were in desperate trouble at 108 for five.

Fleming and Adam Parore steadied the innings with a confident stand of 60, with the left-hander stroking several fine-looking off drives among his eight boundaries.

Play was halted for almost an hour because of rain in the late afternoon and soon after the resumption White's fine



DeFREITAS... 4 for 94 catch ended Fleming's resistance.

Parore fell soon afterwards for 38, Rhodes snapping up a thin edge off fast bowler Devon

Malcolm. With off-spinner Peter Such having Gavin Larsen caught at wide mid-off by Fraser for eight it looked as if England would be batting before the close.

But a defiant, unbroken 46-run partnership for the ninth wicket between Matthew Hart (28 not out) and Dion Nash (13 not out) saw them through to the close without further mishap.

DeFreitas finished with figures of four for 94.

England omitted left-arm spinner Richard Stemp and paceman Mark Illott from their squad of 13 while injuries to Danny Morrison, Chris Pringle and Michael Owens forced New Zealand to field one of their most inexperienced pace attacks.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the second day of the five-day cricket Test between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge on Friday.

Table with columns: NEW ZEALAND; First innings (overnight 236-8), Young c Hick b DeFreitas 15, Hartland c Hick b DeFreitas 6, Rutherford lbw b DeFreitas 25, Crowe c Rhodes b White 16, Fleming c White b DeFreitas 54, Thomson c Hick b Fraser 14, Parore c Rhodes b Malcolm 38, Larsen c Fraser b Such 8, Hart c Hick b Fraser 36, Nash c Rhodes b Malcolm 19, Davis not out 0, Extras: (lb-6, nb-14) 20, Total: 251.

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-37; 3-66; 4-78; 5-108; 6-168; 7-188; 8-194; 9-249.

Table with columns: Bowling: O M R W, Malcolm 17.4 5 45 2, Fraser 21 10 40 2, DeFreitas 23 4 94 4, Such 19 7 28 1, White 13 3 38 1.

Incomplete

All-Spanish men's final tomorrow

PARIS, June 3: Sergi Brugera, who struggled past Jim Courier in last year's French Open final, won easily in a four-set semifinal Friday to move into an all-Spanish title match with his friend and Davis Cup teammate, Alberto Berasategui, reports AP.

Brugera, seeded six, was far steadier in winning 6-3, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 on a windy Centre Court. Courier, groping for the consistency that helped him win this tournament in 1991 and 1992, committed 64 unforced errors and eight double-faults, to only 29 and one for his opponent.

Brugera will defend his crown Sunday against the 23rd-ranked Berasategui in the first all-Spanish final Grand Slam history.

Berasategui, who in less than a year has rocketed from obscurity to clay-court stardom, whipped 16 forehand winners to crush 46th-ranked Magnus Larsson of Sweden, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, and reach the final without losing a set. It took just 72 minutes, one of the quickest men's matches of the tournament, but the Centre Court crowd was enthralled by Berasategui's brilliant play.

Chess masters battle in India soon

NEW DELHI, June 3: Six of the world's top chess players will match wits this summer in the southern Indian town of Sanghinagar to decide three semifinal spots in the FIDE World Championship cycle, reports AP.

India's Vishwanathan Anand and Gata Kasparov of the United States, Russian Vladimir Kramnik and Boris Gelfand of Belarus, and Valery Salov of Russia and Dutchman Jan Timan will ace off in best-of-eight-games matches.

The winners will join defending champion Anatoly Karpov in the semifinal scheduled to be held in February 1995 which India also hopes to host in Sanghinagar.

Dhruv Sawhney, president of the All India Chess Federation, said the July 24-August 9 candidates matches would be a big boost to the game in the country where it is believed to have been invented in 600 AD. "It will be a very exciting event — to get six of the world's top players at one place is a major achievement," Sawhney told reporters here. "We worked very hard to get this to India."

He said the event would be the spark of a campaign to popularise chess in India, which only has produced two Grandmasters — world number three Anand and Dibyendu Barua.

Sanghinagar, an industrial township on the outskirts of the ancient city of Hyderabad, would be the first Asian venue to host the candidates matches.

At stake is record prize money of 210,000 Swiss francs (50,000 US dollars).

The sponsors, Shanghai Industries, have also offered a record 500,000 US dollars to host the semifinal. Sawhney said.

Minor change made to Romanian squad

BUCHAREST, June 3: Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu named 25-year-old rapid Bucharest striker Ioan Vladou on Thursday as the final member of his 22 man World Cup squad, reports Reuter.

Iordanescu had left one place vacant when he announced his squad on Wednesday. He selected Vladou ahead of midfielder Ioan Timofte, who plays for FC Porto, to replace injured striker Radu Niculescu.

Vladou, a short but aggressive and experienced player, has been capped five times without scoring.

SQUAD Goalkeepers: Bogdan Stelea (Rapid Bucharest) Florin Prunea (Dinamo Bucharest) Stefan Gabriel Preda (Petrolul, Ploiesti).

Defenders: Dan Petrescu (Genoa, Italy), Miodrag Belodedici (Valencia, Spain), Daniel Claudiu Prodan (Steaua Bucharest), Gheorghe Mihali (Dinamo Bucharest), Tibor Selymes (Brugge, Belgium), Vorneliu Papura (Universitatea Craiova).

Midfielders: Gheorghe Popescu (PSV Eindhoven, Netherlands), Gheorghe Hagi (Brescia, Italy), Ionut Lupescu (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany), Lulian Chirita (Rapid Bucharest), Basarab Nica Panduru (Steaua Bucharest), Ovidiu Stinga (Universitatea Craiova), Constantin Gilca (Steaua Bucharest), Dorinel Munteanu (Brugge, Belgium).

Forwards: Florin Valerian Raducioiu (AC Milan, Italy) Marin Ivan (Brasov), Viorel Moldovan (Dinamo Bucharest), Ilie Dumitrescu (Steaua Bucharest), Ioan Vladou (Rapid Bucharest).

Americans mean business

PASADENA, Calif., June 3: Don't count out the United States as a strong contender in the World Cup. That was the message given by players and coaches on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Although its critics say the US team is a token contender, automatically qualifying as the host nation, squad members insisted they are a force to be reckoned with.

One day after finalising its 22-man roster for the World Cup, officials and players on the 22-man squad were optimistic about their chances in the upcoming tournament.

"This roster represents in amalgamation of the great talent we have in this country," said US Soccer president Alan Rothenberg as the team was introduced to the media at a news conference at the Rose Bowl, the site of the World Cup championship game.

"The oddsakers seem to want to denigrate our chances and that's just fine with us. I have confidence that we are going to surprise all of those people out there who say we don't have a chance."

Coach Bora Milutinovi on Wednesday cut three players, midfielders Dominic Kinnear and Chris Henderson and defender Brian Bliss, to trim his squad down to the 22-man limit by the June 3 deadline.

Star US midfielder John

Harkes, who joined the US team Thursday after returning from England where he played for first Division team Derby County, said the US has gained respect in the international soccer community.

"With the results that we've had in the last three years after the World Cup in Italy, the rest of the world has just woken up and taken notice of the US side," Harkes said. "The respect has grown tremendously over the last three years."

Harkes conceded, however, that the US team will have its hands full in the first round with Group A opponents Switzerland, Romania and Colombia.

"People are saying over three in Europe now that our group is one of the hardest," Harkes said.

Harkes said that despite joining the team late, he is not concerned about fitting into Milutinovic's scheme.

"I've been part of this programme since '87 and I feel very comfortable here with the US side. I don't think there's going to be a problem."

Goalkeeper and team captain Tony Meola, who played on the US team in the 1990 World Cup, said his squad has matured since appearing in Italy.

"We were very nervous going into 1990. There are going to be some nerves, but we're a better team than in 1990,"

Meola said. "I think our biggest asset is the experience that we've gained over the last four years."

"In 1990, our average age was about 23 — and people didn't really realise how young we were. Now we've got guys like Jon Harkes who's been to Wembley (for various Cup final matches) five or six times. Tab Ramos is going to the (English) First Division and Roy Wegerle and Tony Stewart — we didn't have any of those elements (in 1990). The blend is very good."

The US team plays its first World Cup match on June 18 against Switzerland at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan, before coming to the Rose Bowl to face Colombia and Romania.

The US play their final preparatory match at the Rose Bowl on Saturday against fellow World Cup finalist Mexico.

TEAM

Goalkeepers: Tony Meola, Jurgen Sommer, Brad Friedel.

Defenders: Mike Lapper, Mike Burns, Ole Kooiman, Marcelo Balboa, Paul Caligiuri, Fernando Clavijo, Alexi Lalas.

Midfielders: Thomas Dooley, John Harkes, Hugo Perez, Tab Ramos, Cobi Jones, Claudio Reyna, Mike Sorber.

Forwards: Ernie Stewart, Roy Wegerle, Eric Wynald, Frank Klopas, Joe-Max Moore.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 23 mins and a solution key at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-58 and a key: VHPNYDVD YL OGTGY Y DOHPWX WRY GNHPLX GLX PLTYLX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: "CD OR NOT CD" IS THE DILEMMA FOR OUR FRIEND THE MUSIC COLLECTOR. Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals U. 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.

Pierce may prove just the tonic for French tennis

by Tawfiq Aziz Khan

It was absolutely superb tennis at the Roland Garros on Thursday. World number one Steffi Graf and little known Frenchwoman Mary Pierce showed us the type of tennis that is likely to be played in the coming

Ironically, Steffi Graf had a taste of her own medicine. It was administered by the 19-year-old French beauty who lives in the USA and practices her tennis there. The pundits at Roland Garros had their eyes on this match and how very right they were.

familiar name in the world circuit but the class of tennis she has been playing in this tournament should soon put her near the top of the list. And, in the absence of Monica Seles, she may become the number one threat to Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario for the top spot in women's professional tennis.



Mary Pierce of France is absolutely astonished after ousting world number one Germany's Steffi Graf in the semifinals of the French Open in Paris on Thursday. Pierce won 6-2, 6-2.

century. It was the semifinal match between the number one seed and defending champion and the number 12 seed in the women's section of the French Open 1994. Pierce meets Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain in the final today. Mary Pierce is not a very

The Graf versus Pierce semifinal was easily the most exciting women's match of the present championships. Pierce set the pace of the match by breaking Graf's very first service. She had all the answers to the world number one's powerful serves which, in some cases, reached 163 km/hr. the famous Graf forehands as well as the brilliant backhand and tricky drop shots.

Graf did not commit too many unforced errors but could hardly hold her service game or break Pierce. In fact she held only one game and broke once in the first set.

The pattern continued in the second set and when rain interrupted the tall (5 feet 11 inches) French girl* was leading 3-2. On resumption, Pierce did not look back. She held her serve and broke Graf and finally served the set out at 6-2. Again she played some tremendous forehands to which Graf had no answer and to top it all some of these shots barely touched the line yet were called in.

In another semifinal, Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario made it to the final for the third time in eight outings, her last being in 1991 when she had lost to Monica Seles. She is always jumping, pumping and running about the court like a cat on a hot tin roof. She is very ambitious and ruthless, her only concern being to win.

The number three seed, Vicario's compatriot Conchita Martinez, was practically no match for her. The big girl found it very difficult to keep pace with Vicario and made too many errors on some easy overhead volleys.

Today's final may turn out to be another short workout for Mary Pierce. After all, she had dropped only 10 games in her last six matches and dismissed the world number one with consummate ease.

Lewis lambasts practice

BOISE, Idaho, June 3: Eight-times Olympic champion Carl Lewis lashed out on Thursday at US universities who offer scholarships and financial aid to foreign athletes, reports Reuter.

"We are bankrolling the World Olympic movement when we should be helping our Olympic movement," Lewis told Reuters in an interview at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championships where he is helping to coach the University of Houston 400-metre relay team.

"In the 1976 Olympics, I don't know of any African sprinters in the finals of the 100 or 200," Lewis said. "In 1992, there were three in the 100, and they ended up second, sixth and eighth."

"And look at who they are," Silver medalist Frankie Fredericks of Namibia attended Brigham Young University, Sixth-place finisher Olapade Adeniken of Nigeria was a student at the University of Texas at El Paso and Nigerian teammate Davidson Ezinwa, a student at Azusa Pacific, was eighth.

Another former US collegian, Ray Stewart of Jamaica, was seventh. "Those are four scholarships for four years," Lewis said. "Who is to say if Ameri-

cans had been the beneficiaries of those scholarships, they (the foreign countries) might not have had anyone there, or maybe one."

LEWIS Lewis said he was not opposed to foreign athletes attending US universities.

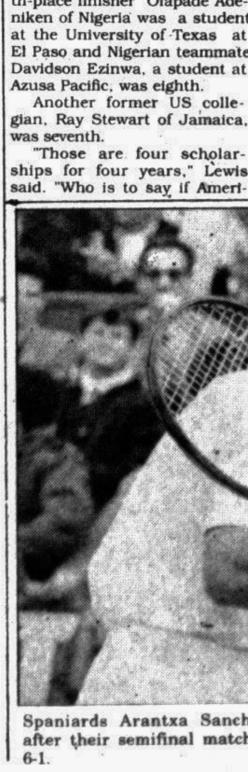
"That would be prejudice," he said. "I hope we have a million foreigners (come to the United States), it helps competition, it helps track and field get better. But I don't believe we should support other people's Olympic movements,

and that's what we are doing." The fastest 100- and 200-metre entrants in the NCAA Championships are foreign athletes. Nigerian Bode Obasogie of the University of Georgia has run the 100 in 10.01 seconds, and Andre Tynes of the Bahamas and the University of Texas at El Paso has a season's best of 20.32 in the 200 metres.

Also, the fastest 100- and 200-metre sprinters in the world this year are current or former US collegians — Adeniken, at 9.95 seconds in the 100, and fellow countryman Daniel Effiong, who has run the 200 in 20.10 as a student at Central Arizona Community College.

"The same things are happening in the sprints that happened in the distance races," said Lewis, referring to the wave of foreign distance runners who have attended US universities in the last 20 years.

"I think it's dangerous. I think we are creating a very terrible precedent. If the foreign athletes want to come and pay their own way, or have their country help them, that's fine. But the money from scholarships needs to go to American kids. It's American taxpayers' money, it's American sponsors' money, and it should go to American kids."



Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (R) and Conchita Martinez embrace each other after their semifinal match in the French Open in Paris on Thursday. Arantxa won 6-3, 6-1.