



Players of the Mohammedan Sporting Club team that annexed the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league title yesterday. — Star photo

Mohammedans regain title

Sports Reporter

The hockey team of Mohammedan Sporting Club has done what it was expected to.

Entering the last match of the Green Delta First Division super league, ensconced in the knowledge that only a point would help them regain the title and only a theoretically possible drubbing by a dozen goals at the hands of Mariner Youngs Club could loosen their grip on the title, the black and whites conceded an early lead to settle for a one-all draw at the Hockey Stadium yesterday and their extraordinary achievement of remaining unbeaten in four seasons had been extended to the 58th match.

With the title almost under threat and rape, Mohammedans went off at score last afternoon right from the bully.

Mohammedans opened up the Mariner defence in the very first with the gifted Pakistani, Shahbaz Ahmad providing inspiration with his sudden acceleration and stunning stickwork.

The lithe skipper of the World Cup winning Pakistan team set Haider Alam free on the right flank who, in a delightful but rare display among the local players, reading the maestro's mind, outpaced the Mariner defence before swinging in a cross which eluded Mohammad Irfan, one of Mohammedans' four quality recruits who already proven

his utility with the highest individual haul of seven goals this season, but found outside left Zahid Biswas and the speeding ball was scooped into the cage.

The early strike was, however, a very deceiving hint for the jubilant Mohammedan fans, who thronged at the stadium with high hopes of celebrating the happy occasion of title regained in a glut of goals.

The alarming dependence on the Pakistani trio of Shahbaz Ahmad, Tahir Zaman and Mohammad Irfan was exposed as Mariner, one of the title aspirants at the onset of the season, began to assert themselves with their seasoned Pakistani forward Muntaz Haider, a former Mohammedan player, combining menacingly with Biaka Lusai and Musa Miah.

However, the overwhelming superiority of the three Pakistanis, which had powered Mohammedans in the previous four matches to big wins considerably neutralised Mariner's thrust for the equaliser.

Although the men from Arambagh in blazing orange held territorial supremacy, they could never throw enough men in attack as they had to have a few sentinels behind to keep a tab on Shahbaz and for scoring or opening the defence appeared to be only a matter of motivation, at least at this level.

Unruffled by the presence of his illustrious compatriots in the opposition camp, Muntaz moved into the Mohammedan

citadel menacingly shortly before half time but the tall forward with peregrine looks lost control in the face of combined challenge.

Second half saw Mariners go about their task more imaginatively.

Biaka and Musa made some telling runs down the left flank but Mohammedans Pakistani goalkeeper pulled off a couple of important saves to protect the slender lead.

However, it was lost ten minutes before the final whistle when Mohammedans' Muntaz, in a desperate bid to stop a marauding Muntaz, used his leg and Indian umpire Wallia awarded a penalty stroke.

Musa Miah beat Mo-

hammedan custodian Ahmad Alam to restore parity.

FINAL POINTS TABLE

Final points table of the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league (tabulate under match played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against and points):

Mohammedans	5	4	1	0	20	5	13
Abahani	5	4	0	1	8	3	12
Usha	5	3	0	2	12	7	9
Mariner Youngs	5	2	1	2	13	6	7
Ajax	5	0	1	4	1	1	1
Sonali Bank	5	0	1	4	1	20	1

Hattrick: Tahir Zaman of Mohammedans (against Ajax SC) and Rafiqul Islam of Usha KC (against Mariner Youngs).

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1973-74	Mahuttuli SC	Wari Club/Sonali Bank
74-75	Abahani KC	Sonali Bank
75-76	Abahani KC	Sonali Bank
76-77	Not held	
77-78	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
78-79	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
79-80	Mohammedan SC	Mohammedan SC
80-81	Abahani KC	Abahani KC
81-82	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
82-83	Abahani KC	Sadharan Bima Wari Club
83-84	Sadharan Bima	Sadharan Bima
84-85	Abahani KC	
85-86	Not held	
86-87	Ajax SC	Mohammedan SC
87-88	Ajax SC	Abahani KC
88-89	Abahani KC	Ajax SC
89-90	Mohammedan SC and	Abahani KC (joint champions)
90-91	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
92-93	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1994	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC

Stich, Krajicek in final

STUTTGART, Feb 26: As soon as he got up Saturday, Boris Becker knew it was going to be a hard day. At least the torture was over quickly.

The top-seeded Becker suffered one of his most embarrassing defeats at home, losing 6-0, 6-3 to fellow German and rival Michael Stich in the semifinals of the Eurocard Open, reports AP.

Stich's victory in 64 minutes took him to a clash in the final against Richard Krajicek, the big-serving Dutchman who rolled past qualifier Martin Damm of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3.

Krajicek served a dozen aces in his 53-minute victory and dominated almost as thoroughly as Stich.

The dirr 2.25-million tournament is one of the most lucrative on the tour and the winner will collect dirr 395,000.

Stich, the No 5 seed, had never beaten Becker in five previous indoor encounters.

Tantrum costs Agassi dear

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 26: Andre Agassi lost his cool Saturday night. Then he lost his semifinal match at the US indoor tournament, reports AP.

Agassi — who had won 37 of his last 39 matches and all 16 in 1995 — lost to Thomas Enqvist 7-6 (7-5), 5-7, 6-2.

Enqvist will face defending champion Michael Chang for the first time in Sunday's final. Chang has a chance to become the first repeat winner here since Tim Mayotte in 1987-88, advancing to the title match by routing Paul Haarhuis 6-2, 6-0 in 51 minutes.

The only one taking a worse beating was Agassi's racket.

Here's the tantrum tally: —At 3-2 in the first-set tiebreak, chair umpire Carlos Bernardes gave Agassi a warning for ball abuse when the bearded bad boy rocketed a bullet about a foot (30 cm) wide of a linesman's head. He

later was fined dirr 350 for the incident.

—After the first-set tiebreak, Agassi received a warning and a point penalty for tossing his racket from the baseline into a drink table behind Bernardes' chair. Another fine: dirr 500.

—After the match, Agassi angrily threw his racket into the base of the umpire's chair, eliciting boos from the crowd and a dirr 1,500 fine.

"I'd be lying if I said I'd never lose my temper again," said Agassi, visibly embarrassed after the match. "I don't think umpires should get involved. They aren't a part of the game. They should stay out of the match and keep score."

Enqvist, who had 18 aces in the match, ignored Agassi's outbursts.

"I think that there were a lot of bad calls," the 20-year-old Swede said after winning his first match in 10 tries against a top-10 opponent. "I tried to concentrate on my

game, though."

For Agassi, a five-set loser to Enqvist in the first round of the 1993 US Open, Saturday's semifinal was a painful flashback. Both men teed off on every groundstroke, but Enqvist was sharper. Agassi had to win 12 consecutive points to avoid losing in straight sets.

Match point for Enqvist was a 120 mph (193 kph) service winner.

Last match under bar

LISBON, Feb 26: A Portuguese goalkeeper for the northern regional side Pico de Regalados died on the pitch on Saturday as he was warming up for a match, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported, reports Reuter.

Lusa said Albino Silva Ribeiro, 31, was dead when he reached hospital in the northern city of Braga after collapsing of the field minutes before a match against Panolense.

Eyewitnesses said Ribeiro was taking a series of warm-up shots when he failed to make a save and collapsed against the net. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Dynasty Cup Japan's

HONG KONG, Feb 26: Japan retained the Dynasty Cup when they beat South Korea 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out after the teams had been locked at 2-2 at the end of extra time, reports Reuter.

In a dramatic end to normal time, Japan appeared to have clinched victory when Motohiro Yamaguchi scored in the 87th minute following a free kick.

But the Koreans stormed upfield and Lee Ki-Hyung struck the equaliser in the dying seconds.

Japan had led from the second minute through a Masahiro Fukuda strike from outside the penalty area.

The first Korean equaliser came from a 30-metre effort by Lee Ki-Hyung in the 27th minute.



Japanese skipper Tetsuji Hashiratani displays the Dynasty Cup after beating South Korea 5-3 on penalties in the final in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP photo

Aussies ruin NZ centenary

AUCKLAND, Feb 26: Australia scored a comprehensive six-wicket victory over New Zealand at Eden Park on Sunday to win the centenary series limited-overs cricket tournament, reports AP.

Spin duo Shane Warne and Tim May set up the victory by reducing New Zealand to 137 for nine in their 50 overs.

Australia collected the required runs with 18.5 overs to spare, skipper Mark Taylor (44) and Mark Waugh (46) setting the stage with a 78-run second-wicket stand realized off just 90 balls.

Australia totalled 138 for four wickets with David Boon clinching the victory when he flicked a Chris Pringle delivery for three runs through mid-wicket. Boon was left unbeaten on 24.

Waugh hurried the victory charge by smashing his 46 runs off 47 balls, including eight boundaries — three of them from one Shane Thomson over.

The win here gave the Australians their third straight one-day tournament victory. The Aussies won a three-nation series in Pakistan and then the World Series tournament at home last month.

Warne and May bowled in tandem to run through the lower order, which succumbed meekly.

"We were never in the game from ball one," Rutherford said.

"The Australians bowled extremely well from the start and I was disappointed we still couldn't forge a couple of decent partnerships in the middle."

Reiffel — returning to the side after missing out on the five-wicket defeat at the hands

from a precariously placed 35 for three through a brief 46-run stand between Rutherford and Chris Cairns.

The introduction of spin then sounded the death-knell to the home team, which lost five wickets for 10 runs in the space of 30 deliveries.

Off-spinner May — who was named man-of-the-match — returned his career-best figures of 3-19 and leg-spinner Warne took 2-21.

"The bowlers were superb; between them, our five bowlers hardly bowled a bad ball," Taylor said.

"We had them under pressure from the first over and it's good to win another final."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in Sunday's centenary series limited-overs cricket final between New Zealand and Australia at Eden Park:

NEW ZEALAND

M Greatbatch c McGrath b Reiffel 8
 M Douglas c Healy b Reiffel 2
 K Rutherford c Boon b May 46
 S Fleming c Healy b M Waugh 0
 C Cairns c Taylor b May 17
 S Thomson c and b Warne 9
 A Parore c Taylor b Warne 2
 J Vaughan not out 20
 G Larsen run out 0
 C Pringle b May 1
 D Morrison not out 4
 Extras: (b-1, lb-10, nb-4, w-13) 28
 Total: (for nine wickets) 137
 Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-29; 3-35; 4-81; 5-102; 6-106; 7-106; 8-106; 9-112.

Bowling: O M R W

McGrath 9 1 25 0
 Reiffel 10 3 14 2
 M Waugh 10 1 38 1
 Warne 10 2 21 2
 May 10 2 19 3
 Blewett 1 0 9 0

AUSTRALIA

M Taylor c Parore b Vaughan 44
 G Blewett c and b Pringle 7
 M Waugh c Parore b Morrison 46
 D Boon not out 24
 S Waugh c Rutherford b Thomson 1
 R Ponting not out 7
 Extras: (b-3, nb-3, w-3) 9
 Total: (for four wickets) 188
 Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-98; 3-116; 4-121

Did not bat: Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Tim May, Glen McGrath.

Bowling: O M R W

Morrison 9 1 31 1
 Pringle 9.1 1 52 1
 Thomson 5 0 22 1
 Vaughan 6 1 18 1
 Larsen 2 0 12 0

Result: Australia won by six wickets.
 Man-of-the-match: Tim May (Australia).



Aussie skipper Mark Taylor poses with the Centennial Trophy after beating traditional foes New Zealand in the final of the quadrangular one-day tournament at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday. — AFP photo

Greatbatch, Jones recalled to Kiwi squad

WELLINGTON, Feb 26: Batsman Mark Greatbatch was Sunday recalled to the New Zealand Test cricket team to face South Africa in a one-off Test to start on March 4 at Eden Park in Auckland, reports AP.

Andrew Jones was omitted from the 12-man squad after averaging just 8.00 in the recent series against the West Indies and Greatbatch was called-up after performing impressively in the centenary series limited-overs tournament.

Former captain Martin Crowe, who missed the series against the West Indies while recovering from a knee operation, rejoins the squad.

The New Zealand bowling attack looks lightweight with Simon Doull and Chris Cairns injured and Murphy Su'a suspended after abusing an umpire in a club match.

Seamer Dion Nash, however, has recovered from a broken finger sustained in the first Test against the West Indies.

SQUAD

Ken Rutherford (captain), Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Matthew Hart, Stephen Fleming, Gavin Larsen, Danny Morrison, Darrin Murray, Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Shane Thomson, Bryan Young.

Garcia wins on a windy day

SEVILLE, Spain, Feb 26: Despite strong winds, Diego Garcia of Spain managed to set a course record Sunday and win the Seville Marathon by an almost four-minute margin, reports AP.

Garcia, marathon runner-up in last year's European Championships, covered the 42-kilometer (26-mile) course in two hours, 11 minutes and 21 seconds.

Countryman Jose M. Gonzalez finished second in 2:15:16, followed three seconds behind by third-place finisher El Hadi Moumou of Morocco.

Garcia, who didn't take the lead until the course's second half, had hoped to set a new world record. "The awful wind was a shame, because Seville deserves to have the world record," he said.

Taylor shrugged off his run of low scores in the series, anchoring the innings until he came down the pitch to Justin Vaughan and was stumped in the 26th over.

Taylor hit six boundaries in his 75-ball innings.

New Zealand managed the early wicket of Greg Blewett in the fourth over but watched in dismay as Taylor and Waugh piled up runs to ruin the Kiwis' centenary celebration in front of a 21,000 crowd.

The pair came together after Blewett was caught and bowled by Chris Pringle in the fourth over of the day.

Medium pacer Paul Reiffel earlier made inroads into New Zealand batting and

of India — accounted for the two openers and conceded just 14 runs.

Mark Douglas (2), Mark Greatbatch (8) and Stephen Fleming (0) fell to reckless shots after Ken Rutherford won the toss and batted.

Apart from Rutherford's top score of 46, extras were the next best with 28 in a dismal display of batting. The skipper's innings included three of the seven boundaries hit in the New Zealand innings.

Rutherford became only the third New Zealander to complete 3,000 runs in one-dayers, following in the footsteps of Martin Crowe and John Wright.

New Zealand recovered

Helmer bails Bayern out

BONN, Feb 26: A late goal from stand-in libero Thomas Helmer earned 13-times Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich a point at home to Freiburg on Saturday, while league leaders Borussia Dortmund beat Cologne 2-1, reports Reuter.

The win maintained Dortmund's four-point lead over Werder Bremen, who scored a valuable 2-1 victory at Bayer Leverkusen to stay second on 28 points. Freiburg's point kept them in third, a further point behind.

For most of the first half Bayern looked to be in danger of a repeat of their embarrassing early season 5-1 away defeat at Freiburg as the confident visitors went 2-0 up inside 30 minutes with headed goals from Kai Sundermann and Jens Todt.

But attacking midfielder Mehmet Scholl pulled one back on the stroke of halftime, with a lob over Freiburg goalkeeper Joerg Schmadtke.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

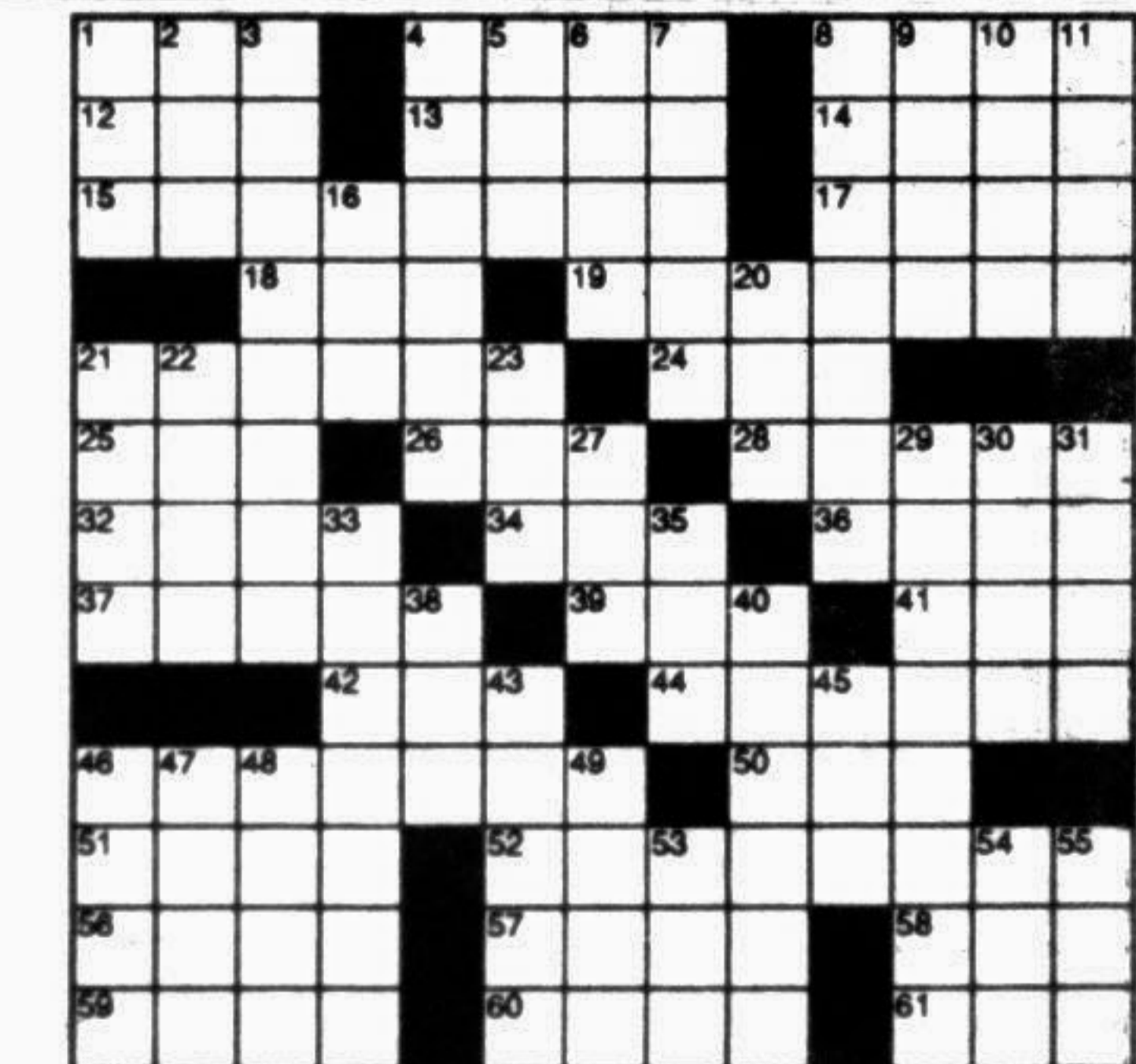
1 "Cabaret" lyricist
 4 Commoner, for short
 8 Neighbor of Florida
 12 Worker's compensation
 13 Trademark symbol
 14 Footless creature
 15 Blocking
 17 Finished
 18 Coal scuttle
 19 Basis for labor negotiations
 21 Set right, in a sense
 24 Gun the engine
 25 Line
 26 Wapiti
 28 Clark's partner
 32 "Sad to tell..."
 34 Smyrna, e.g.
 36 Fight the clock
 37 Philippine island
 39 Not neg.
 41 Pirouette

DOWN

1 Exterior:
 Solution time: 23 mins.

2 pivot
 3 Pref.
 4 Potential fratman
 5 Despondent
 6 "Zounds!"
 7 "Aigiers" star
 8 Medical school need
 9 Fairy-tale preposition
 10 Fleming hero
 11 Summer coolers
 16 Sweetie
 20 Gibson or Brooks

21 Russian sea
 22 Field mouse
 23 Polar employee
 27 1,000 pounds
 29 River, for instance
 30 Computer symbol
 31 Buree buy
 33 Led
 35 Atheist's lack
 38 Actor Wallace
 40 Earning a silver
 43 Pinnacles
 45 Canine coat
 46 Incas' home
 47 Andy's pal
 48 Famous flier?
 49 Caffeine-laden nut
 53 George Hamilton trademark
 54 Marilu, in "Evening Shade"
 55 Archery-bow wood



CRYPTOQUIP

MYZC NEYMYZ UR TYK
 Z Q I Y W A H D T N D U Q Z Y
 W Q B S U Q B S L S W A L W Y
 Q K K B T U R U R Y E H U Y .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MIND READER TO EMPTY-HEADED CLIENT: "FOR YOU, HALF PRICE."
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals W
 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.