

The players and officials of the Bangladesh Railway team, which lifted the Acme Second Division cricket league title beating Orient Sporting Club in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. -Star photo

Acme Div II cricket

Bangladesh Railway lift title

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Railway lifted the Acme Second Division cricket league title with a 61run win over Orient SC in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Sent into bat in the morning, Bangladesh Railway piled up an imposing total of 212 for six in their share of 45 overs with their skipper Harun hammering a dazzling halfcentury.

Harun, who opened the Railway innings, scored a breezy 64 to lay a solid foundation for his team. One-down Haris made 25 while lower middle-order bat Akbar contributed an unbeaten 26 off 34 deliveries.

In reply, Orient SC could manage only 157 before being bundled out in 43 overs. It could have been more humiliating defeat had not a defiant unbeaten 56 from AR Khan pulled them out of the mire to some respectability. Orient were at one off 52 balls. stage reeling at 50 for six.

Sumon, the wrecker-inchief, claimed three wickets for 39 runs in his eight overs while his new-ball partner Kabir took two wickets for only 17 runs in his quota of nine overs.

Nirman cricket

BKSP emerge zonal champs

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan (EKSP) emerged Dhaka Zonal champions of the 15th Nirman schools cricket championship, defeating Maple Leaf International School by 29 runs in the final on the eastern strip at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. In a low-scoring affair,

BKSP, sent in to bat, scored a not-so-impressive 150 before being all out in 38.3 overs. The BKSP total was built around a defiant 63-run stand for the eighth wicket between Moshiur and Mizanur. The two lowerorder bat, who wagged a long tail, rescued their side from a precarious 63/7 to an eventual match-winning total. Moshiur, who later did one better with the cherry claiming three wickets, scored 20 while Mizanur contributed a priceless 26.

For Maple Leaf, new-ball bowler Rashed claimed four wickets for 31 runs while Zaved took three wickets for 24. Joy with two for 20 in his eight economic overs was the other notable wicket-taker for Maple

In reply, Maple Leaf were shot out for 121 in 32.5 overs in the face of some accurate bowling from Nizam and Moshiur. who evenly shared six wickets among them.

Among the Maple Leaf willow-wielders one-down Nafiz top-scored with a gritty 33 while Navid remained unbeaten on 26-ball 22.

Johansson's first

COPENHAGEN. Mar 17: Swedish fifth seed Thomas Johansson landed his first ATP Tour title when he beat second seeded Czech Martin Damn in the Copenhagen Open final on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Johansson's speed and su-perb double-handed backhand proved more than a match for Damn giving the Swede a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 win.

The Swede showed signs of pressure only at 4-4 in the first set after serving four double faults. But the moment passed as he broke the Czech's serve. then secured the set.

Johansson remained outwardly calm and impassive as Damn took the second set, and the young Swede raced ahead in the third, building a 5-1 lead which Damn only managed to slim to 5-2 before Johansson

wrapped up the match. Johansson displayed power-ful and consistent serves and his returns have been among

the best in the tournament. The Swede said: "I don't have any ATP ranking points to de-fend before Wimbledon, so my goal for this year is to get even higher than the top 50."

Bangladesh win first warm-up

Sports Reporter



in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. 22-nation ICC Trophy, scheduled to begin on March 24, Bangladesh, who will feature in another couple of warm-up matches before the commencement of the qualifying tourney for the next World Cup, scored 70 for the loss of four wickets in 23 overs in reply to the Scot-

land total of 103 before inces-

sant rain enforcing a premature

end of what could have been a

one-sided affair. One-down Sanwar Hossain scored an enterprising 34 off only 38 balls on a dicey wicket for a predictably resounding victory. But in a contrasting style opener Javed Omar Bellim got himself into snail's gear to score a painstaking five runs

Javed, who opened the innings with Athar Ali Khan, was the last batsman out with Bangladesh tallying 65 in 19

Australia beat

South Africa by

two wickets in the

second Test to

clinch the three-

match series 2-0

on the fourth day at Port Eliza-

The tourists, who needed 270

to win started their hunt on the

overnight score of 145 for three

and reached home losing eight

wickets with dangerman Mark

bowling by Jason Gillespie and

solid batting from Mark Waugh

brought Australia back from

the prospect of defeat and left

them close to victory in the sec-

First, Gillespie snapped up

three quick wickets as South

Africa collapsed in their second

innings from their overnight 83

and an unbeatable 2-0 lead in

the three-Test series. Waugh

stroked an accomplished 54 not

out as Australia ended the third

day on 145 for three, just 125

nings began shakily as both

The Australia second in-

Then, needing 270 to win

without loss to 168 all out.

runs short of victory.

ond Test against South Africa.

Earlier on Sunday, fine

Waugh hitting 116 runs.

beth vesterday.

overs. Bangladesh innings was disrupted twice by heavy shower. After the first intervension of seasonal rain in the 18th over with the scoreboard reading 57/3, Bangladesh were given a revised target of scoring 88 runs in 35 overs.

out in 42.5 overs with middleorder bat Willimson notching highest 31 runs for the vanquished.

din Nannu with three for 20 was right-arm seamer Zakir Hossain who returned with fabulous figures of 5.5-4-2-2. Bangladesh will play their

second warm-up match against Holland at the same venue to-

SCOREBOARD SCOTLAND

D Cown c K Masood b Athar L Philp c K Masood b Zakir Lockhart b Saiful J Smith b Saiful Salmond c Enamul b Zakir G Williamson b Zakir Davies b Minhazul Bevan run out

Sheriden c Akram b Minhazul 2 Extras: Total (All out in 42.5 overs) 103

Blain c K Masood b Akram

Fall of wkts: 1-12; 2-32; 3-32; 4-37; 5-75; 6-82; 7-88; 8-90; 9-97; 10-103. Bowling Khaled Mahmood 2 Zakir Hossain

Saiful Islam Athar Ali Enamul Haq Minhazul Abedin Akram Khan 2 12 BANGLADESH Athar Ali b Thomson

Javed Omar c & b Sheriden Sanwar b Bevan Aminul Islam not out Akram Khan b Willimson Minhazul Abedin not out Extras: (b-2: lb-2; nb-8; w-7) Total: (For four wkts in 23 overs Fall of wkts: 1-4; 2-57; 3-59;

Bowling:	0	M	R	W
Thomson	4	1	5	1
D Cown	4	0	18	0
Blain	3	0	18	0
Bevan	5	0	9	1
Sheriden	5	1	12	1
Williamson	2	0	4	1
Result: Ba	nglad	lesh	won	by
a better run-r				1.00

Earlier, sent into bat in the the Royel Selangor Club ground morning Scotland could muster only 103 before being all One of the favourites in the

Experienced Minhazul Abethe most successful among the Bangladeshi bowlers. But it was

Aussies wrap series up

Sports Reporter

Matthew Hayden, were dis-

missed with only 30 on the

which has now seen him go 18

Taylor's run of bad form

board.

for 43 and then, after a superb piece of fielding from Grag Blewett had run out Jacques

Kallis for two, he picked up the

important wickets of Adam

Bacher and Daryll Cullinan in

nearly three hours, top-edged a

hook straight to Glenn McGrath

on the fine leg boundary. In his

next over, Gillespie beat Culli-

nan with a rapid off-cutter to

remove him lbw for two. Mc-

Grath accounted for Herschelle

Gibbs before the last five wick-

ets fell to the spin combination

of Shane Warne and Michael

wrist-spin, removed Brian

McMillan and Hansie Cronje

either side of tea and later

picked up the wicket of Allan

Donald to finish with three for

If Australia are successful

with their run chase they will

easily surpass the previous

highest fourth innings total

made to win a match at St

George's Park - 215 for five by

South Africa against New

18. Warne removed Shaun Pol-

lock and Adams.

Zealand in 1953-54.

Zealand in 1961-62.

S Waugh

Bevan, bowling left-arm

Bacher, whose 49 spanned

successive overs.

innings since his last Test 50 continued when he was trapped lbw for 13 by Brian McMillan. Hayden, who made 14, was the victim of a farcical run out when both he and partner Matthew Elliott ended up sprinting for safety — to the same end - leaving bowler Hansie Cronje with the simple

task of removing the bails. But that set up a spirited partnership of 83 between Elliott and Mark Waugh. Elliott was aggression personified as he struck eight boundaries in his 44 before pushing a full toss straight back to left-arm wristspinner Paul Adams just before

the close. Mark Waugh was then joined by his brother Steve and completed his 27th Test half century from 87 balls with eight boundaries and a straight driven six off Adams.

Earlier, Gillespie, who took five for 56 in the first innings. turned the match upside down with his three-wicket burst. First he bowled Gary Kirsten

openers. Mark Taylor and

Subaru reaping rich

The 555 Subaru World Rally Team are already reaping the rewards of a year-long strategic assault on both the World Rally Championship for Drivers and Manufacturers; three outright victories with three different drivers and a commanding 14 point advantage for Subaru after the opening three specialist events of the season, says a press release.

1995 World Champion, Colin McRae — who is contesting all 14 rounds of the series is currently leading the Drivers' Championship after an outstanding drive in Kenya on what is unquestionably the world's toughest rally - the 555 Safari Rally. Teammates, Piero Liatti and Kenneth Eriksson have also had their first taste of World Championship success with the team with victories in Monte Carlo and Sweden respectively. Maximum points on all three rounds has put Subaru at the head of the all-important Manufacturers' Championship by a clear 14 points, demonstrating the prowess and superiority of the Japanese giant's world rally car - the Subaru

Impreza 555 WRC97.

With only two cars registering for points in the Manufacturers' Championship in 1997, this season-long commitment by all three drivers, to testing as well as events, is providing a critical platform for Subaru to bid for their third consecutive Manufacturers' title.

tics of using all three drivers not only strengthens our performance on the events, but is a great asset when it comes to testing," commented David Richards, Team Director of the 555 Subaru World Rally Team.

The official driver line-up for the next five World Championship rounds will therefore be as follows, with the remaining rounds issued as the season progresses.

Rally of Portugal: Colin McRae & Kenneth Eriksson Rally of Spain: Colin McRae & Piero Liatti Rally of Corsica: Colin McRae & Piero Liatti Rally of Argentina: Colin McRae & Kenneth Eriksson Rally of Greece: Colin McRae & Kenneth Eriksson



his mind to quit the office while one of his deputy Jahidul Islam Pushkin had already tendered his resignation last nigh following a disgraceful incident at the second semifinal of the Karnaphuli Garden City Club cup hockey tournament

An umpire was mercilessly

Mariner Young's, enforcing an injunction on play after only 25 minutes of the match. The unholy practice took place follow-ing the hooliganism in the first semifinal between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Usha Krira Chakra on Sunday.

seemed that there were hardly any control over the unruly players and spectators, who in a fatal exhibition of swooping on the umpires left Ramiz and Mir Monwar injured. Among the two, Monwar was severely beaten up by the players of Mariners and immediately taken to hospital on critical conditions.

"This is unbelievable. I have never seen such horrible thing in my life ", said Shamsul Bari to this reporter late last night. While confirming the resignation of Pushkin, a joint-secretary of BHF, the long-standing general secretary of BHF added that he had already prepared his own and would submit it to

I had a firm belief that hockey in this country will be profited most with the installation of the artificial turf, but to my sheer disappointment the evil has gripped the arena " said Bari. Besides, he added that temporary solution like penalising a player for his wrong-doing was not enough to save hockey in our country.

stones in sensitive areas like the artificial turfs and the officials along with their players do whatever hell they like to do, you simply cannot expect a single day without trouble", remarked Bari with a tinge of resentment.

failure that we could not ensure the security of umpires and refrain the players from this sort of distasteful and disgraceful act", said Shamsul Bari.

Sidhu's maiden double ton

A slow but steady 201 by opener Navjot Singh Sidhu helped India to reach 436, a lead of 140 runs in their first in nings of the second Test against West Indies at the Queens Park Oval, according to Star Sport

ond innings shortly after lunch and were 18 without loss when this report was filed.

qualifying chess

the other three in the crowded top slot in the qualifying round of the national women's chess championship on completion of the third round at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

disappointing draw in the previous round, returned to winning ways at the expense Faizunnesa Poli for her second win. With this win, Eva joined Masuda, Jahanara Haq and Zakia Sultan atop the table—all having collected two and a half

Masuda and Jahanara, who had earlier won their Previous two games, settled for a draw while Zakia lost her first half point when Afsana parveen Nira forced her to accept a draw.

DU football

Department of Geology trounced Applied Chemistry by three goals to nil in yesterday's Dhaka University inter-department soccer championship clash at the Central Sports Ground

For the winners Nolok Chandra Ghosh scored twice while Ashfaq added one.

players Palash (No-14) and Sabuj (No-17) grounded with a series of blows on his knees and other parts of the body. It was later learnt Sabuj's name was not even there in the 16-man players' list that Mariners submitted to the tournament

It took 20 minutes for the other umpire, Maksudur Rahman, to step in and stop the match prematurely with the help of the police. Talking to the press at the

Sports Reporter

An unconscious umpire Mir Monwarul Islam, who was severely beaten up by Mariner

Young's Club hockey players during the second semifinal of Karnaphuli Garden City Club

Cup tournament yesterday, being carried off the ground by federation officials.

fated Karnaphuli dressing room, a frightened Maksudur Rahman said, "We Garden City Club Cup tournablame Mariners for the incident ment when yet another umpire fell victim to the wrath of playbecause they rescued Monu. ers' torment. The victim, Mir After this episode umpires have to think about their own safety Monwarul Islam Monu was before setting foot here." mercilessly beaten by the players of Mariner Young's Club Rehanul Karim Babul, the during the second semifinal

secretary of the tournament committee, was found more worried about the future of the tournament. "I don't know how to condemn this incident. The tournament cannot go on," he said.

BUET hockey Sports Reporter

Sher-e-Bangla Hall clinched the inter-hall hockey title of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) defeating Nazrul Islam Hall in tiebreakers (2-1) in the final held on Sunday afternoon.

Professor Dr. Iqbal Mahmood. Vice Chancellor of the university, witnessed the final and later handed over the tro-

Hooliganism humbles again Afterwards the tournament committee, headed by DC (east) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

-Star photo

cided to postpone the tournament for the time being. "This is a temporary decision. We will sit again very soon and let you know about the future of the tournament," said Babul after the meeting.

Nayeem Ahmed, has an hour-

long close-door meeting. It de-

When asked whether they will take any legal action against the players who hit the umpire, tournament committee chairman Nayeem Ahmed said that they were yet to receive the FIR without which they can not do anything.

Meanwhile, umpire Mir Monwarul Islam was admitted to a clinic in Mitford last, according to Bangladesh Hockey Federation officials. Earlier. Mohammedan

Sporting Club beat Usha Krira Chakra 3-2 in the day's first match.

In the remaining 31 minutes of the match, which was postponed on Saturday after 39 minutes of play with Mohammedans leading 2-1, strikers Siam-e-Noor of Mohammedans and Kamal of Usha netted one goal each in the 42nd and 54th minutes respectively.

USA crush Canada



against Abahani.

It happened in the 25th

minute of the proceedings when

Abahani, trailing 0-1, levelled

the scores through a penalty

corner. Immediately after ref-

eree Monu signalled the goal.

all the Mariner players includ-

ing the reserves rushed towards

the umpire and surrounded

him. Defender Minar (No-3),

who was on the substitute

bench, first pushed Monu with

his elbow. Next two reserve

committee prior to the game.

PALO ALTO, California, Mar 17: Eddie Pope nodded home a deflected corner

Hooliganism

reared its ugly

head at the

Hockey Stadium

once again vester-

day in the ill-

kick and Eric Wynalda converted a penalty chance, sparking the United States past Canada 3-0 here Sunday in a World Cup qualifying match, reports AFP.

The result ended a sevengame winless streak by the US team, including their goalless draw at Jamaica two weeks ago in their Confederation of North and Central American and Caribbean Football final-round

"We played some brilliant soccer early on, then we let them get into their game," US coach Steve Sampson said. "We got out rhythm in the second Wynalda, the leading US

scorer, converted the penalty in the eighth minute and Pope, coming back from an injury after missing the Jamaica trip. headed home the second goal six minutes later to solidify the advantage. Ernie Stewart finished the

scoring in the 89th minute, racing down the right side, taking a pass from Michael Mason and flicking home a shot into the lower left corner of the goal. Canada's twin defeats puts

them at an early deficit in the chase for three positions in the finals field for the 1998 World Cup in France. "We knew these two games

would be tough. We wanted to provide a base for us to build on," Canadian coach Bob Lenarduzzi said. The United States matched

Mexico atop the group with four

points. The Mexicans opened by blanking Canada 4-0 and followed with a goalless draw against Costa Rica.

The squad had lost four and drawn three in its past seven starts but snapped its skid before heading to Costa Rica next

"You will see a more cohesive unit next week in Costa Rica, Sampson said, "We will have more time together. That's what it will take for us to get better."

Stewart will miss the Costa Rica game after a second yellow card in as many games.

STANDINGS

Concacaf World Cup qualifying standings on Sunday: M W D LG/FG/A Pts Teams:

2 1 1 0 4 0 1. Mexico 2. United States 2 1 1 0 3 0 3. Costa Rica 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 4. Jamaica 5. El Salvador 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 7 0 6. Canada

Shooters earn distinction

Bangladesh shooting team bagged 23 medals, including nine golds, eight silvers and six bronzes in the just concluded second South Asian Championship held in New Delhi, reports BSS. Sabrina Sultana and Saiful

Alam Rinki clinched four and three golds respectively both in individual and team events. This is for the first time Bangladesh earned such hon-

The team participated in 1

Five-nation hockey

England hold Pakistan

KARACHI, Mar 17: World champions Pakistan were held 1-1 by England on the opening day of the five-nation hockey tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

Both Pakistan and a newlook England side failed to find a winning edge in a hard-fought match. Russell Garcia put England ahead while Mohammad Shahbaz Jr replied for the world champions.

Both goals came in the first session. Pakistani custodian Man-

soor Ahmed made some good saves but had to put up with a frail defence. Mansoor who is also captain

of the home team had reason to show his displeasure at the re-We missed some sitters and

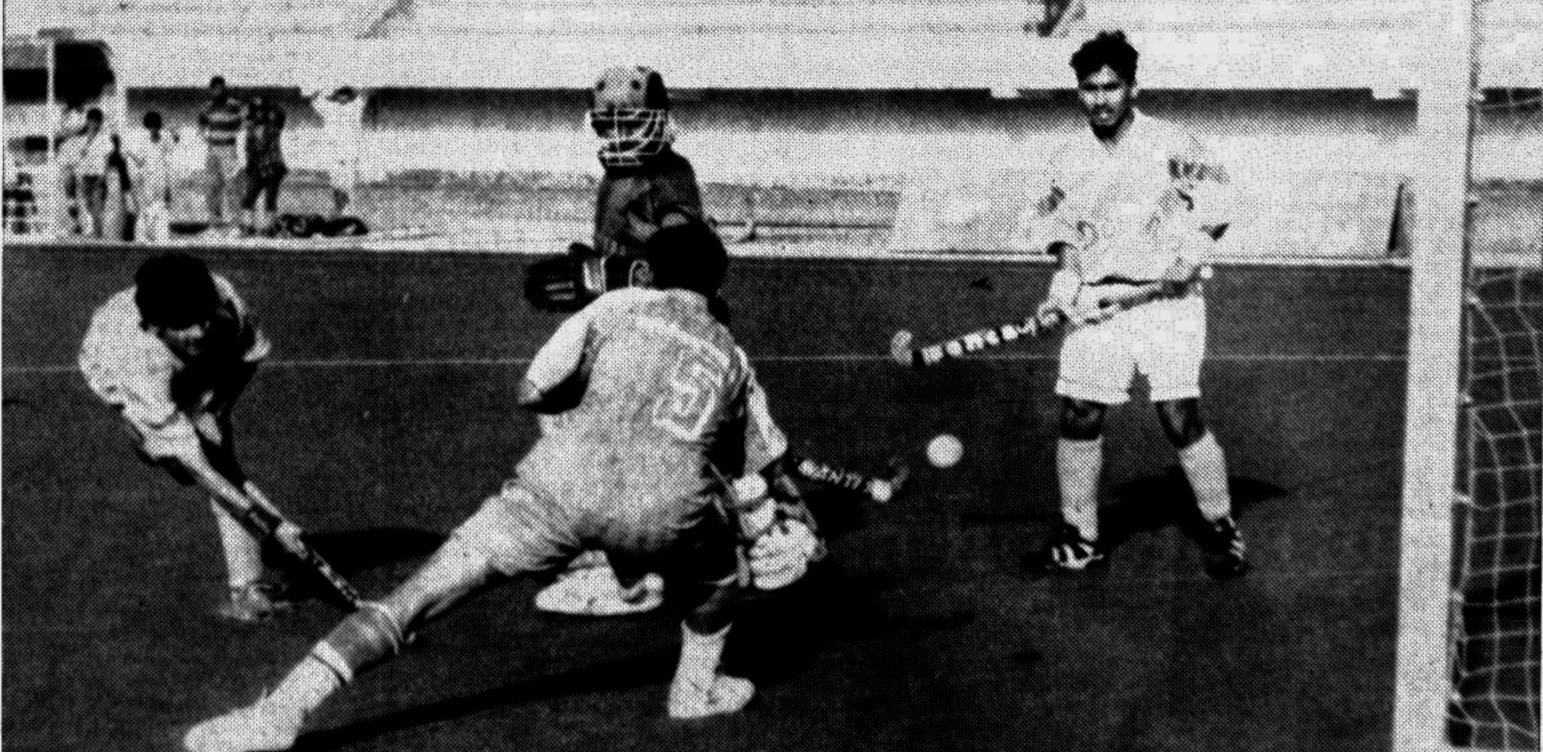
will have to do our best in the remaining matches," he said. Earlier, Olympic champions Holland downed Australia 3-2.

European champions Germany will play England in the only match scheduled today.

Boat race on March 26

Bangladesh Rowing Federation will organise a boat race on March 26 at Pagla Ghat of the river Buriganga on the occasion of the Independence Day, reports BSS.

The teams who are interested to take part in the race have been requested to enlist their names at the rowing federation office at the National Stadium No-1 by March 20.



Abahani forward Khokon (L) pushes the ball home while Mariner Young's defender Jasim (No 5) tries in vain to stop him during the second semifinal of the Karnaphuli Garden City Club Cup tournament at the Hockey Stadium -Star photo yesterday.

44 24 23 17 29 (Incomplete) Div II soccer

Sports Reporter Little Friends Club, Adamjee SCC . BG Press Sports and Recreation Club won their

respective Second Division football league matches at two different venues in the capital vesterday. Away at the Mirpur Stadium. Little Friends Club blanked promotees Muslim Institute

lone goal win against City Club in the other match of the day. Meanwhile, at the RAJUK ground . Lalmatia Club and Dhaka Wanderers shared honours to a one-all draw while BG Press defeated Mohaktali Eleven 1-0.

Pushkin resigns, Bari to follow

Sports Reporter The general secretary of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) Shamsul Bari made up

yesterday. beaten up by the players in the second semifinal between Abahani Krira Chakra and

After citing the happenings of the last couple of days it

the president today.

"Where supporters throw

"Anyway, I deemed it as our

Sports Reporter

monitored here last night.

The hosts started their sec-

Nat'l women's

Sports Reporter

Nazrana Khan Eva joined

Eva, smarting under her

The highest fourth innings score in a losing cause was 273 by South Africa against New

Sports Reporter

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard Sunday at stumps on the third day of the second cricket Test between Australia and South Africa at St. George's Park:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 209 **AUSTRALIA:** First innings **SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings **AUSTRALIA:** Second innings Taylor lbw b McMillan Hayden run out Elliott c and b Adams M Waugh not out

Total: (for three wickets) Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-30; 3-Bowling: Donald McMillan 3 Cronje Kallis Adams