

Ctg tail wags

FROM PAGE 13

BARISAL v Sylhet
Venue: Barisal Stadium

BARISAL

Tinku c Kapali b Hasibul	11
Shahin c Imon b Taposh	9
Imran c Imon b Hasibul	4
Elyas c sub b Taposh	10
S Shahed c Rajin b Parvez	14
Shafayet c Tanna b Parvez	19
Masad c Nasirul b Parvez	0
Kamal c Imon b Parvez	1
Shuvro c Nasirul b Nayeem	4
Anis c Imon b Nayeem	0
Ashfaq not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-2, w-2)	6
Total: (all out in 27.1 overs)	78
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-27, 3-27, 4-42, 5-54, 6-54, 7-56, 8-67, 9-71.	

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Hasibul	7	0	27
Taposh	7	0	18
Nayeem	7	0	19
Parvez	6.1	2	12

SYLHET

Tanna c Shahin b Ashfaq	20
Parvez c Imran b Ashfaq	20
Kabi not out	18
Nasirul c Shahin b Ashfaq	0
Rajin not out	12
Extras: (nb-7, w-4)	11
Total: (for 3 wickets in 22.3 overs)	81
Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-46, 3-46	

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Anis	6	1	23
Shuvro	4	0	19
Ashfaq	8	1	29
Kamal	3	0	4
Masad	1.3	0	6

Result: Sylhet won by seven wickets

Rajshahi v Khulna
Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur

RAJSHAHI

Rafiqul c Salim b Al-Amin	5
Tariq run out	6
Nuruzzaman c sub b Sajjadul	13
Shamim c Salim b Nahidul	57
Anisur c Salim b Sajjadul	0
K Mashud c Salim b Sajjadul	19
Hasan c Salim b Sajjadul	4
Mustadir c Monir b Tushar	23
Mahub obstructed the field	4
Faisal c Hasanuzzaman b Nahidul	2
Al-Mamun not out	2
Extras: (b-1, lb-12, nb-1, w-21)	35
Total: (all out in 47.3 overs)	170
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-12, 3-45, 4-45, 5-79, 6-97, 7-157, 8-159, 9-167	

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Al-Amin	7	0	23
Kamal	7	0	31
Sajjadul	10	4	17
Hasan	5	0	19
Tushar	10	0	30
Niaz	4	0	14
Sohel	2	0	17
Nahidul	2.3	0	6

KHULNA

Sajjadul c Tariq b Faisal	9
Nahidul run out	12
Niaz run out	52
Asadullah c Mahub b Faisal	4
Hasanuzzaman c Hasan b Mustadir	6
Salim run out	16
Monir c Shamim b Faisal	21
Sohel c Hasan b Al-Mamun	6
Al-Amin run out	14
Kamal run out	13
Tushar not out	2
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-9)	14
Total: (all out in 50 overs)	169
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-32, 3-37, 4-67, 5-104, 6-106, 7-123, 8-153, 9-166	

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Faisal	10	2	33
Al-Mamun	10	0	34
Tariq	7	0	36
Mustadir	10	0	28
Nuruzzaman	10	0	25
Mahub	3	0	9

Result: Rajshahi won by one run

What Wright finds wrong



AP, Madras

India coach John Wright said Saturday his batsmen need to solve the choking problem that has been causing repeated embarrassment in limited-over internationals.

"Our batting's middle-order is an area we've got to work on ... we need to sort out this problem soon," Wright said, reflecting on India's slump in Friday's cricket one-dayer against England at Madras' Chepauk Stadium.

The familiar middle-order collapse saw India totter to a four-wicket victory and take a 2-1 lead in the six-match series, but it came close to repeating Tuesday's messy affair in which the Indian batting crumbled under pressure, enabling England to clinch a 16-run win.

India had won the series opener in Calcutta by 22 runs last Saturday. Wright admitted the middle-order's batting had been worrying the Indian team management as it often made a mess of good starts provided by contemporary cricket's most successful opening pair -- Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly.

Ganguly was missing from the Indian line-up on Friday, but Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag gave them a rollicking start with a 107-run opening stand.

India were cruising toward the victory target of 218 on Friday when star batsman Tendulkar became the second man out, leaving the score

at 130 for two. But three batsmen perished in quick time to leave India gasping for breath before inexperienced Ajay Ratna came good to save it the blushes.

"The familiar middle-order prob-



JOHN WRIGHT

lem persisted in Friday's match but this time we made up through a good show in other areas," Wright said. "We bowled very well after losing the toss."

India is missing vice-captain Rahul Dravid's stabilising influence in the middle-order. Dravid is recuperating from a niggling shoulder injury, which had been bothering him for several months of continuous cricket.

India's batsmen are also being suffering the pangs of their adventurous stroke-making instincts, which have got cramped against England's accurate attack.

The poor form of Vangipurappu Laxman, last year's Indian Test-record shattering batsman, has made the problems more pronounced.

Laxman's unimpressive run of scores led to his ouster from the squad after Friday's match.

Mohammed Kaif, who was kept on the sidelines, got a look in after the Indian selectors decided to omit Laxman from the team for the remaining three one-dayers against England.

Left-hander Dinesh Mongia's composed batting has been the only redeeming feature of the middle-order, which should get reinforced by Sehwag moving down from the opener's slot on skipper Ganguly's return from a hamstring injury that kept him out of the Madras fixture.

Indian cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah said the selectors were optimistic that "the middle-order will stabilise" and ensure against the hiccups witnessed during the matches in Cuttack and Madras.

England captain Nasser Hussain had batting woes of his own to sort out.

"To bat like we did here wasn't quite good enough," Hussain said after England paid the price for scoring a modest 217 all out and giving its bowlers little chance.

"There are no excuses, we had the best of conditions but just didn't get enough runs on the board," he said. "Those of us who've been here a long time were caught by surprise ... there was a bit more bounce in the wicket."

Hantuchova's mixed doubles delight

AFP, Melbourne

Daniela Hantuchova capped a remarkable Australian Open campaign by winning the mixed doubles title with Zimbabwe's Kevin Ullyett Sunday.

Only a year after losing in the first round of the singles here on her Grand Slam debut, Hantuchova won the mixed doubles, finished runner-up in the women's doubles and was unlucky to lose a tight three-setter to Venus Williams in the third round of the singles.

She was rewarded with 196,673 dollars (98,00 US) in prize-money and a growing reputation.

Hantuchova and Ullyett celebrated their first tournament together by beating another rookie pairing, Paola Suarez and Gaston Etis of Argentina, 6-3, 6-2 in a one-sided final.

Hingis turns to Pan Pacific

AFP, Tokyo

Martina Hingis is back in form and ready to reclaim the Tokyo indoor title she has won three times before at the Pan Pacific Open tournament, which gets underway on Tuesday.

After failing to win a tournament for eight months last year, the 21-year-old Swiss Miss had a three-month layoff for left ankle surgery to lose her world number one ranking.

But Hingis proved she had regained her top form by winning her season-opener at the Sydney International and reaching the final at the Australian Open where she lost to American Jennifer Capriati Saturday.

"Beginning this year with a win in Sydney and the final (at Melbourne) is a lot better than I expected," said Hingis, ranked fourth.

"It's great feeling fresh at the start of the year. I definitely feel better than in the last two years. I'm back up to where I used to be. I believe in myself again and it's a great feeling."

Hingis, the winner here in 1997, 1999 and 2000, was seeded top in a star-studded field of the 1,224 million dollar event, which included Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia and former number one Monica Seles of the United States.

India come

FROM PAGE 13

Under-19s World Cup Plate Championship at the Colin Maiden Park in Auckland on Sunday:

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Joseph c Ashrafal b Al Zabir	4
Dai b Al Zabir	10
Ely b Wassel	11
Amini b Wassel	4
Harry c Shaful b Arman	9
Mula lbw b Wassel	8
Wamala c Hasibul b Al Zabir	0
Dai lbw b Al Zabir	10
Keimelo not out	7
Boto c Shaful b Ashrafal	0
Arua b Shariful	0
Extras: (w-10, nb-2)	12
Total: (All out in 22.5 overs)	75

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-28, 3-38, 4-45, 5-45, 6-49, 7-67, 8-68, 9-73

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Ashiqur	5	1	10
Al Zabir	6	0	29
Wassel	5	1	13
Arman	3	0	10
Shaful	1	0	9
Ashrafal	2	0	2
Shariful	0.5	0	2

BANGLADESH

Aftab lbw b Arua	8
Shaful not out	31
Nafis not out	25
Extras: (lb-2, w-10)	12
Total: (For 1 wkt in 18.1 overs)	76

Fall of wickets: 1-15

Did not bat: Gazi Salauddin, Mohammad Ashrafal, Hasibul Haq, Shariful Islam, Wassel Uddin, Ali Arman, Ashiqur Rahman, Shafiq Al Zabir.

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Keimelo	3	0	15
Arua	8	0	22
Boto	5	1	15
Dai	1	0	18
Amini	1.1	0	4

Result: Bangladesh won by nine wickets.

Safin forgets it



AFP, Melbourne

Marat Safin refused to let a shock defeat to Swedish outsider Thomas Johansson in the Australian Open men's singles final Sunday spoil his 22nd birthday.

"It doesn't happen very often you play the final of a Grand Slam. Today's my birthday, you have to enjoy it," the Russian said after being presented with a huge chocolate birthday cake by the organisers.

Safin, who had trounced Pete Sampras in the US Open final two years ago, was made favourite for this tournament as soon as he beat the ageing American great in an awesome fourth round display.

He had, however, been lucky to make the final. Just like Andre Agassi the previous year, he was fortunate to survive the semi-finals. Agassi looked beaten until Pat Rafter cramped up 12 months ago.

And Safin was on the ropes in stifling heat against Tommy Haas until a storm forced organisers to close the roof and resume the

match in air-conditioned comfort. He looked a different man in the last two sets.

"Believe me, I was lucky," he was honest enough to admit at the time.

But his luck ran out Sunday



MARAT SAFIN

against the dogged Johansson who became one of a handful of players to face up to and get the better of the Russian's feared backhand.

Safin put his win over Sampras two years ago in Flushing Meadows to youthful exuberance.

"When you play against Pete when you are 20 years-old, you have nothing to lose. You just think you're going to win a few games and you go out and give it everything," he said.

"Today I was a favourite and I couldn't manage to win it. It was a good lesson for the future."

He said Johansson's backhand had surprised him.

"He was overpowering me from the baseline - backhand to backhand. It's very unusual someone beats me at backhand," Safin said.

"I didn't play my best tennis, definitely, and when he broke me in the second set it changed the game completely. He was dominating and I couldn't come back."

But he accepted defeat philosophically.

"That happens, but you have to accept things as they are. He was too good, he played great," Safin said.

Perfect recipe



AFP, Melbourne

A fortnight of upsets, injuries and drama drew to a close at the Australian Open Sunday with a new men's champion and a women's champion who proved they were made of the right stuff.

Swedish outsider Thomas Johansson seized his chance to outwit and outplay big Russian favourite Marat Safin, who won the US Open two years ago, and Jennifer Capriati survived debilitating heat and a torrid first round to overcome Martina Hingis in the women's final.

The 25-year-old Capriati won her third Grand Slam title in 12 months by saving four match points to defeat Hingis, playing in her sixth successive final here, in two draining hours.

Hingis, who has not won a Grand Slam title for 12 tournaments, admitted she had been beaten by a player mentally and

Safin was on the ropes in stifling heat against Tommy Haas until rain forced organisers to close the roof and resume the match.

He looked a different man in the last two sets.

Review

"Believe me, I was lucky," he was honest enough to admit.

But his luck ran out Sunday against the dogged Johansson who became one of a handful of players to face up to and get the better of the Russian's feared backhand.

Johansson became the lowest-ranked player to win this event since the unseeded Australian Mark Edmondson in 1976, although he was lucky to see all the top seeds crash out of his half of the draw.

The top five seeds were gone inside three days and 18 seeds in all failed to survive beyond two rounds in a Grand Slam tournament first.

The third-seeded Agassi, with a



PHOTO: AFP

SWEDISH PARTY: Fans of Thomas Johansson give their hero the royal treatment yesterday.

physically stronger and wondered if she would rediscover the killer instinct that brought three titles here before she was 19.

Safin had trounced Pete Sampras in the Flushing Meadows final two years ago and he was made favourite for this tournament as soon as he beat the ageing American great in an awesome fourth round display.

But Johansson became the first Swede to win a Grand Slam tournament since Stefan Edberg beat Sampras in the 1992 US Open final when he conquered his nerves and out-hit Safin from the baseline.

Safin had been lucky to make the final. Just like Andre Agassi the previous year, he was fortunate to survive the semi-finals. Agassi looked beaten until Pat Rafter cramped up 12 months ago and

career-threatening wrist injury, pulled out on the opening day.

The second day got worse for the organisers when world No 1 and US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt, weakened by a bout of chicken pox, crashed out in his opening round match to Spain's Alberto Martin, whom Hewitt as good as accused of cheating for taking an injury time-out to have his legs massaged when only two points from victory during a tiebreaker.

Trainers were a common sight at this tournament and the days seem to have gone when you played on through injury.

Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten has never survived two rounds here so it was no surprise when the Brazilian failed to win his first round match against Julien Boutter of France.

Bundesliga

Bayern battered



AFP, Berlin

The German Bundesliga awoke from its winter slumbers on Saturday - but someone clearly forgot to tell domestic, European and world champions Bayern Munich, who suffered a 5-1 hiding at Schalke 04, the team they beat to the line last season.

The 38-day mid-season break left Bayern with cobwebs in their

system and the Bavarians played out the second half with ten men after German international Michael Tarnat was sent off for a crude tackle on Schalke's veteran playmaker Andreas Moller.

Tarnat's early bath on 41 minutes came with Bayern already 2-0 down and things went from bad to worse as they dropped to fifth in the table.

Bayern, going for an 18th league title, have in fact suffered worse punishment at Schalke's hands. In 1976, the freshly-crowned triple European champions lost 7-0 at home to their rivals, their worst ever

Bundesliga loss.

Belgian striker Emile Mpenza hit the Schalke opener on 34 minutes in his first outing since mid-October. Danish star Ebbe Sand added a second from the restart and although Mehmet Scholl pulled one back for Bayern, Jorg Bohme, Marco van Hoogdalem and Niels Oude Kamphuis completed a memorable performance at the Schalke Arena.

Bayern had three of their recent injury victims back in the side in Stefan Effenberg, Jens Jeremies and Scholl - but the trio looked well below match fitness.

Bayer Leverkusen lead the table by three points from Borussia Dortmund on Saturday night after a 2-0 home success over lowly Hansa Rostock, a win cemented with Michael Ballack's late penalty after Thomas Brdaric had notched the first on 76 minutes.

Schalke's win moved them into seventh in the table, just two points behind Bayern, who trail Leverkusen by eight points.

Dortmund play their match in hand Sunday at home to Hertha Berlin, who were they to win could push Bayern down another rung.

If Dortmund win by more than four goals then the 1997 European Cup winners will go top. Sunday's other match pits struggling Energie Cottbus against Werder Bremen, currently going well in fourth.

If they win Sunday, Bremen can leapfrog Kaiserslautern, who won 2-0 at Borussia Monchengladbach. Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn had a bitter-sweet day as the German Football Federation (DFB) earlier named him captain of the national side, replacing Monaco's veteran striker Oliver Bierhoff.

The DFB said Bierhoff had told them he was handing back the skipper's armband to head off a "fruitless debate" about who should wear it at this year's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

National coach Rudi Voller told 32-year-old Kahn of the decision after the keeper had said in an interview with the Suddeutsche Zeitung newspaper that he hoped the choice would be made rapidly ahead of the finals.

Elsewhere Saturday, rock bottom Sankt Pauli are still fighting for their lives and recorded a rare win, 3-1 at home to VfL Wolfsburg, for only the Hamburg-based side's second league win all season.

Primera Liga 10-man Celta survive



AFP, Madrid

Two second half goals in the space of seven minutes from Celta Vigo's Russian striker Alexander Mostovoi put the Galicians well on the way to a 3-1 victory over visiting Real Sociedad on Saturday.

Celta had to come from not only a goal down but also the handicap of being reduced to ten men after their French midfielder Peter Luccin was sent off after 55 minutes for his second yellow card.

Real Sociedad went ahead after 21 minutes thanks to their own Russian import Dimitri Khokhlov when Celta were caught with their defences down while protesting about a possible penalty.

Celta's Brazilian midfielder

Wagner had been impeded by his compatriot Luiz Alberto while baring down on goal, but a swift Sociedad counter-attack saw Khokhlov round Celta goalkeeper Josw Manuel Pinto and then sidefoot the ball into the net.

However, Celta kept up the pressure despite the dismissal of Luccin and got their well-deserved equaliser when Mostovoi blasted the ball home with his right foot from the edge of the area after 58 minutes, after Catanha had nodded the ball back to his team-mate.

Mostovoi got his seventh goal of the season seven minutes later and this time it was his left foot that did the damage.

Pablo Coira failed to get his head to a Silvinho cross but Mostovoi was on hand to make sure that the chance to take the lead did not go begging.