

Premier Div v'ball  
BDR's sixth  
in a row

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles clinched the Metropolis Premier Division Volleyball League title for the 6th consecutive time with an unbeaten record beating Titas Club by straight 25-17, 25-19, 25-17 points in the last league match at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

With this defeat, last five years' runners-up Titas Club went down to the third place as they also lost to Water Development Board, who finished runners-up in the league.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar was the chief guest and distributed trophies.

## TEAMS

BANGLADESH RIFLES: Shafiz, Nayeem, Faruk, Asif, Ashiqur, Obaidul, Mahbub, Mosabber, Tajul, Farid, Haider and Atiq.

TITAS CLUB: Nakib, Maruf, Parag, Mukta, Himon, Milan, Habloo, Swapna, Tariq, Jahangir and Ashit.

Referee Sirajul Islam, Nazrul Islam and Farida Begum.

Jayawardene  
on song

REUTERS, Canterbury

Mahela and Sri Lanka made up for lost time as they belatedly opened their tour of England by rattling up 375 against county side Kent.

The stylish Jayawardene made 119 as the tourists, frustrated by the loss of the entire first day through rain on Friday, went on the attack to score at about five an over for most of the innings before the last five wickets tumbled for 43.

Veteran Aravinda de Silva, Kent's overseas signing in 1995, earlier compiled 63 and Russell Arnold 81 but skipper Sanath Jayasuriya, who had bemoaned his team's lack of practice on Friday, made the worst possible start to his tour.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the second day of Sri Lanka's three-day tour match against Kent on Saturday:

## SRI LANKA: First innings

	Atapattu c Patel b Sagers	20	
Jayasuriya c Jones b Sagers	0		
Sangakkara lbw b Trott	19		
Jayawardene c Sagers b Trott	119		
De Silva c Fulton b Sagers	63		
Arnold c Fulton b Golding	81		
Samaraweera c Fulton b Sagers	57		
Zoya b Golding	0		
Fernando c Jones b Golding	2		
Perera c Jones b Golding	0		
Amerasinghe not out	5		
Extras: (b-5, lb-3, w-1)	9		
Total: (all out, 90.3 overs)	375		
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-34, 3-54, 4-205, 5-245, 6-332, 7-344, 8-352, 9-354			
BOWLING O M R W			
Sagers 23.3 2 84 4			
Trott 18 1 109 2			
Fleming 15 1 41 0			
Golding 22 4 76 4			
Walker 9 0 41 0			
Patel 3 0 16 0			

## BOWLING O M R W

Sagers 23.3 2 84 4

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Result: City Club won by 28 runs.

## Faisal flair

FROM PAGE 13

Faisal 10 0 52 3  
Moin 4.1 0 27 0  
Lablu 9 0 44 1  
Niaz 5 0 27 1  
Nilanth 3 0 25 0

## UTTARA

Mahfuz c Hasibul b Nayeem 2  
Arman c Salim b Tariq 0  
Niaz c b Nayeem 0

Sumon c b Tariq 4

Faisal not out 144

Nilanth st. Salim b Jamal 57

Rashed st. Salim b Wasim 8

Moin c Nayeem b Suja 11

Narayan not out 10

Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-5, w-4) 18

Total: (For 7 wkt in 50 overs) 254

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-3, 3-4, 4-16, 5-138, 6-179

## Bowler O M R W

Tariq 6 1 18 2

Nayeem 9 0 48 2

Hasibul 10 0 37 0

Jamal 10 0 44 1

Suja 9 0 64 1

Wasim 6 0 34 1

Result: City Club won by 28 runs.

## Cup corner

FROM PAGE 13

Maldini, whose team is in Group B with Spain, Slovenia and South Africa at the May 31 to June 30 World Cup finals, was under the spotlight with the 4-0 thrashing by England 10 days ago still fresh in the memory.

One newspaper had claimed Maldini's reasons for leading Paraguay were merely financial and said he took the post to complete his curriculum vitae.

Maldini responded: "I have had a lot of luck during my career and I have been at the top level for more than 30 years and I really don't need the money, I'm rich."

"Before I took over I spoke with the players and they said they were happy to be coached by an Italian. That's why I am here."

Maldini added there was no personal friction between him and charismatic keeper Jose Luis Chilavert as the press had reported and added that the England score was the result of bad luck and the fact that they are a good side.

"England are one of the favourites to win the World Cup," Maldini said.



PHOTO: AFP

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Pakistan's Shoaib Malik is all set to have a go at a delivery during his century knock against New Zealand in the third and final one-day international in Lahore on Saturday.

Flemo lacks resource



AFP, Lahore

England and the Pakistan tour due to foot injury.

"We very much suffered for not having key players and it was always a tougher task to bring a team over here which lacks experience and quality players," Fleming said.

"The young players can always improve but it's unfortunate that due to injuries we have to introduce them before their time."

Experienced wicketkeeper Adam Parore and upcoming pacer Chris Drum have decided to quit the game for other reasons.

"Losing Parore and Drum in couple of weeks was another blow, money is not such in New Zealand that they can often afford to maintain a professional cricket lifestyle for that long, they have to move on, and good luck to them."

Fleming hoped new players would develop in the next three years.

"The next three or four years we will benefit from this period but we need to give results now and that unfortunately doesn't come when you lose so many players."

Fleming said his team would be more focused in its Tests against Pakistan.

"The Test series is more important in terms of the traditions of the game and we hope to give tough competition and play Tests better than one-day cricket," he said.

The first Test starts in Lahore from May 1, the second in Karachi from May 8.

STEPHEN FLEMING

New Zealand arrived in Pakistan with wicketkeeper Chris Nevin unfit due to a hamstring problem.

To add to their woes Fleming became the first victim of a stomach bug which also struck down Scott Styris and Chris Harris.

Other injuries claimed left-arm pacer Geoff Allott and Jacob Oram. A further blow came when star

going down 2-0 than so be it."

King called it the toughest decision she ever had to make, but said there was no opportunity to nudge the situation in the bud.

"There was no way," said King, who added that she had problems with both Jennifer wanting to assert her independence and Stefano trying to assert his will.

US captain Billie Jean King dismissed Capriati from the team on Thursday for violating team rules.

Since the draw had already been made, that gave Austrian Evelyn Fauth a walkover win in the first singles rubber.

Seles was a heavy favourite coming into her match against left-hander Schwartz, who has done little on the tour since injuring her elbow in 2000.

Schwartz fought off five set points in the first set, displaying a devastating forehand, a deceptive slice serve and a low backhand that helped her keep Seles off balance.

Seles, owner of nine Grand Slam titles, held three set points against Schwartz's serve at 6-5. But two forehand errors from Seles and a winner from Schwartz took care of them all.

Seles jumped out to a 5-2 lead in the tiebreaker, but three unforced errors let Schwartz pull level at 5-5. Seles gave herself another chance at 6-5, but Schwartz crushed a forehand service return winner.

Seles held her fifth set point at 7-

6, but missed a backhand. Schwartz whacked a backhand down the line to earn her first set point, and fired another winner down the line to take the set.

The second set was all Schwartz as she raced to a 3-1 lead and never looked back.

The United States, which owns a record 17 Fed Cup titles, hasn't lost in the first round since it went down to the Netherlands in 1997.

Shaughnessy, replacing Capriati in the reverse singles, was to open Sunday's play against Schwartz, followed by Seles against Fauth and then the doubles.

"I feel great. I'm excited about the opportunity," Shaughnessy, a Fed Cup newcomer, said. "I'm just going to focus on my tennis and play well tomorrow. I hope we can have a great day and turn this thing around."

Schwartz then beat three-time French Open champion Seles 7-6, 6-2, to leave the United States with the task of winning three matches on Sunday.

"There's no doubt in my mind that we can do it," said Lisa Raymond, who could play the fifth and decisive doubles match with Meghann Shaughnessy on Sunday.

"We just have to go for it," Seles added.

King ruled that Capriati violated team rules by attempting to hold a private practice session with her father and coach, Stefano.

"The bottom line is we support Billie," said Raymond. "Sometimes you just have to stand up for principles."

"If that means taking a loss or

Pete Sampras defeated longtime rival Andre Agassi 6-1, 7-6 here Saturday to set up a highly anticipated "battle of the ages" final against Andy Roddick at the US Men's Clay Court Championships.

Going into the semifinals, Agassi appeared to hold a clear advantage over the 30-year-old Sampras, who hasn't won a title since Wimbledon 2000 and hadn't won a clay event since his May 1998 victory in Atlanta.

But in their 33rd meeting, Sampras walked away with his 19th victory over Agassi. It was only his second win in five clashes with Agassi on clay.

While clay is Sampras' weakest surface -- the French Open is the only Grand Slam he hasn't won -- the US veteran has joined forces with coach Jose Higueras in a bid to improve his clay court game.

On Saturday the move appeared to be paying off, and on Sunday he'll have a chance to end his title drought against Roddick, the defending champion who withstood gusty conditions to down Argentina's Guillermo Coria 6-3, 6-6, 2-6.

Winning the toss, Shikharji decided to bat first and scored 135 runs all out in 39.1 overs.

In reply, Jugantar reached the target of 136 runs losing five wickets in 42.3 overs.

PHOTO: AFP



Austrian Barbara Schwartz plays a backhand return against American Monica Seles during a Fed Cup world team tennis tournament yesterday.

Pakistan savour clean sweep

AFP, Lahore

Young all-rounder Shoaib Malik hit a sparkling hundred and snared three wickets as Pakistan whitewashed an injury hit New Zealand 3-0 in the one-day series here Saturday.

The 20-year-old Malik hit a career best 115 as Pakistan beat the Kiwis by 66 runs in the third and final day-night limited overs international at Gaddafi stadium before a capacity crowd of 25,000.

Pakistan put on a challenging total of 278-5 in 50 overs and then dismissed the tourists for 212 in 45.4 overs.

Pakistan, who won the first match in Karachi by 153 runs and the second at Rawalpindi by three wickets, recorded their first clean sweep in a one-day series at home since beating Zimbabwe 3-0 in 1996-97.

The tourists now play two Tests with the Lahore Test starting on May 1.

## SCORECARD

Scorecard of the New Zealand innings in their third and final one-day game against New Zealand at Gaddafi stadium here Saturday:

## NEW ZEALAND

Nevin b Waqar Younis	2
Horne b Abdul Razzaq	28
C. McMillan	