

Green Delta hockey
MSC run riot,
Usha held

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan started the return leg of the Green Delta Premier Hockey League with a 6-1 thrashing of Dhaka Railway at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The defending champions led a lowly Railway 2-0 at the breather.

Shafqat, the Pakistani recruit of the black and whites, struck thrice while forwards Rafiqul Islam Kamal and Moududur Rahman Shuvo scored one goal apiece.

Mohammedan captain Ashique opened the floodgates scoring the first goal in the 25th minute.

While Mohammedan cantered Usha Krira Chakra, who forced the Motijheel outfit to drop their first point after a 2-2 draw in the last match of the first round, started disastrously.

They were held by Wari Club 1-1 in the other match of the day.

Waugh's ankle
operated on

AFP, Sydney

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh has had minor surgery on his left ankle, the Australian Cricket Board said Friday.

Waugh's operation repaired an injury that causes discomfort when one bone impinges on the out-growth of another bone.

The discomfort in Waugh's ankle has increased in recent months during an intensive training programme.

Waugh, who turns 37 on June 2, said he expected to be back in training in two weeks and be fully recovered in six weeks.

"The experts have told me that I will have fully recovered from the minor surgery in six weeks, which gives me plenty of time to prepare for the tour of Pakistan," Waugh said in a statement.

"While nobody likes having surgery, it's in my best long-term interests to get the problem fixed now, so I can use my time off to fully recover."

"Bowling is part of my renewed focus in limited-overs cricket, so repairing the ankle and reaching peak physical fitness will certainly help my efforts with the ball."

Waugh will be placed on a rehabilitation program after stitches are removed from the ankle.

Australia is due in Pakistan in August for a one-day tri-series and in September-October for a Test.

No play on
Day Two

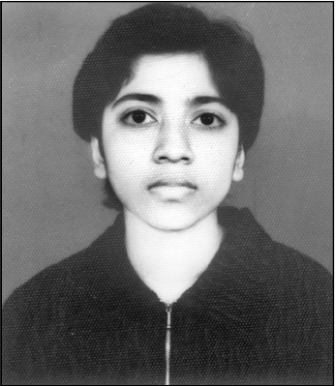
REUTERS/INTERNET, Cardiff

Rain prevented any play on the second day of the four-day tour match between Glamorgan and Sri Lanka at Sophia Gardens on Friday.

Sri Lanka were 337 for seven at the close on the first day on Thursday, Kumar Sangakkara top-scoring with 113.

Earlier, the lunch was brought forward to 12.30pm local time as groundstaff tried to deal with large pools of water on the outfield.

WHIZZ KID-170
winner



Easmat Ara
(Motijheel Govt Girls High School)

WHIZZ KID-171
winner
Tazrian Huda

(Viqarunnisa Noon School, Dhanmondi Branch)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on May 30.

WHIZZ KID-171
correct answers

1. West Indies won the third Test against India by
Ans: 10 wickets
2. Who will lead Bangladesh A team in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge?
Ans: Aminul
3. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the first Test between Pakistan and New Zealand?
Ans: Inzamam
4. Who are the English Premiership champions?
Ans: Arsenal
5. Who clinched the Hamburg Open tennis title?
Ans: Clijsters



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan striker Alfaz Ahmed side-volleyes during the final of the Nitol-Tata National Football League against arch-rivals Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

One-dayers start today



AFP, Kingston

India's preparations for a one-day series against the West Indies suffered a setback as rain washed out their workout ahead of the first match starting at Sabina Park here on Saturday.

The weather is likely to affect the first one-dayer as it has been raining since India suffered a 155-run defeat at the hands of the West Indies in the fifth Test to lose a five-match series 2-1 on Wednesday.

The second one-dayer will be held at the same venue on Sunday, followed by matches at Bridgetown on May 29 and at Port-of-Spain on June 1 and 2.

India will be looking forward to a vastly-improved performance from their batsmen in the shorter version of the game so as to return home in a better frame of mind.

"We've got to salvage our pride. We've lost the Test series and we should now try to win one-dayers," said India skipper Sourav Ganguly on Thursday.

The arrival of one-day specialists Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif and Ajit Agarkar augurs well for India, who struggled for all-rounders in the recently-concluded Test series.

Ganguly said his team would have to raise the level of its performance to win the one-day series because the West Indies were a strong side at home.

"We've a good one-day squad, but winning the series is a different ball-game altogether," said Ganguly.

"Sehwag is an exciting batsman. Yuvraj is very good and Kaif has also been performing, but we'll have to play really well to beat the West Indies at home."

Sehwag returned to the squad

after missing a series of five one-day internationals against Zimbabwe at home due to a shoulder-injury sustained during the second Test against the visitors at Delhi in March.

The 23-year-old rose to fame with a 69-ball century against New Zealand in a triangular series at Colombo last year. He has so far scored 699 in 28 matches.

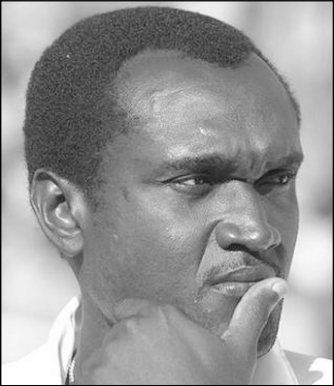
Yuvraj and Dinesh Mongia are the other batsmen capable of dominating any attack with their clean

century and two fifties.

West Indies captain Carl Hooper said his team could not afford to be complacent after beating India in the Test series as it was necessary to build on the success.

The hosts also strengthened their squad with one-day specialists Corey Collymore and Gareth Breese, who replaced fast bowler Adam Sanford and leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine.

Jamaican off-spinner Breese is the only newcomer in the team,



CARL HOOPER

and hard hitting.

Mongia did not get a chance in Tests, but is likely to play a prominent role in one-dayers, especially after his unbeaten 159 in his last match against Zimbabwe at home.

His knock, the fourth-highest by an Indian in one-day internationals, helped his team clinch the five-match series 3-2 against Stuart Carlisle's Zimbabweans.

Kaif is unlikely to find a place in the squad here despite averaging 41.50 in eight matches, as middle-order batsmen Venkatsai Laxman and Rahul David have batted well in Tests.

Laxman scored 474 in five Tests with one hundred and four half-centuries and David 404 with one



SOURAV GANGULY

while paceman Collymore has taken 26 wickets in 20 one-dayers.

TEAMS

WEST INDIES (from): Carl Hooper (captain), Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Brian Lara, Shivranrigne Chandepaul, Ridley Jacobs, Mervyn Dillon, Cameron Cuffy, Pedro Collins, Corey Collymore, Gareth Breese, Ryan Hinds.

INDIA (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Dinesh Mongia, Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Ajay Ratna, Ajit Agarkar, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Tinu Yohannan, Murali Kartik.

Seles storms into semis



REUTERS, Madrid

Top seed Monica Seles eased into the last four of the Spanish Open with a confident 6-3, 6-2 victory over Israel's Anna Smashnova.

The world number six, who is using the Madrid tournament to prepare for next week's French Open, will face unseeded Paola Suarez of Argentina in the semifinals.

Chanda Rubin of the United States -- who ended Spanish interest in the tournament by defeating Magui Serna 6-3, 6-3 in an earlier match -- will meet Colombia's Fabiola Zuluaga in the other semi.

Three-times French Open champion Seles started well against Smashnova, whom she had beaten

in one previous meeting on her way to winning at Amelia Island two years ago.

Using her two-handed drives to pin the Israeli on the baseline, she then unleashed a series of accurate passing shots to take a 3-0 lead in the first set.

Smashnova, who won tournaments in New Zealand and Australia in January, fought back to trail 4-3, but Seles broke again in the eighth game before serving out to love for the first set.

Both players had problems serving in the second set with Seles the only one to hold serve in the first five games to lead 4-1.

The American only ever looked in difficulty when Smashnova managed to coax her off the baseline with the occasional drop shot, and with the rest of the games going with serve she secured her passage into

the last four with little difficulty.

Her semifinal opponent Suarez, who lost in the final of the 1999 tournament, enjoyed a straight sets victory over qualifier Clarisa Fernandez in the all-Argentine quarter-final clash.

The 25-year-old, who knocked out fourth seed Patty Schnyder in the first round, took the first set 6-4 and edged the second 7-5.

Rubin, who knocked out last year's winner and number two seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the second round, disappointed the home crowd once again as she went on to brush aside Canary Islander Serna.

The 26-year-old American got off to a perfect start when she broke Serna's serve in the opening game and then used her powerful forehand to good effect to break again in the seventh to lead 5-2.



PHOTO: STAR

A goal-mouth action from yesterday's Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter between Mohammedan and Bangladesh Railway at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

Tri-series cricket
Rafiq plunders
Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A continued their impressive showing in the Malaysia triangular series with a 46-run victory over the hosts in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Sent into bat the visitors rode a swashbuckling 72 from Mohammed Rafique to score 149 all out in 49.5 overs.

The experienced left-armer fought a lone battle after the second string national team were reduced to 85 for nine on a difficult wicket.

The southpaw hammered three sixes and a couple of fours in his match-winning knock.

His 83-run stand for the last wicket with Alangir was also a record for any national selection.

Malaysia, given a revised victory target of 154 due to rain, were bundled out for 108 in 46.5 overs.

Off-spinner Sabbir Khan captured three wickets for 23 runs for the tourists. Leg-spinner Alok Kapali and paceman Tariq Aziz took two wickets each.

The Daily Star
Rangs Toshiba
World Cup
Quiz
Rd-3 winners

1. **First Prize**
Md Mahbubur Rahman
West Manikdi, Dhaka Cantonment
2. **Second Prize**
Wahidur Rahman
Tejknipara, Dhaka
3. **Third Prize**
M Shafayat Alam
Pallabi, Mirpur, Dhaka
4. **Fourth Prize**
Md Nasuruddin Tuhin
Surya Sen Hall
Dhaka University
5. **Fifth Prize**
Md Aminul Islam
Sir AF Rahman Hall
Dhaka University

CORRECT ANSWERS

1. Last team to qualify for 2002 World Cup finals
Ans: Uruguay
2. Who was the top scorer in the 1998 World Cup
Ans: Suker
3. How many teams participated in the first World Cup
Ans: 13
4. Germany won their first World Cup in
Ans: 1954
5. Who is this?
Ans: Ronaldo

Muttiah's chance
to play in 2nd
Test little

AFP, Cardiff

Sri Lanka's hopes of having spin genius Muttiah Muralitharan fit in time for the second Test against England next week look doomed after he failed to impress in a brief practice session here Thursday.

The 30-year-old, who has taken 412 Test wickets in 73 matches and was sorely missed in the drawn first Test at Lord's, briefly turned his right arm on the outfield before Sri Lanka's match with Glamorgan, but his action is still restricted by the injury to his left shoulder.

Team manager Chandra Schaafter does not expect Muralitharan to be ready for the second Test at Edgbaston which starts on May 30, but is still holding out hope he might be fit for the third Test at Old Trafford.

"It seems very unlikely he will play in the second Test and we are only hoping he can play in the third," he said.

"There is nothing yet to indicate he will and nothing to indicate he won't. It is just a matter of how quickly he gets back into shape."

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka are waiting to see video evidence from the International Cricket Council (ICC) before confronting the problem of the suspect bowling action of the 25-year-old left-arm paceman Ruchira Perera, who was reported by the umpires after the drawn first Test at Lord's.

Perera was one of six members of the Lord's Test team not on duty against Glamorgan.

"We are waiting for the video tapes to arrive," Schaafter said.

"I have been promised them tomorrow (Friday) or the day after by the ICC and after we get them we will start to work on what we see."

He said the Sri Lanka coaches will initially endeavour to solve any problems and there are no plans, as yet, to involve any other bowling experts.

"This problem never came up before. He has played seven Test matches and there has never been a hint of anything like this. It came as a big surprise to everyone," he added.

On the pitch the Sri Lankans continued to impress with the bat as wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara led the way with 113 in a total of 337 for 7.

"We seem to score more runs when the sun is out, as we did at Lord's. I hope it keeps shining all summer," Schaafter said.



PHOTO: STAR

COME AND WIN! A spectator receives a special prize for the audience from Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Dr Faisul Islam Faruki, who was the chief guest at the draw of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round-3 at the Rajshahi Medical College Auditorium yesterday.

Pak team for down under



REUTERS/AFP, Karachi

Pakistan have included opening batsman Saeed Anwar in their squad for the one-day series against Australia next month.

Saeed, 33, was picked in the 14-man tour party despite not having played any international or domestic cricket since last November, mainly because of a wrist injury.

"Saeed has been retained because his experience will be invaluable in Australian conditions," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman Khalid Butt told Reuters.

The left-hander, who has scored 8,348 runs in 230 one-day internationals, was recalled for the aborted second and final Test against New Zealand in Karachi earlier this month.

The match was scrapped and New Zealand fled Pakistan after a suicide bombing across the road from the hotel where the two teams were staying.

Saeed injured his wrist on his last appearance for Pakistan in Sharjah in November.

The 1999 World Cup finalists play two indoor one-day internationals on June 12 and 15, and then a day match in Brisbane on June 19.

But all-rounder Abdul Razzaq and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq are missing.

"We have selected the best possible team for a series against

the best team in the world," chief selector Wasim Bari told AFP.

Razzaq, who won the player-of-the-series award in a tri-series in Australia two years ago, is making his debut for English county Middlesex.

Saqlain is busy playing for Surrey and neither was available for selection, Bari said.

Interest in the series has peaked due to the presence of the world's fastest bowlers -- Shoaib Akhtar and Brett Lee.

Unofficial timings showed Akhtar broke the 100-mph speed barrier against New Zealand in the recent one-day series. Lee has said he wants to do the same against Pakistan.

The series is billed as the "clash of giants" after Pakistan finished runners-up to Australia in the last World Cup held in England three years ago.

It would also set the tempo for next year's World Cup to be held in South Africa.

However, the rest of the Pakistan squad contained no surprises with all-rounder Azhar Mahmood replacing Razzaq. Waqar Younis was retained as captain for the series.

Azhar, who enjoyed a short but successful stint with Surrey earlier this season, played for Pakistan in last year's NatWest series in England, but since then has been unable to gain a place in the team.

Young batsman Misbahul Haq, opener Imran Nazir and all-rounder Shoaib Malik will all be making their first tours to Australia.

"It will be a good learning experience for youngsters in Australia and Mahmood and Malik will get exposure in place of Razzaq and Saqlain," Bari said.

Bari said he was satisfied with the squad and believed they were capable of giving Australia a good series.

"Pakistan has always been a good side and they are playing very well at the moment, like a true unit. I think we will give Australia a fight for their money," said Bari.

The 14-man squad will assemble at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on May 29 for a short training camp before leaving for Australia on June 5.

Australia have already named their squad with Ricky Ponting the captain.

Pakistan and Australia are scheduled to play a series in Pakistan later this year, also involving New Zealand, but this is now in doubt after a bomb blast in Karachi on May 8.

The Australian Cricket Board says they are monitoring the situation in Pakistan before taking a final decision but have hinted at playing the series at a neutral venue.

SQUAD

Waqar Younis (captain), Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Yousuf Youhana, Inzamamul Haq, Younis Khan, Misbahul Haq, Rashid Latif, Azhar Mahmood, Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, Muhammad Sami and Shoaib Malik.

NZ pick rookie for WI



REUTERS/AFP, Christchurch

New Zealand Friday included rookie Paul Hitchcock in its squad for the West Indies tour in June and July -- their first outing since fleeing Pakistan after a bomb exploded outside the team hotel.

Hitchcock, a medium pace bowler, and spinner Matthew Hart are the only new names and were selected for the five one-dayers starting on June 5 in Jamaica. The two-Test series begins on June 21 in Barbados.

Chairman of national selectors Sir Richard Hadlee said Hitchcock was brought into the side after Andre Adams was ruled out through injury.

"Paul has been bowling extremely well over the last couple of years and was the leading wicket-taker in the State Shield this year with 22 wickets at an average of 14.5," Hadlee said.

"Paul now gets his chance to prove to us that he can perform at the top level and convince us that he should be in our considerations for the World Cup next year."

Hart, who last played for New Zealand in the 1999 World Cup, replaces Brooke Walker.

"We have yet to settle on a second spin bowling option and we will

be looking to Matthew to play a significant role to help balance the workload of Daniel Vettori," Hadlee said.

"Matthew has been a very consistent performer of late and was a standout in the State Shield this



PAUL HITCHCOCK

year taking 15 wickets at a miserly average of 10.6."

The three players who were

ITINERARY

June 3: Vs UWI VC's, Jamaica
June 5: First ODI, Jamaica
June 8: Second ODI, St. Lucia
June 9: Third ODI, St. Lucia
June 12: Fourth ODI, Trinidad
June 15: Fifth ODI, St. Vincent
June 21-25: First Test, Barbados
June 28-July 2: Second Test, Grenada

Missing Martina



INTERNET, Paris

The absence of Martina Hingis this year means tennis fans will be denied another chapter in one of the most intriguing battles in sport: Hingis versus the Rest of the World.

That is often how it has looked as the petite Hingis, only 5ft 7ins, took on the muscular Venus and Serena Williams, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport.

Davenport herself will not play in the French Open this year after knee surgery, but the other three are almost assured of reaching the final stages.

But they will not have to get past Hingis, whose whole future in the game is in the balance due to long-term hip, foot and knee injuries at the age of just 21.

Paris held a special place in the heart of Hingis because it was the one event in the entire professional women's tour that she had not won.

Twice she came excruciatingly close. In 1997, she reached the final despite tearing knee ligaments only two months before the tournament.

And two years after that she lost her cool in the final against Steffi Graf, running off the court at the end in floods of tears.

But in the last three years, Capriati and the Williams sisters have swept her aside with ever-increasing regularity and conviction.

Capriati saw off Hingis 6-3, 6-4 in last year's semifinals and it was clear Hingis had neither the confidence nor the technique to break down the American's power game.

And Hingis must have nightmares about her Australian Open final defeat against Capriati in January.

She held four match points before allowing the American to win a second set tie-break and breezing through the third to win 4-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Both Venus and Serena have had even more compelling wins over the 21-year-old Hingis, who won all of her five Grand Slam tournaments before she reached 18.

Serena made her look almost second rate when she beat her 6-4 6-0 in Miami in March.

Venus has won the Wimbledon and US titles for the past two years, but last year she went out in the first round to Barbara Schett. She reached the quarters in 1998 and 2000.

Serena won the US Open in 1999 but again she has never got beyond the quarters in Paris, going out at that stage last year to eventual champion Capriati, who was Roland Garros' youngest-ever semifinalist in 1990, when she was just 14.