

BCB dissolves ump's panel

BSS, Dhaka
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar relieved all members of Board's Umpires' Committee, including its chairman Syed Ashraf Haque and member secretary Saib Hossain Tutul, of their respective posts by an office order yesterday.

Green Delta hockey MSC keep cruising

SPORTS REPORTER
Holders Mohammed Sporting Club cruised to their 14th win in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League with a 4-1 thrashing of Bangladesh Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 3-0. Forward Moududur Rahman Shuvo struck twice while Pakistani Mohammad Shafiq and Arif Haque Prince added one goal each.

On the other hand, Taleb reduced the margin for the losers. With that win, Mohammed remained atop the table with highest 43 points from 15 matches while Bangladesh Sporting remained fifth on 16 points.

The day's other match between Dhaka Railway and Sonali Bank ended in a 1-1 draw.

Both teams are now struggling second from bottom along with Wari Club.

One of them will eventually join Farashganj Sporting Club in the First Division League next season. Farashganj have lost all their 16 matches conceding 99 goals.

England side for 3rd Test

AFP, London
England squad announced Saturday for the third Test against Sri Lanka at Old Trafford starting on June 13: Nasser Hussain (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Mark Butcher, Michael Vaughan, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Alec Stewart, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Alex Tudor, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones.



ESPN
World Cup Today
Repeat at 11:30 am
West Indies vs India
Fifth ODI
Repeat at 5:30

STAR Sports
World Cup Today
Repeat at 10:00 am
Futbol Mundial
Repeat at 7:00 pm
World Cup Today
Live at 11:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 11:30 pm

STAR Movies
Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson
World Heavyweight C'ship
10:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 173
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm June 21, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Bangladesh A beat USA by how many wickets in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge final.
5-wkts 7-wkts 3-wkts
Aminul Rajib Refaat

2. Who clinched the Open FIDE Rating chess title?
Aminul Rajib Refaat

3. Who won the First Division cricket title?

Name.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone: (If any).....

A Spanish affair



AFP, Paris
Juan Carlos Ferrero looks like the man to beat in Sunday's all-Spanish men's final against Albert Costa at the French Open.

The pair, playing in their first Grand Slam final, will be bidding to win in the footsteps of Carlos Moya who was the last Spaniard to lift the title in 1998 in another all-Spanish clash with Alex Corretja.

But what should be a classic showdown between the clay court players looks hard to call on paper with two players who stand 2-2 in their previous meetings which have all been on clay.

The 26-year-old Costa came away winner of their last meeting in Hamburg, but Ferrero won most recently at Monte Carlo, when he defeated Moya in the final.

Costa has 11 titles, all of which have come on clay, but has won nothing in the past three years, while Ferrero has six titles, five of which are on clay.

"The last time I lost against Albert in Hamburg, so I'll have to play my best tennis, to try to give my best mentally on court and that's all," said Ferrero. "Nobody's the favourite in the final."

Barring a recurrence of an ankle sprain which resulted in the 22-year-old Ferrero almost withdrawing from the tournament before his second round match the man from Alicante is tipped as the favourite.

Former champion and seven time Grand Slam winner Andre Agassi, the fourth seed from the United States, believes his conqueror Ferrero will become this year's champion after their quarter-final meeting.

And Ferrero, the 11th seed, showed his winning form against second seeded Marat Safin which left the Russian wondering just what

had hit him in their semi-final tie which the Spaniard won 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 Friday.

"The guy he's playing much better than before," said Safin.

"He's attacking, he's serving well. He's learned a lot and has more experience now. He's won two Masters Series events. He already made the semifinals last year here."

But Safin believes that Costa could be the dark horse of the tournament with consistent good results this season.

"Costa is playing well also. He made results in the clay court season," said Safin.



JUAN CARLOS FERRERO
"He made the quarterfinals at Monte Carlo and the finals in Barcelona and the quarterfinals in Rome. He beat Ferrero in Hamburg. He's a dangerous player."

"I think it's going to be a tough final. And it's a final you never know whose going to be the winner," added former US champion Safin.

Costa, the 20th seed, may be a surprise finalist, but in his match against Corretja, he displayed the form that allowed him to knock off three-time Roland Garros champion Gustavo Kuerten earlier in the tournament.

He committed only 76 errors, compared to Corretja's 92, and was

able to save 16 of Corretja's break point opportunities before clinching a 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win in three hours, ten minutes.

The semifinal victory boosted Costa to a career high number five in the ATP Champions Race, and if he wins Sunday, the Barcelona-based player will jump to number two, trailing only Safin.

"It's a great moment for me," said Costa, who has not won a title in three years.

"There's still one match left which will be more important than anything I've ever done so far. So I'll have to be there at 100 percent for my and I'll have to win."

But he knows he has a tough task to get past Ferrero, which has reached the semifinals here for the past three years, losing the past two years to eventual champion Kuerten.

"Juan Carlos has a very good rhythm, he's hitting all the time, trying to make the point all the time. He goes for the ball no matter what, and keeps his pace no matter what. So it's going to be tough," said Costa.

Ferrero is hoping that Costa is feeling the effects of a longer route to the final, with just over one extra hour on court.

"It's going to be hard because Costa is playing very well, although he's had a hard time winning the last two games. Perhaps he'll be a bit tired."

"I'll also be tired in the finals, but we'll both make our effort. Of course I hope to win."

Corretja, who will be best man at Costa's wedding next Friday, has words of advice for his best friend.

"He (Costa) has to be aggressive and to try to win because for all of us the first time we come to the final you feel this is good enough. But this is not enough it's everything that comes with it," added the two-time runner-up.

Bjorn going to win love game

AFP, Stockholm

Swedish tennis ace Bjorn Borg is to marry for the third time on Saturday, tying the knot with a mother-of-two in an 18th century church outside the Swedish capital.

The five-time Wimbledon champion, 46, began dating Patricia Ostfeldt, a real estate agent, early last year and the pair will seal their love match at the Ingareo church in the Stockholm archipelago.

Borg, who has a teenage son Robin from a previous relationship with Swedish model Jannike Bjorling, has said his life had changed dramatically after meeting Ostfeldt, and gone are the wild parties and late nights.

He was previously married to Romanian Marianna Simionescu and Italian singer Loredana Berté.

Borg won 62 tournaments during his illustrious career, including six French Open titles and five Wimbledon titles. He shocked the sports world in 1983 when he announced his retirement from competition at the age of 26.

The tennis legend, whose own website urges Europeans to have more sex, has said he wants to have more children with his wife-to-be.



A picture taken on August 24 last year shows former Swedish tennis ace Bjorn Borg and his fiancée Patricia Ostfeldt on the archipelago of Aland in Finland. The couple were to marry in Ingareo on the Stockholm archipelago yesterday.

Perera back as match starts

AFP, Chesterfield

Controversial Sri Lanka seamer Ruchira Perera was back in action with three for 45 against MCC here Friday.

After taking five wickets in last month's drawn First Test at Lord's Perera, 25, had his action reported to the International Cricket Council (ICC) by match officials.

In his first match since then Perera was Sri Lanka's most successful bowler Friday as an MCC side full of promising English players finished the second day on 270 for six.

Perera, who is undergoing remedial work with Australian bowling coach Daryl Foster, is allowed under ICC rules to continue playing Test and all other forms of cricket.

But he was left out in favour of off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for the Second Test at Edgbaston which Sri Lanka lost by an innings and 111 runs on Sunday.

The deciding Test of the series starts at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Fast bowler Dilhara Fernando, yet to feature in the series because of injury, pressed his claim for a Test place with two for 37 from 12 overs.

Meanwhile Nottinghamshire's Usman Afzaal, who made his three and so far only Test appearances last year, reminded the England selectors he is still around with an unbeaten 80.

Also impressing was Kent opener Robert Key (77), yet to play Test cricket but long earmarked as a future international.

After Thursday's total washout there is little chance of this match yielding a victory for either side.

But uncapped Glamorgan fast bowler Simon Jones, included in England's Edgbaston squad but not selected for the final XI, may yet have the chance to test the Sri Lankan batsmen on Saturday.

Pollock propels Warwickshire

AFP, London

South Africa captain Shaun Pollock returned to action in style as Warwickshire beat Lancashire off the last ball to win their Benson and Hedges Cup semifinal at Old Trafford on Friday.

In his first match since attending the funeral of former South Africa skipper Hansie Cronje, paceman Pollock took four for 27 to restrict Lancashire to 211 for nine.

But he could only sit and watch when, with Warwickshire needing two for a tie and victory on faster scoring rate, last man Neil Carter swept his first ball and the game's last from Glen Chapple for a four to long leg.

Essex will play Warwickshire in what will be the last Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's on June 22.

After 30 years the competition is being scrapped and will be replaced next season by a mid-week 20-overs per side tournament.

It capped a memorable match for the South-African born but England qualified Carter.

He had earlier taken three for 43 with his left-arm seamers as well as running out Chris Schofield with a direct hit.

Diego accepts

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revenge for their elimination in France '98 where Beckham was sent off.

Maradona said he would not have substituted striker Gabriel Batistuta in the second half of Friday's game as the Argentinians battled in vain for an equaliser.

Down in dumps

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experience in such great matches." Slovenia plays Paraguay on June 12 with no chance of reaching the second round.

India pick new keeper



AFP, Calcutta

Indian selectors on Saturday named a new wicketkeeper in a 16-member squad for the Test series against England starting next month.

Young Parthiv Patel found a place in the Test team along with regular wicketkeeper Ajay Ratna, but the selectors did not have any other surprises in store.

"The selectors feel that the boys are doing well and that's why they have not made many changes," Indian cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah told reporters.

Ratna is also in the 15-member one-day team for the preceding tri-nation series from June 27 to July 13, in which Sri Lanka is the third team. The Test series starts July 25 at Lord's.

Patel, a 17-year-old who was a member of the India 'A' side in the just-concluded tour of Sri Lanka, was preferred to Deep Dasgupta, a favourite of captain Sourav Ganguly.

The Indian captain however exuded confidence in the teams.

"I am satisfied with the teams and

hope Parthiv Patel will emerge as one of the best wicketkeepers," Ganguly said.

Veteran seamer Jagavallu Srinath was not considered following his retirement announcement earlier this week, while leg-spinner Anil Kumble came back for both versions after a jaw injury sustained in the West Indies.

The selectors settled for a pace attack of Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Tinu Yohannan and Ajit Agarkar for both teams, with medium-pace all-rounder Sanjay Bangar lending balance for the Tests.

The Test opening pair of Shiv Das and Wasim Jaffer has been persisted with, but spinners Murali Kartik and Sarandeep Singh have no place in either team.

The selection committee meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Bombay, but Dalmiya shifted it to his home city to keep an eye on the selections.

Dalmiya had earlier scuttled a move by six top players, including vice captain Rahul Dravid, to shoot commercials in South Africa during the short break between the West Indies and England tours.

The players were apparently told

they would not be considered for the one-day tournament in England, if they went to South Africa.

"The players have a right to shoot for commercials but they were told to reconsider their decision as we are in the middle of two long tours. The players understood our point," Dalmiya said.

Kumble, Srinath, Ratna, Sehwal and Harbhajan were the others set to leave for South Africa.

SQUADS

FOR ONE-DAYERS: Sourav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Venkatsai Laxman, Dinesh Mongia, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Ajay Ratna, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ajit Agarkar, Ashish Nehra, Tinu Yohannan.

FOR TESTS: Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Shiv Sundar Das, Wasim Jaffer, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Ajit Agarkar, Tinu Yohannan, Ajay Ratna, Sanjay Bangar, Parthiv Patel.

Coach: John Wright (New Zealand).

Akram inspires Pakistan



AFP, Brisbane

Evergreen left-arm paceman Wasim Akram finished with 4-24 from seven overs to help Pakistan beat Queensland by 15 runs in a 40-over-a-side warm-up match here Saturday.

Pakistan, who face Australia in a three-match one-day series starting in Melbourne next Wednesday, badly needed the work-out.

All-rounder Shahid Afridi claimed 2-23 to go with his 52 in the Pakistani innings.

Shoaib Akhtar, the world's fastest bowler, bowled with pace and aggression to claim 2-27 from six overs, including blasting a yorker past the bat of Queensland's Daniel Payne to dismiss him for a second-ball duck.

Pakistan wrapped up a tight win with three balls remaining after bowling Queensland out for 179 in the 39th over. The tourists made 194-8 in 40 overs.

Earlier, some lusty lower-order hitting by Shoaib and wicketkeeper Rashid Latif helped a rusty Pakistan batting line-up.

Shoaib slammed 25 off 19 balls, including three fours and a six, and Latif chimed in with 25 off 36 balls.

Opener Shahid Afridi had got the visitors away to a bright start with 52

off 52 balls, including four fours and three massive sixes, including one off teammate Mohammad Sami.

Sami, the latest addition to the Pakistani quiver of quick bowlers, was invited to play for the home team in order to provide all of the tourists' squad with match practice before their opening one-day match against Australia on Wednesday at Colonial Stadium.

After Afridi was dismissed, Pakistan struggled to shake off an enthusiastic Queensland attack that had restricted them to 8-151 after 34 overs.

Pakistan are without all-rounder Abdul Razaq and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq who are both playing in the English county championship.

Razaq, 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 playing for Surrey.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the limited-overs practice match between Pakistan and Queensland on Saturday:

PAKISTAN		QUEENSLAND XI	
Bowler	O M R W	Bowler	O M R W
Afridi c Betts b Hopes	52	Simpson b Akram	9
Nazir c Seccombe b Edmondson	8	Betts run out	18
Mahmood c Betts b Petrie	21	Hopes c Mahmood b Akram	1
Anwar c Simpson b Rimmington	31	Seccombe c Mahmood b Akhtar	12
Younisa c Petrie b Hauritz	3	Sippell c Malik b Waqar	23
Younis lbw Petrie	1	Payne b Akhtar	0
Malik c Hopes b Rimmington	3	Hauritz st Latif b Afridi	61
		Sami b Akram	33
		Petrie not out	2
		Edmondson b Akram	20
		Extras: (b-6, lb-7, w-3, nb-4)	20
		Total: (All out in 39.3 overs)	179
		Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-24, 3-45, 4-47, 5-47, 6-84, 7-172, 8-177, 9-179	

Gilchrist's plea to Murali



REUTERS, Brisbane

Australian vice-captain Adam Gilchrist said he hoped Sri Lanka bowler Muttiah Muralitharan would reconsider plans to skip his country's tour of Australia this year.

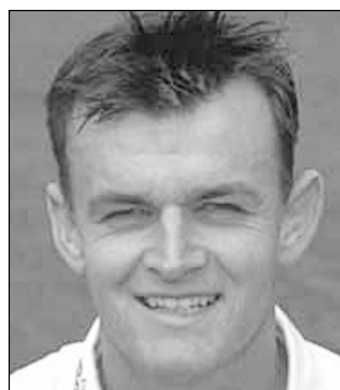
"That's a decision that he's got to

return to the country.

"But I'm sure the Australian team, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) and the cricket fans here would love to see him out here again and he'd be most welcome," Gilchrist added.

"He's a very exciting cricketer and a great bloke and I'd be very disappointed and feel sorry if he didn't come."

Muralitharan, an off-spinner who



ADAM GILCHRIST make along with his support group," Gilchrist told a news conference in Brisbane following Australian press reports the bowler was reluctant to



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN has taken more than 400 test wickets, was no-balled for throwing during previous tours of Australia. The Sri Lankan was reported in

Australian newspapers to be anxious to avoid another controversial visit to the country on the eve of the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

Gilchrist himself thrust Muralitharan's name back in the headlines last month when he told an Australian Rules football pre-match luncheon in Melbourne that Muralitharan's bowling action was technically not within the rules of the game.

Sri Lanka are scheduled to play in a triangular one-day series against England and host nation Australia later this year. Sri Lanka are currently touring England and Muralitharan bowled for long periods during the second test which the touring side lost.

The ACB officially reprimanded Gilchrist for his comments on Muralitharan's action, which has been cleared by the International Cricket Council.

Australia will host a three-match one-day series against Pakistan starting on Wednesday in Melbourne.



Finalist Spaniard Albert Costa lies down on the court after beating compatriot Alex Corretja in the semifinal of French Open on June 7.

FRENCH FRIES



AFP, Paris

Tennis fans probably thought they'd never see the day when former arch-rivals Pat Cash of Australia and Swede Mats Wilander would join forces on the same side of the net. But Friday the duo captured the Legends Under 45s Trophy at Roland Garros with a 6-3, 6-4 win over French pair Yannick Noah and Guy Forget.

Spectators on Court One were treated to an entertaining display of tennis, with the spirited showman Noah, singles winner here in 1983 and now a pop star, stealing the limelight by entertaining the crowd, the ballplayers and linespeople for the entire match.

Cash sported his trademark chequered headband, which he wore when he won Wimbledon in 1987, while Wilander exhibited the same smooth double-handed

backhand that had helped him to three Roland Garros singles titles, in 1982, 1985 and 1988.

Fans saw more of the same during the Legends Over 45s final when Mansour Bahrami and Gene Mayer beat Peter McNamara and Ilie Nastase 7-6, 6-2.

IT'S KIDS PLAY FOR SAFIN

How can a guy who has not watched the same cartoons as you as a kid possibly understand how you tick? says moody Russian Marat Safin about his problems with a succession of coaches.

The 22-year-old former US champion, who went out in straight sets in the semi-finals Friday to Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero, has gone through five different coaches in the past two years.

"We've been watching different cartoons. We grew up in a different system. So it's very difficult for European people to understand the Russian one. Nobody can actually understand Russians."

"It's easier to work with a Russian guy. He more or less understands what you need, he understands how you think, what is your game, and what you want to be, what you need for your game," explains the world number one.

SISTERS DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES

Serena and Venus Williams will make history in more ways than one when they become the first sisters to contest a women's final at Roland Garros later Saturday. They will also be the first African American women to advance to the final of the French Open in the Open Era.

Althea Gibson won the title in 1956, with fellow American Camille Benjamin reaching the semi-finals in 1984. Only two other occasions in Grand Slam history have two sisters played in the final - the 1884 Wimbledon singles final when Maud Watson defeated sister Lilian in three sets and last year's US Open when Venus beat Serena 6-2, 6-4.

Indian duo's Paris misery

AFP, Paris

Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, doubles champions for the last two years here but now playing with different partners, saw their hopes of French Open glory dashed at the semifinal stage at Roland Garros.

The Indian duo won the doubles title here in 2000 and 2001 but having split up for a second time earlier this year decided to go into Roland Garros as part of new line-ups.

But the change didn't work as second seeds Mark Knowles and Daniel Nestor saw off Paes and his Czech partner Tomas Cibulec, seeded 14, 7-6, 7-5 while Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands defeated Bhupathi and Max Mirnyi of Belarus 6-7, 7-5, 6-2.

Knowles, from the Bahamas, and Canadian Nestor, runners-up here in 1998, will be aiming for their second successive Grand Slam win having captured the Australian Open title in January.

Counter-attack

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changes against Japan. Striker Vladimir Beschastnykh, who looked out of sorts against Tunisia, could be replaced by 18-year-old Dmitry Sychev, who came on as a second-half substitute and was involved in both Russian goals in Kobe.

Russia have potential match-winners in midfield too, even without Mostovoi, with Valery Karpin and Yegor Titov likely to give the Japanese defenders