

New Zealand elect to bat

West Indies won the toss and put New Zealand in to bat on the opening day of the first Test at the Kensington Oval on Friday. Mervyn Dillon passed a late fitness test and 24-year old fellow West Indian paceman Darren Powell was preferred to leg spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo. Cameron Cuffy was rested. New Zealand drafted in 20-year-old pace bowler Ian Butler in preference to Chris Martin, who has sustained a minor fracture to the little finger on his bowling hand. New Zealand have never won Test match in the West Indies, while the home team have only lost three of the 38 Tests they have played at Bridgetown.

TEAMS WEST INDIES: Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chanderepaul, Carl Hooper (captain), Ridley Jacobs, Darren Powell, Adam Sanford, Mervyn Dillon, Pedro Collins. NEW ZEALAND: Mark Richardson, Lou Vincent, Stephen Fleming (captain), Chris Harris, Nathan Astle, Craig McMillan, Robbie Hart, Daniel Vettori, Shane Bond, Daryl Tuffey, Ian Butler.

Umpires: Rudi Koetzenz (South Africa) and Srinivas Venkatraghavan (India).

WHIZZ KID-173 winner Zobeda Akhter Feni Govt Girls High School (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 June 27.)

WHIZZ KID-173 correct answers

- 1. Bangladesh A beat USA by how many wickets in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge final. Ans: 7-wkts
2. Who clinched the Open FIDE Rating chess title? Ans: Rajib
3. Who won the First Division Cricket title? Ans: Orient
4. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the England and Sri Lanka second Test? Ans: Hoggard
5. What was the result of the 2002 World Cup opening match between France and Senegal? Ans: 1-0



ESPN World Cup Today Repeat at 9:30 am West Indies vs India Fourth Test, Day Five Taped Version at 2:30 pm England vs Sri Lanka Third Test, Day Two Highlights Taped Version at 9:00 am STAR Sports World Cup Today Repeat at 10:00 am Asia Sport Show Int'l Sports News Taped Version at 12:00 pm World Cup Today Live at 11:00 pm

Star Whizz Kid Competition 174. Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm July 5, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards. Includes a grid for answers to questions about the World Cup 2002.



THE PICTURE SAYS IT ALL: Abahani stick-wielders party after winning the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League title at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Hockey drought over Abahani are the champs

Abahani Krira Chakra put to rest their hockey ghost by lifting the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League title after ten years at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. The popular Dhanmondi outfit won their last return-leg match against Mariner Young's Club 3-2 to reclaim the coveted trophy since they last won it way back in 1992-93 season. The victory gave Abahani an unassailable 48 points from 18 games, four points clear from their bitter rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club. Mohammedan, who were dominating the hockey scene by winning

the title for the last four editions will play their last match against Usha Krira Chakra today. But the match will only be of academic interest as Mohammedan can at best finish runners-up even if they lose. For Abahani it was a wonderful late charge in the return-leg after starting six points behind League leaders Mohammedan. Ronald Kiran, Ramiz and Shamim Reza scored once each to give the Dhanmondi team a 3-1 lead at the break in the virtual League decider. Ronald, the Indian recruit of the sky blues opened the scoring from a penalty corner in the tenth minute. Ramiz doubled the margin three minutes later blasting home an Ashrafur Islam cross from the right.

Kutubuddin Yen pulled one back for Mariner in the 28th minute. But Abahani needed just one minute to take a 3-1 lead through a powerful hit from forward Shamim Reza. Mariner pressed hard after the break but Yen could manage only to score his second goal in the 44th minute. The defeat means yet another near miss for Mariners, who also needed a win to lift their maiden League title. Abahani players later had an infield celebration. But understandably there were not many sky blue supporters around to see the match as most of them remained glued in front of the television sets to watch the World Cup quarterfinal between Brazil and England.

Mark hearing Thursday

England batsman Mark Butcher's disciplinary hearing over remarks about the bowling action of Sri Lankan seamer Ruchira Perera has been rescheduled for next Thursday. Surrey left-hander Butcher was due before the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Friday to explain newspaper comments made about Perera. His 'ghosted' article came after the bowler's suspect action was reported by match officials to the International Cricket Council (ICC) following the drawn series opener at Lord's. Butcher, recently spoken of as a possible future captain of England by former skipper Michael Atherton, had the hearing delayed after his representatives said it would not be fair to hold it just 24 hours after an operation on the player's left knee. Butcher would not have faced any hearing at all had he accepted an initial punishment imposed by the ECB's discipline and standards committee, believed to be a fine of around 1,500 pounds (2,205 dollars).

Writing in the Croydon Advertiser, Butcher said of Perera: "He definitely straightens his arm" (something bowlers are not permitted to do in the final stage of their delivery action under the Laws of Cricket). Butcher, who on Monday was a member of the England side that wrapped up a 2-0 series win over Sri Lanka at Old Trafford, added: "It's not so bad when the ball is pitched up but when he bowls short, he just runs up and throws it at you - I can't believe someone gets away with it!" Those remarks appear to be in clear breach both of the ICC code of conduct and the ECB's own code written into England's central contract. Butcher's decision not to pay the fine could see him hit with stronger punishments including a fine of 2,000 pounds (2,940 dollars) or even a suspension of up to five playing days. He is due at Lord's on Thursday June 27, for an 0900GMT hearing.

Hewitt withdraws

Australian top seed Lleyton Hewitt pulled out of the quarterfinals of the ATP grasscourt tournament here on Friday with a stomach virus. Hewitt, top seed for Wimbledon next week and defending champion in Hertogenbosch struggled into the last eighth Thursday with a 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 win in stormy conditions against Russian Mikhail Youzhny. "I've tried to keep going for as long as possible," Hewitt said Friday. "I lost too many fluids Thursday and haven't been able to recover," he added. The Australian hopes the bug will not hamper his appearance at Wimbledon. "The virus has to recover with rest. I will have to take it one day at a time," Hewitt said. His withdrawal means French seventh seed Arnaud Clement will go through to the semi-finals.

Cricket Morocco-bound

Cricket's governing body on Friday approved the Moroccan city of Tangier as the sport's newest international venue, bringing north Africa onto the world stage of cricket for the first time. Tangier will host South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for its inaugural limited-overs tournament from August 12 to 21, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced. The 25-million-dollar Tangier Cricket Stadium has been constructed by the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS), organisers of cricket internationals in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. "The ICC has granted international status to the Tangier Cricket Stadium in Morocco, official approval that will allow it to become north Africa's first international cricket venue," an ICC statement said. "Last week, ICC Match Referee Mike Procter visited Morocco to carry out a detailed inspection of the ground, facilities and infrastructure." "His report to the ICC recommended that the stadium should be granted international status, after meeting all of the relevant cricketing admission criteria." The ICC's approval is backed by

Dead-land

cancelled. Nothing else matters." Many firms laid on free breakfasts to prevent absenteeism while others simply gave staff time off. In many school, assemblies were replaced by wide-screen broadcasts. Classes started late. Bookmakers predicted record betting of up to 20 million pounds (30 million dollars) on the game. One patriotic punter placed 100,000 pounds on England to win the World Cup at odds of 7 to 2. He lost it. In London's financial district, about 1,000 fans watched the match on a big screen in Finsbury Square. The game was being shown at the Bloomberg World Cup Arena for invited City workers, who could also keep an eye on the price of shares as they rolled by on the big screen. In Manchester, Karen Appleton, 40, said she was "absolutely drained" after watching the game on a giant screen at the Co-operative Bank's headquarters. "It was a roller coaster of emotions, I have supported England all the way but Brazil are just class, they are in a class of their own." British charity group The Samaritans agreed, saying the loss could cause an influx of callers to their help lines. "All the World Cup could do is act as a trigger to people who are already suffering from depression or distress," said a spokesman.

The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Rd-5 winners

- 1. First prize: Wahidur Rahman Tejkunipara, Dhaka.
2. Second Prize: Salim Khan Nayamati, Pagla, Dhaka.
3. Third Prize: Nahid Miah Banani, Dhaka.
4. Fourth Prize: Kaiser Ahmed Modinanagar, Mirpur, Dhaka.
5. Fifth Prize: Aliqur Rahman

CORRECT ANSWERS

- 1. Record of most World Cup finals appearances goes to Ans: Matthaus
2. Only country to play in every World Cup Ans: Brazil
3. Middle name of Diego Maradona is Ans: Armando
4. Which WC final was decided in penalty shoot-out Ans: 1994
5. Who is this? Ans: Batistuta

PCB's ICC agenda

Pakistan cricket chiefs said Friday they will try to clear star players of match-fixing slurs and talk Australia into touring the bomb-hit nation during a trip to London for next week's International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials will take with them an official report into alleged match-fixing during the 1999 World Cup. "The ICC had directed us to produce the match-fixing report of World Cup 1999 and I am carrying that comprehensive report to present during the ICC meeting in London," PCB director Brigadier Munawar Rana told AFP. "I can't tell you the contents of the report but we have conducted a comprehensive inquiry on past incidents and hopefully this will bury all match-fixing controversy in Pakistan cricket," said Rana.

The results of the report have not been made public but local media reported in March that PCB chairman Lieutenant General Taqir Zia said all players had been cleared. Rana also said he would hold talks with Australian officials on the sidelines of the ICC meeting on upcoming tours which have been put in serious doubt by recent bomb blasts that have left scores dead. Top Australian stars have said they will refuse to tour Pakistan after a fatal bomb attack here during New Zealand's visit last month and the PCB's case has not been helped by a further blast just a week ago.

"I would be meeting Australian officials on Sunday and would do my best to convince them to tour Pakistan," said Rana. Australia is due to play a one-day tri-series also involving New Zealand in Pakistan in August-September and then three Test matches in October. "Pakistan would want ICC to be proactive and help countries like Pakistan where cricket has suffered due to international events," said Rana. "We have several options available and would discuss them in a friendly manner and would come out with a solution acceptable to both the countries."

The match-fixing probe was ordered after Pakistan's defeats to Bangladesh and India during the World Cup in England were widely alleged to be fixed. More than 20 former players, officials and journalists gave evidence to the inquiry. Former captain Salim Malik and pacer Ata-ur-Rehman were banned for life and captain Waqar Younis and players Wasim Akram, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Saad Anwar, Mushtaq Ahmed and Akram Raza were fined after Pakistan's first match-fixing inquiry two years ago. The ICC meeting will be held in London from June 27-29.

Samba breakfast

FROM PAGE 13 ravenous Brazilian press corps for days. "We sometimes trained with ten players and the press wondered why," he smirked. After the samba stars survived without the prodigious Ronaldinho for the final 32 minutes the penny dropped. "We gave a good image of Brazil, a good impression of our quality and our spirit. "I have ever seen the team defend the national colours with such fighting spirit. We are doing a very good job," said the notoriously difficult to please Scolari as he invoked the "fighting spirit" concept which has also served the South Koreans so well at the event. England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson has admitted his team could have played better after losing 2-1 to Brazil in the World Cup quarter-finals. "I hoped we would have done a little bit better when we played 11 against 10 but it was too late and we were tired. We didn't use our advan-

Pakistan-Lanka opener Champs Trophy starts Sept 12



Hosts Sri Lanka will play Pakistan in the opening match of the ICC Champions' Trophy in Sri Lanka in September. The International Cricket Council announced a revised version of the tournament schedule on Thursday, with the opening game -- a day-night clash -- set for September 12 at Colombo's Premadasa Stadium. Each of the 12 competing nations will play two games in the pool stage before the semifinals, with the final due to be staged on September 29, also at Premadasa Stadium. The tournament is a revamped version of the ICC Knockout Trophy, known as the 'Mini World Cup' and which was last won by New Zealand. In all, nine of the tournament's 15 matches will be day-night fixtures at

REVISSED SCHEDULE

- Pool 1: Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand
Pool 2: India, England, Zimbabwe
Pool 3: Kenya, South Africa, West Indies
Pool 4: Netherlands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
First phase Sept 12: Sri Lanka v Pakistan, (D/N) Premadasa
Sept 13: South Africa v W Indies, Sinhalese Sports Club
Sept 14: India v Zimbabwe, (D/N) Premadasa
Sept 15: Australia v New Zealand, SSC
Sept 16: Sri Lanka v Netherlands, (D/N) Premadasa
Sept 17: West Indies v Kenya, SSC
Sept 18: England v Zimbabwe, (D/N) Premadasa
Sept 19: Australia v Bangladesh, SSC
Sept 20: South Africa v Kenya, (D/N) Premadasa
Sept 21: Pakistan v Netherlands, SSC
Sept 22: England v India, (D/N) Premadasa
Sept 23: New Zealand v Bangladesh, SSC
Semifinals Sept 25: Winner Pool 2 v Winner Pool 3, (D/N) Premadasa (reserve day September 26)
Sept 27: Winner Pool 1 v Winner Pool 4 (D/N) Premadasa (reserve day September 28)
Final Sept 29: Winners of semifinals (D/N) Premadasa (reserve day September 30)

Wright's worry Sehwag fit to play



India coach John Wright admitted on Thursday his team's poor overseas record was a cause for concern ahead of their four Test series in England. Pakistan cricket chiefs said Friday they will try to clear star players of match-fixing slurs and talk Australia into touring the bomb-hit nation during a trip to London for next week's International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials will take with them an official report into alleged match-fixing during the 1999 World Cup. "The ICC had directed us to produce the match-fixing report of World Cup 1999 and I am carrying that comprehensive report to present during the ICC meeting in London," PCB director Brigadier Munawar Rana told AFP. "I can't tell you the contents of the report but we have conducted a comprehensive inquiry on past incidents and hopefully this will bury all match-fixing controversy in Pakistan cricket," said Rana.



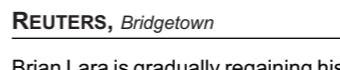
JOHN WRIGHT in England. India have not won a Test series outside of the sub-continent since 1986 when Kapil Dev led the side to a 2-0 victory in England.

"I've been on four tours with this team," said former New Zealand batsman Wright. "On three we've gone into the last Test with a chance to win the series. "We were not successful in those three games and it's still a challenge for this team," Wright told reporters here at Lord's. "We were not successful in those three games and it's still a challenge for this team," Wright told reporters here at Lord's. Meanwhile batsman Virender Sehwag has been given the all-clear after being struck on the head during a nets session at Lord's. Wright said Sehwag was helping out as an extra bowler when he was hit on the forehead by a shot from Zaheer Khan. He was taken to hospital but a scan revealed no damage. "He had a scan last night, he's a bit sluggish today but it's not a problem," said Wright. India arrived on Tuesday to take part in a one-day triangular series against England and Sri Lanka before playing a four-match Test series against their hosts. The Test series starts on July 25 at Lord's. England take on Sri Lanka in the first one-dayer on June 27.



VIRENDER SEHWAG "We had a good opportunity against the West Indies (where India recently lost a Test series 2-1) but we did not take it." However, Wright was upbeat

Lara exudes confidence



Brian Lara is gradually regaining his complete range of strokes as he walks the long road back to full fitness, the West Indies' record-breaking batsman has said. The day before the start of the first Test against New Zealand, the left-hander said his confidence was higher than it had been at any time since he fractured a bone in his elbow in a collision with a Sri Lankan fielder last December. "I am feeling much more confident than I did going into the (recent) India series because the injury is much better, and I am able to play a wider variety of shots as my hand speed comes back," he said. The West Indies won the series against India 2-1 but Lara struggled for form, leaving some of his fans to ask whether he had been forced back into action too quickly. Lara and the West Indies side have since received another confidence boost from the 3-1 victory in the one-day series against New Zealand. He was not the most influential figure in the series, but began to produce the flowing shots that had been largely absent against India. Particularly satisfying was his undefeated 59 in the game in St Lucia. "This really helped boost my

confidence in both mental and physical terms," Lara said. While not a classic Lara innings, his 47 in the final one-day game in St Vincent on Sunday was another job well-done. Lara also unleashed in that match the cuts and pulls that have been absent from his repertoire since he sustained the elbow injury. "I had not played a cut shot at all



BRIAN LARA until the St Vincent game because you need full extension of the arm. But I put one of these through backward point on Sunday which was very pleasing," Lara said. "In cricketering terms I am about 90 per cent but you can see just by looking at it that the injury and arm extension are still only about 75 per cent," he said holding out his left arm.

Hats off to winners

FROM PAGE 13 taged very much. "We were chasing, chasing - I don't think we had one shot on goal when 11 on 10. The boys tried very hard. "Brazil were very good at keeping the ball. We could maybe have done better today. It was a great pity. "They are better than us at keeping the ball. I think that's the difference. "We made a small mistake at the end of the first half and maybe another at the beginning of the second. "But, no regrets. We had a great opportunity to reach the semifinal and we didn't take it. We did very well in the first half until injury time. "We learned a lot of course, many things and a lot of young players we have in the squad they will be better and better. "Congratulations to Brazil, they have a very good football team and they play very good football."

Murali out of tri-series?

REUTERS, Taunton Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan, who has been suffering from a shoulder injury, will not take part in the triangular one-day series also involving England and India, BBC radio has reported. The off-spinner, who played in the last two tests of the recent three-match series won 2-0 by England, will fly home to Sri Lanka to get fit for the forthcoming test series against Bangladesh. "The team management have decided to send Murali back to Sri Lanka," said Sri Lanka tour manager Chandra Schaffer during his team's one-day game against English county Somerset. "We did not feel he was fit enough to risk playing in a one-day tournament." Sri Lanka team physiotherapist Alex Kontouri said: "There's no problem with him batting or bowling, but there would be a risk with him diving in the field." The triangular one-day series involving Sri Lanka, England and India starts next Thursday and ends with the final at Lord's on July 13.