

Sheetal h'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Arambagh KS made a flying start in the Sheetal Women's Handball League crashing Madaripur Handball Training Centre 33-3 at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 16-2 goals.

Shahida netted 11 and Shiuli 8 for Arambagh while Nilima, Papia and Shripa scored one each for Madaripur. Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the league as chief guest.

Tail props

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On the first day Vaughan and fellow opener Marcus Trescothick (57) and Mark Butcher (54) had seen the home side through to a commanding 336 for two.

Vaughan began the day two on 182 after recording his fourth Test century of the English summer on Thursday, and looked destined for the first double hundred of his first-class career when he smashed the second ball of the day from medium-pacer Ajit Agarkar through the covers for his 28th boundary.

He hit another four to race to 190 and straight drove Agarkar for three to move to 195.

The Yorkshire opener, who made 100 in the first test before making 197 in the second, faced just 13 balls on Friday, becoming the first man to be dismissed twice in the 190s in the same series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of England first innings on the second day of the fourth and final Test between England and India at The Oval on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 336 for 2)

Trescothick c Bangar b Zaheer	57
Vaughan c Ratra b Khan	195
Butcher c Dravid b Harbhajan	54
Crawley lbw b Bangar	26
Hussain c Laxman b Bangar	10
Stewart c Ratra b Harbhajan	23
Cork lbw b Harbhajan	52
Tudor c Dravid b Harbhajan	2
Giles c Dravid b Kumble	31
Caddick not out	14
Hoggard lbw b Harbhajan	0
Extras: (b-12, lb-31, w-1, nb-7)	51
Total: (All out in 155.4 overs)	515
Fall of wickets: 1-98, 2-272, 3-349, 4-367, 5-372, 6-434, 7-446, 8-477, 9-514, 10-515	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	28	4	83	2
Agarkar	24	4	111	0
Bangar	24	8	48	2
Harbhajan	38.4	6	115	5
Kumble	35	11	105	1
Ganguly	4	1	6	0
Tendulkar	2	0	4	0

INDIA: Sanjay Bangar, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly (capt), Venkatesh Laxman, Ajit Agarkar, Ajay Ratra (wkt), Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan

Toss: England

Umpires: David Orchard (Rsa), Asoka de Silva (Sri)

Third umpire: Neil Mallender (Eng)

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (Wis)

Ganguly & co make peace?



REUTERS, New Delhi

India's leading players are likely to play in next week's Champions' Trophy in Sri Lanka after settling a contract row with the International Cricket Council, a senior Indian official said.

"As per our knowledge, the players and the ICC have reached an agreement," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Niranjan Shah said from the western Rajkot city.

"Our players have agreed to the ambush marketing clause for 18 days after the event. We have also learnt the ICC has agreed not to use images of our players," Shah said on Friday.

Top players including Sachin Tendulkar and skipper Sourav Ganguly had been refusing to sign the ICC participation contract for the September 12-29 Colombo event over a clause preventing them from endorsing products of rival companies to official sponsors

30 days either side of ICC events. They also opposed an images clause which allowed official sponsors to use player images for up to six months.

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed has held discussions with the India players in London over the last two days to resolve an issue, which threatened to mar the prestigious 12-nation event.

Shah said the BCCI would oppose any demand from the ICC for compensation because of the concessions given to its players.

"We need in writing from the ICC that there will not be any financial liability. We are writing to the ICC today," he said.

The Indian board has called an emergency meeting of its decision-making working committee in New Delhi on Saturday to discuss the issue.

The ICC in a statement denied demanding any compensation from the Indian board, but said it had refused to accept BCCI's demand for a blanket indemnity from any damages claim (from sponsors) in the future over the Champions Trophy.

Bhupathi, Mirnyi in doubles final

AFP, New York

India's Mahesh Bhupathi and Max Mirnyi of Belarus won two matches here Thursday to reach the US Open men's doubles final, where they will face the Czech duo of Jiri Novak and Radek Stepanek.

Bhupathi and Mirnyi saved four match points to beat Zimbabwe's Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett 7-6, 5-7, 7-6 in a quarterfinal, then outlasted American brothers Mike and Bob Bryan 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in a night semi-final.

Bhupathi and Mirnyi beat Novak and Stepanek 7-5, 6-3 last month in a Cincinnati semifinal in their only prior meeting.

Should they capture Friday's final, the duo will have won three matches within 24 hours to take the Grand Slam crown.

The Czech 11th seeds advanced to the final by ousting fourth seeds Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and Todd Woodbridge of Australia 6-2, 7-6 in the other semifinal.

Bhupathi and Mirnyi barely got past the Africans in their first match. They had two match points on Mirnyi's serve in the 10th game of the third set and two more against Bhupathi in the 12th, but were denied each time.

US OPEN IN BRIEF

AP, New York

Highlights Thursday of the 16.17 million dollars US Open tennis championships:

WEATHER Sunny and beautiful. High of 80.

ATTENDANCE Day session: 18,042. Night session: 21,879.

WINNERS: Men, Quarterfinals No. 17 Pete Sampras, No. 24 Sjeng Schalken.

LOSERS: Men, Quarterfinals No. 11 Andy Roddick, No. 28 Fernando Gonzalez.

STAT OF THE DAY

Amelie Mauresmo is the first Frenchwoman to advance to the semifinals of the U.S. Open in the Open era (1968-present). Prior to the Open era, Francoise Durr accomplished the feat in 1967.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sometimes he was hitting winners, then all of a sudden he hits one ball in the stands, and then he hits three winners again. That was very, very tough tactically today." - Sjeng Schalken, on his opponent, Fernando Gonzalez.



BORED! Two juvenile players of Dhaka Chess Club waiting for their opponents' move in yesterday's Second Division chess league action at the National Sports Council's Chess Room.

Bond buries NSW

REUTERS, Sydney

Fast bowler Shane Bond captured five wickets as New Zealand's cricketers beat New South Wales by 30 runs on Friday to complete an unbeaten four-match tour of Australia.

Bond took five for 32 from 8.5 overs against Australia's interstate limited-overs champions in the Kiwis' final build-up match to next week's ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming top scored with 59 while Mathew Sinclair made 43 before the touring side collapsed all out for 199 in the 45th over.

Any fears they might have held about winning the match quickly disappeared when Bond removed Brad Haddin and former Australian test opener Michael Slater in his first spell.

Bond claimed another three victims when he returned to the attack for his second spell, enabling the Kiwis to hold on for a relatively comfortable win in the end.

"It was a good week to get back into the swing of things and we've learnt about combinations we want to use," Fleming told New Zealand Press Association.

"Rightly or wrongly we put ourselves in positions where we had to fight out of it and we achieved that."

The New Zealanders were scheduled to fly out of Sydney to Sri Lanka on Saturday to defend their Champions Trophy title. They will play another two practice matches in Colombo before taking on Australia in their opening match of the tournament.

Delightful revenge



REUTERS, London

One might have been tempted to interpret traces of revenge in Michael Vaughan's features at The Oval on Thursday.

There was none there, however. Just the same delight which brought him his previous three Test hundreds of the English summer.

The 27-year-old Yorkshireman, who ended 182 not out as England amassed 336 for two against India on the opening day of the fourth Test, has had a dream run since May and the first Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's, when he opened his account with 64 and 115.

It is the Indians, though, who have really suffered as the right-hander, armed with his textbook straight bat, has made consecutive scores of 0, 100, 197, 61 and 15 before Thursday's display.

He now averages 93.3 in his last seven Tests. Vaughan is not quite Rahul Dravid yet but there are clear similarities between the two men, both of whom seem to flourish as their sides' batting anchors.

Vaughan was not particularly fond of his Indian opponents at the end of last year when, batting in the third Test in Bangalore, he had

reached 64 before becoming only the seventh player in Test history to be dismissed handling the ball.

A disgruntled Vaughan, who had instinctively put out his hand to catch the ball even though it did not seem to be threatening his stumps, later, said he had expected the Indians to be "more sporting".

On reflection, though, he admitted that he had been naive to expect such concessions in the heat of battle. There were no hard feelings, he said. Sourav Ganguly's bowlers may be beginning to feel otherwise.

Vaughan became only the fifth Englishman to score four centuries in a Test summer and the first since Graham Gooch in 1990.

The Yorkshire opener has enjoyed a prolific summer against Sri Lanka and India, and in scoring an unbeaten 182 at The Oval he moved onto 840 Test runs for the season.

Vaughan follows in the illustrious footsteps of Herbert Sutcliffe (v South Africa, 1929), Denis Compton (v South Africa, 1947), Allan Lamb (v West Indies and Sri Lanka, 1984) and Gooch, who scored six tons against India and New Zealand.

The only non-Englishman to have achieved the feat was Australian great Sir Donald Bradman on the 1930 tour of England.

Mark Butcher paid tribute to

Vaughan after the batting England into a commanding position.

"He is magnificent touch, there was nowhere in the ground he couldn't hit the ball and it was a great pleasure to be batting with him."

"He didn't try and hit it too hard, he just timed everything and the ball kept going for four. Michael kept the scoreboard rattling around while I just stayed there. I was batting like a weasel and he was smashing it everywhere."

"The fact that he was playing well meant I could play myself in, work the ball around and knock singles around."

Vaughan is within reach of his highest Test score of 197 at Trent Bridge two Tests ago when Butcher shared in another substantial stand.

"He was fantastic, that's twice now I've bored the crowd at one end while he's smashed it all over the place at the other," said Butcher, who knows what it is like to be in the zone, having made a match-winning 173 not out against Australia last summer.

"I think the main thing when you're playing like that is you don't think about much else, there's nothing going on in your mind."

"Every ball that comes down you have an answer for, it's very uncomplicated when you are playing that well."

Buddhists in ICC way



BBC ONLINE, Colombo

Global cricket officials are crossing their fingers that Sri Lanka's powerful Buddhist clergy decide against stopping a critical match which falls on a full moon day.

The 12-nation Champions Trophy, run by the International Cricket Council (ICC), is the main lead-up event to the 2003 World Cup.

South Africa are due to meet Kenya on September 20 a full moon day when this predominantly Buddhist nation usually shuts down.

Offices close, butchers don't sell meat and bars don't serve alcohol. Full moon days are sacred to

Buddhists because they believe Buddha's birth coincided with a full moon.

Worshippers, wearing white clothes, visit Buddhist shrines on these days. Of the 18.8 million Sri Lankans, 74 per cent are Buddhists and the remainder are either Hindus, Muslims or Christians.

Sri Lanka's top cricket official Anura Tennakoon, however, said there will be no disruption in the ICC tournament.

"I am sure that everything will go on well," said Tennakoon, the chief executive of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka.

But fears remain that if any of the top Buddhist priests object the government and the cricket board will be forced to take action.

One potential scheduling stum-

bling block was raised last November, when the West Indies cricket squad was touring.

Alarmed by calls from the clergy to halt all sporting activities on "Pooya Day," top officials of the cricket board met the four top priests and urged them to spare the West Indies match.

The board officials managed to convince the clergy on that occasion that stopping the five-day Test would have tarnished the image of Sri Lankan cricket abroad.

However the former Peoples' Alliance government then decided to introduce a new law banning sports activities on full moon days.

During Zimbabwe's tour in December, a rest day was inserted during a Test because of the religious observance.

Sampras slays

FROM PAGE 13

prasad said. "I don't think about the final. If you do, it's the kiss of death."

Britain's Greg Rusedski had ripped Sampras as too slow and unable to compete with younger stars such as Roddick and Germany's Tommy Haas, Sampras' past two victims. Such critics have simply fueled Sampras' desire to prove them wrong.

"Absolutely it fired me up, for sure," Sampras said.

Sampras had not won a title since capturing his career-record 13th Slam title in 2000 at Wimbledon, struggling to simply win back-to-back matches and suffering a humiliating second round ouster at Wimbledon, an event he has won seven times.

"I feel like I have the power, the finesse at the net," Sampras said. "It's all there. I haven't shown much of it this year but I still have it."

"It has been a struggle this year. But I'm pretty comfortable here. My form has gotten better as the tournament has gone on. I'm confident. Everything is going well. I have some pretty good energy out there."

Roddick won both prior meetings with Sampras, at last year's third round in Miami and this year's Houston finals in April. That clay-court event was the last time Sampras had won more than twice at an ATP event until this fortnight.

"I don't think many of the players doubt his capabilities," Roddick said. "He has had some sub-par performances, but I don't think anybody doubts the fact that he is capable of great tennis still."

Sampras, rated outside the top 16 at the US Open for the first time since 1989, used his formidable serve and net-charging skills to dominate the talented but less experienced Roddick, who matched his best Slam showing here.

"He was putting away volleys. I definitely felt the pressure when he was coming in," Roddick said. "He set the tone from the first point of the match. It's something I can learn from being on the other side of it."

Roddick watched his boyhood idol fire 13 aces past him and hit 43 winners to his own 18, giving the next generation's brightest

American star an education.

"Disappointing? Yes, but it's still a learning experience," Roddick said. "I'm still trying to soak it up. I think I'll have my moment here someday."

Sampras broke Roddick first and last service games in the opening set, broke his spikey-haired rival at love in the third game of the second set and broke again early in the third, capitalizing on four of six break-point chances.

Sampras trailed 0-15 in the final game when he fired a second-serve ace, but stabbed a backhand volley wide to lift Roddick within two points of a break. But Sampras followed with two service winners and a drop volley to end the match.

"I wanted to set the tone early," Sampras said. "I got the first break and knew he wasn't on top of his game."

Schalken became the first Dutchman to reach the US Open semifinals since Tom Okker in 1971 and the first in any Slam semi-final since Richard Krajicek in 1998 at Wimbledon.

"I didn't expect this, to be in the semis," Schalken said. "I never thought I would have the game to beat those power players. It feels good with my steady consistent play to get here."

Schalken, who hopes to celebrate his 26th birthday by playing in Sunday's men's final, reached his first Slam quarter-final in July at Wimbledon after 28 prior failures, losing to eventual champion Hewitt of Australia.

Schalken was fortunate to even escape the US Open's first round. Aussie Mark Philippoussis won the first two sets against Schalken and was level in the fourth when he suffered a left knee injury and retired.

Schalken squandered a 5-1 edge in the first-set tie-breaker, which Gonzalez won by ripping a forehand winner and getting a lucky net cord winner, and blew a 5-3 lead in the fourth-set tie-breaker, ended by a Gonzalez ace.

Hosts stun Australia



AFP, Cologne

Germany rallied to snatch a 3-2 win over Australia at the men's Champions Trophy field hockey tournament here on Thursday.

The win puts the Germans back at the top of the tournament with four wins from four matches ahead of the Netherlands who overpowered Korea 4-2 and assures the hosts a place in Sunday's final.

Germany next meet the Netherlands in Friday's pool match and both sides could meet again in the final.

The loss was difficult to swallow for the Australians who had domi-

nated early play but have no points to show from their four matches.

"We controlled for 65 minutes and they controlled for 5 minutes," said disappointed Australian coach Barry Dancer.

"My boys played more confidently after they were down 1-2 as they had nothing to lose," admitted Germany coach Bernhard Peters. "It was a very hard result for the Australian coach."

Australia dominated the first 10 minutes pushing into Germany's circle without making a clean shot on goal.

But Germany broke out to gain possession with Sascha Reinelt flicking high into the net over Australian goalie Mark Hickman after 11 minutes.

Germany's midfield was closely

marked by Australia and it paid off with the Australian's first goal coming from a turnover in deep defence.

The outlet pass went to Nathan Eglinton then Adam Commens who made a pass to Andrew Smith in the right side of Germany's circle.

Smith's cross found Jamie Dwyer who turned to his backstick and hit over German goalie Clements Arnold after 27 minutes.

Arnold made amends saving four shots on goal from 2 penalty corners awarded to Australia after the half time hooter.

Germany's midfield lifted their performance in the second half and tried to harass Australia's ball carriers.

Australia responded with a quick passing game which allowed Commens and Dwyer to get shots on goal. Only the brilliance of Arnold's saves stopped Australia scoring.

Smith converted Australia's 6th penalty corner to give them a 2-1 lead after 57 minutes.

But Germany tightened their defence and snatched the equaliser ten minutes later with a long pass to Bjorn Michel in the circle, tapped on to Oliver Domke who netted.

Germany were not finished. Sebastian Biederlack broke through to the backline, made a back pass to the centre for Matthias Witthaus to deflect towards goal.

Christian Wein threw himself along the pitch to get the deflection into goal but the ball deflected off Australia's Paul Gaudoin in the 70th minute to secure a German win.

Meanwhile, the Dutch controlled their game against Korea taking a 2-0 first half lead from the conversion of penalty corners by Taeke Taekema and Bram Lamans.

Korea looked bereft of ideas through much of the first half but Keon-wook Kang snatched one back after 15 minutes following Dutch handling errors in the circle which allowed him score from 10 metres out.

Several long passes rattled the backboards of the Dutch goal but no Korean striker was anywhere near the ball or the circle to create a scoring chance.

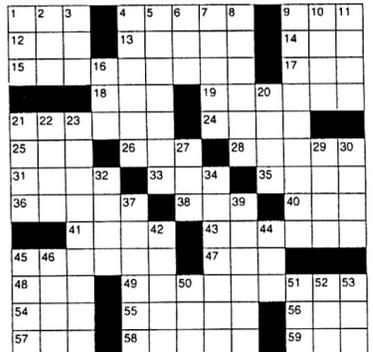
Korea's defence was better than against Germany but legendary strikers Kang and Seung-tae Song seemed to have lost their former potency.

Three goals followed in five minutes as the Netherlands weathered the control of possession by Korea at the end of the third quarter.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Cheese choice 1 Happiness 4 Wash 9 Tavern 12 St. crosser 13 Re 5- Down, e.g. 47 Equi- 14 Raw rock 15 Flat abs' comparison 17 Mature 18 TV network 19 Rolls- Royce fuel 21 Bewilder 24 Put into words 25 "I - Camera" 26 King of Siam's abbr. 28 Kelly's co-host 31 Door-frame part 33 Turn on the water-works 35 Grand adventure 36 Vicinities 38 Charlotte's creation 40 Do some land-scaping

DOWN 1 Chew the rag 2 Eggs 3 Absolutely 4 Talk incoherently 5 Long-legged shore dwellers 6 Acapulco auntie 7 Complains constantly 8 Make well-liked 9 Chess or checkers 10 Jason's ship 11 Rod attachment 16 Witch 20 Neckwear 21 North American peninsula, briefly 22 Actor Sharif 23 Pheasant and quail 27 Intimide 29 Composer Stravinsky 30 Carpenter's tools 32 Unadorned 34 Addition-ally 37 Roc passenger 39 Hound variety 42 Roman magistrate 44 Thither 45 Adversaries 46 Ashcroft's predecessor 50 Baseball stat 51 Baseball stat 52 Pack quantity 53 Place-kicker's pride



CRYPTOQUIP
Today's Cryptogram Clue: Q equals L
The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Action from yesterday's Sheetal Women's Handball League match between Arambagh KS and Madaripur Handball Training Centre at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium.