

Mohammedan camp from June 16

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club will begin their training camp from June 16 for preparation of the coming 4th Nitel-Tata National Football League.

The black and white footballers have been requested to report at the club tent at 3 pm on the same day.

Mohammedan, who had a rather mediocre show in this year's Dhaka Premier Football League, are one of the six automatic qualifiers for the final round, which is expected to start in mid-July.

Pepsi beach v'ball from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal national teams (men and women) will take part in the Pepsi Beach Volleyball tournament which starts in Cox's Bazar tomorrow.

Nepal, who will send a six-member team for the competition, is not a country surrounded by sea. They will use the four-day meet to get accustomed to the game.

Nine teams split into three groups will take part in the men's competition while seven eyes' teams will play on knockout basis in two groups.

**TEAMS**  
**(MEN) GROUP A:** BDR, Nepal, Water Development Board.

**GROUP B:** Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force, Power Development Board. **GROUP C:** Bangladesh Police, Titas Club and Cox's Bazar.

**(WOMEN) GROUP A:** Nepal, East End Boys, Ansar and VDP.

**GROUP B:** Usha KC, Sister Concern, Chittagong Players Welfare Association and Cox's Bazar.

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Fulbaria Cricket Club and Ekota Cricket Club won their respective matches in the Shaheed Freedom Fighter Rango Mia Cup tournament at Shahjadapur Junior High School ground in Brahminbaria yesterday.

In the first match, Fulbaria defeated Provat Cricket Club by 10 runs.

Winning the toss Fulbaria batted first and collected 80 runs in 25.3 overs after being all out.

Sajal topscored with 48. In reply, Provat were bundled out for 70 in 26 overs.

Sajal was declared man-of-the-match.

In the second match, Ekota beat Shapla Cricket Club by nine runs.

Winning the toss Ekota decided to bat first and scored 90 for eight in stipulated 30 overs. Arif topscored with 51 and bagged three wickets.

In reply, Shapla were all out for 81 in 22.1 overs.

Arif was named man-of-the-match.

Gaudio skips Wimbledon

AFP, London

French Open champion Gaston Gaudio of Argentina will not play at Wimbledon because of a foot injury, the organisers announced on Saturday.

Unseeded Gaudio, who came back from two sets down to beat compatriot Guillermo Coria in last Sunday's final at Roland Garros, has played at Wimbledon five times in his career getting beyond the first round on only one occasion.

The 25-year-old is the latest in a long line of absentees from this year's Wimbledon which gets underway on June 21.

Cairns inspires Kiwis

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Chris Cairns struck with the last ball before tea to remove dangerous Mark Butcher for 59 and keep New Zealand's hopes of victory alive in the third Test against England at Trent Bridge here on Sunday.

At tea, on the fourth day, England were 134 for four, still needing a further 150 to reach their victory target of 284.

Graham Thorpe was 34 not out after sharing a stand of 88 with fellow Surrey left-hander Butcher that threatened to take the game away from the Kiwis and give England a first major Test series whitewash since their 3-0 home defeat of New Zealand in 1978.

Cairns, 34 on Sunday and in his 62nd and last Test before retirement, had three for 46, all his victims lbw.

After a delay to change the ball, Cairns's bouncer gave wicket-keeper Brendon McCullum no chance before going for four byes. But Cairns responded by snaring Butcher next ball.

Earlier England bowled out the tourists for 218 with the last five wickets lost Sunday for just 20 runs.

That left England with 158 overs to score the runs they required at an average of under two an over.

But before lunch they lost two quick wickets. Afterwards Cairns removed England captain Michael Vaughan to reduce the hosts to 46 for three.

Cairns, quitting the five-day game because of knee trouble, had earlier failed with the bat.

But having taken five for 79 in England's first innings on the ground where he started for several seasons with Nottinghamshire, all-rounder Cairns was bowling out in style in the field after taking the newball.

England started the session on 23 for two with Butcher seven not out and Vaughan yet to score after left-handed openers Andrew Strauss, lbw for six to Cairns, and Marcus Trescothick (nine) had both gone cheaply.

Vaughan made 10 before he fell to birthday boy Cairns. But Butcher, batting with a chipped bone in his left hand, put any discomfort to one side to twice cover-drive Cairns for four.

On a hot day, Cairns and left-arm swing bowler James Franklin were effectively both being asked to do the work of two men as the Black Caps were without Chris Martin (hamstring) and debutant Kyle Mills (rib) who broke down injured after managing just 7.5 overs between them in the first innings.

Meanwhile the absence of left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, ruled out after pulling a hamstring in England's series-winning second Test victory, left New Zealand without a recognised slow bowler on a turning pitch.

Butcher cut medium-pace Scott Styris to reach fifty with his 11th four in 93 balls.

Before lunch, England left-arm spinner Ashley Giles took four for 46 - his best Test figures in England.

Fast bowler Stephen Harmison, New Zealand's tormentor in this series with 21 wickets, had three for 51 which included a spell of two wickets for no runs in 11 balls that started the Kiwis' Sunday slide.

Cairns's hopes of adding to his world record 87 Test sixes ended when he was bowled for one by Giles.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the third and final Test between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge on Sunday:

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 384 (Fleming 117, Styris 108, Richardson 73; Harmison 3-80)

**ENGLAND:** First innings 319

(Trescothick 63, Vaughan 61, Flintoff 54; Cairns 5-79, Franklin 4-104)

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings (overnight 190-5)

Richardson lbw b Giles 49

Fleming lbw b Flintoff 45

McCullum c Flintoff b Giles 4

Styris c Jones b Harmison 39

Astle lbw b Flintoff 0

McMillan lbw b Harmison 30

Franklin c Jones b Flintoff 17

Oram c Flintoff b Harmison 0

Cairns b Giles 1

Mills c Harmison b Giles 8

Martin not out 0

Extras: (b-1, lb-21, nb-3) 25

Total: (All out in 81 overs) 218

Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-106, 3-126, 4-134, 5-185, 6-198, 7-198, 8-208, 9-210

**Bowler** O M R W

Hoggard 6 2 25 0

Harmison 25 7 51 3

Saggers 6 2 14 0

Flintoff 20 3 60 3

Giles 24 6 46 4

**ENGLAND:** Second innings

Trescothick c and b Franklin 9

Strauss lbw b Cairns 6

Butcher lbw b Cairns 59

Vaughan lbw b Cairns 10

Thorpe not out 34

Extras: (b-4, lb-9, nb-3) 16

Total: (For 4 wickets in 37 overs) 134

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-16, 3-46, 4-134

To bat: Flintoff, Jones, Giles, Hoggard, Harmison, Saggers

**Bowler** O M R W

Cairns 13 1 46 3

Franklin 10 1 35 1

Richardson 1 0 4 0

Oram 6 1 18 0

Styris 7 1 18 0

50 yes, 50 no

AFP, Sydney

Cricket Australia said that Shane Warne would not need surgery on his broken hand and had a 50-50 chance of playing next month's home Tests against Sri Lanka.

The leg-spinner's hopes of overtaking Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan as the world's leading Test wicket-taker suffered a setback on Friday when he broke a bone in his hand playing for Hampshire in the English county championship against Essex.

"Shane consulted with a hand specialist in England overnight and the pleasing news is that he won't require surgery," Cricket Australia medical officer Trefor James said on Sunday.

"In consultation with the medicals at Hampshire, we will be doing everything possible to speed his recovery, but at this stage it appears as if he is a 50-50 prospect of being available for the Test matches in Darwin and Cairns."

If Warne was to miss Australia's series against Sri Lanka it would be a major blow to his hopes of overtaking Muralitharan as the world record wicket-taker.

Warne has 517 Test wickets, two behind retired West Indies pacer Courtney Walsh but 10 behind Muralitharan, who took over at the top by reaching 527 wickets during his country's recent whitewash against Zimbabwe.

Australia's chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said no player had been placed on standby to replace Warne and the bowler would be given as much time as possible to prove himself fit for the Tests.

"Shane will be doing everything he can to get himself right and we will give him as much time to do that as possible, but if he isn't 100 per cent fit then he won't be selected," he said.

If Warne was ruled out, Stuart MacGill, playing in England with Nottinghamshire, appears his most likely replacement.

WI eyes on World Cup

CRICINFO, undated

Anxious to field a competitive outfit for the 2007 World Cup, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has announced that it plans to have a short list of 30 players by September this year, who will be put through special training for the event.

A report in the Jamaica Observer states that Teddy Griffith, the WICB president, has asked the selection panel to look out for players who could feature in the 30-man squad.

"They [the players short-listed] will be engaged in their cricket, but they would also be involved in a programme using the facilities at the St George's University in Grenada and the University of the West Indies in Barbados," Griffith said on a cricket discussion on CBC-TV.

"Granted there may be people who may drop out and other people (may come) in, but we want to get this done by the time the team returns from the Champions Trophy in England in September."

West Indies will feature in another one-day competition before that, when they battle it out with England and New Zealand in the NatWest Series tournament later this month.

West Indies have recently struggled in both forms of the game. Though they beat Bangladesh 3-0 in the one-dayers, a couple of games could easily have gone the other way. Before that series, they were thrashed by England in the Tests, but made a better fist of it in the ODIs, holding them to a 2-2 draw in a rain-affected series.

Griffith also clarified that no foreign team would be invited for this season's Carib Beer Cup, West Indies' domestic four-day tournament. Overseas teams have been playing in the competition for the last four years -- a teams from England, Bangladesh and India participated, as did Kenya's national team -- but Griffith ruled out another invitation next season.

BKSP best in junior boxing

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) emerged champions in the 17th National Junior (under-16) Boxing Championship which concluded at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

BKSP topped the table with four gold and two bronze medals with Bangladesh Ansars closely following them with four golds.

The remaining two gold medals were shared by Dhaka and Chapainawabganj.

The Bangladesh Boxing Federation will pick 16 bright prospects from the meet to train for the second Asian Junior Boxing Championship to be hosted by Dhaka.

A total of 212 boxers from 24 teams participated in the five-day meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman distributed the prizes as chief guest.



PHOTO: AFP

**WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO BOWL!** Legendary Indian pace bowler Kapil Dev (3rd from R) imparts some tips to current Indian fast bowlers (L-R) Laxmipathy Balaji, Zaheer Khan, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar and Amit Bhandari during a fitness camp at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore yesterday.

Sorting out pace problem

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India are furiously trying to fix the creaking joints and errant muscles of their talented pacemen in order to beef up their bowling attack ahead of a busy international season.

Recent years have seen a fast bowlers' boom in India, with Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Irfan Pathan and Laxmipathy Balaji all playing big roles.

But the boom appears to be turning into a bust because of injuries to key bowlers, especially in the last season.

To skipper Sourav Ganguly's misfortune, India never had the luxury of a full-strength attack in Australia and Pakistan in the last two Test series.

That India still managed a creditable 1-1 draw against Steve Waugh's Australians before posting a historic Test-series triumph in Pakistan was mainly because of their irreplaceable batting line-up.

Experienced left-arm seamers

Zaheer (hamstring) and Nehra (ankle) were more prone to injuries as neither could last a complete Test series against Australia or Pakistan.

The Indian board, worried over the bowlers' frequent breakdowns, has moved in to repair the damage by holding a camp for pacemen to assess their fitness as well as to find suitable back-ups.

Twenty-one fast bowlers, including internationals, attended the five-day camp in the southern city of Bangalore under the watchful eye of South African trainer Gregory King, the focus being on physical conditioning. The camp, which concluded on Saturday, was held at the right time considering the hectic schedule beginning next month with the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, followed by home series against Australia and South Africa.

The inexperienced duo of Balaji and Pathan, with a combined tally of just 10 Tests, shared the responsibility remarkably well in Pakistan as they played significant roles in their team's 2-1 win in the three-Test series.

Their success only reinforced the belief that the Indian attack could have been more potent if big guns Zaheer and Nehra were also fit to fire.

Zaheer said he was now feeling better and looking forward to the new season.

Nehra said he was confident of regaining fitness ahead of the busy schedule as he had been working hard to avoid injuries.

"All fast bowlers get injured, but I get injured more often. It's frustrating," said Nehra, who has taken 44 wickets in 17 Tests.

"I want to be injury-free. I am strengthening my lower body as I run quite a bit for my fast bowling stints and also suffer from injuries."

Ajit Agarkar, in and out of the team because of form and fitness problems since making his Test debut in 1998, said the competition for fast bowlers' slots in the side would now be more intense.

"It's always nice to have competition," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

A scene from yesterday's seventh round engagement of the Open FIDE Rating chess tournament at the federation hall room.

Pybus' advice for Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan coach Richard Pybus urged use of technology to groom talent saying India and Sri Lanka have shown Asian cricket the way and Pakistan must follow suit.

"The basics of cricket stay the same, but science can improve preparation and training of players and the Indians and Sri Lankans have shown Asian cricket the way forward," Pybus told AFP on Sunday.

"The Indian set up is a reflection of this, what they don't have in coaching and sports science staff they outsourced, it seems to have by-passed a lot of the amateur attitudes that drag performance down."

Pybus, an Englishman based in South Africa, was removed after Pakistan's first round exit from the World Cup last year but has remained a great fan of Pakistan cricket.

Speaking from South Africa Pybus said Pakistan's transition has been on the track despite defeat against India two months ago.

"The only real hiccup in the rebuilding phase has been the

series against India, but this disappointment has to be tempered with the knowledge that India are a superior side," said Pybus.

India achieved their first ever wins in Pakistan, 3-2 in one-day series and 2-1 in Tests, on their first tour of Pakistan for 15 years.

Pakistan later this week starts its

preparation for a hectic season in which they feature in next month's six-nation Asia Cup, also participated in by India and Sri Lanka, before taking on India and Australia in a tri-series in the Netherlands in August.



RICHARD PYBUS

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Where two styles

FROM PAGE 13

opener after finishing runners-up four years ago in Belgium and the Netherlands when they were unbeaten in normal time throughout the tournament before falling to a French 'golden goal' in the final.

The Azzurri, World Cup winners in 1982, won the European Championship on home soil in 1968 but the Danes have more recent memories of success, having triumphed against all expectations in 1992.

Italy are notoriously slow starters in tournaments, often letting high expectations unnerve them. Those psychological weaknesses, evident in Italy's early exit from the World Cup at the hands of South Korea two years ago, give Helsevge hope of a surprise result.

"Italy are favourites but it remains to be seen if they are relaxed because it is not enough to be in ideal shape and form, to win you also need to have your head right as well as some luck," said the Danish defender.

Trapattoni's starting line-up has been virtually settled for weeks with Argentine-born Mauro Camoranesi expected to start on the right flank with Alessandro Del Piero on the left and Francesco Totti playing behind target-man Christian Vieri.

Denmark will be missing experienced duo Thomas Gravesen and Jesper Gronkjaer.

Midfielder Gravesen is suspended, while Chelsea winger Gronkjaer is at home in Denmark after the death of his mother on

Thursday.

Gravesen's absence hands a chance to Spanish-based Daniel Jensen to step into the midfield holding role while Dennis Rommedahl is likely to fill Gronkjaer's role wide on the right.

Coach Morten Olsen is expected to ask Tomasson, who has scored an impressive 28 goals in 60 internationals, to operate just behind lone striker Ebbe Sand.

But fans

FROM PAGE 13

change the rules in order to end the row over the bowler's "doosra", a delivery which spins away from right-handers instead of coming into them like a normal off-break.

Muralitharan said in a statement last week that he had been defamed, pilloried and severely criticised by the world's cricket media.

"Even the prime minister of Australia has called me a chucker and then in the next sentence says I will be welcome to tour his country," he said.

Yuvraj to open

FROM PAGE 13

"I do not see any reason why we cannot win," said Ganguly.

A fitness camp for Indian fast bowlers ended here on Saturday, with legendary former paceman Kapil Dev giving valuable tips as a bowling consultant.

"All young cricketers look up to him (Kapil). I am sure his experience will help them," said Ganguly.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

40 Cube creator  
41 Rubik  
42 One of us  
43 Fish-eye, e.g.  
44 Carnival city  
45 Bit of blas-phemy  
46 John's mecum  
47 "Grease" co-star  
48 Part of UNLV  
49 Without flower  
50 Ornamental  
51 Without rival  
52 Banks (on)  
53 Ancient  
54 Fluorescent red dye  
55 Wet  
56 Mountain air?  
57 "Jeopardy!"  
58 Command to Rover  
59 Catcher's place?  
60 Solution time: 27 mins.

**DOWN**

21 Rain-delay need  
22 Bend in a river  
23 Carnival city  
24 Bit of blas-phemy  
25 John's mecum  
26 "Grease" co-star  
27 Part of UNLV  
28 Without flower  
29 Ornamental  
30 Without rival  
31 Banks (on)  
32 Ancient  
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35 Mountain air?  
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**ACT APED MILL**  
**WHO DALY YOYO**  
**LAUGHTON RUES**  
**STREET AIR**  
**PIQUE SIB SAO**  
**ACQUAY MEON**  
**PEA SIX VERSE**  
**ADDAAMS BEE**  
**QUE INDENT**  
**PERU GOODYEAR**  
**ROOT UPTO LIE**  
**ONCE YEARN SILY**

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