## Inzy surprises 'em all



AFP. Karachi

Captain Inzamamul Haq and coach Bob Woolmer came under fire Thursday for choosing to bat first on a tricky pitch after Pakistan's humiliating defeat in the ICC Champions Trophy semifinal.

"Mind boggling to say the least was Inzamam's decision to bat first on a pitch conducive to bowling and against opponents who are good chasers," former captain and coach Intikhab Alam told AFP.

The West Indies routed Pakistan by seven wickets in the southern English city of Southampton on Wednesday to set up a date with England in Saturday's final of the 12team competition.

Inzamam, who won the toss and surprisingly chose to bat first. watched his side struggle from the out for 131 in the 39th over.

Anchored by a half-century from Ramnaresh Sarwan, the West Indies reached their target in only 28.1

"I want to know who's calling the shots, Inzamam or coach Bob Woolmer? With his experience Woolmer should have known the conditions better and taken a wise decision," said Alam.

"I am amazed at Woolmer, to me he is the most over-rated coach," said Alam. Englishman Woolmer became

Olympic under-achievers Pakistan

and India will reignite their traditional

hockey rivalry with the first of eight

matches here Friday, amid hopes the

series will revive flagging interest in the

hockey series with arch-rival

Pakistan for the first time since 1999

following a thaw in relations last year.

in Pakistan before moving to India for

the next four games in a series which follows a dismal fifth finish by

Pakistan in the Athens Olympics and

both the teams in the Olympics were

below expectations but we seek to

generate public interest through this

series, which is needed to promote

the game of hockey," Pakistan cap-

ous past in hockey with eleven

Olympic and five world titles

between them but the game is now

being eclipsed by cricket.

Don't write

Bangalore on October 6.

FROM PAGE 13

welcomed.

**ACROSS** 

Twist's

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matches," he said

CROSSWORD

Pakistan and India have a glori-

"Cricket is a professional game and

with so much television coverage it

has left hockey behind. Both the

countries need huge efforts to bring

Most of the top cricketers have

Worse, the batsmen are woefully

out of form, superstar Sachin

Tendulkar is doubtful for the series

with a tennis elbow and upcoming

seamer Laxmipathy Balaji has been

ruled out for six months with a pelvic

injury.
Officials were planning to hold a

four-day match between the

probables before the team for the

first Test is picked, a move Ganguly

the right frame of mind for the Test

"That game is a must to put us in

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not played a first-class game since

the third Test in Pakistan in April.

tain Mohammad Waseem told AFP.

"I agree that the performances of

India agreed to resume the annual

The teams will play four matches

Hockey

sport in both countries.

a seventh place by India.

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's eleventh coach in six

"Inzamam gamble fails as Windies rout Pakistan" ran the banner headline in the daily Dawn while the headline in the News read: "Pakistan falters in key clash as Windies reach ICC Trophy final."

Inzamam blamed himself and his fellow batsmen for failing to post a decent score.

"The batsmen did not take their



INZAMAMUL HAQ

responsibility and should have made 200 to make it hard for them, but 131 was far too few," he said. "Obviously as captain, it was my decision to bat first and I got it wrong," said

"To be fair, the West Indies bowled very well and gave nothing away. We were not over-confident. The runouts did not help because they came at crucial times and stopped us

**Another Indo-Pak rivalry** 

hockey back to its position and this

series will give the fillip," said Waseem.

Pakistan cricket captain Waqar Younis

at Vehari in Punjab province, said he

enjoyed huge popularity but I never

regretted playing hockey. Now we

need efforts where our hockey play-

Six bilateral hockey series were played between 1978 and 1988 --

two of them in the Gulf. After another

lay-off, two more series on a home

and away basis were played in 1998

and 1999 before more political ten-

until now. Pakistan have won five and

recent record it should be an easy

series win for us but on the ground we

need to play good hockey to win,"

matches against India this year

including a 3-0 victory in Athens

India have also sacked Dhanrai

Pillay and Baljeet Dhillon and are

missing Gagan Ajit Singh and

said his young side would put up a

fight. "We have some exciting play-

ers and I hope we won't allow

But Indian captain Dilip Tirkey

Prabhjot Singh through injury.

Pakistan easy wins," he said.

India two while one was drawn.

Of the eight bilateral series played

"If you take into account our

Pakistan have won all six

ers are also recognised."

sion put the event on hold.

ver regretted playing hockey.

Waseem, a neighbour of former

'Wagar used to live next door and

been seriously hurt when he fell to the ground after being hit but I am leased to discover he is going to be

"In the end we made mistakes and were beaten by the better side on the

Man-of-the-match Sarwan said he had been surprised by Inzamam's decision to bat first.

"We were surprised they went into bat in the first place," he said. Former Pakistan captain Javed

Miandad, Woolmer's predecessor, took a swipe at the coach "I would blame the coach because it was not Inzamam's decision alone,

Woolmer should have known the conditions for having played and coached in England," said Miandad. Former pace bowler Aaquib

Javed said he was shocked by Pakistan's decision to bat first. "We have lost three crucial games n England after batting first, the 1999 World Cup final, 2000 tri-series final and now this time, strange that we are not learning from past mistakes,"

said Javed, a long-time pace partner of Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram. Former Pakistan batsman Zaheer Abbas also expressed surprise at Inzamam's remarks that he decided to bat first because he thought the pitch would favour spinners in the second session

"Inzamam's justification lacks logic as Pakistan went into the match with four specialist pace bowlers, and two spinners who are also batsmen.'

The Pakistani team returns home on Friday to take on Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in a one-day tournament starting on September 30.

"We will definitely miss some key

The remaining matches in

players but this is a great chance for

all of us to improve our skill because

the stage of a Pakistan-India event

Pakistan are scheduled for Quetta

(September 27), Peshawar (Septem-

brings the best out of a player."

rants BKSP cruised into the final

venue. Saju 28, Rajib 21, Subrata 17 and Rafiqul with 16 points were the main BKSP players behind the

quished. St Nicholas High School qualified for the semifinal with an 88-71

the second semifinal today at 4.30

#### ber 29) and Lahore (October 1). India will host matches in New Delhi (Oct 4), Chandigarh (Oct 6), Amritsar (Oct 8) and Hyderabad

### India agree

FROM PAGE 13

announced the 18-member final squad for the competition yesterday. The team is training under Pakistani coach Qamar Ibrahim at the BKSP in Savar.

Oman, Myanmar and Afghanistan are the other teams in the 5nation tournament.

#### **BANGLADESH SQUAD**

Zahidul Islam Rajan (captain) Tabib-e Noor (vice captain), Zahid Hossain, Mahbub Ullah Chowdhury Shakil Asaduzzaman Chandan Yamin Hossain. Enamul Kabir Turio. Shamsuddin Tuhin, Mostafizur Rahman Dinar, Moshiur Rahman Biplab, Asif-e Noor, Mahmudur Rahman Chayan, Mazharul Islam Moksed, Zahid Bin Talib, Russel Mahmud Jimmy, Maksud Alam Habul, Rahul Kanti Roy and Hosne Mobarak Sumon.

#### Bashar

match at the Army Stadium yester-North South University (NSU) threw away a two-goal lead in the

last nine minutes in an exciting 3-3 draw with IBAIS University in the day's second match.

By Eugene Sheffer

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into last four

In today's matches, Manarat take on AIUB and Northern University face Royal University.

#### **Stamford** storm

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Stamford University stormed into the semifinals of the Stamford interprivate university football tournament when they crushed Independent University 11-0 in the day's first

FROM PAGE 13 back into the nets. Before that, I'll join

the physical workouts with the team." Bashar admitted that despite

being impressive in the warm-up matches, the Tigers failed to impress in the two match of the Champions Trophy. "I have not seen our matches but

Lunderstand that the performances were depressing. I know it's going to be difficult to pick ourselves before the home series against the New "But we will need hard work and

looking back to the failures in two recent tournament would not help the players," added the top batsman of the country.

**CRYPTOQUIP** 

J M B HJPERB C FRH ACHG

ACPBRTRRVH TJTS

HNBJS. SNY FCLGH VJS C

MRA LMY Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU SPEAK PRETTY HIGHLY OF YOUR CEILING, I RECKON YOU'RE

PRAISING THE ROOF. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals N The Cryptoquip 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 vowers. Solution is by trial and error.

### **BKSP** reunion on October 8

SPÖRT

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

The Alumni Association of BKSP (AAB) will hold the annual reunion of former students of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) on October 8 (Friday) says a press

Registration of ex-students is already on. Registration formalities can also be completed on the day of the reunion at the BKSP campus in

Ex-students of the BKSP who wish to attend the reunion have been requested to confirm their participation by September 30 (Thursday) by calling the following mobile phone numbers: 0171845018 or 0171113170 or 0175008912.

#### School b'ball Maple Leaf girls in final

BSS, Dhaka

Maple Leaf International School stormed into the girls' final of the AKTFL school basketball tournament with a comprehensive 40-27 victory over Scholastica at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium

Mehjareen continued to dazzle as she scored 27 points against hapless Scholastica Maple Leaf will meet unbeaten

Sunbeams in the final on September 26. Sunbeams scored a narrow two

point win over Maple Leaf in the group phase. In the boy's section, title aspi-

when they defeated Green Herald in the first semifinal 68-54 at the same

victory. Raja's effort went in vain as he scored 38 points for the van

win over St Joseph's. They will meet St Gregory's in

#### Bandarban soccer

**OUR CORRESPONDENT** 

Bandarban Police recorded their first victory in the Bandarban football league when they blanked Naikkhongchari Upazila Krira Sangstha 3-0 at the local stadium vesterday

Police drew their first match. New Bright Star will take on UFA Club in today's match.

#### Hassan, Prodeep

FROM PAGE 13 of the gate committee in the after-

math of a brawl that took place when Hassan's younger brother, also a footballer, wanted to enter the Shere-Bangla National Stadium without a valid pass or a ticket. The five-member disciplinary

committee headed by Col (retd) Obaidullah Khan also fined Muktijoddha Tk 50,000 for failing to control its players. Muktijoddha midfielder Saiful Islam was cautioned for the same incident. The bans will apply to in any

BFF-run events. But the punitive measure for an

off-the-field incident is something that our football is not familiar with and Hassan was stunned by the "It's harsh," commented Hassan

to The Daily Star after hearing the news last night. "I am stunned and I feel very sad.

don't understand whether the officials are trying to protect the players or its employees. I'll definitely appeal to the President against this decision after consulting with my club officials," told country's number one right-back.

### Lara reliet

FROM PAGE 13 the moment and deserve their

chance. It will be a close match." On the other hand, England

coach Duncan Fletcher, asked at a news conference on Thursday whether his strike bowlers would seek to exploit Lara's perceived vulnerability to short-pitched bowling, replied with a smile: "We'll discuss that at our team meeting. But he made it clear that

England, who beat world champions Australia to reach the final, would have to be ready to adapt their tactics in Saturday's final against Lara and his side. "We can't just say we will attack

nim with bouncers. We have to bowl intelligently, think on our feet out in "Lara is a great player and he's

probably been hit before and it hasn't affected him. England strike bowler Steve Harmison, who combines high bounce with express pace, peppered Lara with short deliveries in a Test series in West Indies earlier this

year. England won the four-match series 3-0. Neither England or West Indies have ever reached the final of the tournament before. The Champions Trophy is the largest limited-overs event outside the World Cup involving all 10 Test-playing nations



Olympic champion Justin Gatlin (L) of USA leads his compatriot fifth-placed Maurice Greene (C) during the men's 100m final in the Yokohama track and field meet in Tokyo yesterday.

the Cup final since 1997 and have in that position now," US captain

Patrick McEnroe said.

Mirnyi said.

Max Mirnyi, ranked 63rd, and

162nd-ranked Vladimir Voltchkov

will lead Belarus. Mirnyi plays up his

side's underdog role.
"The fact that they are playing at

home. They are expected to win,'

port for them so that makes it much

tougher for them to play. They must

Mirnyi admits he has been look-

feel like they are under pressure."

ing forward to this for months.

**OUR CORRESPONDENT** 

"There will be much more sup-

## Gatlin outsprints Greene

Athletics

AFP, Yokohama

Olympic champion Justin Gatlin repeated his performance in Athens to win the men's 100 metres far ahead of fellow American Maurice Greene at the Yokohama track and field meet on Thursday.

The 22-year-old American, who

marked the season's fastest time of 9.85 seconds in Athens, clocked 9.97 for an overwhelming victory, beating teammate Leonard Scott in 10.14 and Japan's Nobuharu Asahara in 10.20.

Sydney Olympic gold medallist Greene, who was third in Athens, finished at a lowly fifth in 10.33 behind four-time Olympic sprint silver medallist Frankie Fredericks of Namibia in 10.27.

Gatlin said he was sure of victory

Andy Roddick is no longer the US

Open champion or the world's top-

ranked tennis player, but he can

salvage some wounded pride by

leading the United States into the

the top man for the Americans as

they host Belarus in the Davis Cup

to win a major and I wanted to have

Roddick said. "There a lot of things

that I wanted but they are just not in

the cards for me as far as this year

"But one thing still alive this year

The US men have not reached

is this title. This is definitely the most

important thing left for me as for as

tennis goes this year.'

a shot at being number one.

semifinals starting here on Friday.

Second-ranked Roddick will be

"Coming into this year I wanted

Davis Cup

Tennis

AFP. Charleston

Davis Cup final.

at "60 metres when I saw I was running by myself.

'I think my weakness is the first half of a race. I think if I execute the first half, I can bring home number one victory every time," he said. Greene said: "I had to sit in the

blocks. They say I made a false start, which I disagree with, and the way my body is feeling, jet lag and everything, I needed to give the best start I possibly could, and they took that part away from me. It was the final race for

Fredericks, who had announced he would retire after this sprint. Chinese star hurdler Liu Xiang

won the men's 110m hurdles in 13.31, beating Americans Maurice Wignall in 13.33 and four-time American world champion Allen Johnson in 13.41

It was a repeat performance for the 21-year-old Chinese, who defeated Johnson in the Japan

not won the title since 1995. The

Americans have won the Cup a

record 31 times and lost the final 28

played the US men, made its Cup

debut only 10 years ago. This is the

first time Belarus has played in the

semis for the third time in five years

by beating Austria 5-0 and Sweden

4-1 on home courts. Belarus

reached a first-ever semi with home

triumphs over Russia 3-2 and

Roddick, 12-3 in Cup singles matches, will be joined by Athens Olympic silver medallist Mardy Fish,

ranked 28th, and twins Bob and

Mike Bryan, the first brothers on a

US Davis Cup team in 101 years

running to win the Davis Cup every

year and have a real good shot at

winning it every year. I think we are

"My goal is to get us back in the

The Americans advanced to the

16-nation World Group.

Argentina 5-0.

and 3-0 in Cup play.

Belarus, which has never before

Roddick on a mission

Grand Prix in May with an Asian record and went on to tie the world record of 12.91 at Athens to become the first-ever Olympic champion from Asia in a track event

Athens gold medallist Koji Murofushi of Japan ended his season on a winning note after marking 83.15 metres to win the men's hammer throw, beating Krisztian Pars of Hungary and Olympic silver medallist Ivan Tikhon of Belarus. Tikhon, the 2003 world cham-

pion who holds the season's best throw of 84.46, ended with a mark of 77.68 metres and Pars 78.79

In the women's 100m, Sydney Olympic bronze medallist Tayna Lawrence of Jamaica timed 11.28 seconds ahead of American Angela Williams in 11.32 and Asian champion Lyubov Perepelova of Uzbekistan in 11.46.

## training and handled conditions flaw-lessly to defeat compatriot Tatiana Rookie Hodge

replacement

AFP, Sydney

Serena

AFP, Beijing

survives

Uncapped batsman Brad Hodge was named Thursday to replace injured captain Ricky Ponting in the 16-man Australian cricket squad for a four-Test

Ponting fractured his thumb in the semifinal of the Champions Trophy match

Hodge will join the remainder of the Australian squad in India in the lead up to a warm-up match against Bombay on September 30. The first Test is due to begin October 6 in

was confirmed as captain in

B'baria cricket their places.

Sarkarnara Cricket Club defeated Kazipara Cricket Club in Danu Mia Cup at the Eidgah Stadium here

In reply to Sarkarpara's 129 all out in 48.2 overs, Kazipara skittled out for 106.

# showed off several days of on-site

Wimbledon rivals Serena Williams and

Maria Sharapova reached the

quarterfinals of the 585,000-dollar China

Open, with top seed Williams scraping

past a tough challenge from a teenage

winner, managed a successful debut in China as she overcame Dinara Safina,

sister of last week's men's Beijing cham-

pion Marat Safin, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. Sharapova, 17, who crushed

Williams in July for the Wimbledon crown,

Williams, the six-time Grand Slam

for Ponting

tour of India beginning next week.

It was the first time Hodge, 29, has been named in an Australian

week and is expected to miss at least the first Test against India.

Bangalore.

Wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist Ponting's absence.

### Mashrafee

FROM PAGE 13

Apparently, the focus has been on settling the top order batting as three openers -- Javed Omar, Sarkar and Iqbal and six specialist batsmen have been picked.

The spin department is as ever

dependant on veteran Mohammad

Rafigue with fellow left-arm spinners Maniarul Islam and Enamul expected to fight for the second spinner's role in helpful home conditions. However, the absence of a specialist off-spinner could prove a handicap. The preliminary list includes as

many as six new ball bowlers. Allrounders Khaled Mahmud and Mushfiqur Rahman are two other seam options.

The selected cricketers have been asked to report at the Army Stadium on September 26, the first day of the training camp.

New Zealand will begin the tour with a three-day match in Dhaka from October 14-16. The first Test starts on October 19 in Dhaka while the second will be in Chittagong from October 26-30. The three ODIs are scheduled on November 2, 5 and 7.

### Ponting rallies

FROM PAGE 13 said earlier that winning the trophy

was one of his two primary goals before arriving in England. But now Ponting will have to look forward to achieving success in India when they embark on yet another tour next month. Regarded as the final frontier for

came close to ending their long wait "It's a great challenge to beat India on their own soil and we relish-

the all-conquering Australians, they

ing it," he said. "We have the luxury of leaving out a number of players who would

walk into pretty much any other side in the world," said Ponting when asked the reason behind Australia's awesome success in both forms of the game.

American Serena Williams celebrates after defeating Dinara Safina of Russia in the China Open on September 22.