Girls h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunnydale thrashed Mohammadpur Preparatory School by 13-1 in the Maple Leaf Second Girls Mini Handball tournament at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Green Herald also registered an emphatic 9-0 victory over Dhanmondi Tutorial while sponsors Maple Leaf International School overwhelmed BIS 8-0.

In the day's other matches, Dhanmondi Qumrunnessa defeated South Point 12-4. Lake Circus Girl's High School blanked YWCA 4-0, Summer Field managed a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Radiant International School and St Jude's International School drew 3-3 with The Aga Khan School.

BTI CUP GOLF

Shafiquzzaman, Kang champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Brig Gen Shafiquzzaman won the men's title of the BTI Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitotla Golf Club vesterday.

The ladies' title of the two-day meet went to HB Kang. Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant

General Hasan Mashhud Chowhdury gave away the prizes

BCCI plans 24hr cricket TV

AFP, Mumbai

India's cricket board is planning to launch its own 24-hour television channel that promises revenues of 3.65 billion dollars for its first five years and an end to all legal wrangles over telecast rights. The Board of Control for Cricket

in India (BCCI) is currently embroiled in a court case filed by Zee Telefilms which was denied the rights last year despite being the highest bidder of 308 million dollars for the next five years.

The BCCI cancelled Zee's rights when the rival Disney-Murdoch owned ESPN-Star Sports challenged Zee's suitability to telecast matches. Public broadcaster Doordarshan was given the rights on a series-to-series basis

A study conducted by two state units -- the Rajasthan Cricket Association and the Punjab Cricket Association -- said the channel, if floated by the BCCI, can boost the game's infrastructure in the cricketcrazy nation of over one billion people.

The introduction of a 24-hour pay channel exclusively dedicated to cricket will see one single channel airing at least 29 Tests and 43 oneday internationals every year, the study says.

Happy ending FROM PAGE 12

that was missing from his armoury in the first innings and struck in the 11th over of the day getting Atapattu to edge the ball straight to Stephen Fleming at first slip.

He bagged Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara after lunch to have Sri Lanka's top order back in the pavillion, and wrapped up the game with the wicket of Chaminda Vaas for 38 to have figures of four for 71 of 24 overs.



Marvan Atapattu, playing in his 140th innings recorded his 22nd duck in Test cricket. He equalled the record for most duck by a genuine batsman, held by Steve





and he could do everything with the ball and even without it." On Marco van Basten.

Fleming ponders Zim boycott

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand cricket captain Stephen Fleming said Thursday he is prepared to boycott the tour of Zimbabwe later this year if he feels it will make a difference.

But he said the decision will not be a hasty one and there were three months to consider the moral issues.

"If the information that I read suggests it's probably not wise to go and that will make a difference, then that's something I'll consider," Fleming said after leading New Zealand to an innings and 38-run victory over Sri Lanka in the second

"Like the other players I'll be reading a lot, watching the situation closely and trying to educate myself on what impact the tour will have.

"The players will take a lot of care over the decision and make sure it's the right one in their mind for the right reasons "

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive Martin Snedden has said no players would be penalised if they individually decided not to tour

Former Zimbabwe batsman Andy

Flower has criticised the return to

international cricket of Heath

Streak, on the grounds that nothing

had changed since he led a group of

rebel players against the country's

it and is now back playing is poor

form. There have not been the

wholesale changes they were

demanding but they want to go

back," Flower told the May edition of

Grant has joined him at English

county Essex, added: "I don't know

then, when nothing changes, go

back and say: 'Actually, I do want a

contract.' Now there are half a

dozen or so young white players out

international cricket after being

sacked as captain having alleged

racial bias in selection by the

Zimbabwe Cricket Union. His dis-

missal led to a total of 15 white

players quitting the African min-

But last month the fast bowler

FROM PAGE 12
Ganguly told reporters in Kolkata that 'I have absolutely no idea. It is

the selectors' decision. Whatever

In his appeal against the six-match suspension, Ganguly will be

assisted by legal luminary and former West Bengal Chief Minister

Siddharth Shankar Ray who said the

Ray had successfully defended

Ganguly earlier when the player was

banned for two Tests by ICC match

referee Clive Lloyd for the team's

slow over rate in the BCCI platinum

jubilee match against Pakistan in

Ganguly meanwhile told Outlook

"I'll be back. I have no doubt

Asked about some people writing

magazine in an interview that he has

no doubts about his return to inter-

about that. I will remain mentally

the obituary of his playing career,

Ganguly said "each time people

I started my chess at the same time

Reefat GM

Kolkata in November last year

national cricket.

strong," he said.

FROM PAGE 12

chess talents

event." said Zia.

the last round.

cricketer has a strong case.

the Board asks me to do, I will do."

Streak spent nearly a year out of

Flower, whose younger brother

"But you don't make a big stand

the Wisden Cricketer Magazine.

what the reasons are.

"That Heath Streak led them into

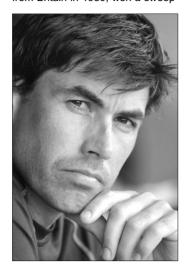
Cricket

AFP. London

cricket authorities.

as a protest against President Robert Mugabe's government.

Mugabe, who has been in power since Zimbabwe's independence from Britain in 1980, won a sweep-



STEPHEN FLEMING

ing victory in the March 31 election, but foreign critics led by the United States and the European Union dismissed the poll as a sham.

Another of the rebels who joined

Streak was Grant Flower but Andy

Flower said he was always against

the move that effectively ended his

battle. He'd either not play any more

"I told him he would not win that

brother's international career.

said she is personally opposed to the tour and the leader of a minor party in the coalition government has written to the players urging them to pull out.

Fleming said he had received his letter but had not opened it yet, and said there had not been any team

"The players have to get educated, it's naive for them to make a decision without being educated. "There's going to be a lot of

material that will give them an opportunity to make a decision on whether they want to go for moral

"Safety will be discussed by NZC and that'll be their decision."

Fleming, who leaves for England on Sunday to take up his county contract as captain of Nottinghamshire, said he would talk to Zimbabwe players to help his deci-

Last year, England's tour of Zimbabwe was in doubt after Zimbabwean authorities imposed a media ban on 13 British journalists.

After a two-day delay, England's cricketers finally flew out when the ban was lifted, but cut short their

inside two days, in an innings and 21

run defeat by South Africa in Cape

former rebels like Streak and Andy

Blignaut, Flower said he could not

can return after the relationship

breakdowns during that year-long

struggle. I don't know what the rela-

tionship between the rebels and

other players is. It has to be awkward.

of a situation like that?," added

Flower who could yet come across

Streak, playing for county champi-

ons Warwickshire, during the

with 4.794 runs at 51.54 including

12 hundreds from 63 matches.

Flower, 37 later this month, said he'd

no intention of ending his interna-

He has not been to Zimbabwe

since the World Cup where his black

armband gesture, along with black

fast bowler Henry Olonga made

And he said he was still uncertain

"The last time I was there was in

the World Cup in 2003. I'd love to go

and see my friends. But I just don't

think it is a thing I can do at the

moment. It is possible that it would

Zimbabwe's record Test scorer

course of the English season.

tional retirement

neadlines worldwide.

when he'd return.

be dangerous."

"How do you build harmony out

see how morale could be restored.

And even with the return of

"I find it very surprising that they

Flower attacks Streak U-turn

FA Cup holders Manchester United may be playing Newcastle in the semi-finals of this season's competition at the Millennium Stadium on Sunday but suggestions that a successful defence of their title will redeem the club's season have few supporters at Old Trafford.

retained the trophy,

Arsenal, who have scored 100 goals in all competitions so far this season, will be firm favourites to reach their fourth FA Cup final in five years when they take on Blackburn Rovers in Saturday's second semi-final

Parma, Alkmaar in last four, Magpies out



Parma, the 1995 and '99 winner held visiting Austria Vienna to a advanced 3-2 on aggregate.

Sporting Lisbon and CSKA Moscow also advanced to the last four. Sporting scored four straight goals to beat Newcastle 4-1 and 4-2 on aggregate, while CSKA lost to Auxerre 2-0 but still moved on with a 4-2 aggregate win.

Shoaib eyes WI return

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar said Thursday he hoped to play a lead role on the team's tour of the West Indies next month after missing the current series against India

against India for the rest of my career," Akhtar, who pulled out of the India tour at the last minute due to a hamstring problem, told AFP.

"But I am fully fit now and raring to go for the West Indies tour. I want to play a lead role," said Akhtar, who has played four domestic matches in the last three weeks to prove his

European football's governing body UEFA has confirmed AC Milan as winners of their abandoned quarter final against Inter.

UEFA has marked the six-times champions down for an April 26 semi-final first leg against Dutch side PSV Eindhoven at the San Siro. The return is on May 4.

Milan's quarter-final second leg was abandoned 17 minutes from time with Milan leading 1-0 after Inter fans threw dozens of flares onto the pitch. Inter, who were ordered to play

two European home matches away from the San Siro and fined 75.000 Swiss francs after similar crowd trouble at their UEFA Cup tie with Spanish side Alaves in 2001, could be barred from the competition next season.

But a five-match ground ban -which could cost the club 12 million euro in gate receipts and TV revenue -- looks the likeliest outcome when UEFA's disciplinary committee meets on Friday.

PREVIEW: FA CUP SEMIS MU's last bite at glory

AFP, London

United, who beat Championship side Millwall last year to lift the Cup for a record 11th time, have never



AP, London

Two-time UEFA Cup champion Parma and 1981 finalist AZ Alkmaar reached the semifinals of this year's competition with ties on Thursday.

scoreless tie and advanced on away goals after a 1-1 tie in the first leg. AZ tied 1-1 against Villarreal and

AFP, Lahore

due to injury

"I will regret missing the series

Milan declared winners Vintage Liverpool

PSV overcome Lyon

CHAMPS LEAGUE

REUTERS, London

Former European champions Liverpool and PSV Eindhoven turned the clock back Wednesday as they clinched places in the Champions League semi-finals.

Liverpool, European champions four times between 1977 and 1984. defended superbly for 90 minutes to earn a 0-0 draw with Juventus in their quarter-final second leg. They advanced 2-1 on aggregate

and now meet Chelsea in the first all-English semi-final in the competition's 50-year history after the London side knocked out Bayern Munich 6-5 on aggregate Tuesday. PSV, European champions in

1988 under current boss Guss Hiddink, drew 1-1 at home with Olympique Lyon of France leaving the tie all-square at 2-2 on aggregate at the end of 90 minutes. With extra time failing to produce a

winner, the tie became the first in the history of the Champions League knockout stages to be decided on penalties. PSV won the shootout 4-2 and will now meet AC Milan in their semi-final. Those matches are scheduled for

April 26 and 27 with the second legs on May 3 and 4. The final is in Istanbul Juve in their first match in Turin since the Heysel Stadium disaster of 1985 when a charge by their fans led to the death of 39 mostly Italian supporters but they also had to keep their nerve in a hostile environment. A huge police presence prevented

Liverpool not only had to see off

any major incidents although eight Juventus fans were arrested after an attack on a Liverpool supporter earlier Wednesday and there was some crowd trouble before the kickoff inside and outside the stadium.

But Juve fans had more reason to rue the events of the night rather than the tragedy of 20 years ago as their team failed to break down Liverpool's solid rearguard in which Sami Hyypia was outstanding as his side reached the last four for the first time since

Liverpool now face Chelsea who have beaten them three times this season -- 1-0 at home and away in the Premier League and 3-2 in the English League Cup final at the end of February.

It will be the fourth time Chelsea have played another English team in European competition dating back to 1971 and they have won three of those four games and drawn the other. In 1971 Chelsea knocked Manchester City out of the European Cup Winners' Cup 2-0 on aggregate and last season they beat Arsenal 3-2 on aggregate in the guarter-final of this competition.

Liverpool have played English

teams six times before -- losing to Leeds United 1-0 on aggregate in the Inter Cities Fairs Cup semi-final in 1971, beating Tottenham Hotspur on away goals in the UEFA Cup semifinal in 1973 and losing 2-0 to Nottingham Forest in the first round of the European Cup in 1978 when they were the defending champions.

The all-English tie will see a fascinating clash between Chelsea's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho and Liverpool's Spanish boss Rafael

Mourinho won the UEFA Cup with Porto in 2003 before lifting the European Cup with them the following year and he is now attempting to claim the trophy again this time at Chelsea. Benitez lifted the UEFA Cup last

ing to emulate Mourinho's feat by winning the European Cup the follow-In the night's other quarter-final Sylvain Wiltord gave Lyon the lead

term with Valencia and is now attempt-

after 10 minutes in Eindhoven, their 28th goal of the competition, but it proved to be their last.

Alex equalized for PSV early in the second half and neither side could find their way through to score again.

Brazilian substitute Robert hit the winning penalty after his compatriot and goalkeeper Gomes had saved penalties by Lyon's Ghanaian midfielder Mickael Essien and Eric Abidal.

PREVIEW: SERIE A

Let's get it right

Football

AFP, Rome

Serie A will be looking to make the headlines for all the right reasons after a week of crowd violence dragged the reputation of Italian football through the mud.

The Champions League quarterfinals involving Italian clubs in midweek were both marred by crowd violence, while domestically there were major disturbances after last Sunday's Serie A match between Lazio and Livorno. Potential flashpoints this weekend

include the Bergamo derby between Brescia and Atalanta, who are both fighting to stay up, and the Tuscan derby between Livorno and leaders of Serie A on 67 points with eight games left, play on Sunday, Milan, the only Italian team left in

AC Milan and Juventus, joint

the Champions League, visit thirdfrom-bottom Siena, while Juve host 10th-placed Lecce. Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero believes his team's Champions League exit at the hands of Liverpool

on their championship challenge. "We will use our disappointment at being eliminated as extra motivation for the fight for the title," said the Juve

on Tuesday will have a positive effect

"Like every great team, we have to react well to a setback and make sure we get the points we need to be league champions.' Tuesday's Champions League

quarter-final, second leg between AC

meeting in Italy since the Heysel disaster 20 years ago, was overshadowed by crowd trouble before the

in the 72nd minute after Inter fans

threw dozens of flares onto the pitch

keeper Nelson Dida.

one of which struck and burned Milan

Juventus and Liverpool, their first

And Wednesday's clash between

match which forced anti-riot police to use tear gas FIXTURES

(all 1400 GMT kick-off unless stated)

Saturday: Messina v Udinese (1700), Roma v Reggina (1930), Sampdoria v Palermo (1930) Sunday: Bologna v Lazio, Brescia v

Atalanta, Chievo v Parma, Inter Milan v Cagliari, Juventus v Lecce, Livorno v Fiorentina, Siena v AC Milan

PREVIEW: PREMIERSHIP

Barca look ahead

Football

AFP, Madrid

League leaders Barcelona's confidence was severely jolted by losing 4-2 at bitter rivals Real Madrid in the Santiago Bernabeu last weekend but they are bidding to bounce against Getafe on Sunday. The Catalans still top the Spanish

first division by six points from Real but this week there has been long faces and serious expressions on the training field in Barcelona, rather than the jovial atmosphere of recent months. Losing at Real has reminded Barca

fans of the 1981-82 season, when they had a five point lead with seven games to go but collapsed down the home straight and were pipped at the post by Real Sociedad Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard

"There are some players who, perhaps think they are already cham-

made his feelings about the situation abundantly clear this week

humble and keep concentrating," said the Dutch coach "We've got to put the match against Real out of our minds and concentrate

on winning all the rest of the games. said Barcelona superstar Ronaldinho. the World Player of the Year. Perhaps part of the reason for Barcelona's decline in form during the second half of the season, despite

being in pole position, has been the fact that Rijkaard has rarely been able to field the same back four. His latest set back is the suspension of club captain Carles Puyol and Brazilian wing back Belletti against

Getafe, who have won only one away game all season. Rijkaard will also be without the Spanish first division's top scorer Samuel Eto'o, who injured his right

knee against Real and will be out for another week. With Swedish striker Henrik Larsson still injured, Ronaldinho is likely to be pushed into an unfamiliar

pions. They should be a bit more rather than the principal service pro-

Real Madrid have been on a high since last Sunday's marvellous victory, when they produced some of their best football of the season. They will be looking to keep up the

pressure on Barca with a good performance against struggling Levante, who they thrashed 5-0 in the Bernabeu earlier this season.

FIXTURES

Saturday (kick off times GMT): Sevilla v Osasuna (1800), Atletico Madrid v Espanyol (1800), Real Sociedad v Deportivo La Coruna (2000)

Sunday: Albacete v Malaga (1500), Real Mallorca v Valencia (1500), Racing Santander v Athletic Bilbao (1500), Villarreal v Real Betis (1500), Real Zaragoza v Numancia (1500), Levante v Real Madrid (1700), Barcelona v Getafe

Afridi blazes Kanpur

FROM PAGE 12 and if you take away Afridi's contri-

bution it was not an easy target. He is a very dangerous player."
Inzamam said: "Afridi made the

difference. Hope he continues like this in New Delhi as well because we have a good chance to win the Afridi, the obvious choice for

his success was positive thinking. "I always go out there to play positive cricket," he said. "I did not score much in the first three games

so I am glad I helped put my team in

man-of-the-match, said the key to

Pakistan raced to 55 in the first five overs, 43 off those runs coming off Afridi's blade in 15 deliveries with two sixes off Laxmipathy Balaji and three in one over off Anil Kumble. Afridi, who had in the past twice

scored half-centuries off 18 deliver-

ies, needed 20 this time to reach his

a winning position.

individual 50. When Pakistan posted 100 on the board, Afridi's own score was 75. Fortune too appeared to favour the brave as Afridi was caught off a Dinesh Mongia no-ball when he

reached 79. Afridi's breathtaking strokeplay prompted an Indian spectator to display a signboard which read: "Afridi, please spare us for friendship's sake.'

Afridi missed breaking his own world record of 11 sixes in a one-day innings he shares with Sanath role of being the main target man

Earlier, Dravid and Mohammad Kaif (78) helped India recover from early blows by Rana Naved to post 249-6 from 50 overs after electing to take first strike.

Naved removed the formidable

opening pair of Sachin Tendulkar

and Virender Sehwag in his first

three overs and dismissed

Mahendra Dhoni in the fourth as India slipped to 26-3 after electing to bat on the slow wicket. Dravid and Kaif put on 135 for the fifth wicket and Mongia, who came

in for Ganguly, made an unbeaten 33 off 28 balls. India took the field without Ganguly even though he was eligible to play after appealing the sixmatch ban imposed on him by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for slow over-rates during the previous two matches in Jamshedpur and Ahmedabad

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the fifth one-day

international between India and Pakistan at the Green Park in Kanpur on Friday: INDÍA

Sehwag b Naved Tendulkar c Akmal b Naved Dhoni c Younis b Naved Dravid run out Yuvraj b Razzaq Kaif c Hafeez b Razzaq Mongia not out Zaheer not out

Extras: (lb-10, nb-4, w-2) Total: (For six wkts in 50 overs)249 Fall of wkts: 1-10, 2-11, 3-26, 4-59 5-194, 6-248. **Bowler**

> 10 2 35

Naved

Razzaq not out

Tendulkar

86

Iftikhar 10 46 10 51 Razzag Arshad 32 Afridi 6 0 34 0 Malik PAKISTAN Butt Ibw b Kumble Afridi b Harbhaian 102 Malik c Zaheer b Tendulkar Youhana c Kaif b Kumble Inzamam not out Younis b Sehwag

Extras: (lb-5, nb-5, w-6) Total: (For five wkts in 42.1 overs) 252 Fall of wkts: 1-131, 2-135, 3-193, 4-216, 5-248 Bowler Balaji 0 51 35 Zaheer 54 Kumble 40 Mongia 0 43 Harbhaian 10 0

Sehwag 0 Result: Pakistan won by five wickets, lead six-match series 3-

0 20

Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi. Final match in New Delhi on Sunday.

Master tournament. Now we can arrange much more tournaments in the country as a country needs at least three GMs to organise a GM Indian Grand Master Surva

Thierry Henry For me, he was the complete striker. I grew up watching him on television Enamul Hossain Rajib failed to earn his second norm as he lost to



Shekhar Ganguly, who became champion in the tournament. branded Reefat as one of the sharpest players of this generation. "He is a very attacking player and that's why sometimes he loses

some games. But that flare is his strength also. He deserved the Meanwhile, another Bangladeshi International Master

Russian GM Alexander Fominyh in



ANDY FLOWER

international cricket or be in a pro-

tracted battle in court. There would-

Last month Zimbabwe became

only the fourth side since the end of

World War II to lose a Test match

n't be any winners.

Meanwhile, stand-in skipper Dravid said yesterday in Kanpur that Ganguly alone was not to be blamed for India's slow over rate and the players needed to address the problem urgently to avoid its repeti-

team. It's an area in which we've to do a lot better. It's not just the captain alone but the bowlers and fielders too have to be responsible," Dravid "We have identified a couple of reasons (for slow over rate) and we'll

discuss it in team meetings and make sure it does not happen again," he said Ganguly also found support from Indian Sports Minister and film actor

Sunil Dutt who said he felt sorry for

the cricketer. Ganguly, Dutt said,

"It's a responsibility of the whole

Barnes (Zimbabwe).

Commonwealth Games

was an able captain who brought Indian cricket to the forefront of international stage and "I hope he returns to the game soon.' Agencies add: The ICC on Friday has appointed the chairman of its

code of conduct commission to hear Ganguly's appeal. Prominent English sports lawyer Michael Beloff QC will announce his

findings within the next seven days. The other members on the commissioners' panel that includes former Australia captain and and veteran broadcaster Richie Benaud are Oliver Popplewell of England, Gamini Marapana (Sri Lanka). Albie Sachs (South Africa), Anthony Lucky (West Indies) and Clive

Beloff has been a Member of the

Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

since 1996. He was on the CAS's

ad-hoc panel for dispute-resolution

during the last three Summer

Olympics and the last two

Participants of the BTI Cup Golf Tournament pose with the Chief of Army Staff and president of the Kurmitola Golf

Club Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury (fifth from left) at the KGC course on Friday.

14-15 April.2005