BKSP Cup hockey semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinal line-up of the North Bengal CA Third BKSP Cup Invitational International Under-18 Hockey Tournament were finalised

BHF (Bangladesh Hockey Federation) Red face Punjab National Bank in the first semifinal while BKSP Red meet with BHF Green in the second semi billed for today at the BKSP hockey ground.

On Monday's matches, Punjab routed Sri Lanka 10-0, BHF Green defeated BKSP Green 2-1 and BKSP Red beat BHF Red 2-1

Gaibandha soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Sammonay Sangha defeated Gaibandha Coaching Centre 2-1 in the final match of the Kishore (Under-16) football league at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Shafigul and Sultan of Sammonay Sangha netted one goal each while Rion reduced the margin for Gaibandha Coaching Centre.

HK cricket fans

FROM PAGE 12

the largest of the more than dozen amateur sides in the Chinese city.

Carol Wong, a spokeswoman for telecom company PCCW whose NOW Broadband network was to have broadcast the match, admitted the change of schedule was made late but was advertised.

"We felt it would better suit smoother scheduling for our customers if we switched matches," Wong told AFP.

Tri-series final

and we will have to correct in the final," Dravid said, adding the pressure was on Sri Lanka since they will be expected to win at home. **TEAMS**

SRI LANKA (from): Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Dilhara Lokuhettige, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Farveez Maharoof, Muttiah Murali-tharan, Dilhara Fernando, Lasith Malinga.

INDIA (from): Rahul Dravid (captain) Virender Sehwag, Saurav Ganguly, Vangipurappu Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammed Kaif, Suresh Raina, Venugopala Rao, Jai P Yadav. Mahendra Dhoni, Anil Kumble, Harbhaian Singh, Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Lakshmipathy Balaji, Ashish Nehra.

Black and Whites FROM PAGE 12

but Mohammedan custodian Biplab's full-stretch dive kept out Maiid's low drive out for a corner before substitute Yusuf's placing shot over the onrushing goalkeeper missed the crossbar for inches two

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: Biplab, Nazrul, Odaf, Hassan, Kaiser (Rony) Munna, Arman Aziz, Asad, Faisal (Mintu), Alfaz and Donald RUSSEL KC: Biplab, Aminul Jahirul, Pradeep, Yusuf Khan,

Hanif, Egir, Rachid, Tanvir, Majid and Bulbul (Yusuf). Referee: Abdul Hannan



The soccer referee's whistle was

introduced in 1878. Prior to this a referee had to rely on waving a handkerchief.



Michael Kasprowicz (Australian paceman)

"I turned up expecting to have plenty of coffee and tea, and cake -and end up playing in a Test match." On his inclusion in the team for the second Test after Glenn McGrath got injured.



South Africa at Edgbaston, said:

"That is the most nerve-wracking

Pakistan a few years ago in Hobart

when Adam Gilchrist got us home

when we were out of the game

any game of cricket I've played in

and that includes tied World Cup

semi-finals and all that sort of stuff.

off an unbelievable win and we

haven't quite got there but I actually

see the ball ballooning off the glove

down the legside and the game is

taken away from you but we can

take a lot out of this game, espe-

cially what has happened over the

playing some better cricket in the

third Test when we will look for our

top order batsmen to score more

Emphatic BD A

While Steve Harmison was

enjoying the glory with England at

Edgbaston, there was no joy for his

19-year-old brother, Ben, as he was

bowled first ball and sent down five

with a first-wicket stand of 209, of

which the Nafees made 132 before

his fellow left-hander, Mehrab

Hossain Jr, fell for 59 in the 40th

Nazimuddin hit three sixes in

making 28 off seven balls before

skying Harmison's brisk medium

pace to midwicket, where the bowler

gratefully claimed the catch himself.

fixture for the A side who are sched-

BANGLADESH A: 299 for 6 in 50

overs (Shahriar 147, Mehrab 59,

Tushar 22, Kapali 0, Hasanuzzaman

10, Nazimuddin 28, Razzak 5 not

out, Russel 3 not out, extras 25,

Killeen 2-4, Onions 1-57, Thorp 2-

DURHAM: 213 all out in 45.2 overs

(J Lowe 36, G Park 32, C Thorp 52,

D Barrick 24 not out, extras 22,

Russel 2-29, Alamgir 1-30,

Result: Bangladesh A won by 86

England had saved the series from

anti-climax and "virtually guaran-

teed further hardly bearable sus-

pense before the destiny of the

victory was called into question by

before lunch on the fourth day when

Michael Kasprowicz gloved a Steve

Harmison short-pitched delivery

down the leg-side to wicketkeeper

Geraint Jones, Australian newspa-

pers were able to provide coverage

While they said the match proba-

bly produced the best finish in the

history of Test cricket, several also

chose to highlight television replays

that suggested Kasprowicz should

Test of recent times needed a fur-

ther twist of drama, doubt emerged

in the immediate aftermath of

England's landmark two-run win as

to whether the final wicket was

legitimate," wrote Andrew Ramsay

"Enhanced television replays

"As if the most compelling Ashes

not have been given out.

in the Australian

Jones.

Meanwhile, England's dramatic

With the match finishing just

Shahadat 4-34, Razzak 1-52).

British press

Ashes becomes certain."

Australia's media on Monday.

FROM PAGE 12

on Monday.

uled to play two more three-day

SCORES IN BRIEF

50, Harmison 1-51).

The match was the last one day

Earlier, the visitors had begun

"Hopefully that can spur us on to

"I was disappointed when you

feel quite happy at the moment.

"This game is right up there with

"We've got very close to pulling

"We had a great win against

end to a Test I have played in.

completely.

last two days.

FROM PAGE 12

overs for 51 runs.

off 41 balls

Action from Monday's match between Punjab and Sri Lanka in the North Bengal-CA Third BKSP Cup Invitational International Under-18 Hockey Tournament at BKSP.

Keep it up, says Vaughan

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

England captain Michael Vaughan warned his side to keep their focus after they levelled the Ashes series with a dramatic two-run win over Australia in the second Test at Edgbaston. England's victory, the closest in

308 Tests spanning 128 years between the old rivals, squared the current campaign at 1-1.

But with the third Test starting at Old Trafford on Thursday, Vaughan said it was vital England made the most of their recovery from last month's 239-run first Test defeat at

"I asked the boys before this game 'Could we show some character and bounce back from Lord's?' It is fantastic that we have done that and now we have to try for something similar in Manchester, Vaughan said after England won with more than a day to spare. "The most important thing now is

to take this momentum into the third Test and start well again on Thursday at Old Trafford," Vaughan also told reporters after Sunday's thrilling fourth-day climax.

"I don't think we would have come back from 2-0 down against a team like this," Vaughan, looking to become the first England captain in nine series and 18 years to win the Ashes, admitted England all-rounder Andrew

Flintoff assured himself of a hero's welcome at his Lancashire home ground after his man-of-the-match display at Edgbaston

The 27-year-old fast bowler and hard-hitting batsman took seven for 31 and made vital scores of 68 and 73, the latter innings particularly crucial as he shared a pivotal lastwicket stand of 51 with Simon

"I've not seen a better all-round

performance in a Test from Freddie (Flintoff) than that," Vaughan said. "He has had some outstanding performances for us over the last couple of years but to do it against Australia certainly is a fantastic

"He didn't score a 100 or get five wickets in an innings but the two scores he made really gave us momentum and the stand with Simon Jones was the real momentum swing in the game. "We could have been looking at

around 230 to defend. To get it up to 282 swaved the momentum back into our favour and Freddie gives us a real belief to go out there and bowl and get some wickets. "His spell on Saturday night was

fantastic when he got two wickets in that first over. There were so many twists and turns in the game but both the last wicket partnership and the first over that he bowled were real turning points.' Even so Australia, finishing on

279 chasing 282, almost got home after resuming Sunday on 175 for eight needing a further 107 for Brett Lee was left on 43 not out

when last man Michael Kasprowicz, on 20, gloved a catch down the legside through to Australia-raised keeper Geraint Jones off fast bowler Stephen Harmison. "Towards the end they were

playing nicely and it was looking as f we weren't going to get over the line." Vaughan conceded.

But he insisted he hadn't given up hope even when Simon Jones dropped Kasprowicz at third man with Australia still needing 15 to win.

"I always felt there would be another opportunity and we would be good enough to take it. We held our nerve and it was a fitting end to a great game of cricket."

Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who played in the team that tied the 1999 World Cup semi-final against

England, who last won the Ashes

in 1986-87, when Botham again

played a key role, have lost their last

eight Test series against Australia

but will arrive at Old Trafford,

Flintoff's home ground, for the third

Test starting Thursday with renewed

mentary preserved on the video

Twenty-four years is a long-time

Throughout England there are

Flintoff is myself: Botham regaining the Ashes looks more like

a reality."

by 29 runs before his dominating

118 at Old Trafford featuring six sixes (still an Ashes innings record --Flintoff's 73 contained five) set up a 103-run victory. But if Flintoff does not yet have

Botham's record he shares the former England skipper's relish for appearing on the big stage, his love of competition and almost boyish delight in his own skills.

And Botham believes that Flintoff may yet have the same capacity for influencing matches with sheer ndividual brilliance.

Flintoff has been English cricket's great entertainer -- but now he is turning into a great winner too.

"When he plays as he did at Edgbaston, England's dream of

"For a couple of years now

cricket fans, some of whom who weren't even born in 1981, who can recite verbatim the television com-

between tapes but, if Flintoff carries on like this, some families won't

Botham's Ashes'.

have to think very hard about what to get their cricket-mad relatives for

Gatlin gets world title

to do so during the whole series. However, any hopes of the United States sweeping the medals disappeared at that point as Gatlin's training partner, and Olympic 200m champion. Shawn Crawford finished last in his race.

Olympic champion Carolina Kluft of Sweden retained her heptathlon world title, seeing off French archrival Eunice Barber in a thrilling sprint finish in the final event, the

The 22-year-old ended with a total of 6887 points, 63 ahead of Barber (6824) while Margaret Simpson of Ghana took bronze with 6375 points in the multi-discipline event.

With her left ankle heavily strapped, a grimacing Kluft outpaced the valiant Barber down the home straight of the 800m to the rapturous delight of the Finnish crowd that have adopted the Swede as one of their own.

The race was won by British Olympic bronze medallist Kelly Sotherton, but her impressive run was not enough for her to move from fifth in the overall standings after her dismal performances earlier in the day in the long jump and javelin.

"I had a really great experience here and Eunice is a fantastic competitor," said Kluft.

French sprint star Christine Arron's hopes of at last landing an elusive global individual title started well here as she breezed through to the second round of the 100 metres.

The 31-year-old Frenchwoman -European champion in 1998 -- will have to be wary though as Olympic champion Yuliva Nesterenko reappeared out of nowhere and looked like she had timed her form perfectly for another championships.

Arron looked impressive as she fielded the hardest heat coming home in 11.15sec ahead of last year's surprise Olympic champion.

Lifting the 2006 World Cup on home

"We are ready to offer the players and the management spiritual assistance for the World Cup." explained Hans-Georg Ulrichs, the official evangelist church World Cup priest.

"The DFB (German Football national team and the church."

Klinsmann may see religion as a good omen with predecessor representative the last time Germany hosted the World Cup back in 1974.

tournament defeating a Johan Cruyff-inspired Netherlands team 2-1 in Munich.

trophy again.

Thai wives beware!

AFP, Bangkok

One out of 40 punters in gamblingmad Thailand say they would sell themselves or their partners to pay for illegal bets on football.

In a nation that wagers on everything from kick-boxing to fighting fish, the opening of the English Premier League this weekend has Thais digging into their pockets and ready to have a go, according to a But 2.5 percent of gamblers said

they're ready to take more drastic action to raise their stakes, the Assumption University-ABAC poll "The estimate is that about 1.38

betting total will be as high as 7.6 billion baht (184.5 million dollars) a month," pollster Srisakdi Charmonman said When asked how they would respond if they didn't have enough

they would prostitute themselves or their partners. And it's not all just for love of the

The poll found that 35.1 percent said they will bet on Italian football while 32.2 percent indicated they

Zimbabwe suffer

FROM PAGE 12 Vettori ended the match when he had Chris Mpofu stumped by wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum for the second time on Monday.

The second Test starts next

and New Zealand at the Harare Sports Club on Monday:

for 9 declared (Vettori 127, Mc-Cullum 111, Fleming 73; Mahwire 3-115. Mpofu 2-100. Streak 2-102) **ZIMBABWE:** First innings

Ferreira c McCullum b Franklin Taylor run out (Styris) Ebrahim Ibw b Franklin Masakadza Ibw b Franklin Wishart b Bond 20 Carlisle not out Taibu Ibw b Martin Streak c McCullum b Martin 0 Mahwire Ibw b Martin Cremer c Martin b Vettori Mpofu c McCullum b Vettori Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-1, nb-6) Total: (All out in 29.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-10, 4-11, 5-28, 6-46, 7-46, 8-51, 9-53 0 М Bowler Bond 5 1 11 Franklin 5 0 11 10 1 21 Martin 9 **ZIMBABWE:** Second innings

16 Taylor c Vettori b Franklin Ebrahim b Martin Masakadza c and b Vettori 42 Wishart c Fleming b Bond Carlisle c Fleming b Bond Taibu c Fleming b Martin Streak Ibw b Vettori Mahwire not out Cremer c J Marshall b Vettori Mpofu st McCullum b Vettori Extras: (lb-8, nb-6) Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 99 Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-14, 3-53, 4-76,

> 0 М

11 8 10

10

indicated Kasprowicz's right hand was not in contact with the bat when Martin Steve Harmison's final delivery Vettori 13.5 brushed his glove on the way Astle through to wicketkeeper Geraint innings and 294 runs.

Bowler

Franklin

Bond

Klinsmann to get all the help from church

soil is the dream for German football fans and the evangelist church has offered to provide a priest to help Jurgen Klinsmann's team achieve their goal.

Federation) and the German management team have been informed of our offer. We would be delighted if the World Cup helps to revive the relationship between the German

Helmut Schoen using a church West Germany went on to win the

In the 1990 World Cup West Germany's manager Franz Beckenabauer also elected to have a member of the church accompany his team in Italy and they won the

million people plan to bet and the

cash, 43 percent said they would borrow -- and 2.5 percent claimed

English game.

would wager on Spanish matches.

week in Bulawayo.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the second day of the first Test between Zimbabwe

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 452

Ferreira c Fleming b Franklin 5-80, 6-84, 7-90, 8-90, 9-99

19 2 0 Stvris 3 5 16 4 28 0 15 Result: New Zealand won by



Chelsea's Didier Drogba (C) evading the lunge from a desperate Arsenal goalie Jens Lehmann before scoring his second goal during the FA Community Shield game at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on Sunday.

Season opens with Blues

Football

Didier Drogba's double drove Chelsea towards the Community Shield title as Arsenal were beaten 2-1 at the Millennium Stadium here on

Ivory Coast striker Drogba struck in the eighth and 57th minutes for the English champions in a keenly-fought match between the Premiership and FA Cup winners, the traditional showpiece start to the new season Arsenal's Spain midfielder

the 65th minute but it was too late to stop Blues boss Jose Mourinho claiming his first victory over the Gunners. By claiming their third Shield -- from the holders -- Chelsea proved their intent to continue where they left off:

Francesc Fabregas pulled one back in

"The first goal was great, the power he showed in the contact," said Mourinho of Drogba's opener.

domestic dominance

"The second one, he was fast and powerful going forward. I think another player would dive for a penalty. He didn't, he kept fighting for the ball and

"Of course it's better to win than lose. We got a trophy and we go home with a smile on our faces. We got the result and I think we were the best team, we deserved to win.'

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was refusing to be downcast about the were not completely 100

percent sharp to finish our combinations but overall I'm very happy because we were consistent, the technical quality was good and the spirit was strong

"It was a good preparation for us for the championship. I feel it was a very even game and Chelsea were dangerous on the long balls, we tried more to play our usual game.

"The result is not too important. We won four Community Shields and nobody ever counted it was a trophy. Don't be too worried.' The game was a chance to lay an

early marker between the English Premiership's top two last time out with Chelsea's clumsy 'tap up' of Arsenal's England left-back Ashley Cole still souring relations. Of Chelsea's newboys, left-back

Asier del Horno made his first competitive Blues start but England winger Sean Wright-Phillips began on the Arsenal's only major pre-season signing, ex-Stuttgart midfielder

Alexander Hleb, was among the

ubstitutes Only thrice in the past 20 seasons has the Shield winner gone on to lift the championship -- and never a

European trophy. It took Drogba little time to score --

and remind substitute striker Hernan Crespo, back from AC Milan, that he intends to remain the first-choice

Drogba chested down a high ball on the edge of the penalty area and with Philippe Senderos struggling to keep up, Drogba progressed into the box and clipped a shot across goalkeeper Jens Lehmann Thierry Henry tried to equalise soon

after but his snap-shot on the turn made an easy save for Blues goalkeeper Petr Cech. The two clubs' cold war boiled over with Fabregas and Claude Makelele cautioned for a furious fracas. and

words after the striker was bundled over by Lauren. Cech pulled off a magnificent save in the 37th minute, tipping centre-back Kolo Toure's drive from the edge of the penalty box around

Drogba and Lehmann trading sharp

Arsenal made three of their eventual six substitutions at half-time, introducing Hleb, but the reshuffle made no difference as Drogba pounced again.

Eidur Gudjohnsen flicked on a high ball and Drogba raced through alone. Senderos got to him but was fended off before the Ivorian stumbled as he rounded Lehmann.

Aussies have tough time

Cricket

Australians awoke Monday to the uneasy feeling that cricket's Ashes could possibly be headed back to England after a gut-wrenching tworun defeat in the second Test which squared the five-match series.

Australians sat on their edge of

the seats Sunday evening watching

their team's compelling tail-end fightback which almost torpedoed England's hopes of recovering from their resounding defeat in the opening Lord's Test. In the closest victory in 308 Tests spanning 128 years between the old

rivals. England breathed new life

into the series and fuelled hopes

that 16 years of Ashes torment could Australians, by nature, take sporting defeats hard. But even though the batting heroics of Shane Warne, Brett Lee and Michael Kasprowicz left their team two runs short of a miraculous win, there was a general consensus that England

deserved their victory. "Madness. Sheer madness. But

36 Murmurs

edly

38 Bankroll

40 Archery

bow

41 Cash

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43 Evergreen

was done

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47 Physiques

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31 "Don't

33 Dos'

35 Old

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5 That girl

8 Continen-

tal prefix

cricket has had in 20 years," the Daily Telegraph said Monday.

"Even as Australia despaired it

was hard not to feel good about

what the result did for the game. tossing up a finish that will be remembered as long as the game is played. It was the first time England have won an Ashes Test when the series was still alive since the opening

match of the 1997 series. Australia have also won the past eight series since 1989. The Australian media praised the contribution of man-of-the-match Andrew Flintoff, who took seven wickets, made vital scores of 68 and

73 and shared in a pivotal last-

wicket second innings stand of 51 with Simon Jones. "Flintoff proved himself the new lan Botham when he came to the crease at 5-72 but he was the last man out for 73, having thrashed four sixes -- giving him an Ashes record of nine for the match -- and six

"England owed much to a gigantic contribution from Andrew Flintoff, who set about the Australians with pace, power and bravado. He took

fours," The Daily Telegraph said.

By Eugene Sheffer

57 Existence 11 Formerly

(Lat.)

58 Thither

59 Bridge

DOWN

coup

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2 Shaving-

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3 Swamp

4 De Klerk

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5 Fast

driver

6 Posses-

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7 English

8 Rises

10 Cheer

Solution time: 21 mins.

9 Chance

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16 "Monop-

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feeder

23 Mischief

24 Big

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39 Tabloid

42 Southpaw

44 Incursions

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48 Repast

49 Sicilian

50 Son of

53 "Now

Noah

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stand!

45 Dessert

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ingredient

27 Just out

sch.

25 Huge

the contest by the scruff of the neck won it from the front by imposing himself upon it," Peter Roebuck wrote in The Sydney Morning

England into bat after winning the toss was critical and one that may be remembered for the rest of his cricket career, the Australian press "Ricky Ponting has never faced

Ricky Ponting's decision to send

pressure like the pressure that will stalk his every move on this Ashes tour," The Daily Telegraph's Robert Craddock wrote. "Ponting is probably the most

mentally tough cricketer in Australia

and he will need all his renowned

strength to cope with the fallout of

his failed gamble to send England into bat in the second Test." Australia has now been on the losing end of the three closest Test finishes when chasing fourth

innings totals. The only one-run margin came during the 1993 Test against the West Indies at Adelaide Oval when Craig McDermott was dismissed in similarly heartbreaking circum-

stances to Kasprowicz.

CRYPTOQUIP

H NJV PJI VJTJ MUWDCWWUIF

RKV ZJWB BK MUF H VJEE,

MJJO NKT PJ

ZCB BRJ BKQUD VHW BKK

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOT AT ALL BEING FOND OF LONG GOODBYES, SHE WENT AWAY WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S

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 vowels. Solution is by trial and error.