PHOTO: AFP

Jubilant Australian hockey players pose with the Azlan Shah trophy after beating hosts Malaysia in the final in Ipoh on Sunday.

Australia lift Azlan Shah hockey trophy

PTI, *Ipoh*

Olympic champions Australia overcame a spirited but disjointed Malaysia 3-1 to win the 16th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament here today.

Goals by Edward Ockenden (39th, 41st) and Russell Ford (53rd) set up the Australian victory while the Malaysians drew some consolation from Jiwa Mohan's penalty corner in the last minute of the game.

It was Australia's third title triumph in four years and their fifth overall, as they proved far too superior for the Malaysians who did a lot of running but precious little else.

For Malaysia, it was second time unlucky in the final. They had lost to India in 1985, the only other time the hosts had entered the final of this tournament.

Australia raised the level of their game when it mattered most and clearly, they were the quicker, fitter and better organised side than the Malaysians who simply did not have the ammunition to counter their mighty opponents.

Thus, the barren first-half during which the Malaysians kept up with the Aussies, gave no indication of what was to follow, but there were definite signs that the hosts would have to work harder to keep their rivals at bay.

Australia's big-match experience came into play in the second-half after failing to make any headway in the first session when they had only a couple of scoring opportunities.

The Malaysians defended for all their worth, but as the game progressed, the Aussies began to take a stranglehold on the proceedings.

Clark, Harmison hit form

Cricket

AFP, *London*

Australia fast bowler Stuart Clark made a dent of a different kind by taking seven for 82 for Hampshire against Lancashire in the First Division County Championship clash at the Rose Bowl on Saturday.

Clark, tipped by many as the natural successor to now retired Test great Glenn McGrath, had already made a mark since arriving from the World Cup by breaking the finger of Michael Vaughan in a championship match last week -- an injury that ruled the England captain out of Thursday's first Test against the West Indies at Lord's.

However, despite his haul Clark was powerless to prevent a rain-affected match ending in a draw.

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff's 61 was the cornerstone of Lancashire's 207 and Hampshire in reply made 272 with Dimitri Mascarenhas scoring 74.

Another fast bowler in the wickets was England's Stephen Harmison. He took five for 61 in Kent's second innings for a match haul of nine for 136 as hosts Durham won by 157 runs at the Riverside.

Harmison, who had a lacklustre Ashes tour of Australia and missed the World Cup after retiring from one-day internationals will, like Flintoff, hope to be named in England's first Test squad when it is announced on Sunday.

Elsewhere another noteworthy stint of pace bowling saw Yorkshire return to the top of the First Division with an innings and 260-run success against Worcestershire at Headingley.

Their third win in four games was spearheaded by Tim Bresnan's three wickets in four balls, the bowler finishing with an innings return of four for 10.

Promising leg-spinner Adil Rashid added to his growing reputation with four for 47 as Worcestershire were bowled out for 132 after following on in a match where Yorkshire's former South Africa batsman Jacques Rudolph scored an unbeaten 129 in their 521 for seven declared.

Unbeaten hundreds from Jon Batty and Mark Ramprakash secured a draw for Surrey against Warwickshiree at The Oval in another match interrupted by bad weather. Batty made 154 not out and former England batsman Ramprakash 120 not out in Surrey's 400 for one declared.

In the Second Division, Andrew Strauss -- vying for the England captaincy with Flintoff if Vaughan is ruled out -- scored 120 as Middlesex drew with Nottinghamshire in a match where neither side could beat the rain.

Also in the runs at Trent Bridge was highly-regarded Middlesex youngster Billy Godleman, who made 80.

But the weather couldn't stop Nottinghamshire's Midlands rivals Derbyshire from beating Leicestershire by seven wickets after Tom Lungley took five for 20, the seamer's maiden five-wicket haul in first-class cricket, to go with his first innings four for 54.

Paul Nixon, aiming to become England's Test as well as one-day keeper, scored 42 for Leicestershire but received little support before rapid run scoring saw Derbyshire to their victory target of 88.

'Fletcher right to quit'

Cricket

AFP, *London*

Ian Botham has said Duncan Fletcher was right to quit when he did as England coach, branding him "miserable" and "paranoid" when it came to dealing with the media.

Former Zimbabwe captain Fletcher, who oversaw an upturn in England's Test fortunes after taking over in 1999, quit after a lacklustre World Cup campaign which came soon after a 5-0 Ashes hammering in Australia.

Botham, one of England's greatest all-rounders, said it was important now that new coach Peter Moores, formerly in charge of the country's Academy, was given time to establish himself.

"It's a new era now and that's quite right. The curtain had to come to come down on the past era," Botham told Sportsweek on BBC Radio Five Live.

The former England captain added: "It was past it's sell-by date. Duncan Fletcher did some extremely good things for the England cricket team but everyone has a shelf life but I'm afraid his had expired.

"England were going nowhere. There was no communication and at times I think Duncan took being miserable to a new level.

"You have to communicate with people. You have to be able to talk to the media and I think that Duncan didn't want to.

"In my opinion he was becoming paranoid about the media and what they were saying. That became a major concern and it possibly undermined his position in the team. He seemed totally withdrawn and you can't be like that.

"There needed to be a change. It was quite right England reacted and we wish Peter Moores all the very best.

"He's done very well with the academy, he's well respected within the game and I haven't heard a bad word said about him.

"Let's get behind him and give him all our support. Hopefully he'll turn things around -- the players are there."

Botham said Fletcher was finished as England coach after blaming the coach for selection mistakes at the very outset of the Australia tour, notably the decision to bring back Ashley Giles from injury rather than play in-form left-arm spin rival Monty Panesar.

"The Ashes was the nail in the coffin for me. I thought the stubbornness over team selection went to a new level.

"The problem is that once the squad is picked Duncan gets pretty much what he wants. That was very apparent.

"The logic of playing Ashley Giles when he hadn't been playing for 12 months, leaving Monty Panesar out and to take Chris Read out of the side was a catalogue of errors.

"To get hammered 5-0 has knocked cricket back many years in this country."

Moores's first series as England coach is set to start on Thursday with the opening Test of a four-match campaign against the West Indies at Lord's.

Canary Wharf football camp from May 24

SPORTS REPORTER

The second session of the second year's football camp organised by Canary Wharf, UK, begins May 24 at BKSP.

All the 32 trainees have been asked to report to chief coach Ghulam Sarwar Tipu and chief coordinator Fazlur Rahman Babul at the sport institute in Savar on the same day by 5pm.

British coach Anthony Ferguson and media officials of Canary Wharf will also arrive in Dhaka on May 24 to supervise the camp.

Last year, 35 juvenile footballers (12-14 years) were handpicked from 4,000 players who joined trials across the country. Three players have been dismissed due to indiscipline and illness.

The trainee footballers will also receive academic support during their stay at BKSP.

Nadal guts out Davydenko

To face Gonzalez in final

Tennis

AFP, *Rome*

Spanish second seed Rafael Nadal remains on course for a third consecutive Rome Masters title after he edged Nikolay Davydenko 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (8/10), 6-4 in a dramatic semifinal on Saturday.

World number two Nadal was pushed every inch of the way by the Russian fourth seed in a tense tussle that lasted 3 hours and 38 minutes.

Nadal saved set point in the first set before Davydenko lost his nerve in the tie-break.

Davydenko levelled the tie after Nadal had failed to serve out the second set as the Spaniard dropped his first set on clay this year.

At 4-4 in the decider, Nadal broke to love before serving out the match.

Both players were given a standing ovation at the Foro Italico's centre court as Nadal extended his record winning streak on clay to a staggering 76 matches and clinched a place in Sunday's final against Fernando Gonzalez.

Chilean sixth seed Gonzalez defeated Italian wild card Filippo Volandri -- who knocked out world number one and top seed Roger Federer in the third round -- 6-1, 6-2 in just 67 minutes, leaving him far fresher than Nadal for Sunday's showpiece.

Nadal, whose last defeat on clay was back in April 2005 against Russian Igor Andreev in the Valencia quarterfinals, said his victory was not only a test of his physical strength.

"There were some very tough moments for me and I had to stay tough mentally," said the 20-year-old left-hander who is aiming to become the first player to win the Rome Masters three times in a row.

"He gave me a very, very tough match, but I always believed I would get through it.

"Tomorrow I will have another very difficult match, but I am very motivated."

Davydenko saluted Nadal for his never-say-die spirit.

"He's amazing -- he chases every ball and physically he is great," said the 25-year-old world number four.

"In the first two sets I was playing in a more controlled way, but I tired in the final set and he kept coming back at me.

"He kept putting more and more top spin on his shots and moving me all around the court.

"I think the difference between us was physical. It's something I need to improve on as when I tire my concentration is not as good."

Gonzalez, runner-up in this year's Australian Open, insisted the pressure was all on Nadal for the final.

Massa takes charge

AFP, *Barcelona*

Brazilian Felipe Massa won Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix for Ferrari and lifted himself into the midst of a close four-way scrap for this year's drivers' world championship.

Massa, 25, driving with great speed and aplomb, delivered a majestic and near-flawless performance for the famous Italian team to secure his second victory in succession and the fourth of his career.

But as the man from Sao Paulo celebrated his dominant triumph, it was Englishman Lewis Hamilton of McLaren-Mercedes who had most to enjoy.

Youth soccer finals from today

UNB, *Dhaka*

Noakhali will take on fellow qualifiers BKSP in the opening round of the Western Union National Youth Football Championship finals at the Satkhira Stadium today.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan will inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Ten teams -- split into two groups -- will compete in the final round with two top teams from each group advancing to the semi-finals. The final is slated for May 29.

The champions will receive Tk 30,000 while the runners-up Tk 20,000. Each of the nine qualifiers will receive Tk 30,000 as participation money while hosts Satkhira get Tk one lakh.

BFF senior vice president and tournament committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu disclosed the details at a press conference at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

SA Sultan, vice president Abdur Rahim, general secretary Anwarul Huq Helal, deputy general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu and regional operations manager of sponsors Western Union Syed Mohammad Kamal were present.

Helal informed that after scouting the best talents from this championship, they would form the Bangladesh team for the AFC U-19 Tournament scheduled to be held in November.

GROUP A: Noakhali, Narayanganj, Rajshahi, Khulna and Satkhira.

GROUP B: BKSP, Tangail, Gaibandha, Jhenaidah and Narsigndi.

Teams reach

FROM PAGE 17

got some runs ahead of the Test series," he said.

Bashar was however worried with the hot and humid condition.

"It is very tough weather conditions where everybody feel uncomfortable," he said.

The teams didn't turn up at the venue yesterday as they preferred full rest under such heat.

Warne, Lara

FROM PAGE 17

Cup. Warne retired from international cricket earlier this year following Australia's 5-0 trouncing of England in the Ashes, but it appears the trio's playing days are not quite finished.

The series, called the Indian Cricket League (ICL) was announced in April by Subhash Chandra, who heads Essel Group -- the owners of Zee TV who will broadcast the tournament, though it is only now that names as high-profile (and retired) as Warne are being mentioned. Equally, confirmation of the players' involvement has yet to be made from their respective agents.

The tournament is rumoured to take place mere weeks after the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship in September, held in South Africa.

Sochaux win

FROM PAGE 20

scores but his control let him down, forcing him into making an acrobatic overhead attempt on goal that ultimately came to nothing.

Sochaux piled on the pressure at the start of the secod period with Marseille looking to rely on the counter-attack.

However the eastern French club, Marseille actually came closer to doubling their lead in the early part of the second period but Mamadou Niang fierce drive was beaten away by Richert, who then did well to hold a shot from Frank Ribery.

A Sochaux equaliser may not have looked like coming but it did arrive at the mid-point of the half.

The excellent Leroy took down a long crossfield pass and crossed into the box where Beli-Moumouni Dagano powered a header past Carrasso, who seemed to think the ball would clear the bar and pulled his arm away, much to his embarassment as the net bulged.

Nasri could have won the game five minutes from normal time but fired just over the bar after creating space for himself with a neat step-over.

Strauss skipper

FROM PAGE 17

against Lancashire.

England's chairman of selectors, David Graveney, said after announcing the squad: "Michael Vaughan has made progress with his recovery from injury but his chances of being fully fit for this Test are extremely doubtful and we feel the best course of action is to avoid any uncertainty and for Andrew Strauss to deputise for him.

"Michael will continue his rehabilitation with the squad at Lord's next week and we will reassess his fitness when we sit down to pick the side for Headingley."

He added: "I have spoken to both Andrew Flintoff and Andrew Strauss about the captaincy position. Our view is that the team's best interests will be served if Andrew Strauss leads the team as this will allow Andrew Flintoff to concentrate on his batting and bowling."

Graveney said the selection panel, which also includes former England off-spinner Geoff Miller, spent plenty of time discussing who should be behind the stumps.

Turning to the batting, Graveney said he was "very optimistic" that Pietersen would be fit and stressed England had no other injury concerns within their Lord's squad.

"Owais Shah has been included in the squad to provide cover for Kevin, but also to give us the option of playing a stronger batting line-up if required," Graveney explained.

Fast bowler Stephen Harmison is back in the squad after an impressive start to the county season following a poor Ashes tour while fellow Durham paceman Liam Plunkett has seen off competition from James Anderson for the last seamer's spot.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Owais Shah, Matt Prior, Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison, Liam Plunkett, Monty Panesar.

Akram's camp

FROM PAGE 17

Pakistan were eliminated in the first round of the World Cup after losing to West Indies and minnows Ireland and this led to senior batsman, Inzamamul Haq stepping down as captain and also retiring from one-day internationals.

Wasim supported Inzamam's decision to step down but would not comment on the senior batsman's insistence to continue playing Test cricket at the age of 37.

Who wrote

FROM PAGE 17

the years and this is not his style -- not the sort of words and phrases that he would use."

The email is believed to have been sent at 6am on March 18, a few hours before Woolmer was found in his hotel room by a maid. Mark Shields, Jamaica's deputy commissioner of police, has flown to Cape Town to meet Gill Woolmer, who is also reported to have reservations about the authenticity of the email.

However, speculation continues in Jamaica that Woolmer may not have been murdered. The Sunday Gleaner is claiming that a source in London has told them that Scotland Yard believe there is no evidence of murder and that Woolmer died of a heart attack.

Pti adds, the Sunday Gleaner said that according to a pathology report submitted by the Scotland Yard team Woolmer died of natural causes and not manual strangulation as was initially reported by Shields.

The natural death theory comes on top of various other possibilities that have been speculated ever since he was found dead, immediately after the shock defeat of his team at the hands of minnows Ireland.

Apart from strangulation, the possibility of Woolmer having consumed a drink laced with weedkiller or aconite has also been speculated all along.

MSC surge to top

FROM PAGE 17

Unsettled by two early goals, the Khulna outfit found it hard to regroup but managed to hold the scoreline 2-0 till 36 minutes as Rony failed to convert from one-on-one and Emeka nodded the ball on to the crossbar.

Paul increased the margin nine minutes from the breather when he raced past rival centre-back Shahin with a through from leftback Kamal and finished the move after going round goalkeeper Foyaz.

Rony soon fluffed a chance from close range before the young winger won a penalty after being tripped by Hadiuzzaman two minutes from break. Paul, the top scorer of the league with 11 goals, however, failed to complete his second hattrick of the league as he fired wide from the spot despite sending Foyaz the wrong way.

Rony finally got a deserved goal in the 49th minute when he beat an onrushing Foyaz to a Kamal cross from the left to put the ball into the near post with a glancing header.

The visitors, famous for the counter attacks, pushed hard and after wasting two half chances, won a penalty when Arif brought Mamun down inside the box. Prashanta made no mistake to shoot home from 12 yards for his fourth goal.

Foyaz's legworks denied another point-blank range effort from Rony, who set up Emeka with a chip from the right to make it 5-1 in the 68th minute with a sliding finish.

Emeka complimented Rony with a square pass a couple of minutes later as the local boy tapped in to seal the victory with his second goal of the match.

Yellow cards: Mithu (Mohammedan) and Prashanta, Hadiuzzaman (Khulna Abahani)

TEAMS

Mohammedan: Himel (Al Amin), Arif, Odafe, Biplab, Rony, Divine, Mithu (Walid), Sharif (Ripon), Kamal, Emeka and Paul.

Khulna Abahani: Foyaz, Hadiuzzaman, Imrose (Awlad), Shahin, Ashraf, Moshiul, Tajul, Khalid (Ashiqul), Prashanta, Pikul and Mamun (Manzurul).

Referee: Abdul Hannan.

Abahani struggling

FROM PAGE 17

today's game and there will be only seven local players left after the DOHS match. So we are going to appeal to the CCDM to postpone the league for the time being," told Abahani official GS Hassan Tamim last night.

He informed that opener and reserve wicketkeeper Jahurul Islam Aumi is injured while Sohrawardy Shuvo is an HSC examinee, who will play today's match on request.

Abahani have also lost key player Manzarul Islam Rana, the national all-rounder who died of a road accident in Khulna last March.

Sri Lankan all-rounder Upul Chandana was due to arrive in Dhaka last night to fill the foreign quota.

In the day's other games, Mohammedan Sporting Club meet Bangladesh Biman at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Sonargaon Cricketers are pitted against Victoria Sporting Club at BKSP.

The relegation dogfight will take place between Indira Road, City Club and Brothers Union with two to go down to First Division. The relegation league fixtures have yet to be finalised.

Young Pegasus, Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Partex have no more part in the competition.

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	T	A	Pts
Abahani	11	10	1	-	-	20
Mohammedan	11	8	2	1	-	17
Victoria	11	8	3	-	-	16
Sonargaon	11	7	3	1	-	15
Biman	11	7	4	-	-	14
Old DOHS	11	5	6	-	-	10
Young Pegasus	11	5	6	-	-	10
Kalabagan	11	4	7	-	-	8
Partex	11	4	7	-	-	8
Indira Road	11	3	8	-	-	6
City Club	11	2	9	-	-	4
Brothers	11	2	9	-	-	4

DIV I TT results

SPORTS REPORTER

Nine matches were decided in the AB Bank First Division table tennis league yesterday.

Barna TT Club blanked Management Net 3-0, Synthia beat Jagarani 3-0, Palolic group beat Ekata Sripur 3-1, Mansoor SC edged Durbar 3-2, Bangladesh Boys beat Young Pegasus 3-0, Sports World beat Combined SC 3-0 while Dhaka South East TTC beat Linkers TTC 3-1, United International University beat Udayan 3-0 and Molar TTC beat Promising Juniors 3-0 at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium.

Terry seeks

FROM PAGE 20

stumbled at home to Middlesbrough.

However, Terry said of Ferguson's team: "I think they won it because they were very good this year. Four or five of their players have been different class this year.

"We had chances throughout the season where we could really have put pressure on them. The Newcastle game for me sticks out. If we had beaten them it would have been game on I think."

United may have ended Chelsea's two seasons at the top of English football before the clubs met on Wednesday but an ill-tempered goalless draw in west London suggested neither side would be easing off at Wembley.

Chelsea have already won the League Cup this term but Terry knows that won't satisfy Blues fans or the club's Russian's billonaire owner Roman Abramovich.

Stuttgart steal

FROM PAGE 20

Cruz bagged a third in the 61st minute.

Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart put mid-table Hamburg 1-0 up at Nuremberg with a well-struck free-kick on 39 minutes and midfielder David Jarolim scored just before the break as it finished 2-0.

Both Mainz 05 and Alemannia Aachen are now virtually sure of relegation after Saturday's results.

Juve closer

FROM PAGE 20

prevented Trezeguet from nodding a Zanetti cross into an empty net, then Antonioli blocked Del Piero's effort, but as time wore on they kept on hitting the Rossoblu brick wall. The visitors focused solely on the counter and went close to restoring their lead with Meghni's free-kick shaving the upright and a couple of dangerous attempts from substitute Fantini.

Juventus gave youth team hero Giovinco his Serie B debut and Trezeguet wasted another opportunity by not getting enough power on to his header. The game turned six minutes from time, as Ayroldi pointed to the spot for Smit's supposed push as Marchionni went to jump. Bologna were furious and Terzi saw red for dissent, but Del Piero had to twice convert due to encroachment. Even after the penalty the visitors continued to protest and ended the game with nine men as Marazzina took his complaints too far.

The entire Bologna bench was up in arms and a section of the home fans reacted by throwing objects in their direction, as the tension was sky high at the Stadio Olimpico. Despite being two men down, the Rossoblu nearly equalised when Buffon flew to parry a Bellucci header from point-blank range. Juventus made the points safe in stoppages with youngster Giovinco marking his debut with a splendid assist for Trezeguet's tap-in.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

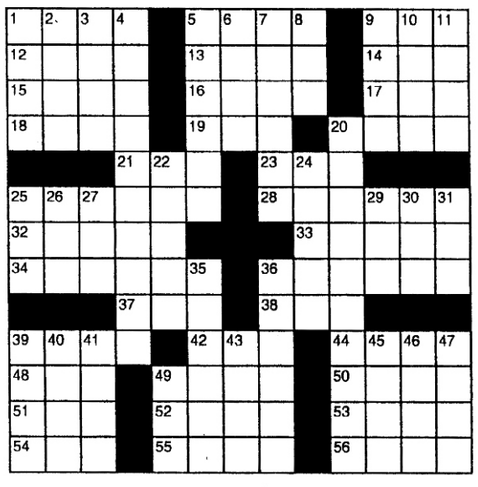
1 Basilica section
5 Tony of golf lore
9 Conk out
12 Hee-haw
13 Valhalla VIP
14 Squid squirt
15 Traditional tales
16 Barbershop call
17 Compass pt.
18 Grand-scale tale
19 Wildebeest
20 Talk a blue streak?
21 Mimic
23 Expert
25 Time for an egg roll
28 Refuse to go underground?
32 Impede
33 Less friendly
34 Knight's neighbor, at the start
36 Entrapment specialist
37 Wet wiggler
38 "Guinness Book" suffix
39 Burn somewhat
42 Lo-o-ong time
44 Crockery flaw
48 Lubricate
49 Amahl's night visitors
50 Firetruck need
51 E.T.'s transport
52 European capital
53 Eastern potentate
54 Chart format
55 "Cheers" order
56 Whatever's left over

DOWN

1 Competent
2 Stage item
3 Rani's wrapper
4 Visually appealing one
5 More drawn-out
6 Paradise
7 Skirmishes
8 Pismire
9 "— et mon droit"
10 B&B's
11 — out (supplements)
20 Locomotive feature
22 Tea variety
24 Jockey's handful
25 Undergo recession
26 Will Smith biopic
27 "Mayday!"
29 Atmosphere
30 "Golly!"
31 Mess up
35 Satisfy
36 Grad-to-be
39 Brilliant stroke
40 Stereo setup
41 Lotion additive
43 Lecherous look
45 Base runner's goal
46 Egyptian goddess
47 Saucy
49 "1 vs. 100" group

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	E	A		H	A	R	M		C	A	S	H
A	R	C		A	G	U	E		A	R	T	Y
D	E	C	A	D	E	N	T		N	E	A	P
		U	R	I	S		S	N	A	R	E	
R	E	S	E	T		I	S	L	E			
O	R	E	S		A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T
A	I	R		I	D	I	O	M		S	E	A
R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T		S	C	A	N
			G	O	N	G		S	H	A	R	K
A	F	O	U	L			S	T	E	P		
D	I	V	A		I	M	P	U	D	E	N	T
O	V	E	N		M	A	I	D		E	A	R
S	E	R	A		P	O	N	Y		S	P	Y



CRYPTOQUIP

L R K MCFGKLR RCV XIFS UWQWFQ, GTC LPZKGLCRG MKQQLCU KFC UIPCGLPCU SRIVR KU XIRSCFU TIRSCFU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN CUBAN BIGWIG CASTRO IS REALLY FAITHFUL TO A CAUSE, COULD YOU CALL THAT FIDEL-ITY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals A