

## Big win for BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

Abu Sajjad John fired four goals to steer BKSP to a massive 9-0 win over Rajshahi Division in yesterday's 27th National Hockey Championship match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Al Masum scored two goals for BKSP, who led the first half 4-0.

In other matches, Mymensingh drubbed Bangladesh Police 6-1, Bangladesh Air Force thrashed Patuakhali 6-0 and Dinajpur held Chittagong Division 2-2.

## Family first for Tiger

AP, Grand Blanc

Tiger Woods will miss next week's Buick Open to be with his wife and newborn daughter.

On Monday, Woods' wife gave birth to the couple's first child.

Woods said May 21 he intended to play at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc but the birth of his child was a priority. Woods' wife Elin was scheduled to give birth in July.

The Buick Open is earlier this year than in the past, starting Thursday and ending July 1 instead of in early August.

Woods has played at the tournament about 60 miles north of Detroit the past five years -- winning it in 2006 and 2002 -- and eight times in his career.

He has had a sponsorship agreement with Buick since 1999 and agreed to a new deal in 2004 believed to be worth more than \$40 million over five years. Buick has said the contract does not require Woods to play in specific PGA Tour events it sponsors.

He is scheduled to host a tournament in Washington, D.C., from July 5-8.

The British Open starts July 19, and the PGA Championship begins Aug. 9 at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

## Murali threat

FROM PAGE 17

"The key is to bat well and stretch the Sri Lankans. No one wants to lose in three or four days."

Bangladesh's hopes of providing a good fight rest on Ashraful, whose 114 on debut against Sri Lanka in 2001, just past his 16th birthday, made him Test cricket's youngest centurion.

The exciting strokemaker has gallantly stood up to the Sri Lankans in the past, scoring 475 runs in seven matches with two hundreds and a half-century at an average of 39.58.

Bangladesh, who made their maiden appearance in the second round of the limited-overs World Cup in the Caribbean earlier this year, are still finding their feet in traditional five-day Test cricket.

They have lost 40 of their 46 matches since being granted Test status in 2000, with five draws and a lone victory against a struggling Zimbabwe in 2005.

Sri Lanka, playing for the first time since coach Tom Moody quit in May to return home to Western Australia, are beset with problems of their own after being forced to look for a makeshift opening batting pair.

With veteran Sanath Jayasuriya rested and former captain Marvan Atapattu opting out for personal reasons, the hosts suffered a blow when Upul Tharanga broke a toe in his right foot when hit by a ball from Malinga during practice.

The selectors called up lanky Michael Vandort, who played the last of his seven Tests a year ago, to open the batting with debutant left-hander Malinda Warnapura.

"It is disappointing not to have a full-strength team but it gives a chance to the others to stand up and prove themselves," said captain Mahela Jayawardene.

"There is no question of taking Bangladesh lightly. They have done well in one-day cricket and look determined to improve their Test record," he said.

Bangladesh play three Tests and as many one-day internationals during the five-week tour.

## Spain hails

FROM PAGE 20

paper, gave the first page of their sports section to the story about Henry.

There was little hyperbole in the report, with the paper's headline reading: "Barca sign Henry for 24 million. The French striker, who until now has been at Arsenal, commits to the azulgrana club for four seasons."

## Capello hails

FROM PAGE 20

scandal, the latter handed to Inter by default.

"I watched Serie A closely this term. I was very close to Milan and Roma, unfortunately Juventus were not in the tournament. I was a little less supportive of Inter, obviously."

In fact, the Coach stood by the Triade of Luciano Moggi, Roberto Bettega and Antonio Giraudo, who have all now left Juve in the wake of the trial verdict.



PHOTO: STAR

An action from yesterday's match of the 27th National Hockey Championship between Rajshahi and BKSP at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

# England eye Aussie scale



INTERNET, undated

England are rebuilding their one-day team in Australia's image as they attempt to end their long wait for success and win one of the major tournaments in the next four years.

Not since the 1992 World Cup, when they were beaten by Pakistan in the final, have England been competitive in a major one-day international tournament and have endured miserable campaigns in the last four World Cups.

During the same period Australia have established themselves as the premier one-day team on the planet, winning the last two World Cups and remaining unbeaten in the last two tournaments.

It is those sort of standards England are seeking to emulate as they rebuild their team under the new captaincy of Paul Collingwood and coach Peter Moores.

England have already recalled Matt Prior as wicketkeeper because of his attacking style of strokeplay and potential to be as destructive either at the top or in the middle of the order as Adam Gilchrist has been for Australia.

"Matt has shown in playing Test

match cricket that he's a naturally aggressive player," said chairman of selectors David Graveney.

"He's an option to bat at the top of the order, but he's also an option to bat in the middle of the order.

"If you look at the way Andrew Symonds bats at number five for Australia, he bats the same way no matter what the situation and if they do get into trouble he has people like Mike Hussey to repair the situation if necessary.

"We are looking at the way the best teams play and to see if we have the best teams that can mirror that."

To that end England have called in two uncapped players -- Warwickshire batsman Jonathan Trott, who has a career one-day average over 40, and Hampshire all-rounder Dimitri Mascarenhas for his ability to contribute with bat and ball.

Trott is also a candidate to open the innings alongside Middlesex's Owais Shah, who has also been recalled for next week's two Twenty20 internationals and three one-day internationals against West Indies.

"We may look at players like Jonathan Trott and Owais Shah who bat three for their counties to open for us," confirmed Graveney.

"We don't want to put them under

unnecessary pressure but we do want them to go out and express themselves.

"In the World Cup a lot of the sides lost early wickets because of the conditions and sometimes you just have to play accordingly to the conditions.

"One of the problems we have in England is that the white ball does a lot early in the innings so we're looking for people to assess the conditions and play accordingly.

"It's not just about smashing it from ball one. You need players who can bat through the innings and get a hundred but you also need players who are naturally aggressive that can take the attack on."

Three players from the World Cup squad were overlooked because of injury -- Andrew Flintoff (ankle), Ravi Bopara (thigh) and Sajid Mahmood (hernia) -- but five more were dropped completely.

Former captains Michael Vaughan, who asked to be overlooked to allow Collingwood time to bed in, and Andrew Strauss were dropped alongside Jamie Dymally, Paul Nixon and Jon Lewis.

## Henin trumps Mauresmo

AFF, Eastbourne

Justine Henin derailed the grass preparation of Amelie Mauresmo as she won the Eastbourne Championships for the second straight year on Saturday 7-5, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/2) at the expense of the defending Wimbledon champion.

Henin, coming off of a fourth French Open title from the past five years, remains an undefeated 8-0 at Devonshire Park after claiming a contest played in a devilish sea wind on the south coast.

The finely-balanced match which stretched for two hours, 36 minutes was a replay of the 2006 Wimbledon, which Mauresmo won over her Belgian rival.

In the interim, Henin claimed titles from Mauresmo at the year-end championships and Dubai in February, Mauresmo's last match before an emergency appendix operation which left her idle until April.

"It was a close one," said Henin, now with 34 career trophies. "Conditions were very tough for both of us."

Mauresmo heads to Wimbledon starting Monday pleased with a good week on the grass while sorry to have missed out on the title in her first final from four appearances here.

### IRELAND

Porterfield b Agarkar	16			
Carroll c Karthik b Sreesanth	7			
Joyce c Ganguly b Sreesanth	18			
N O'Brien Sharma b RP Singh	52			
Wilson b Chawla	13			
O'Brien c RP Singh b Chawla	3			
White c Karthik b Chawla	8			
Johnston c Yuvraj b Sreesanth	34			
McCallan b RP Singh	4			
Fourie not out	4			
Whelan st Karthik b Tendulkar	5			
Extras: (lb-12, w-16, nb-1)	29			
Total: (All out in 50 overs)	193			
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-47, 3-56, 4-75, 5-83, 6-111, 7-159, 8-168, 9-187				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Sreesanth	10	0	50	3
RP Singh	10	2	36	2
Agarkar	10	2	27	1
Ganguly	6	1	15	0
Chawla	10	2	29	3
Tendulkar	4	0	24	1
<b>INDIA:</b> Ganguly, Gambhir, Dravid, Sharma, Tendulkar, Yuvraj, Karthik, Chawla, Agarkar, RP Singh, Sreesanth				
<b>Umpires:</b> Billy Bowden and Mark Benson.				

## Toronto could host Indo-Pak matches

AFF, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket chief said Saturday that his country was eager to play one-day matches with archrivals India at neutral overseas venues, primarily in North America.

"Pakistan is eager to squeeze a one-day event at offshore venue and large number of Pakistani and Indian people in North American countries demand for such events," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Nasim Ashraf told reporters.

Ashraf said discussions were underway to play at least one event per year at a neutral venue.

The nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours started playing each other at cricket again three years ago after their sometimes tense relations improved. India had severed cricket ties in 2000.

They are due to play a one-day international in Glasgow, Scotland on July 3, aiming to raise funds for charity.

Pakistan and India regularly played at neutral sites previously, most notably in Sharjah. They also played two tournaments in Toronto in 1996 and 1997.

### LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

men's under-55kg events while Rezaul Karim and Rezaul Ahmed grabbed gold medals in under-45kg and under-50kg.

In the other two categories -- under-60kg and under-70kg -- Biplob Ahmed of hosts Sylhet and Nazmul Hossain of Habiganj won respectively.

### NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL

UNB adds: Bangladesh Navy and Police reached the semifinals of the 23rd National Volleyball Championship winning their respective matches at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium. Navy crushed Khulna in straight sets 25-4, 25-9, 25-8 while Police defeated Kushtia, also in straight sets 25-15, 25-8, 25-21.

In the two semifinals, Police will take on Rifles while Navy face Army today.

## Match referee

FROM PAGE 17

"The first blunder was when the toss was held despite the rains and inspite of there being a reserve day for the final. The match referee was responsible for ordering the tosss.

"And according to the laws, the match referee is the final authority in a match," the official said and asked "so why make all the umpires a scapegoat?" He claimed the match referees' panel was the weakest link in the ICC and the Asian countries would be pressing the ICC Board to do a complete rethink on the matter.

"Even during the Oval Test fiasco last year in August, if match referee Mike Procter had been strong enough Darrell Hair should never have been allowed to do what he did and create a mess. Procter unfortunately shied away from his responsibility and was unable to take a firm decision and it led to a mess," he noted.

## All set for Latino

FROM PAGE 20

force including Barcelona's teenage star Lionel Messi, West Ham's Carlos Tevez and Hernan Crespo with midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme returning after quitting last year.

Riquelme, 28, on loan from Villarreal in Spain scored both second leg goals to help Boca Juniors win their sixth Copa Libertadores title this week, while Crespo won the Serie A title with Inter Milan.

"I have a team who have won titles, who have been victorious," warned Basile.

Argentina open on June 28 against the United States, in Maracaibo. Their Group C also includes Paraguay and Colombia.

For hosts Venezuela, drawn in Group A with Uruguay, Peru and Bolivia, the tournament is being seen as a way of improving their country's image.

President Hugo Chavez, whose government is flush with cash from booming oil prices, has ploughed a record 1,000 million dollars into ensuring their biggest sporting event since the 1983 PanAmerican Games goes off without a hitch.

That figure dwarfs the 24 million dollars spent by Uruguay in 1995, the 10 million dollars by Bolivia in 1997, 20 million by Colombia in 2001 and 13.2 million by Peru in 2004.

Three new stadia have been constructed and another six overhauled for the event which will take place in nine cities.

New roads have been built and systems of transport improved.

## Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances the second part of Gabriel Marcotti's article "The cream of the crop" -- highlighting the best fifty players on the planet-- could not be printed today. It will be reproduced tomorrow. - Sports Editor

# No Boxing Day Tests?



AFF, Sydney

Australian cricket fears it may lose its lucrative Boxing Day and New Year's Tests in Melbourne and Sydney amid scheduling disenchantment from some other Test nations.

While next summer's Tests against India are confirmed nothing has been resolved beyond that, with Australian officials awaiting the outcome of a report into scheduling and funding at the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) annual meeting in London next week.

Cricket Australia's public affairs manager Peter Young admitted that protecting the traditional Australian summer of cricket "is certainly one of the most difficult issues we've got."

"Looking ahead, South Africa have very clearly signalled this is a big issue for them and I don't believe we've resolved that yet. The only programme we've finalised is the programme for next summer," Young told Saturday's The Australian newspaper.

South Africa, who have their own Boxing Day and New Year's Day Tests except when they tour Australia, are seeking a review of scheduling with the ICC, reports said.

Australia are paying South Africa compensation, believed to be at

least 300,000 dollars (254,000 USD) each time they sacrifice their own Boxing Day and New Year's Day Tests by touring Australia, The Australian said.

The South Africans are due to tour Australia again in the 2008-09 summer.

The newspaper said South Africa's ICC submission is supported by West Indies, who have raised concerns about funding under the current touring arrangements.

Former Australian Cricket Board and ICC chairman Malcolm Gray, who is chairing the ICC committee, said its charter has been to examine the existing scheduling through the future tours programme and to look at the funding of international cricket.

"The South African submission was along the line of concern that the existing scheduling and arrangements are equitable and the West Indian submission was based on their financial situation, putting forward that under existing arrangements it doesn't afford them sufficient financial support," Gray told The Australian.

The newspaper said it understands the committee will want Australia to maintain regular international cricket during the November to February window.

India have refused to arrive in Australia next summer until late December.

While the Boxing Day and New

Year's Day Tests will be played, they become the first two matches of the four-Test series not the last two, leaving a three-week hole in December, which is considered prime time for Test cricket in Australia.

There will be no international cricket in Australia from the end of the second Test against Sri Lanka, scheduled to finish on November 20, until December 11, when Australia play New Zealand in a Twenty20 match as a lead-up to three one-day matches in the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy.

The annual one-day triangular tournament has also been pushed back, beginning in early February and running until the first week of March.

"Scheduling cricket is a bit like trying to get a Rubik's Cube aligned," Young said.

"It's really complicated and it's only getting more complicated.

"We've got a traditional season that we've been operating for a long while and we're keen to keep working with other nations to do that. The Boxing Day Test and the New Year's Test are iconic parts of the Australian summer."

Eight of the 10 Test-playing nations, including Australia, share the same cricket season.

# Chaos besieges Zim tour



CRICINFO, undated

The West Indies Cricket Board is reportedly attempting to salvage the A-team tour to Zimbabwe despite being faced with players refusing to tour and confusion over the safety advice given regarding the wisdom of the trip even happening.

Cricinfo has learned that Sylvester Joseph, who was originally named as captain last week, has declined the invitation to lead the side or take part. It now emerges that Daren Ganga was offered the role on Thursday and also turned it down. The latest name in the frame is Rawl Lewis.

There is also increasing speculation that the West Indies Cricket Board is struggling to find enough players of a decent standard to fill the squad without it losing credibility. They are due to leave in a week and yet nobody has been named, despite daily assurances that an announcement is imminent.

What is certain is that if the tour does happen, once again, as happened with the senior side before their tour of England, a West Indies team will set out with little preparation.

Meanwhile, assurances from the West Indies board that CARICOM had given its blessing on player safety have been denied by Eddie Green, CARICOM's assistant secretary general. He said that Tony

Deyal, the WICB's corporate services manager, had been told "the Bureau of Heads the opinions were split and we need to send out a formal request to all Heads which we did two weeks ago. I have not spoken to him since and the official decision will be made on June 30."

On Friday, Deyal told reporters that the WICB had "received a no-objection letter from ... Greene". That now seems to be incorrect, even though Bruce Aenansen, the WICB's chief executive officer, said last weekend that a response from CARICOM had been delivered on June 13.

The other documentation relied on by the WICB is from Zimbabwe Cricket and the Zimbabwe Republic Police. A source inside Zimbabwe told Cricinfo that any assurance from the police "was not only worthless but was a sick joke". He added: "The police are the people to be afraid of, and the Zimbabwe board might not be the most objective party."

Deyal told Cricinfo that player safety was of paramount importance to the WICB and that nothing would ever be done to threaten that. He earlier said that unless WIPA passed over their documentary evidence that it would be unsafe to travel to Zimbabwe, then the tour would go ahead.

"We want WIPA to send us what they have so we can make the best decision in the circumstances and that both parties can agree to it," he said. "WIPA never sent us anything.

### Abahani:

Biplab (Tariq), Siraji (Mintu), Nazrul, Pradip, Wali, Mikel (Parvez), Joy, Abul, Ujjal, Emily and Souleyman.

**Rahmatgani:** Anwarul, Jahangir, Rimon, Rony, Mahiuddin, Babu (Rasel), Felix, Adeyinka, Apu (Emon), Francis and Ikogho (Mamun).

### HATTRICKS

**Double hatrick:** Paul (Mohammedan v Rahmatgani)

**Hattrick:** Alfaz (Muktijoddha) v Rahmatgani, Junior (Brothers) v Rahmatgani and Khulna Abahani.

Emeka (Mohammedan) v Ctg Mohammedan, Emily (Abahani) v Rahmatgani.

### TOP SCORERS

13 goals: Paul (Mohammedan), Junior (BU)

6 goals: Alfaz (Muktijoddha), Nicodemus (Arambagh), Robin (Farashgani), Abraham (Ctg Abahani), Emily (Abahani)

5 goals: Moni (Muktijoddha), Younes (Russel), Emeka (Mohammedan)

4 goals: Prashanta (Khulna Abahani), Ighir (Russel), Khokon (Ctg Abahani), Abul (Abahani)

3 goals: Mamun (Khulna Abahani), Ibrahim (Abahani), Brahim (Muktijoddha), Apu (Rahmatgani).

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>37</b> Facility	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>24</b> Toss in
<b>1</b> Incubator noises	<b>38</b> Different	<b>1</b> Sch. org.	<b>26</b> Dupe
<b>6</b> Diner lunch	<b>41</b> Common Mkt.	<b>2</b> Work unit	<b>28</b> Shone in beams
<b>9</b> Links stat	<b>43</b> Uncultured order	<b>4</b> See	<b>30</b> Postal creed word
<b>12</b> Characteristic	<b>44</b> "Arri-vederci"	<b>5</b> With	<b>32</b> Some insects
<b>13</b> Actor Stephen	<b>45</b> Jackson or City	<b>4</b> Down, Atlantic	<b>33</b> NAFTA signatory
<b>14</b> Feast-famine link	<b>47</b> Frank in reserve	<b>6</b> Light wind	<b>34</b> Ply a needle
<b>15</b> Match before-hand	<b>49</b> In reserve	<b>7</b> Secrecy thwarted	<b>36</b> Re canines, etc.
<b>18</b> Man with all the answers?	<b>53</b> Ms. Farrrow	<b>9</b> Purpose	<b>38</b> "Caribbean queen" singer
<b>20</b> Initial stake	<b>54</b> Cart	<b>10</b> Mountain crest	<b>39</b> Coronet
<b>21</b> La-la lead-in	<b>55</b> Aye	<b>11</b> Harder to find	<b>40</b> Magician Houdini
<b>23</b> Columnist Smith	<b>56</b> Fivolous one of song	<b>17</b> TV pooch	<b>42</b> Go on all fours
<b>24</b> Michael-mas daisy	<b>57</b> Craves (for)	<b>19</b> Game of chance	<b>45</b> Largest of the seven
<b>25</b> "Fiction"	<b>22</b> "— Town"	<b>21</b> Choose	<b>46</b> Bright barter
<b>27</b> Dweebs			<b>48</b> North Sea feeder
<b>29</b> Exasperating			<b>50</b> Speck
<b>31</b> Farewells			<b>51</b> Navy rank (Abbr.)
<b>35</b> Swag-bag item			

Solution time: 25 mins.

RUIN	SKI	EKES
OREO	RID	SNIP
TARO	ODE	GORA
CLERIC	AVOCET	
ABSE	TRICK	
GLARY	STOETTER	
UAL	STEL	TEAL
STOOP	STO	ESPN
CPA	CAL	
FAKTIS	KNAVES	
ASIA	AWES	TITLE
STIR	FOR	FLUTE
EASE	ENS	DEAD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13			14		
15						16			17		
		18				19			20		
21	22			23			24				
25			26		27		28				
29				30			31		32	33	34
				35			36		37		
38	39	40				41	42		43		
44				45				46			
47				48			49			50	51
52				53			54				
55				56			57				