

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (L) and all-rounder Yuvraj Singh make their way to the arrival terminal of Chandigarh Airport from New Delhi to play their fourth one-day international against Australia today.

SPORTS REPORTER

The 18th Bata School Handball tournament (boys and girls) got underway yesterday at the Dhanmondi Sports Complex ground with 11 matches settled on the opening day.

In the boy's event Scholastica, BIS, The British School, Narinda Govt High School, BAF Shaheen School & College, Marie Curie School, South Breeze and Sunnydale won their opening matches against their respective rivals.

Sunnydale, Viquarunnisa Noon School & College and Scholastica also registered wins in their opening matches in the girl's event.

Magura football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Meherpur beat Satkhira 1-0 in a competitive match of the Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup inter-district football tournament at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

The first half of the match ended goalless. Selim netted the solitary goal for the winners in the second half.

Khulna Winners Club will take on Chuadanga today at the same venue.

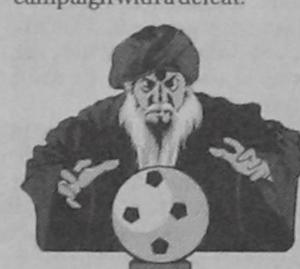
Kalu brace

FROM PAGE 17 second bookable offence in

the 79th minute.

With both sides playing with one man short, Farashganj gained the lead in the 82nd minute as Rahmatganj goalkeeper Arifuz Zaman Himel fisted a free kick taken by Ronny and Nigerian striker Kalu made no mistake to head the follow-up home.

One minute from time, Kalu capitalising on a longpass from Imtiaz Sultan Zitu advanced into the danger zone before lashing a powerful shot past goalkeeper Himel and Rahmatganj, who stunned champions Abahani 2-1 in the opener in the last season, started their this season's campaign with a defeat.



Ice hockey became an Olympic sport in 1920 and is one of the most popular events at the Winter Olympics.





Carles Puyol

(Barcelona captain) "I am very happy with the trust that my peers and the club have shown in me. The fans also played a key role in my decision to stay since they have constantly supported me, in the good times and the bad." After renewing his contract with the Spanish giants for another three years.

School h'ball We played smart cricket: Yuvraj

IANS, New Delhi

Yuvraj Singh, whose 148-run stand with Mahendra Singh Dhoni guided India to a sixagainst Australia, said that they played 'smart cricket' on a slow wicket to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

Yuvraj (78) and Dhoni (71 not out) curbed their attacking instinct to forge a matchwinning fourth wicket partnership as India reached the target of 230 runs with 10 balls remaining.

Yuvraj, who was the Man of the Match, said that the Kotla track was the slowest he had ever played on and the nature of the pitch made it difficult to chase even a low total.

He though said that it was a satisfying innings that will prove his critics wrong.

"I have always been criticised for not playing well on slow tracks. I think I proved a point today. It was intelligent and smart cricket from us. The wicket was low and slow and some time in the middle and played. not take any risk," said Yuvraj.

The left-handed batsman admitted that it would have been tough for India had the target been 250.

bravely

Caroline Wozniacki joined the

WTA Championships casualty

list on Saturday when her

hopes were shattered by a

crippling stomach strain, but

the bubbly blonde Dane

showed she has plenty of guts

2009 at 12 in the world, but will

finish at four while having also

made the US Open semifinals.

was tested when she was

caught up in a WTA investiga-

tion after her controversial,

injury-forced withdrawal

from a low-key event in

spinning season-ending

tournament, she captured

hearts with her tear-stained,

cramp-wracked victory over

Her on-court collapse and

her struggles to finish off the

last two points will be defining

images of this 4.55 million

physiotherapist Kevin Sims

pressed nature of this tour and

his speed of recovery so far we

feel now we have insufficient

time to have Hopes fully fit to

been made that Hopes will

return to Australia where he

will continue his rehabilitation

from this hamstring injury."

"However due to the com-

On her debut at the money-

Furthermore, her resolve

The 19-year-old started

Tennis

AFP, Doha

for a fight.

Luxembourg.

barely able to walk.

dollar showpiece.

FROM PAGE 17

said in the statement.

games of this series.

"Thankfully we had only 230 to chase, otherwise it would have been difficult had

the score been 250," he said. Yuvraj also said that batting wicket victory in the third ODI with his close friend Dhoni eased the pressure.

> "I always enjoy playing with him. Both me and Mahi were looking to post a 50-run partnership but it got bigger and better. We cut down on the big shots and capitalised on the loose balls and concentrated on singles. Dhoni is a kind of batsmen from whom we can learn how to bat in ODIs. He is very dynamic batsman and he can always make up in the end," he said.

> Yuvraj also said that Harbhajan Singh's figures of 37 for one from his 10 overs was a good sign for the team. "It's just that he is not

> getting wickets but today he bowled well. It is a good sign for the team," he said.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting said that his team was 10-20 runs short. Ponting also said that the track was one of we though that we will spend the slowest he had ever

"But the track was same for both the teams. I can't complain. We have to blame ourselves for the loss but batting first was the right decision on

thigh heavily bandaged, her

victory hopes ended at 4-6, 0-1

when her side strain became

could cry, and I chose to smile.

There's nothing else you can

do. I had a great year. I did all I

could. I used all my strength I

had left, but today, I just didn't

have any more left," said

ment. It doesn't matter that I

game's brightest talents and

with a love of sport coursing

through her veins thanks to her

football-playing father and

coach Piotr, will face sterner

As well as the Williams

"I learned that I'm a huge

"I just need to keep improv-

ing. Next time I step on the

and 54 wickets from 67 ODIs, is

the third Australian player to fly

back home during this seven-

(elbow) and wicketkeeper-

batsman Tim Paine (finger) are

already back in Australia tend-

Pace spearhead Brett Lee

Victorian fast bowler

named as a replacement for

Lee while New South Wales all-

rounder Moises Henriques will

now remain with the squad for

fighter and impossible is

examinations next year.

contend with.

and humid Gulf.

nothing," she said.

match series.

Against Serena Williams in court, I will try to play even

India's twin concerns

"Therefore a decision has Clinton McKay has been

the semifinals, with her left better than I did here.'

take part in the remaining ingto their injuries.

Hopes, who has 1,000 runs the rest of the matches.

couldn't really finish today."

"I've had a great tourna-

Wozniacki, one of the

"I could either smile or I

one burden too many.

Wozniacki.

Caroline loses

this track," he said. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third oneday international between India and Australia at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: 229 for 5 in 50 overs (Hussey 81, Ponting 59, Watson 41; Jadeja 2-41) INDIA

Sehwag b Johnson Tendulkar run out Gambhir b Hauritz Yuvraj lbw b Hauritz Dhoninotout 71 Raina not out Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-14, nb-1) Total: (For 4 wkts in 48.2 overs) 230

Did not bat: Jadeja, Harbhajan, Nehra, Kumar, Sharma. Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-51, 3-53, 4-201

Bowler	0	M	R	1
Johnson	9.2	2	43	
Siddle	10	0	41	
Bollinger	10	0	26	
Henriques	8	0	51	
Hauritz	10	0	48	
Voges	1	0	13	
Result: Ind	ia wo	n by	six w	ic

ets and take 2-1 lead in the 7-ODI series.

Man-of-the-match: Yuvraj Singh. Toss: Australia.

Umpires: Amish Saheba and Sanjay Hazare.

Wushu

FROM PAGE 17 signed by both the president

and the general secretary. Neither president FR Siddique nor general secretary Delwar Hossain could be contacted as the president is touring China while the cell phone of Delwarwas switched off.

Meanwhile, a total of 21 players have been training since February for the SA Games to be held in Bangladesh from January 29-February 9 and the BOA is expecting a couple of gold medals from Wushu event.

Bordeaux

FROM PAGE 20 to keep out efforts from Yoan Gouffran and Wendel.

Laurent Blanc's men continued to press in the second half and their efforts were rewarded in the 62nd minute when defender Marc Planus tapped home the winner after Ruffier had repelled a header by Marouane Chamakh.

sisters, there will be the return Polish striker Ireneuz Jelen of former number ones Justine scored his second brace in a Henin and Kim Clijsters to week to fire Auxerre to their fifth straight league victory, a But Wozniacki believes she 2-1 home win over has learnt valuable lessons Montpellier. Vera Zvonareva which left her over the last week in the hot

Jelen, Auxerre's top scorer last season, was on target twice in the 3-2 victory over Lille last weekend and he notched a first-half double as Jean Fernandez's team climbed to fifth in the table.

Shakib 20th

FROM PAGE 17

Meanwhile, the fight for the coveted number-one team's position is getting interesting with second-placed India narrowing the gap with leaders Australia to just one point after taking a 2-1 lead in the ongoing seven-match ODI series.

India, who had trailed Australia by four points before the start of the series, can go ahead of Ricky Ponting's side if they win the fourth ODI at Mohali today. An Australian victory will mean they will widen the gap to three points.

Coach-less NZ versus trouble-hit Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

New Zealand and Pakistan will both be hoping they can overcome a series of setbacks when they clash in the first of three one-day internationals here on after wicketkeeper-batsman Brendon

Since finishing runners-up to Australia in the Champions Trophy last month, New Zealand's problems have multiplied, following injuries to key players and the sudden departure of coach Andy Moles.

Moles's resignation after differences with some of the players has left a void, but skipper Daniel Vettori is confident his team are capable of rising to the occasion.

'Now every single person in the squad has to pick up a little bit of the slack," Vettori said when asked about the team's being without a coach.

there's no reason why we shouldn't, and that's the mindset that we have to have going," said Vettori who will be an actingcoach as well as a selector and the team's leading all-rounder.

The Black Caps will also be without hard-hitting opener Jesse Ryder, allrounder Grant Elliott and pace spearhead Daryl Tuffey -- all nursing injuries. Their places go to the uncapped Bradley-John Watling, recalled Scott Styris and fast bowler Tim Southee.

Elliott starred in New Zealand's five-

wicket win over Pakistan in the semi-final of the Champions Trophy in South Africa.

"It is disappointing because you would always want to bring your top team for a series," said Vettori. "Despite injuries we did well in the Champions Trophy and hope we can do the same."

Vettori will also be without a deputy McCullum quit the vice-captaincy to focus on his batting.

The New Zealand captain said both sides were struggling with their form.

"I think inconsistency probably plagues both the teams. There are some really talented players in both the sides who can win games but how often are we consistently doing that?" said Vettori.

"We know we're going to battle hard against Pakistan and we need those key players to step up to either win games or nullify Pakistan's key players.

"They've got a lot of issues going on "People will still expect us to win, but they've dealt with them in the past and they're used to it."

> Pakistan captain Younus Khan offered to resign over unproven match-fixing allegations following his team's defeat against Australia and New Zealand in the Champions Trophy.

Pakistan Cricket Board rejected Younus's resignation, but there were reports of disharmony within the team. Younus, however, stressed unity was

vital if they were to achieve a win. "We can only win if we play above our Bradley-John Watling. potential and play as a unit," said Younus,

who will pass the captaincy to all-rounder Shahid Afridi for two Twenty20 matches after the one-day series.

"New Zealand are like Australia and Sri Lanka, who play as a unit and you have to play like that to beat them."

Pakistan will be without key fast bowler Mohammad Asif, who was not selected because immigration officials will not let him into the United Arab Emirates following his deportation from Dubai last year on charges of possessing a banned drug.

The second and third one-dayers will be played here on November 6 and 9. The series was moved out of Pakistan after New Zealand refused to tour following attacks on the Sri Lankan team in March this year.

SQUADS

PAKISTAN (from): Younus Khan (captain), Salman Butt, Imran Farhat, Khalid Latif, Mohammad Yousuf, Shoaib Malik, Umer Akmal, Kamran Akmal, Abdul Razzaq, Rana Naved-ul-Hasan, Shahid Afridi, Saeed Ajmal, Umar Gul, Mohammad Aamir, Rao Iftikhar, Wahab

NEW ZEALAND (from): Daniel Vettori (captain), Shane Bond, Neil Broom, Ian Butler, James Franklin, Martin Guptill, Brendon McCullum, Nathan McCullum, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Aaron Redmond. Tim Southee, Scott Styris, Ross Taylor,

Umpires: Bruce Oxenford and Asad Rauf.

Fulham stall

FROM PAGE 17

Robin van Persie scored twice as Arsenal put Tottenham's title aspirations in perspec-

The Dutchman opened the scoring in the 42nd minute when he turned in Bacary Sagna's cross at the near-post. From the kick-off, Gunners

through the visitors' defence to make it 2-0. Van Persie piled on the misery for Harry Redknapp's

captain Cesc Fabregas surged

team in the 60th minute. Everton took the lead through Diniyar Bilyaletdinov in the 45th minute before

substitute John Carew drew Villalevel. Bilyaletdinov then saw red for a wild tackle on Stiliyan Petrov before, moments later, Villa's Carlos Cuellar was sent-

Bayer top

off for a second yellow card.

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second half after goals by Germany winger Piotr Trochowski and a free-kick by Brazil midfielder Ze Roberto.

But a header from Brazil defender Dante put the visitors level on 76 minutes and then Friend hit the winner with time running out to leave Hamburg third.

Stuttgart coach Markus Babbel boosted his chances of holding onto his job after his side held Bayern Munich to a scoreless draw in Stuttgart.

Stuttgart were dumped out of the German Cup last Tuesday at Greuther Fuerth, their fifth consecutive defeat, but the ex-Bayern Munich midfielder received a vote of confidence from his board on Wednesday.

'Don't count me out' specialist this week about his cricket.

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian fast bowler Brett Lee said Sunday he was far from finished as a Test cricketer following his latest injury

Sunday with an elbow injury which forced him out of Australia's seven-match oneday series in India. The one-time pace spear-

head is bidding to recover in

time for the opening Test against the West Indies, starting in Brisbane on November 26. "I certainly have not ruled out playing Test match cricket and that is definitely the most

important thing that I want to achieve -- to get back in and play Test match cricket," Lee

told reporters.

elbow complaint and is hopeful of being fit to play for New

starting November 17. The elbow injury continues a run of misfortune for Lee over the past 12 months.

Lee, 32, returned home on this year recovering from foot and ankle surgery before suf-Ashes tour and missed all five my form. Tests against England.

Australia's Champions Trophy triumph in South Africa last month before being named man-of-the-series as NSW captured the inaugural injury." Champions League Twenty20 title in India.

doubts about Lee's future in 30.82 and he last played Test the longest form of the game cricket against South Africa in and whether his body is able to Melbourne in the 2008 Boxing Lee said he will consult a withstand the rigours of Test Daymatch.

pose I do best on the cricket South Wales in their Sheffield field and that is take wickets Shield match against Tasmania and score runs down the bottom order," he said. "I would have loved to have

"I can only do what I sup-

played those last two Test matches in England, but that is He spent the early part of all behind me now and the way I was playing in the Champions Trophy and the Champions fering a side strain early in the League I was really happy with

"The only thing I can do is He performed strongly in play the type of cricket I can when it is on offer.

"It is unfortunate I have picked up this elbow injury, but I do not see it as a long-term

Lee has played 76 Tests since his debut in December But the latest setback raises 1999, taking 310 wickets at



The tiny tots of Summerfield International School celebrate after winning the Chowdhury Memorial Junior Boys Football Tournament at Dhanmondi on Saturday. Summerfield beat Siddiqui's International 3-1 in the final. Siffat Jamil was player of the tournament.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 35 English 56 Pod

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57 Entice

1 Spring

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19 Country singer Sara 21 Billboards 22 Chapeau 24 Coop occupant 26 Man with all the answers? 28 Senior member 30 Sugar suffix 32 Place name

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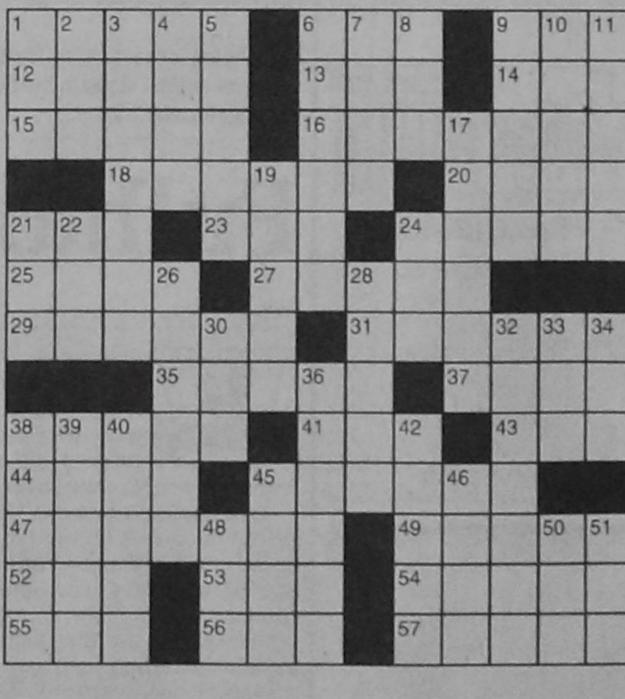
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HAOWKDA

CKLKWP WLLSWOLEUX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOME METAL DEVICE IS SO UGLY THAT IT DESERVES TO

CORRODE, ONE MIGHT CALL IT RUSTWORTHY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals D

