

Sonali Bank defender Shamsuddin Tuhin (C) desperately takes the ball away from Mohammedan's Pakistani import Mohammad Sabbir (L) during a Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Serena may miss US Open

AFP, Los Angeles

Serena Williams told her fans Monday she's feeling better, but the WTA tour said her recent foot injury could jeopardise her participation in the US Open. Williams cut her right foot

on broken glass at a restaurant shortly after winning her fourthWimbledon title. The 13-time Grand Slam

champion said Saturday that she would miss events in Istanbul, Cincinnati, and Montreal prior to the US Open, the last Grand Slam of the year which starts on August 30 in New York.

"Hey guys I'm doing better," Williams tweeted Monday. "Thanks for all the love."

But WTA tour spokesman Andrew Walker said Monday that Williams is questionable for the final Grand Slam of the

ESS off to Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

A 22-member cricket team of the European Standard School (ESS) will leave for Malaysia today to take part in 4th KAF International Youth Cricket Carnival to be held at the Royal Selangor Club ground.

Some 24 teams from 23 nations will take part in the tournament, said one of ESS directors, Bashirul Islam, at a press conference at the Bangladesh Sports Journalist Association yesterday.

ESS cricket team also took part in the third edition of the invitational meet and reached

the semifinals.

More than

FROM PAGE 17

already paid 80 to 90 per cent of the players' payments and in another Tk 20 lakh has been earmarked for spending behind foreign players and running the

But now that they have

camp, claimed Shikdar.

skipped the league altogether, Usha KC are expected to be demoted to the first division according to the bylaws of the league. However, the court has directed the federation to take a decision on the Club Cup final according to the rules and regulations as soon as possible and consider the plaintiff club's (Usha KC) position to ensure that they can participate in the next league.



Sri Lanka v India First Test, Day Four Live from 10:30am



Mariner Youngs v Ajax SC Time: 4:00pm Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium

Afridi kicks up new fuss

AGENCIES, London

Sparking off a new debate, former captain Shahid Afridi has stated that there were some players in the Pakistan team who did not deserve to be in the Test side but were still playing five-day cricket despite not having the ability or commitment for it. Afridi also insisted that he

had not quit Test cricket because of problems with fellow players in the team.

"It was my own decision and it was a spur of the moment decision. I didn't consult anyone," he told Jang. "I would advise all these

players who don't feel comfortable or like playing Test matches to not become a burden on the team and just focus on playing one-day and T20 cricket," Afridi said.

Named captain for the entire tour, Afridi suddenly announced his retirement from the longer version of the game after the humiliating 150-run loss to Australia in the first Test at Lord's.

The flamboyant all-rounder reasoned that he decided to quit Tests because he had lost passion for the five-day game and wanted to concentrate on limited overs cricket.

Afridi said it was time for some non-performing players in the Pakistan Test side to ponder their future.

"As captain I tried to advise some players to avoid playing Test cricket and decide on a future but they insisted on playing Tests. They have not done justice to themselves or the team with their performances," he said.

AFP, Bagneres-de-luchon

defiant style after sensation-

ally attacking Andy Schleck on

Monday when the

Luxemburger suffered a

Voeckler handed the hosts

their fifth success of the race

after soloing to victory on the

15th stage, finishing nearly

three minutes ahead of the

to victory on the 21.5km

descent from the Port de Bales

climb, all the race drama was

surprise by a Schleck attack

inside the final two kilometres

of the 19.3km ascent of the

counter, the Spaniard did not

stop for the Saxo Bank leader

after his gear mechanism

broke seconds later, leaving

Schleck stranded on the hill

and having to fix the problem

Russian Denis Menchov and

Spaniard Samuel Sanchez to

crest the summit just over

pleted the descent, later

catching up with several

breakaway riders who had

been dropped by Voeckler, to

finish 39sec ahead of the

Schleck, the runner-up to

two-time champion Contador

And together the trio com-

20sec ahead of Schleck.

Luxemburger.

Contador raced ahead with

Although he had moved to

Contador was caught by

going on behind him.

However, as he raced away

French champion Thomas

mechanical problem.

race favourites.

Bales summit.

himself.

Alberto

Contador

signalled his

yellow jersey

intentions in

MSC just a point away

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club are just one point away from clinching the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League title after thrashing Sonali Bank 5-1 in their penultimate Super Cup encounter at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

With twelve victories in as many matches, the Black and Whites tightened their lead with 36 points, three more than Abahani against whom they need a draw in the last match of the league on July 24 to regain the coveted title. Mamunur Rahman

Chayan and Russell Mahmud Jimmy struck two goals each while Pakistani recruit Mohammad Sabbir netted one for Mohammedan, who also defeated the same side 7-5 in the first-leg match.

Mohammedan had to wait 20 minutes to take the lead when Chayan, combining with Mohammad Saglain and Kamruzzaman Rana, converted a penalty corner. Ten minutes later, Sabbir doubled the advantage.

In the face of constant attacks, the bankers' backline collapsed and conceded two more goals before the break as Jimmy, set by Musa Mia, made it 3-0 in the 32nd minute. Chayan converted another

Contador stuns Schleck

last year, is now eight seconds

behind in second place, with

Sanchez and Menchov still in

problems are considered part

and parcel of bike racing,

Schleck hit out immediately at

Contador for not being "fair

would not have taken advan-

tage," said Schleck, who had

held the yellow jersey since

Evans on stage nine.

taking it from Australia's Cadel

sure those guys wouldn't get

the fair play award from me

anger back as he swapped the

yellow jersey for the white

jersey for the race's best-

And he has promised to

"I'm really disappointed.

"I will take my revenge in

Contador pulled on the

yellow jersey for the first time

in this year's race, but said he

was unaware that Schleck's

to attack on the climb, but

when I countered Andy I

didn't know he actually had a

problem, it was already too

late. We had taken a significant

Bjarne Riis, meanwhile,

appeared to side with

problem," said the Spaniard.

"I set out with the intention

"When I knew he had the

Saxo Bank team manager

take his revenge on Contador

My stomach is full of anger,

and I want to take my

revenge," he said.

the coming days."

chain had come off.

lead on him."

placed rider aged 25 or under.

"I'm not the jury, but for

Schleck had to hold his

"In the same situation I

play".

today."

swiftly.

Although mechanical

third and fourth respectively.

penalty corner one minute

from the half-time break. Soon after the resumption

of play, the players of both sides got agitated centering on a foul made by Mohammedan forward Jimmy and the game was suspended for five minutes before Jimmy was sent off for 15 minutes. Mohammedan with one man short went on the back-

foot in the face of attacks and Sonali pulled one goal back in the 43rd minute but failed to cash in on two penalty corners. Mohammedan got back their rhythm with the return of

Jimmy, who finally completed the rout striking his second and the team's fifth in the second attempt after being denied by goalkeeper Probir Ghosh.

Nat'l boxing

FROM PAGE 17

will be awarded Tk 6,000 while the runner-up and thirdplaced finisher would be given Tk 4,000 and Tk 2,000 as prize money.

Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation general secretary Lt Col (retd) MA Latif said that they have been trying to bring a Thai coach for the national side ahead of the Commonwealth and Asian Games to be held later this year.

He also informed that they have plans to hold an international junior boxing competition in Bangladesh early next year.

"I didn't see it but it's all

"I think he (Contador)

Voeckler kept the hosts'

part of racing circumstances,"

waited at the start, and then he

went. That's just part of racing."

winning streak alive in the

race just a day after

Christophe Riblon's superb

solo victory on the summit of

Bouygues Telecom rider is

perhaps best known for the 10

days he spent in the yellow

determination after attacking his

breakaway group late in the

climb to Bales to go on and claim

stage win," said Voeckler, who

admitted he almost aban-

race for me and, if there had

been crosswinds on (the stage

during) July 14 instead of a

headwind, I would almost

"In the past three days I've

"I worked hard for this

"It has been a really difficult

his third stage win in the race.

doned the race last week.

certainly have pulled out.

been feeling much better."

BFF hands

contact with the club immedi-

ately or face the same conse-

Arambagh's Syed Rashed

Turjo, Farashganj's Dhiman

Barua and Arifur Rahman and

Rahmatganj's Sabbir

Mahmud Pritom to communi-

cate their respective clubs to

solve the problem through

The committee also asked

FROM PAGE 17

quence as Biplob.

dialogue.

But he showed style and

The 31-year-old Bbox-

Contador.

said the Dane.

Ax-3-Domaines.

jersey in 2004.

to vuvuzelas

English Premier League clubs Arsenal and Tottenham have banned controversial vuvuzela horns from their stadiums this season.

soundtrack to the World Cup in South Africa as fans blew the plastic horns throughout matches, creating a monotonous drone that drowned out crowd chants.

players and television audiences during the World Cup and several English Football League teams had already banned them. Now Tottenham have

horns, with north London rivals Arsenal quick to follow suit. Tottenham officials believe vuvuzelas would ruin the

League club to outlaw the

atmosphere at White Hart Lane as well as posing a safety risk. "We are concerned that the

any emergency safety announcements," a club statement read.

supporters produce organiinto the forthcoming season." Arsenal have the same opin-

ion and the club said: "Further diate effect.

club."

featured two debutants at Lord's in Azhar Ali London unkind

AFP, London

Marcus North, who produced astonishing

They were criticised by

become the first Premier

presence of the instruments within the stadium pose unnecessary risks to public safety and could impact on the

"We are very proud of the

to their hugely debated involvement at the World Cup Finals in South Africa, Arsenal Football Club has decided to forbid the use of vuvuzelas within Emirates Stadium with imme-"This decision has been

taken to ensure the enjoyment and safety of supporters on matchdays, which is of paramount importance to the

ability of all supporters to hear

fantastic atmosphere that our cally at White Hart Lane and we are all very much looking forward to this continuing

21 Actress

23 iPhone,

for

ex.

24 Concede

reluc-

tantly

28 Remove

the lid

31 Lingerie

item

ridge

35 Rotating

parts

32 Glacial

34 Before

Paquin

animals

conso-

nants

Solution time: 24 mins.

TRUER PATOIS

BENIGNBOTTLE

SNITTEAMWED

ALPACIDWIRY

CARDCATALOGUE

EGAD ROME HMS

OFF OLES OBEY

V I A G R A C A N A P E U N L E S S U N I S O N M E L E E S S A C K S

TENMAGI

SWAPATE

56 Greek

and then announce his retirement from the Afridi was then ruled out of the Headingley match and Pakistan's subsequent four Tests against England with a side strain.

Cricket

here on Wednesday.

five-day game.

AFP, Leeds

fifty in the match. The 25-year-old left-hander now has the additional burden of captaincy.

But in Afridi's absence, a batting line-up that

Butt, formerly the vice-captain, led by exam-

ple at Lord's with scores of 63 and 92 as he

became the only Pakistan batsman to make a

Pakistan know they will be without former

captain Shahid Afridi for the second and final

Test against Australia at Headingley starting

Danish Kaneria too if they decide to recall off-

break bowler Saeed Ajmal in a bid to counter

Australia won the series opener by 150 runs, the

question will be whether Pakistan's batsmen

Opener Salman Butt has been promoted to

the left-handers in Australia's top order.

can put a big enough score on the board.

But they could also be without leg-spinner

and Umar Amin should be bolstered by the recall of former captain Shoaib Malik. At Lord's, Pakistan lost 11 wickets in total to Shane Watson, who took five in their mediocre first innings, and occasional off-spinner

2nd Test starts today Pakistan may prefer Ajmal to Kaneria

Aamer and Mohammad Asif, runs will be at a premium. Pakistan assistant coach Ijaz Ahmed, who made a century and a fifty during a drawn Test against England at Headingley in 1996, explained to reporters here on Monday: "I told them the [Pakistan players] the best thing to do is leave the

Test win in a row over Pakistan and even though Headingley has a reputation for aiding swing bowlers, which will suit the likes of Mohammad

ball outside off stump and the short ball. Despite the instabiluty caused by Afridi's exit, Ijaz insisted: "The boys are really keen to However, as at Lord's last week, where hit back.

> For Australia the only worries are whether seamer Ben Hilfenhaus (shoulder) and North (illness), who both missed training on Monday, will be fit.

the captaincy after Afridi's first game back The uncapped duo of seamer Peter George playing Test cricket in four years saw him and Usman Khawaja are waiting in the wings if unsuccessfully try to slog his way out of trouble needed. And the way in which debutants Tim Paine

> and Steven impressed at Lord's suggests George and Khawaja will not be found wanting if given the chance. One area where Pakistan should have an

edge is in crowd support from the local Asian community, who are being encouraged to watch the climax of a series being played in England because of security concerns in Pakistan.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN (probable): Salman Butt (captain), Imran Farhat, Azhar Ali, Umar Amin, Umar Akmal, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Aamer, Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif, Saeed Ajmal. AUSTRALIA (probable): Shane Watson, Simon

Katich, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Michael Hussey, Marcus North, Tim Paine, Steven Smith, Mitchell Johnson, Ben Victory gave Australia a record 13th straight Hilfenhaus, Doug Bollinger.

Vuvuzelas provided the undtrack to the World Cup South Africa as fans blew Imran's fear example of a fine Twenty20

Cricket

figures of six for 55.

AFP, London

Pakistan great Imran Khan fears fast bowlers "could go the way of the dinosaurs" if the international calendar retains its current congested schedule. And the former Pakistan

captain, who in 1992 led his country to World Cup glory, suggested axing 50-over cricket as a way of ensuring the "unprecedented" stress on fast bowlers was eased. Imran, arguably the pre-

mier fast bowling all-rounder of his generation, made his remarks while giving the annual Cowdrey Lecture at Lord's here on Monday. "Maybe we should elimi-

nate 50-over cricket and just have Twenty20 cricket and Test cricket," he said. "I don't believe Test cricket

is the same standard as before," added Imran, who played against the fearsome West Indies pace attack of the 1980s as well as Australia's Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson. The 57-year-old Imran, who since retiring from cricket has

entered domestic politics, was at Lord's last week to see Pakistan lose the first of their two-Test series against Australia by 150 runs. Defeat prompted Shahid Afridi to announce his

retirement from Tests after just one game back as Pakistan captain. Imran said Afridi was an

38 1963

news-

making

villain

40 Blackbird

42 Teen's

woe

44 Paradise

cheese

43 Stir

46 Soft

47 Poetic

50 Wilde-

foot

48 Recedes

beest

mark

symbol

beginning

11 From the

AROUSE

player who lacked the temperament for the five-day format. "The only test of a cricketer

is the Test match because his talent and technique is tested," said Imran, the first Pakistani to deliver a lecture named after former England captain Colin Cowdrey. "In Twenty20, if you are very talented you can get away

with it, but a good Twenty20

cricketer will not necessarily excel in Test cricket." Meanwhile Imran said the way the international game was structured put "tremendous pressure" on bowlers.

"The stress on fast bowlers is incredible. But cricket without fast bowling is never going to be the same standard if a batsman doesn't test himself against fast bowling.

Tait bowl in the Twenty20s and I thought an alien had come in -- you suddenly saw batsmen nopping about. Imran, who led the call for 'neutral' umpires, said the

"I saw [Australia's] Shaun

standard of officiating at international level had improved greatly since his day and he insisted this would only get better with the increased use of technology. "The spirit of the game suffered while I was playing.

the games and when India played against Pakistan. It deteriorated to depths you cannot imagine. "Neutral umpires have changed everything, technology has eliminated so many of

the controversies and results

There was a lot of acrimony in

the use of [more] technology."

are much fairer now. I think it

should improve further with

Muktis close

FROM PAGE 17 side in the title race.

Muktijoddha Sangsad's football manager Abdus Sattar confirmed that they had a successful discussion with Maruf and were on the verge of signing a deal with the AFC Alicensed coach.

It was learned that Maruf would be given full freedom to deck up the squad and the team management would try to rope the players in line with Maruf's recommendations.

About time

FROM PAGE 17 Only City Club, Indira Road

Krira Chakra and Dhanmondi Club have their own academies at their club grounds and are run quite well with City Club's academy taking care of a large number of budding players in the city's northern reaches. Young Pegasus stands out

among the First Division teams. They have their own academy, but it is in Rajshahi. There they practise all year long and most of the players are from Rajshahi and nearby districts. This obviously does well for the northern divisional headquarter but it slightly discriminates against players from other districts, much like BKSP who pick players exclusively from their institute.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

37 Get **ACROSS** 57 Young 17 Knock socialites 19 Burden 1 Wagon unstuck 17 15 39 Schedule 22 "Get -5 German abbr. DOWN pronoun on 8 Hawaiian 41 Name 1 Group of yourself!" of 12 actors 24 U.K. dance **12** On the Popes 2 Wine telly 42 Mysteriregion of option briny 13 Cattle 25 Historic ous Italy 34 call? 3 Harvest 45 Rookie time 14 Soon, 49 President 4 Dentist's 26 Rooster dubbed trained poetically concern 39 40 "Silent 15 Celebrity 5 Hovered to fight 16 Three Cal" threaten-47 48 42 43 51 Bedouin 27 Comfort Bears ingly 29 Work 52 Shaving 6 Dove's meal 18 Walk mishap unit comment 30 Born 53 Type 7 Trumpet cau-8 Coiffure 33 Hint tiously measures **20** Not 36 Pursues 9 Bare 54 Branch 10 Tradewide 55 Antlered

CRYPTOQUIP

YMPHKXO XJNKDKXN EMGSM

UGD SDKNKMP JZGIN NOY LGZ

GU QDYQJDKMP UHGID UGD

ZJEKMP: LGMJNOJM XKUN.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A SCHOOL HAS RULES CONCERNING HOW STUDENTS CAN WEAR THEIR HAIR, IS THAT A TRESS CODE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals F

Premier Div Super League Hocke