



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh hockey team players train at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday as part of their preparation for the Asian Games to be held in Guangzhou in November.

**US OPEN
Wozniacki
top seed**

AP, New York

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark was seeded No. 1 at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time Tuesday, getting the top spot at the US Open because Serena Williams pulled out with a foot injury.

Wozniacki, ranked No. 2 behind Williams by the WTA, was the runner-up at Flushing Meadows last year and is the first woman since 2003 to be seeded No. 1 at the US Open without already having won a major championship.

Defending champion Kim Clijsters was seeded No. 2 by the US Tennis Association, which stuck strictly to the rankings in determining the seedings. Venus Williams, the 2000-01 US Open champion, is No. 3, followed by 2008 runner-up Jelena Jankovic and French Open runner-up Sam Stosur.

Two other past US Open champions who were seeded are No. 11 Svetlana Kuznetsova and No. 14 Maria Sharapova.

Serena Williams, Venus' younger sister, withdrew last week, saying she still is recovering from surgery to repair cuts on her right foot.

The men's seedings were announced Monday, with Rafael Nadal at No. 1, and Roger Federer at No. 2. The 2009 men's champion, Juan Martin del Potro, withdrew Saturday because he isn't ready to compete after having an operation on his right wrist in May.

The announcement of the women's seedings was delayed a day because Sunday's final at the Rogers Cup in Montreal was rained out. Wozniacki wound up winning Monday's final for her third title of 2010.

The draw for the US Open is Thursday, and play begins Monday.

**C'WEALTH GAMES
SA includes
Semena**

AFP, Johannesburg

World 800m champion Caster Semena was on Wednesday added to South Africa's team for the Commonwealth Games, boosting her comeback after the sex test ordeal that saw her barred from competition.

The 19-year-old world has run and won three races since being cleared to compete last month by the IAAF, the sport's governing body, following a controversial enquiry into her gender that saw her side-lined for almost 11 months.

"I'm very happy to see the return of Caster Semena to duty for South Africa," Gideon Sam, president of the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee, said in a statement.

"We have observed her progress closely since the IAAF cleared her to run and it's good to hear her say that she's focusing all her efforts on the Commonwealth."

Semena was not included in the team for the African Senior Track and Field Championship in Nairobi in July. Her coach said she was focusing her come-back on the Commonwealth Games, which will be held in New Delhi in October.

She has since won easily in two minor races and also claimed first place Sunday at the World Challenge meet in Berlin, clocking a time of one minute 59.90 seconds.

It was her first sub-two minute time since returning to the track. She has yet to match the 1:55.45 time that won her the world title last year.

Linguists doosra-ed

Cricket

AFP, London

That cricket has a language all of its own is something that has long been acknowledged. But now a survey has concluded that 'Doosra' is the single most untranslatable term in cricket, after topping the poll of more than 300 language specialists with 21 per cent of the vote.

It's not hard to see why. That single word describes a delivery bowled by an off-spin bowler that turns the opposite way from a conventional off-break in that it goes from leg to off, rather than off to leg and so spins away from a right-handed batsman.

For cricket fans, that all makes perfect sense. Whatever others make of it is anyone's guess.

"Doosra" outscored second-placed "googly" and third-placed "mullygrubber" in a survey of linguists conducted by Today Translations, a London-based language firm with a global network of 2,600 linguists.

Jurga Zilinskiene, Today Translations' managing director, said: "Cricket is not just a sport but also a language in its own right."

"Indeed, it is perhaps the world's most untranslatable language."

He added translation is often as much about translating culture as words.

"Sometimes, the equivalent idea -- like doosra or googly -- simply does not exist in both cultures."

"I believe, for example, that cricket is now

starting to catch on in France," said Zilinskiene. "Can you imagine? But don't worry. We at Today Translations are working on finding a good French translation for 'doosra'."

The word, in the cricketing sense, owes its origins to Pakistan, England's opponents in the fourth and final Test starting at Lord's here on Thursday.

Former Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, who also played with great success for English county side Surrey, is credited with inventing the 'doosra' a word that in Urdu or Hindi means 'second' or 'other'.

It was a ball used to great effect by Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal in the tourists' four-wicket third Test win at The Oval last week that cut England's series lead to 2-1.

"Cricket has generated a richer terminology than any other sport and -- some would say -- than any other human activity aside from sex," said Zilinskiene.

That will come as no great surprise to both cricket followers and those who can't stand the sport.

Harold Pinter, the late English Nobel Prize-winning playwright, once said: "I tend to believe that cricket is the greatest thing that God ever created on earth."

"Certainly greater than sex, although sex isn't too bad either... Anyway, you can either have sex before cricket or after cricket. The fundamental fact is that cricket must be there at the centre of things."

As many an appealing, if not necessarily attractive, bowler might have said: "Owzat?"

'Betrayal isn't enough'

Golf

AFP, Washington

Tiger Woods' ex-wife Elin Nordegren has broken her silence about the couple's failed marriage, in an interview with People magazine published Wednesday, expressing "shock and disbelief" upon learning of his philandering.

"I've been through hell," the former Elin Woods, whose divorce from the golf superstar became final this week, told the celebrity news weekly.

A reporter for the magazine interviewed Nordegren, 30, for 19 hours over four days, scoring her first published reaction to the sordid sex scandal that made headlines around the world.

Nordegren told the magazine she felt "absolute shock and disbelief" when she learned about her husband's multiple infidelities.

"I felt stupid as more things were revealed. How could I not have known anything?" she said.

"The word betrayal isn't strong enough," Nordegren told People. "I felt like my whole world had fallen apart."

The former nanny also told the magazine that the stress

from the scandal caused her insomnia and weight loss and in the days before the divorce was finalized this week, she says she began to lose her hair.

Nordegren said that she had been truly devoted to her husband and had hoped that they would have a happily-ever-after life together.



ELIN NORDEGREN

"I loved him. We had so much fun," she said, "and I felt safe with him."

Woods' spectacular fall from grace began on November 27 last year when he crashed his car into a tree and a fire hydrant near his Orlando home.

The incident touched off shocking revelations which led to his admission of adultery and

subsequent decision to put his golf career on hold while he tried to rescue his marriage.

The scandal became fodder for tabloid newspapers and late-night television comedians, amid speculation that Tiger's crashed his car after being walloped by a golf club-wielding Elin after she learned about his affairs.

But she insisted to "People" that there was never any violence in their relationship, and that on the night of her husband's mysterious car crash, she was trying to get Woods out of the locked car.

"The speculation that I would have used a golf club to hit him is truly ridiculous," she said.

Woods, 34, and Nordegren issued a joint statement Monday saying that they were ending their "irretrievably broken" six-year marriage, wishing each other the best and promising to work together for their children's happiness.

Woods wed Nordegren in October 2004 in Barbados and the couple have a three-year-old daughter, Sam, and a 19-month-old son, Charlie.

The divorce was finalised by a Florida judge during a 10-minute hearing Monday in a conference room in Bay County Circuit Court.

Siddiqui

FROM PAGE 17
praise for commitment and achievement of the golfer.

"Golf is an elite sport in Bangladesh. But Siddiqui has taken golf to a new height in the country. He has climbed an insurmountable height. It was a great effort by BGF to spot his genius at a very early stage," said Hesjedal.

The man who hails from Madaripur brought his proud mother and younger brothers at the reception.

Siddiqui became a professional golfer in April 2008 after playing the qualifying phase in India in February of the same year.

Heads of armed forces, BGF and Grameenphone officials were present at the occasion.

**Single Tiger
tees off
today**

AFP, Los Angeles

Tiger Woods tees off Thursday as a single man again, desperate to recapture some form and eke out the top 50 finish that would guarantee his presence in the next round of the PGA Tour playoffs.

Up until last November when a whirl of extra-marital affairs brought his world tumbling down, Woods's qualification would have been a fait accompli, but so poor has he been of late that nothing is for certain.

With his divorce from ex-wife Elin Nordegren official from Monday, The Barclays provides the world number one with a chance to turn the page and reverse the downward spiral that has left his golf game in ruins.

Failure to make the top 57 however would mean the end of Woods's PGA season and he would have to cross his fingers that Corey Pavin sees past the furor surrounding his private life and makes him a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup.

Since returning to competitive golf four months ago at The Masters following the blistering sex scandal, Woods has not come close to winning a tournament.

At the Bridgestone Invitational earlier this month, he turned in the worst performance of his career, finishing second last in a tie for 78th. The 14-time major winner, who had won the event seven times previously, shot 18-over par and finished an embarrassing 30 shots behind eventual winner Hunter Mahan.

At this week's tournament in New Jersey, Woods, in the unusual position of being 112th in the PGA points race, needs to finish 57th or better to make it through to next week's Deutsche Bank Championship in Boston.

**Butt & company
donate half of
Oval bonus**

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's cricketers Tuesday donated to their flood-hit countrymen half of the 55,722-dollar bonus they received for winning their Test match against England at the weekend.

The bonus was awarded by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for the team's narrow, four-wicket win at The Oval on Saturday.

"The PCB chairman has announced a winning bonus... and all the players and officials have donated half of the bonus in flood-relief funds," the PCB said in a statement.

The latest donation is in addition to one of 137,590 dollars announced last week on behalf of PCB officials, staff and national team players.

Pakistan's one-day captain Shahid Afridi and country's international umpire Aleem Dar have also run separate campaigns for flood relief, raising millions of rupees.

Pakistan has been hit in recent weeks by the worst floods in country's history, affecting 20 million people in the north-west and southern parts and leaving 1,500 dead by an official count.

Who'll collapse now?

Final Eng-Pak Test starts today

Cricket

AFP, London

Both sides head into the fourth and final Test between England and Pakistan here at Lord's confident they can make the other collapse.

The hosts are 2-1 up, primarily after bowling Pakistan out for record low scores against England of 80 and 72 in 354 run and nine-wicket wins at Trent Bridge and Edgbaston respectively.

But, in a series most played under cloudy skies, Pakistan exposed the frailty within England's batting at The Oval last week.

England lost six wickets for 58 runs in the first innings and then seven for 29, in generally batting friendly conditions, second time around as Pakistan won by four wickets to give the tourists' hope of squaring the series when the fourth Test starts at Lord's on Thursday.

But England fast bowler Steven Finn, who will be playing on his Middlesex home ground, said: "We've bowled Pakistan out for 72 and 80 so far, so there's a batting collapse waiting to happen."

"They have had two innings where they have played well and put partnerships together -- but at no stage have they got away from us."

"Their top score is just over 300."

But there was no denying how Pakistan's batting was strengthened by the return of former captain Mohammad Yousuf, whose first innings fifty was a minor gem, at The Oval.

Not only did he play well himself, he seemed to have a calming influence on those around him, notably Azhar Ali, who made an impres-

sive unbeaten 92 in the first innings at The Oval, even if a bullish Finn insisted: "Them having Yousuf in the team doesn't make them a different team at all."

England's settled top order though has misfired throughout the season with Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Alastair Cook and captain Andrew Strauss himself all averaging under 30 in three Tests against the Pakistanis.

Yousuf's recall effectively saw Umar Amin dropped and the young batsman is unlikely to feature at Lord's.

But, from a Pakistani point of view, his analysis of the damage done to England's top-order by the A force of Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Aamer and spinner Saeed Ajmal, made a lot of sense.

"England were 2-0 up going to the Oval -- but suddenly after the way they were beaten there, they must be on the back foot," Amin said.

"You're always in the game against them -- even if they get a partnership going, you never give up."

"You're never out of it -- because they can collapse at any time."

"We just want a repeat of the Oval. We proved there we are a better side."

Meanwhile the 21-year-old Finn was dismissive of remarks made by Australian all-rounder Shane Watson that he might struggle 'Down Under' during the forthcoming Ashes series.

"As far as what Shane Watson has said, I'm not concerning myself at all about it," he said.

"I don't care who's talking about me, I'm not fazed by it. I'm just going to concentrate on the immediate future, which is this Test match."

**England have point
to prove: Strauss**

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Andrew Strauss says his side will go into the fourth and final Test against Pakistan with a "point to prove" which the opener reckons is a "good state to be in".

England arrive at Lord's, where the series finale starts on Thursday, on the back of a four-wicket loss across London at The Oval that saw Pakistan cut the hosts' series lead to 2-1.

Both teams have found runs hard to come by in a campaign where overcast skies have given swing bowlers something to work with in an era of generally flat, batsmen friendly pitches.

However, neither the surface at The Oval or the skies above the south London ground could adequately explain how England, in their second innings, slumped from 194 for three to 222 all out.

"Having gone 2-0 up we want to finish them off," Strauss told reporters at Lord's here on Wednesday ahead of England's last Test before they begin the defence of the Ashes in Australia in November.

"It was disappointing the way we played at The Oval. We made some mistakes which we want to put right."

"But there is a nice determined atmosphere. We feel we maybe have a point to prove and that's a good state of mind to be in."

England's top order has been struggling with Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood,

Alastair Cook and Strauss himself all averaging under 30 in three Tests against Pakistan.

"We haven't batted brilliantly, but if you're scoring 200 and bowling the opposition out for 80 then your batsmen have done a good job on that pitch," Strauss said.

"If we're honest there were fewer excuses at The Oval because that was a good wicket."

"As a batting group we don't want to be collapsing often. We've talked about it and there are a couple of areas we want to improve and errors we made that we won't make here, but I'm very satisfied with the batting group generally."

Pietersen has gone 25 innings without a Test hundred but Strauss said the example of Cook, who ended a run of low scores with a century at The Oval, was worth bearing in mind.

"It's important to realise a lot of the pressure on a batsman comes from outside the group. Within it we had every confidence that Alastair Cook would come right and he did that."

"The same applies to Kevin Pietersen. If there is pressure it is not coming from within the group and he will come right."

"Clearly he wants to be performing and performing well. He'll be putting pressure on himself to do that, but you don't get too carried away when things are going well and you don't get too down when they are going badly, you will come back because you're a good player. KP will come back."

It is now over a year since Strauss scored the last of his 18

Test hundreds, but the 33-year-old left-hander said: "It is just one of those things really. If you start looking for too many reasons for things then you're not concentrating on what you're trying to do which is just go out and play."

"I've made useful contributions, but I've not got to three figures and I'd like that to change this week."

Strauss, though, loves playing at Lord's, his Middlesex home ground where he has scored four hundreds in 13 Tests, averaging over 64 in the process.

"Lord's is a wicket I generally play well on and I'm confident going into this game," he said.

"As captain you always want to lead by example but you've got to be realistic: you're not going to score every time you bat otherwise your name would be Don Bradman."

India oust

FROM PAGE 17
Dhoni caught by wicket-keeper Gareth Hopkins, who took four catches.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 223 all out in 46.3 overs (Sehwag 110, Dhoni 38, Jadeja 17; Southee 4-49, McCullum 3-35, Mills 2-42)

NEW ZEALAND: 118 all out in 30.1 overs (Mills 52, Williamson 13, Elliott 11; Patel 3-21, Pravee 3-34, Nehra 2-10)

Result: India won by 105 runs. Man-of-the-match: Virender Sehwag.

Toss: India. Umpires: Asad Rauf and Asoka de Silva.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Basin accessory 5 Greek cross 8 Foretell 12 Store VIPs 14 Satan's specialty 15 Internet ID 16 Word with pool or pit 17 Corn spike 18 Husband-to-be 20 Tall marsh bird 23 Boring 24 Small horse 25 Fix the boundaries of 28 Toss in 29 Country estate 30 Poorly lit 32 TV oldie about the Carringtons 34 Relinquish

DOWN 1 Ostrich's cousin 2 Existed 3 Away from WSW 4 Seldom 5 Rip 6 Branch 7 So as to have a purpose 8 Soothe 9 Micro-wave, e.g. 10 Platter 11 Otherwise 13 Summer-time pest 19 Pelvic bones 20 Resort

21 Mary who married Abe
22 Race place
23 River-mouth deposit
25 Follower
26 Thought
27 Spruced up
29 Barn-roof adorer
31 French possessive
33 Octogenarian's next
34 Form of embroidery
36 History
37 Lingerie items
38 Legislation
39 Alternative to Windows
40 Cold War nation (Abbr.)
43 Melody
44 Single
45 Ump
46 Banned bug spray

Solution time: 24 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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AVMWOU UHTRA UOAVGOG VM

HKHUEJOMEA, GVG KOCKRO

GOOJ EIOJ RCP-EOMHMEA?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I REALLY FEEL THAT INDIA'S CAPITAL HAS FAR TOO FEW SANDWICH SHOPS. NEW DELHI NEEDS A NEW DELI.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals D