

## Foreign power in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Ahead of the semifinal clashes of the Walton Club Cup Hockey tournament, all four semifinalists are set to field foreign players to ensure their final berths in the season's curtain-raising tournament.

Perennial foes Abahani and Mohammedan face off in tomorrow's first semifinal at 2:45pm at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, which will also host the second semifinal between Usha KC and Sonali Bank at 4:30pm.

Defending champions, Mohammedan, have already brought in former Indian international Gurpreet Singh, who will join in defenders Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Imran Hasan Pintoo and Moshir Rahman Biplob while German goalkeeper Lorenze has already stood under the BlackandWhite post.

Malaysian national striking duo -- Azlan Misron and Izwan Firdaus Ahmed Tajuddin are also scheduled to arrive here Sunday night to join Mohammedan, informed Mohammedan hockey manager Ariful Haque Prince. Abahani have already completed the registrations of Pakistani trio defender Alim Billal, defensive midfielder Kasif Ali and striker Mohammad Mudassar, and are also trying to rope in a Pakistani player staying in the capital, informed Abahani hockey manager Zaki Ahmed Ripon.

Usha have brought in Pakistanis Ahsanullah, Mohammad Imran and

## Nat'l school footbal finals underway

SPORTS REPORTER

The finals of the National School Islami Bank Football Tournament got underway yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with 16 teams fighting it out for top place.

On the opening day, Fosiho Ul-Ulum Dhakhil Madrasa played out a 1-1 draw against Charbata Sawdagar Hat High School. Shafiqul Islam put Madrasa ahead in the third minute converting a penalty shot while Charbata returned to the game also converting a spot kick taken by Samiul Alam in the second half.

## Wins for JDC and Junior Academy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

JDC Udioman Cricket Academy defeated Bangladesh Boys Cricket Academy by six wickets in the 'CJKS-Urban American Under-18 T-20 Cricket Tournament' at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Bating first, Bangladesh Boys scored 116 for eight in 20 overs. Tipu top-scored with 38 while Rabbi took 4 for 17 in 4 overs for JDC.

In reply, JDC easily reached the target in 14.2 overs for the loss of 4 wickets. Farhad scored 44 off 40 balls with 3 fours and 2 sixes. Mizan from Bangladesh Boys took 3 for 25. Rabbi from JDC was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

In the day's other match, Junior Cricket Academy beat Millennium Cricket Academy by six wickets at the same venue.

Bating first, Millennium Academy scored 120 for eight in 20 overs. Tareq scored highest 31 runs off 24 balls. Mujahidul from Junior Academy took 4 for 25.

In reply, Junior Academy reached the target in 18.4 oovers for the loss of 4 wickets. Tanmoy top-scored with 62 runs off 51 balls with 7 fours and was adjudged man-of-the-match.

# WI's Best day



AFP, Birmingham

Tino Best's astounding 95, the highest ever score by a Test No 11, rocked England at Edgbaston here on Sunday.

England, at stumps on the fourth day of the third Test, were 221 for five -- a deficit of 205 runs and still needing a further 56 to avoid the follow-on -- with Ian Bell 76 not out.

A West Indies' 10th-wicket Test record stand of 143 -- the third highest in all Tests for the last wicket -- of 143 between wicket-keeper Denesh Ramdin, who made 107 not out, and Best took the tourists to 426 all out.

Fast bowler Best's innings was all the more impressive as this was his first Test in nearly three years, with his previous highest score at this level 27.

The Bajan then took two wickets for 37 runs in 12 overs to set the seal on a memorable day.

There was no hint of the run-fest to come when West Indies, resuming on 280 for eight after losing the toss, saw Ravi Rampaul dismissed three balls into Sunday's play.

Ramdin, himself in Test exile for two years before this tour, was then 63 not out.

But Best made England pay for their controversial decision to rest new-ball duo James Anderson and Stuart Broad, having already established an unassailable 2-0 lead in this three-match series.

'Stand-in' seamers Graham Onions and Steven Finn were driven in the style of a top-order batsman by the 30-year-old Best.

Indeed it was Ramdin who was almost out when, on 69, he cut Finn and Kevin Pietersen failed to hold a sharp chance at gully.

Off-spinner Graeme Swann went the same way as the pacemen, cut for two fours in successive balls by the inspired Best.

There was no stopping Best, only called up to this tour as a replacement for injured fast bowler Shannon Gabriel, as he completed a 44 ball-fifty.

Ramdin's single off Tim Bresnan, after which he nearly hit the bowler's head as he waved his bat in celebration, took him to a hundred in 160 balls with nine boundaries.

England were too often 'chasing' the game, with captain Andrew Strauss slow to reinforce his ring of close catchers.

Best uppercut Bresnan for yet another boundary to top Zaheer Khan's previous Test best by a No 11 of 75 for India against Bangladesh at



**BEST ELEVEN:** West Indies' comeback cricketer Tino Best, who recorded the highest score of 95 by a number eleven batsman in Test history, can barely contain his delight upon reaching his half-century during the fourth day of the third Test against England at Edgbaston in Birmingham yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Dhaka in 2004 and then drove the seamer for a stunning straight six.

But in sight of a hundred, Best skyed an Onions slower-ball to Strauss at first slip.

Best faced just 112 balls with a six and 14 fours.

His partnership with Ramdin erased the previous West Indies 10th wicket Test record of 106 put on by Carl Hooper and Courtney Walsh against Pakistan at St John's in 1993.

After Alastair Cook and Jonathan Trott fell cheaply, the 30-year-old Best's day got better when he had Strauss brilliantly caught by first slip Darren Bravo to leave England 49 for three.

Bell, on 20, survived a sharp chance to short leg Adrian Barath off debutant 'mystery' spinner Sunil Narine.

But otherwise Narine, who'd produced remarkable figures in his brief first-class and Indian Premier League career, posed few problems with Pietersen driving him for a huge six over long-on.

However, Pietersen exited for 78 when he guided spinner Marlon Samuels to West Indies captain Marlon Samuels at slip.

England were now 186 for four after Pietersen and Bell had put on 137 and there was still time for Best to bowl Jonathan Bairstow as the batsman aimed across the line.

### SCOREBOARD

|   |          |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third Test between England and the West Indies at Edgbaston here on Sunday: West Indies: First innings (overnight: 280-8) |          |          |          |          |
| Barath lbw b Onions   | 41       |          |          |          |
| Powell c Swann b Bresnan  | 24       |          |          |          |
| Fudadin c Bell b Bresnan  | 28       |          |          |          |
| Bravo c and b Finn  | 6        |          |          |          |
| Samuels lbw b Bresnan   | 76       |          |          |          |
| Deonarine c Strauss b Onions  | 7        |          |          |          |
| Ramdin not out  | 107      |          |          |          |
| Sammy c Strauss b Finn  | 16       |          |          |          |
| Narine b Onions   | 11       |          |          |          |
| Rampaul c Prior b Finn  | 2        |          |          |          |
| Best c Strauss b Onions   | 95       |          |          |          |
| Extras: (b-4, lb-8, w-1)  | 13       |          |          |          |
| Total: (All out in 129.3 overs)   | 426      |          |          |          |
| Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-90, 3-99, 4-128, 5-152, 6-208, 7-241, 8-267, 9-283   |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Bowler</b>   | <b>O</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>R</b> | <b>W</b> |
| Onions  | 29.3     | 7        | 88       | 4        |
| Bresnan   | 34       | 9        | 111      | 3        |
| Finn  | 32       | 6        | 109      | 3        |
| Swann   | 26       | 5        | 85       | 0        |
| Trott   | 8        | 1        | 21       | 0        |
| <b>England: First innings</b>   |          |          |          |          |
| Strauss c Bravo b Best  | 17       |          |          |          |
| Cook lbw b Rampaul  | 4        |          |          |          |
| Trott b Sammy   | 17       |          |          |          |
| Pietersen c Sammy b Samuels   | 78       |          |          |          |
| Bell not out  | 76       |          |          |          |
| Bairstow b Best   | 18       |          |          |          |
| Finn not out  | 0        |          |          |          |
| Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-3)   | 11       |          |          |          |
| Total: (For 5 wkts in 58 overs)   | 221      |          |          |          |
| Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-40, 3-49, 4-186, 5-215   |          |          |          |          |
| To bat: M Prior, T Bresnan, G Swann, G Onions   |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Bowler</b>   | <b>O</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>R</b> | <b>W</b> |
| Best  | 12       | 2        | 37       | 2        |
| Rampaul   | 14       | 1        | 55       | 1        |
| Sammy   | 8        | 1        | 22       | 1        |
| Narine  | 15       | 1        | 70       | 0        |
| Samuels   | 9        | 0        | 29       | 1        |

## Change of guard

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corporate houses would want to bring money into cricket without taking much out of it. Where the BPL franchises have faltered in payments and other facilities, Prime Bank has made it work.

Gazi Tank were runners-up while the new champions, Victoria, were bank-rolled by ex-Mohammedan Sporting Club honcho Lutfar Rahman Badal in a bid to derail his former club's campaign, while the Manzur Kader-backed Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club also fared decently, finishing fourth.

The two traditional bigguns, Abahani and Mohammedan, had terrible seasons and much of it was down to erratic management and poor decision-making at many stages. If, for example, Abahani decided to play against Victoria on protest during the March 28 debacle in Mirpur, it could have won them some goodwill and let cricket have more priority. Instead, it was held ransom.

There is a definite correlation between the attitude of sets of team management and the players' on-field performance.

One of them who didn't let anything

| BATTING CHART     |    |      |       |     |      |      |
|-------------------|----|------|-------|-----|------|------|
|                   | M  | Runs | Avg   | 50s | 100s | HS   |
| Mushfiqur Rahim   | 16 | 951  | 73.15 | 6   | 4    | 116  |
| Imrul Kayes       | 16 | 690  | 46.00 | 7   | 0    | 91*  |
| Mahmudullah Riyad | 14 | 684  | 68.40 | 6   | 1    | 109* |
| Nasir Hossain     | 16 | 636  | 45.43 | 5   | 1    | 101  |

| BOWLING CHART     |    |    |      |       |      |
|-------------------|----|----|------|-------|------|
|                   | M  | W  | RR   | Avg   | Best |
| Shakib Al Hasan   | 16 | 29 | 4.46 | 21.55 | 4/27 |
| Mosharraf Hossain | 16 | 28 | 4.10 | 21.43 | 5/53 |
| Arafat Sunny      | 15 | 27 | 3.65 | 18.63 | 4/18 |
| Yasim Mortuza     | 10 | 24 | 3.81 | 14.75 | 4/28 |

# Hostage to a flawed system



ANISUR RAHMAN

The May-31 elections of the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) has become a talking point in the country's sports arena since the organisers' panel swept to a landslide victory over the players' panel, winning all the posts.

The election caught so much attention that it was even discussed in a parliament session where State Minister for Youth And Sports Ahad Ali Sarker announced that it was a victory for the ruling Awami League's organisers over the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) organisers.

Whether or not the winners belong to the ruling party is a debatable issue, but there is no argument over the fact that those who have been elected are hardly associated with the game of chess.

This phenomenon is common not only in chess but also across most of the sports federations. The councillors, elected with the blessings of the District and Divisional Sports Associations (DSA), are only found active during elections of the national sports federations where they allegedly trade their votes for money, and soon after the elections, disappear from the scene.

That is what prompted the chess players to come under an umbrella in protest of the 'so-called-organisers' who are hardly known in the chess circuit, even though they proved

powerless against the DSA-backed panel.

The DSA organisers' (70 out of 117 councillors) panel was so strong that vice presidential candidate and the sub-continent's first grandmaster Niaz Murshed had to concede defeat against unknown vice presidential candidates. General secretary candidate FIDE master and banker Khandoker Kayesh Hasan too was defeated by unknown candidate Gazi Saiful Tareq, who reportedly came to the election only at the request of a chess player from Bhola.

What gives councillors like Tareq, more specifically DSAs, so much power is the fact that DSAs generally send their loyal representatives to the respective federations, whether or not they are involved with that discipline, who vote for them in the elections.

And what gives the DSAs so much freedom is the lenient nature of the constitutions of sports federations which allows them to retain their councillorship by participating in two national meets in four years while giving no importance to whether they organise their district competitions or not.

There have been instances where players living in Dhaka collected consent letters from the respective DSAs to take part in the national chess championships of their own accord to ensure DSA's councillorship in chess federation even though those DSAs do not hold any local competitions or take any initiatives to send players to the national championships. According to

the by-laws, the champions of district-level leagues are supposed to take part in the national chess championship, but the reality rarely reflects this law.

Of the 64 districts and seven divisions, chess is played in 18 to 20 districts regularly while the rest of the districts and divisions ensure their representation by participating in the national meets twice in four years, without organising any district league.

The National Sports Council (NSC) the regulatory body of the country's sports, also allegedly doesn't always play a neutral role during the polls and reportedly do favours to the incumbent committee by picking NSC representatives in line with recommendations from the incumbent committee.

As per the constitution, top five chess players are to be chosen in the voters' list but this time surprisingly the top-rated player, GM Ziaur Rahman, was ignored and while a councillor from Brahmanbaria was included in the voters' list despite him not meeting the criterion of participating in two national meets in four years. Again, there is no existence of representatives of the Chess Arbitrators' Association in the constitution but one councillor was included in the recently concluded chess polls.

Taking the experience of the chess polls into consideration, the authorities concerned should find a way out on how to form acceptable executive committees at different federations with the participation of all stakeholders of respective disciplines.

## Viv not sure what Denesh meant

AFP, Birmingham

Vivian Richards told Denesh Ramdin to make runs for a winning West Indies after the wicketkeeper celebrated his hundred against England in the third Test here at Edgbaston on Sunday by turning on the all-time great.

Ramdin was criticised by Richards after West Indies' nine-wicket second Test defeat by England at Trent Bridge that gave the hosts an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-Test series.

Having reached three figures on the fourth day here Sunday -- only his second Test hundred -- the 27-year-old Trinidad wicketkeeper-batsman produced a piece of paper from his pocket on which the words "YEAH VIV TALK NAH" were written.

Ramdin, recalled for this series after two years out of the side, had made just six as West Indies collapsed to 61 for six at Trent Bridge.

That prompted Richards, one of cricket's greatest batsmen and now working as a commentator for BBC Radio's Test Match Special, to say: "Ramdin just looks out of sorts. When he first came into the game, I felt he was a huge prospect.

"For some reason, he has deteriorated in such a big way. Just the way he is walking back, he looks like a totally lost guy."

## Messi magic in NJ

FROM PAGE 16

midfield near the sideline, dribbled around Marcelo and cut diagonally for the goal. He took a half-dozen touches as defenders dropped back. Then, with Juan stepping up to stop Messi's run, the Argentine cut to the center and a yard shy of the arc set loose with a 23-yard rocket that went in just under the crossbar.

Messi ran to his bench and was mobbed by teammates as Rafael Cabral turned and retrieved the ball from the net with a disgusted look. It was his 26th goal in 70 games for Argentina.

"Nobody can defend again him," Albiceleste defender Pablo Zabaleta said through a translator. "He makes the difference on any team. He's incredible, the way he plays. He goes hand in hand with his team. He goes from the right, the middle, shares the ball. You can't stop him."

"It's always beautiful to beat Brazil and I am very happy with my three goals," Messi told reporters after the game.

Messi has been criticized in the past for not repeating for the national side his brilliant form with Spanish giants Barcelona that earned him the World Player of the Year title for the last three years.

Messi thanked his parents for the turnaround. "They more than anyone else know what I suffered in the national team during the bad times I went through. They were always by my side then and now they are having as much fun as me."

Argentina's coach Alejandro Sabella paid tribute to Messi.

"Thankfully for us, he's Argentine and we can enjoy having him in our team," Sabella told a news conference. "He's an exceptional player who is going through an exceptional phase."

Brazilian coach Mano Menezes was left scratching his head about Messi who made the difference in a game in which Brazil created a string of scoring opportunities.

"No one in the world has found a solution (to playing against him)," Menezes said. "He had four chances and scored three goals...Against some players you cannot give any space and perhaps we gave him too much."

Brazil's Marcelo and Argentina's Ezequiel Lavezzi were sent off for an altercation in injury time.

The defeat was Brazil's second in less than a week after they lost 2-0 to Mexico last Sunday.

But Menezes said he remained confident about the Olympics.

"We have a very good Olympics team and we will only make a few small changes before we start," he said.

Brazil, who have won the World Cup a record five times, have never won the Olympics where teams are required to field teams mostly made up of players under 23 years of age.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

### ACROSS

- Painter
- Chagall
- One time around
- Overconfident
- Do as you're told
- Man-mouse link
- Lima's land
- Tofu
- Falls behind
- Divest
- Compact piano
- Money
- Mel of baseball lore
- Prob-ability
- Iodine source
- "Rocks"
- Finder's charge
- Cars
- Cattle call
- Peninsula st.

### DOWN

- Unruly bird
- Excited
- Vacation-ing
- Tierra — Fuego
- TV Super-man
- Hang around
- Miler
- Sebastian
- A billion years
- Wan
- Second-ary route
- A million grams
- Possess
- Changed color
- Continental coin
- Sharp rebuke
- Erstwhile Peruvian
- Merganser duck
- Fork-tailed flier
- Before
- Pump up the volume

### Solution time: 21 mins.

|          |          |      |
|----------|----------|------|
| HART     | ESP      | ESAU |
| ODOR     | DUO      | PIGS |
| DOCUMENT | ONUS     |      |
| TON      | RINGER   |      |
| SALSA    | PONY     |      |
| TRIM     | FRAGMENT |      |
| AID      | AROSE    | DOH  |
| BASEMENT | MALI     |      |
| GONG     | DEMON    |      |
| INVOKE   | SIR      |      |
| VIIIT    | TENEMENT |      |
| ALPS     | IRA      | AKIN |
| NEST     | CAP      | NEXT |

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |

### CRYPTOQUIP

K U T O Z F T V P Y Q Z G V O X G  
R U O F I Z G O Z O N X Y X H T T I X Q H  
Z G T G T O N L F K Y W X Y P T  
H O L F W Q N X Y U T X : R N L X Z T U L F T.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** I REALLY LOVE READING UP ON THE ANATOMY OF FISH APPENDAGES. YOU MIGHT EVEN CALL ME A FIN-ATIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals T