SP(0) R1

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team returns to the capital today from Amsterdam after completing a mixed bag tour of Europe. Mushfiqur Rahim's men will touch down at noon after winning four out of six Twenty20 matches in Ireland and the Netherlands.

Mohammad Ashraful and Jahirul Islam along with coach Richard Pybus, fielding coach Jason Swift and bowling coach Shane Jurgenson are however expected to reach the country next month. Ashraful will stay back to play in the Kent Premier League for Blackheath while Jahurul will be going to Bridgetown for eye treatment. Pybus will return on August 9 as he will go to South Africa while Swift will return on August 6 and Jurgenson, who will be accompanying the Under-19s during the World Cup in his hometown Brisbane, will return at the end of August.

After the Tigers defeated Ireland 3-0 with two matches going down to the wire (which catapulted them to No 4 in the ICC Twenty20 rankings briefly), they lost to lowly Scotland before drawing the two-match series against the Dutch.

Tamim Iqbal headed the batting chart with 214 runs while Shakib Al Hasan was the only other to score more than hundred runs. With the ball in hand, Abdur Razzak took ten wickets while Elias Sunny finished with nine scalps including a five-for in the record breaking first win against Ieland.

Emeka's stern warning

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club's Nigerian coach Emeka Ezeugo has threatened to take the matter of his 'alleged' unpaid wages to a higher authority if he doesn't get a solution from the Bangladesh Football Federation. The Nigerian coach, who guided the Black and Whites to a third-place finish in the recently concluded Bangladesh Premier League, said he owes one lakh three thousand dollars in total to the club in a press conference at a local hotel yesterday.

The Nigerian coach in a press conference on Saturday said that he has not been paid a single penny after he took charge of the team on November 27 last year.

"They did not pay me anything till now after I took charge of the team. I'm owed one lakh and three thousand dollars from them including my salary and the transfer fees of the six players I brought for them from Nigeria," Emeka said in the press meet at a city hotel yesterday.

Emeka claimed that according to his contract with Mohammedan he was supposed to be paid 2,500 dollars per month, 300 dollars as bonus for each match won, 5,000 dollars as reward for finishing third in the league, and reimbursement for air tickets, for his trip to New York and for the international transfer cer-

tificates. "I know the BFF will not be able to do a lot since some of the Mohammedan officials are directly involved with the Bangladeshi football's governing body. I am just going through the proper

channel," Emeka said. "I know myself, my powers as well. I would take this matter to the highest place if

needed," Emeka added. Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director and member in charge of Mohammedan SC Ltd., earlier denied Emeka's claim and said, "We have already given him 16,500 dollars out of his sevenmonth salary of 17,500 dollars in three phases."



US tennis superstar Serena Williams smashes a forehand during her Olympics women's singles victory over Serbia's Jelena Jankovic at the All England Tennis Club in London yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Serena off the blocks

AFP, London



Serena Williams marked the return of the Olympics to the All England Club with a brutal 6-3, 6-1 demolition of Jelena Jankovic on Saturday.

Serena, who was cheered on from the players' box by US First Lady Michelle Obama, ended a two-year Grand Slam title drought with her Wimbledon final victory over Agnieszka Radwanska 21 days ago and the American had promised that would be the springboard to even greater success.

While Serena soared, two of her big name peers crashed out of the Olympics as China's Li Na lost to Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova and Australia's Samantha Stosur slumped to defeat to Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro. Another major upset was in the offing in the men's draw, but all-time great Roger Federer of Switzerland managed to overcome a second-set loss to record a first-round victory over Colombia's Alejandro Falla.

But it was fitting that a Wimbledon legend like Serena should deliver such a dominant display of grasscourt tennis as the Olympics returned to south-west London for the first time since 1908.

The genteel surroundings of Wimbledon have a well-earned reputation for a rather sedate atmosphere, but there was a sense the famous old venue has let its hair down for the Olympics.

A concert by British band the Pet Shop Boys on Henman Hill opened the event, and all the courts were decked out in the purple Olympic livery, while players were allowed to break the Wimbledon tradition of wearing all-white and

instead donned the colours of their nations.

Former Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych Wimbledon champion was the first big-name to tumble in the men's singles as the Czech sixth seed lost 6-4, 6-4 to Steve Darcis, an unheralded Belgian ranked 75th in the world.

Berdych, beaten by Rafael Nadal in the 2010 Wimbledon final, suffered a shock Wimbledon first round exit this year against Ernests Gulbis and Darcis took advantage of another error-strewn display from the Czech to seal his first Olympic win and a last 32 meeting with Colombia's Santiago Giraldo.

"It's an amazing feeling," Darcis said. "When you're young you watch Pete Sampras playing on Centre Court and you think maybe one day. Today it was my day. I played a great match."

Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic defeated former Wimbledon finalist David Nalbandian of Argentina 6-3, 6-4, while John Isner, the 6ft 9in American 10th seed, won his little and large battle with Olivier Rochus, defeating the 5ft 6in Belgian 7-6 (7/1), 6-4. In the women's singles, Belgium's Kim

Clijsters enjoyed her first taste of the Olympics as the four-time Grand Slam champion moved into the second round with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Italy's Roberta Vinci. The 29-year-old, who next faces Australian

fifth seed Samantha Stosur or Carla Navarro Suarez of Spain, said: "It's like a virus, it spreads. When you see all the other athletes from your country and the people who follow it, it's hard not to get into it."

Serbian 11th seed Ana Ivanovic, like Clijsters a former world number one, also won on her Olympic debut, beating American Christina McHale 6-4, 7-5.

Vera Zvonareva, a 2008 bronze medalist, kicked off her campaign with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 win against Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson.

Shahadat blazes, with the bat

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The unlikely batting pair of Mominul Haque and Shahadat Hossain gave Bangladesh A the crucial first innings lead against Baroda Cricket Association XI on the second day of the Dell-KSCA Shafi Darashah cricket tournament at the KSCA Cricket Ground in Alur yesterday.

After BCA XI were stunted on the first day by being restricted to 202 all out, the second string Bangladesh side ended the day on 314 all out, taking a lead of 112 runs.

But the 300-plus score only came thanks to a holding job by the young lefthander Mominul and a stunning counter-attack by the tail-ender Shahadat.

After falling to 206-7 at the end of the 66th over, Shahadat hammered an unbeaten 76 off 69 balls with the help of seven boundaries and four sixes. Mominul chipped in with 66 off 109 balls with seven fours and a six, the threehour knock having sustained the innings during the regular wickets that fell during his stay.

Bangladesh A made a decent enough start but lost openers Imrul Kayes and skipper Shahriar Nafees by the twelfth over. Naeem Islam and Rokibul Hasan added 50 for the third wicket but fell off successive deliveries to put the side in some

strife at 99 for four. Wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Mithun and Dollar Mahmud added 52 for the sixth and seventh wicket

each with Mominul but it was Shahadat who extended the innings towards safety.

Paceman Firdaush Bhaja and off-spinner Utkarsh Patel got three wickets each while Murtuja Vahora and Bhargav Bhatt picked up two

SCORE IN BRIEF

BARODA CRICKET ASSOCIATION XI: First innings 202 all out in 70.3

overs (Anupam 52, Waghmode 43, Shah 25, Enamul 3-67, Dollar 2-18, Robiul 2-30, Shahadat 2-37). BANGLADESH A: First innings 314 all out in 86 overs (Imrul Kayes 10, Shahriar Nafees 22, Rokibul 30, Naeem 23, Mominul 66, Farhad 3, Mithun 29, Dollar 31, Shahadat 76 not out, Enamul 0, Robiul 3; Vahora 2-

74, Bhaja 3-83, Patel 3-88,

SPORTS REPORTER from London

Yohan Blake has beaten 100m world record holder Usain Bolt twice this year. But in Friday's training session the young pretender was looking for other ways to slow down his teammate. When the Olympic champion was racing down the track, Blake cheekily pushed a hurdle into Bolt's lane, forcing the world champion to turn around several metres ahead of the finish line.

Bolt could see the funny side this time. There won't, of course, be any hurdles in his path

when the pair in all likelihood meet in the men's 100m final on August 5 - other than the in-form Blake.

WATCHING BRIEF

Ryan Lochte is happy for restrictions on high-tech swimwear to be made even tighter - by calling for a return to old-style swimming briefs, which he calls "banana hammocks".

At a recent United States swimming media conference, the 200m individual medley world champion and world record holder encouraged FINA to go right back to basics after its 2010 ban on costumes constructed of polyurethane film panels.

VOLUNTEER WR HOLDER

Heidi Oxley, who is working as a volunteer at the equestrian events in Greenwich Park, achieved a world record in vertical stair climbing in February 2008.

The 44-year-old, who now lives in Mombasa, Kenya, set the standard for ascending the Rockefeller Centre in New York, where she worked for the United Nations, by running up 66 flights of stairs in just over 12

Usha hot on MSC's heels

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Cahkra kept in touching distance with leaders Mohammedan SC after they defeated Sonali Bank 4-3 in their first match of the Super Five stage of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Federation Cup win-18 points from 11 matches.

nated the proceedings in the first half taking a 3-0 lead. Usha's Pakistani recruit Mohammad Atique gave them a 19th minute lead from a penalty corner before his compatriot Mohammed Imran made it 2-0 in the 27th minute through a field goal. The lead was further increased by Moinul Islam Kaushik in the 33rd minute while four minutes after the break Shahidullah Titu made it 4-0 to take strangle hold on the game. However, Sonali Bank made a late comeback as Irfanul Haque, Mohammad Imran and Ajit Kumar Ghosh scored three late goals to give few scary final minutes to Usha. But in the end, the traditional club held on to the slender lead to notch up their 10th victory to stay in contention for the title.

Palli Mangal beat Garpara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Dashara Palli Mangal Samity defeated Garpara XI 3-0 in the DFA Cup Football Tournament at the Shahid Miraz-Tapan Stadium in Manikgan

Masum scored two goals while Joy added another for the winning side. Joy scored the opening goal in the 14th minute from the penalty spot before Masum scored a brace in the 69th and 73rd minutes to complete the 3-0 victory.

Witty Britain FROM PAGE 16

yesterday.

applause that greeted the British team, which marched to the David Bowie track "Heroes." A helicopter then showered the athletes and stadium with 7 billion tiny pieces of paper one for each person on Earth.

Boyle's ceremony had spectacle, it had narrative, but it also had jokes and fun. It was cohesive but anarchic and somehow it managed to be both quirky and cheeky.

In short, it was so good at showcasing what it had set out to do that by the end, Caliban's words from the Tempest, that had dominated the show, finally began to sound prophetic.

Britain truly is an isle full of noises, of sounds, and of sweet airs that give delight and hurt not. And in the words of the Beatles song, all you have to do is "let her into your heart".

ACROSS

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Windies lead by 171 Cricket

Stadium in Antigua yesterday.

for six, the overnight pair of

Narsingh Deonarine and

skipper Darren Sammy

extended their partnership to

69 runs till Deonarine was

bowled by Chris Martin for

79. Sammy however contin-

ued till he reached 50 and was

ninth man out giving a return

catch to Daniel Vettori. The

innings folded six runs later.

Martin was the visitors' best

bowler with three wickets,

marked his return to five-day

cricket by hitting 150 as the

recalled opener blasted his

Fellow opener Kieran

team towards a healthy lead.

Powell was the other centu-

rion before Assad Fudadun

and Deonarine weighed in

with half centuries to give the

home side a solid edge as the

Black Caps struggled even

Bracewell took two each.

Resuming the day on 442

AFP, North Sound The West Indies earned a sizeable 171-run lead as they were all out for 522 in reply to New Zealand's first innings 351 as was lunch was called on the fourth day of the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards

ners now have 30 points from 11 matches, three behind leaders Mohammedan and six ahead of third-placed Abahani who have played a match less though. The bankers' team remained a distant fourth with Usha completely domi-

India clinch a thriller far made just five runs in

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Gautam Gambhir cracked a century and Suresh Raina smashed a brisk 65 not out to power India to a thrilling five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the third one-day international in Colombo on Saturday.

Opener Gambhir hit an impressive 102 for his 11th one-day hundred and Raina hammered one six and six fours in his 45-ball knock as India achieved a stiff 287-run target with two balls to spare for a 2-1 lead in the fivematch series.

India needed six runs to win in the last over, bowled by seamer Angelo Mathews, Irfan Pathan (34 not out) completing the victory with a boundary off the fourth delivery in the day-night match.

Raina and Pathan added 92 off 11.1 overs.

Gambhir boosted India's hopes as he added 105 for the second wicket with Virat Kohli (38) and 67 for the next with skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (31) before being run out in the 39th over.

Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga bowled Dhoni and out-of-form Rohit Sharma off successive deliveries. Sharma has so

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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three matches.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Kumar Sangakkara (73), Mathews (71 not out) and skipper Mahela Jayawardene (65) earlier hit half-centuries to help Sri Lanka recover

Sri Lanka were struggling at 20-3 after electing to bat but Sangakkara, who suffered a finger injury during his knock, and Jayawardene steadied the innings with a 121-run stand for the fourth wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Tharanga c Dhoni b Zaheer Dilshan b Zaheer Sangakkara c Kohli b Dinda Chandimal Ibw b Pathan Jayawardene Ibw b Rahul Mathews not out Mendisnotout Extras: (b-2, lb-8, nb-1, w-9) Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) Did not bat: Perera, Herath, Udana, Malinga Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-19, 3-20, 4-141, 5-182 Bowler

Zaheer 59 Dinda Ashwin Gambhir run out (Udana) Sehwag csub (Senanayake) b Perera Kohli cand b Herath

Dhoni b Malinga

Raina not out

Pathan not out

Rohit Ibw b Malinga

Extras: (lb-11, w-4)

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-113, 3-180, 4-180, 5-196

from a poor start.

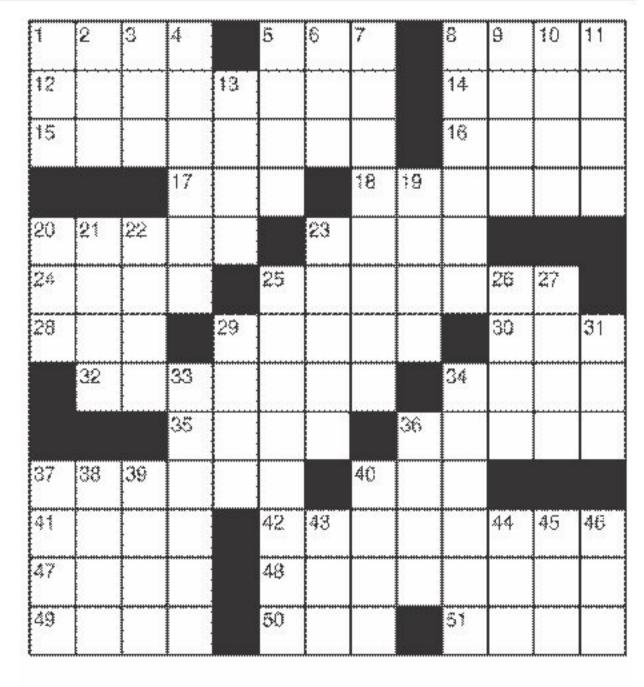
Result: India win by five wickets. Man-of-the-match: Suresh Raina. Toss: Sri Lanka. umpires: Kumar Dharmasena and Bruce are familion on pole position

AFP, Budapest

Briton Lewis Hamilton confirmed that he and McLaren have recovered their form when he swept to a dominant pole position in Saturday's closely-fought qualifying session for Sunday's Hungar-

> ian Grand Prix. Driving with supreme speed and consistency, the 27-year-old Briton clocked a best time of one minute and 20.953 seconds to top the times ahead of nearest rival Frenchman Romain

> Grosjean in a Lotus. Grosjean secured his front row starting position with a fast lap in the final seconds of a tight session to move ahead of third-placed defending drivers champion Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull and Hamilton's team-mate and compatriot Jenson Button.



CRYPTOQUIP

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: AS ITS CLEANSING POWDER, I EXPECT A CERTAIN DR. SEUSS CREATURE WOULD PROBABLY BUY LORAX BORAX.

given some swing from the newball.

Deonarine ended the day on 54 and had Sammy on eight for company after Fudadin fell to the bowling of Williamson for 55. Gayle, who was playing his

first Test for more than 18 months due to his stand-off with the West Indies Cricket Board following comments he made about officials in a radio interview, smacked 17 boundaries and four sixes as he made his mark in a 206-ball inning before falling to the bowling of KaneWilliamson.

The 32-year-old enabled the hosts to put on 254 for the first wicket alongside Powell before Brendon McCullum took the catch in the deep. Earlier, Gayle had brought

up his 14th Test ton by smashing Chris Martin for six over midwicket, having earlier hit while Vettori and Doug four successive boundaries off the same bowler. On Friday, Chris Gayle Powell also made a cen-

tury pull to the boundary through square leg off Neil Wagner before going caught behind for 134 including 22 boundaries and a six of 288 deliveries as Wagner bagged his first Test wicket. But the West Indies carried

on regardless of having their openers back in the pavilion

as Fudadin and Samuels took them through to 352 for 2 at tea, a run ahead. Martin Guptill laid the

foundation for what appeared a solid first innings score for the Black Caps with a spirited 97 but spinner Sunil Narine took a maiden fivewicket haul, finishing with five for 132, to undermine the tourists.

Gayle and Powell then set the stage for an exciting denouement. SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 351 (Guptill

for no loss)

97, Flynn 45, Bracewell 39; Narine 5-132, Roach 2-44) WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 145

Gayle c McCullum b Williamson 134 Powell c van Wyk b Wagner Fudadin c McCullum b Williamson 55 Samuels b Martin Chanderpaul cvan Wyk b Martin Deonarine b Martin Ramdin b Bracewell Sammy c&b Vettori

Narine run out Rampaul Ibw b Bracewell Extras:(lb9; nb3) Total: (all out in 163.3 overs) 522 Fall of Wickets: 1-254, 2-304, 3-355, 4-355, 5-410, 6-428, 7-497, 8-502, 9-516, 10-522 **BOWLER**

134 3 Bracewell 112 51 14 124

Total: (For 5 wkts in 49.4 overs)

Did not bat: Ashwin, Zaheer, Rahul, Dinda

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals Y