



PHOTO: STAR Action from the Pepsi 16th men's handball championship match between Dhaka and Bangladesh Police yesterday.

Shaheen stutters

Athletics

AFP, Manila

World champion Saif Safed Shaheen bit the dust Sunday as he was sensationally beaten in the Asian athletics championships men's 1,500 meters final...

The Kenyan transplant, now running for Qatar, made a bold gamble by ceding his favorite discipline to Busan Asian Games champion Khamis Abdulla in hopes of doubling Qatar's gold medal haul...

Abdulla duly delivered, but Shaheen, once known as Stephen Cheron and the winner of steeplechase gold at the Paris world championships last month, sprinted too early and was beaten by eventual winner Ramzi Rashid of Bahrain...

"I want (Abdulla) to win the steeplechase gold," Shaheen told AFP earlier, explaining his decision to withdraw from the steeplechase final.

"I don't want to run too many races."

Abdulla led from the front for most of the way and left the competition for dead in the last 300m to win in 8mins 51.60secs, relegating Wu Wen-Chien of Chinese-Taipei to the silver in 8:55.38...

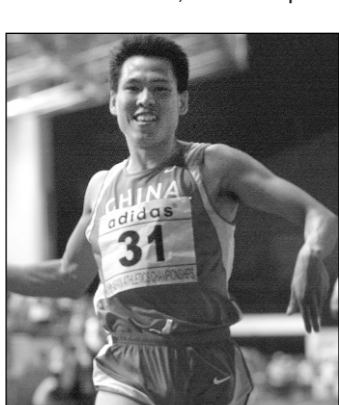


PHOTO: AFP Chen Haijian of China smiles after winning the men's 100 metres final at the 15th Asian Athletics Championship yesterday.

Yasunori Uchitomi took bronze in 8:56.31.

It was the day for Middle Eastern athletes to shine as Kuwait also won two gold medals.

Ali Izenkawi, 19 year-old son of a Hungarian long jumper and a Kuwaiti shot put specialist, won the hammer throw gold with a best effort of 70.62m.

"I'm still suffering from jet lag because of the different time zones," Izenkawi said. "It was two meters below my personal best."

Bangkok waits for Paradorn

Tennis

AFP, Bangkok

Bangkok is braced for a possible re-run of the US Open final with Juan Carlos Ferrero and Andy Roddick topping the seedings at the inaugural edition of the 550,000-dollar Thailand Open starting Monday.

But both headlines are likely to be shunned by local fans who will save their adulation for Thai sports hero Paradorn Srichaphan, whose position among the ATP elite is the driving force behind the new tournament.

Officials are expecting sellout crowds from the start at the 5,000-capacity Impact arena, where Paradorn will open first-round play against Vladimir Voltchkov of Belarus.

Ferrero, who lost the US Open final to Roddick but still stands world number 1, will be flying in from Europe after a Davis Cup World group semi-final tie at home in Malaga against Argentina.

Second-seeded American Roddick and Paradorn are also involved in Davis play, with the Thai ace currently leading his team at home against the Czech Republic in another Bangkok suburb.

Roddick was leading the

Japan's Hiroaki Doi took silver in 70.11m, while Dilshod Nazarov won Tajikistan's first medal in the games with a heave of 69.90m.

Fawzi Al Shammari doubled up Kuwait's golden harvest by winning the men's 400m final in 45.16secs.

Hamdan al-Bishi of Saudi Arabia settled for second in 45.39, while Yuki Yamaguchi of Japan's 46.18 was good for bronze.

China added to their four golds by taking the men's 100m and 110m hurdles crowns, as well as the women's pole vault and the 100m hurdles.

Chen Haijian earned the sprint king title with a 10.25sec result in the 100m, beating Gennadiy Chernovol who settled for the silver for Kazakhstan at 10.27.

Salem al-Yami of Saudi Arabia won the bronze in 10.28.

Shi Dongpeng finished the 110m hurdles with a time of 13.50secs, besting South Korean Park Tae-Kyong's 13.71 and Shi's compatriot Wu Youjia's 13.80.

Wu Sha vaulted the bar at 4.20m, ahead of Japanese Takayo Kondo's 4.10 and Ni Putu Desy Margawati's 3.90 for Indonesia.

Su Yiping won the 100m hurdles with a time of 13.09secs, beating compatriot Feng Yun's 13.25 and Trecia Roberts' 13.29 for Thailand.

Myanmar as well as Uzbekistan also won their first golds at the Manila meet.

Yin Yin Khine ruled the women's 400m for Myanmar with 52.96secs, edging out Chinese Bu Fanfang who finished in 52.97 and Svetlana Bodritskaya's 53.19 for Kazakhstan.

Uzbek Anastasiya Juravleva won the women's long jump in a wind-aided 6.53m, topping China's Liang Shuyuan and the hosts' Lerma Gabito. Liang picked up the silver in 6.51 while Gabito took the bronze in 6.50.

Americans against Slovakia. The tournament also features Spain's former world number 1 Carlos Moya, starting against a qualifier, and Finn Jarkko Nieminen, who begins his Asian campaign with a match against local wild card Danal Udomchok.

But Paradorn will be the obvious centre of attraction for thousands of his tennis-mad compatriots.

"It's a dream for me to be able to play in my hometown," said the 24-year-old. "Tennis interest in Thailand is high and I hope this helps it further at home."

"I'm really looking forward to playing."

Rifles, Police h'ball finale

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Police reached the final of the Pepsi 16th national men's handball championship beating their rivals at the Outer Stadium ground yesterday.

The final will be held today at 2:00pm at the same venue while the third place-deciding match between two losing semifinalists Bangladesh Ansars and Dhaka will be held at 8:00am.

In the first semifinal, Rifles beat Ansars 35-21 after leading the first session 21-12 while Police defeated Dhaka 39-24 in the second semifinal after dominating the first half 23-15.

Break for Gavaskar

FROM PAGE 13 matches and a triangular one-day series also involving World Cup winners Australia.

The tourists will play two practice matches. They clash with an Indian Board President's team at Visakhapatnam (September 26-28) and then the India A side at Rajkot (October 2-4).

The first Test begins on October 8 at Ahmedabad and the second on October 16 at Mohali.

Hard-hitting Test opener Virender Sehwag will lead the Board team in the tour-opener, while one-day specialist Mohammad Kaif has been named the India A captain.

TEAMS

BOARD XI: Virender Sehwag (captain), Akash Chopra, Shiv Sunder Das, Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Sidharan Sram, Ajay Ratra, Amit Mishra, Ramesh Powar, Amit Bhandari, Tinu Yohannan, Wasim Jaffer, Siddarth Trivedi, Amit Uniyal.

INDIA A: Mohammad Kaif (captain), Sadagopan Ramesh, Akash Chopra, Connor Williams, Hemang Badani, Deep Dasgupta, Murali Kartik, Sarandeep Singh, Sree Santh, Munaf Patel, Mithun Manhas, Rohan Gavaskar, Abhijit Kale, RP Singh.

Dravid-driven Rol

FROM PAGE 13 5-77, L Balaji 2-47, AKumble 2-64 REST OF INDIA: First innings 202 all out in 73.2 overs (R Dravid 41, Zaheer Khan 34, S Bangar 29; R Powar 4-61, A Agarkar 2-29, A Salvi 2-52)

MUMBAI: Second innings 244 all out in 74 overs (R Powar 57, S Tendulkar 50, V Mane 36, S Bahutule 36; Harbhajan Singh 4-79, L Balaji 2-23, AKumble 2-66) REST OF INDIA: Second innings Bangalw b Agarkar 1

Table with columns O, M, R, W. Rows for Salvi, Agarkar, Morris, Powar, Tendulkar, Shetty, Bahutule, Khan, Bowler, Salvi, Agarkar, Morris, Powar, Tendulkar, Shetty, Bahutule, Result: Rest of India won by 3 wickets and lifted the 2003-04 Irani Trophy.

PAKISTAN DIARY

FROM PAGE 13 Ashrafal saying that he never felt homesick. "I never feel bored while on tour," he said.

Right-arm paceman Tapas Baisya said that he had passed home only once so far in the last 36 days and did not mind that.

However, the views of the married members of the team are understandably different. Captain Khaled Mahmud is always homesick and misses his family.

"Oh, I'm missing home very much," said the Bangladesh captain.

Former captain and wicket-keeper Khaled Mashud always misses his mother's cooking.

"I love home food especially which is cooked by my mother," Mashud said.

Premier batsman Habibul Bashar can't wait for the tour to end. "I want to go home right now if I was allowed then I could see the face of my beloved son," Bashar said.

SECURITY OVERDRIVE AT KARACHI

The Karachi arrangement at the Karachi National Stadium was beefed up for the final one-day match between Bangladesh and Pakistan yesterday following a bomb blast in the city on Friday.

Although security was tight even last month when Bangladesh played the first Test against Pakistan, but additional measures were taken on Sunday to avoid any untoward incident.

No taxis were allowed to enter the stadium premises and spectators were thoroughly searched by the law enforcement agencies before allowing them entry into the galleries.

Even journalists had to go through metal detectors and their bags were screened which was not the case in the first Test last month.



SLIDES IN DELIGHT: Lleyton Hewitt dives after guiding Australia into the Davis Cup final.

Hewitt Australia's hero

Tennis

AFP, Melbourne

Lleyton Hewitt clawed back from two sets and 3-5 down to put Australia into the Davis Cup tennis final with a titanic five-set victory over Switzerland's Roger Federer in the semi-final here on Sunday.

The former world number one looked down for the count as the Wimbledon champion advanced on an apparent straight sets victory, but somehow the 22-year-old Australian found that little bit extra to pull out one of his greatest victories.

Hewitt's 5-7, 2-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-1 triumph clinched the tie in the fourth singles rubber after Australia had edged in front, winning Saturday's doubles in five sets.

Switzerland's Michel Kratochvil won the dead final singles rubber when Todd Woodbridge, a replacement for Mark Philippoussis, retired after the Swiss player won the opening set 6-4. Australia won the tie 3-2.

Federer dazzled Hewitt in the opening two and a half sets, but his torrid schedule of three matches in as many days began to tell and the leg-weary former Wimbledon and US Open champion embarked on a courageous fightback to pull back from the brink.

Hewitt's exhilarating victory halted Federer's unbeaten run of 10 singles matches in Davis Cup and 31 winning sets and ended

Argentina survive on Calleri

Tennis

AFP, Malaga

Agustin Calleri gave Argentina fresh hope of reaching the Davis Cup final here Sunday when he pulled off an upset 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 win over world No 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain.

Calleri was brought into the singles action to replace Mariano Zabaleta after being overlooked Friday in the opening singles when Ferrero and Carlos Moya gave Spain what looked like a comfortable 2-0 lead.

But he was instrumental Saturday when he and Lucas Arnold Saterstede replaced Ferrero and Albert Costa in four sets in the doubles to keep the semi-final alive.

Even so, the 27-year-old journeyman was given little chance of defeating Ferrero who rose to the top spot in the world this year by winning the French Open and reaching the US Open final.

But he made his intentions clear by winning the first set against a nervous-looking Ferrero, the hero of Spain's Davis Cup triumph in 2000 against Australia.

Ferrero, however, appeared to be taking control when he moved into a 5-3 lead in the second set as Calleri appeared to tire.

But the South American saved five set points to hold and then, playing

Switzerland's dream of a first-ever Cup title after reaching the final against the United States in 1992.

Australia will now have a home final against either Spain or Argentina on November 28-30. It is expected to be played on grass at Melbourne Park.

It was Hewitt's eighth win in 10 encounters with Federer, the world number three, and puts his Davis Cup singles record to 22-5.

"This beats the hell out of winning the US Open and Wimbledon, I tell you right now," Hewitt told the crowd moments after his euphoric victory.

"It's an incredible feeling, I've dreamt of playing these matches... I watched Pat Cash against (Sweden's) Mikael Pernfors over at Kooyong (in 1986) come back after being two sets to love down.

"The whole time when I was down two sets to love and I ended up getting out of the third, I was just thinking of that match."

Hewitt said when Federer was serving for the match, he sensed the Swiss was tightening up.

"I know anyone serving for a match is always going to be a little bit nervous and I just tried to make him play every point and he gave me a couple of cheap points in that game and I sensed an opportunity.

"Roger has played a lot of tennis over the last couple of days and I believed if I could get that third set I would be the fitter player in the end."

The match swung dramatically when Hewitt broke Federer's serve in the ninth game of the third set.

The set subsequently went to a tiebreaker, which Hewitt claimed 7 points to 4.

That energised Hewitt and the home crowd with the Swiss taking a prolonged break between sets to treat tired legs before returning to the court.

"I just had heavy legs and I just wanted to get them back to order, it worked better after that," said the reigning Wimbledon champion.

Hewitt made the running in the fourth set, breaking Federer in the sixth game when the Swiss sent a forehand long.

Dementieva on a roll

AFP, Shanghai

Top seed Elena Dementieva of Russia defeated second seed Chanda Rubin of the United States 6-3, 7-6 Sunday to win the 585,000-dollar WTA Shanghai Polo Open.

The win gave the 22-year-old Moscow native her second-straight WTA singles title in a week and her third of the 2003 season, her powerful and consistent forehand proving no match for her opponent.

Victory did not come easily for Dementieva, who a week ago thrashed Rubin in Bali, Indonesia 6-2, 6-1, and had to fend off a stiff challenge in the second set by the 27-year-old.

Record-breaking Radcliffe's Run

AFP, Newcastle

Britain's Paula Radcliffe won the Great North Run half-marathon title here on Sunday setting a new world best performance time of 1hr 5min 40sec.

Radcliffe already holds the world record for the full marathon clocking 2hr 15min 25sec in London in April.

The 2003 female athlete of the year took control of the race around the eight kilometre mark leaving in her wake the 2001 winner Susan Chepkemei of Kenya and world 10,000m world champion Berhane Adere of Ethiopia.

She then kept up a blistering pace to finish well clear in a new world best time for the distance. Adere set a personal best to finish second with Chepkemei in third.

It was Radcliffe's third victory in as many weeks after her return from the injuries that forced her out of August's world championships in Paris.

No way back for India

AFP, Zwolle (Netherlands)

The Netherlands made no mistake in defeating India 3-0 to remain in the Davis Cup World Group here on Saturday.

French Open finalist Martin Verkerk and John Van Lottum teamed up to provide the winning point for the Dutch in the doubles defeating Rohan Bopanna and Mahesh Bhupathi 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, 6-4.

The Netherlands remain in the 16-strong World Group while India are relegated to the Asia/Oceania zone second division.

Bangladesh hit

FROM PAGE 13 Naohiko Tobita made it 3-1 when he converted a penalty corner in the 50th but Hong Kong stayed in the hunt when Ali Akhbar scored in the 51st minute.

Japan scored four goals in 11 minutes through Katayama (56), Ryuji Furusato (61, 68) and Kazayuki Ozawa (64) to take control of the match.

Hong Kong scored a consolation goal through Arif Ali who converted a penalty stroke in the 69th minute.

Eng tour prep

FROM PAGE 13 Bangladesh A (BKSP) October 21-25: First Test in Dhaka November 29-November 2: Second Test in Ctg November 5: Limited-overs match v BCB Dev Squad in Dhaka November 7: First ODI in Chittagong November 10: Second ODI (D/N) in Dhaka November 12: Third ODI (D/N) in Dhaka.

Uproar in Pakistan

FROM PAGE 13 against Bangladesh in Karachi, where the Test minnows were wrapping up a five-week tour.

Outside the match protestors waved placards reading "Please reconsider your decision" and "Sever ties with South Africa."

"Today's match is our answer to South Africa... that by pulling out of the Pakistan tour they have promoted terrorism," said Pakistan coach and former captain Javed Miandad.

He said security fears were unfounded, complaining that Pakistan had been wrongly targeted as no-go zone.

Miandad said Pakistani players were disgusted, echoing the wave of bitter disappointment across the cricket-mad Islamic republic.

"If they did not want to come they should have said so straight away, why make lame excuses?"

Another former captain, Intikhab Alam, said South Africa's own security was poor.

"It's a very unfortunate decision because the law and order situation even in South Africa is not good."

Sunday newspapers also blasted the South Africans.

The News daily called the cancellation hasty and cowardly, while Urdu newspaper Kainat accused South Africa of double standards.

"While showing lack of confidence on security in Asian countries, the South Africans forget terrorism in their own country," Kainat wrote.

"Perhaps the UCB chief should have first assessed the situation in his own country," the English-language daily Dawn wrote.

The ICC issued a statement vowing to "explore all available alternatives to see if it is possible to reschedule the tour and ... matches in Pakistan in the near future."

Former South African Test all-rounder Mike Procter, in Pakistan for the last five weeks to referee the Pakistan-Bangladesh series, said the coming two days were "very important" for negotiations.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Shaffer

ACROSS 37 European capital 1 Largest of the seven Squirrels' hideout off 5 Squirrels' hideout off 8 Where quarry out there 12 Flash Gordon foe 13 Happy-hour request 14 Despondent 15 Without pausing 17 Info unit 18 Toaster's word 19 - hands (voting method) 21 Leave out 24 Biblical verb suffix 25 Hay there 28 Chicago team 30 Pole employee 33 Hole-making tool 34 Hollers 35 Catch sight of 36 Turkish governor

Cryptogram grid with letters and numbers for a puzzle.

CRYPTOQUIP D M A S K O T X R A - R T A J Y E M K I D J E T K P P A F , S O Y A T K O E T A I K T Q A T E Q T X A F Q K L A Q Q M A P X L E R K K I . Yesterday's Cryptogram: YOU'D IMAGINE THAT FARMERS WHO GROW PEANUTS WOULD HOPE THAT THEY SHELL FAST. Today's Cryptogram Clue: P equals B The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.