

Nat'l cricket

FROM PAGE 13 that's why they haven't been able to fix the other venue. Shaheen hinted that the Bangladesh Kiria Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) could be for the other groups.

"If we cannot arrange another venue outside Dhaka then we will use the BKSP ground in Savar," he said. The four group winners will play in the semifinals in their respective venues with the final being staged at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

When asked when the final round would start, he said it would all depend on the weather. "We are still hoping to start from November 6 but if rain continues for a few more days, we might defer the date," he said.

A total of ten districts and a university have qualified for the final round through zonal qualifying rounds and they will join joint-champions of the last edition Bangladesh Biman and Rajshahi in the last phase. Following are the 13 teams according to the groups: GROUP A: Biman, Dhaka and Bogra. GROUP B: Rajshahi, Pirojpur and Comilla. GROUP C: Mymensingh, Sylhet and Jessore. GROUP D: Chittagong, American International University, Kushtia and Nilphamari.

Wicket inspires

FROM PAGE 13 in Chittagong too. Habibul Bashar, country's best batsman, is also looking for a big score in the port city after his 16th Test half-century in the first Test. "Chittagong has always been a lucky ground for me and I hope runs will flow off my bat here again," said the dashing right-hander. Bashar scored back-to-back fifties against South Africa seven months ago.

But unfortunately for the knowledgeable Chittagonians while they will be cheering the Tigers but in their hearts they will dearly miss a local hero. Chittagong has had a glorious history of producing some of the finest cricketers in the country. The last cricketer from the region to play a Test here was the now retired Akram Khan.

"It's a pity that there will be nobody in the team from Chittagong this time," said Akram, who will manage the touring Under-19 team to Pakistan.

Cricketer fans here may be pulling their hairs out but at the same time they also know there are some promising cricketers around the corner. Nafees Iqbal, captain of the Under-19 team, has already showed his qualities as an attacking opening batsman with a brilliant 118 against England in a recent practice match at the BKSP ground in Savar. Aftab Ahmed is another star in the making. The middle-order batsman narrowly missed the first Test at Dhaka. The right-hander had to be satisfied being 12th man but took a gem of a catch to end the England first innings.

India want

FROM PAGE 13 would have begun just five days later.

No venues have been decided upon yet, although the troubled cities of Karachi and Peshawar, plus Quetta, where a new stadium has been built, are all possibilities.

On their current tour, South Africa refused to play in Karachi, the scene of a number of recent bomb attacks.

They also steered clear of Peshawar, which is close to the Afghanistan border.

Pakistan's three-Test tour of India in 1999 took place despite threats from Hindu fundamentalists.

The proposed tour will be discussed further at the International Cricket Council's executive board meeting in Barbados on October 29.



Indian players celebrate the fall of Australia captain Ricky Ponting's wicket (not in picture) during their TVS Cup one-day international in Gwalior on October 26.

India's revenge

Cricket

REUTERS, Gwalior

Sachin Tendulkar struck 100 and Vangipurappu Laxman a stylish 102 as India reversed the World Cup final result by beating world champions Australia by 37 runs.

Tendulkar, whose failure against Australia in the Cup final earlier this year sealed India's fate, recorded his 35th one-day century in Sunday's TVS Cup triangular series encounter.

For Laxman, meanwhile, it was a second one-day international hundred as the pair came together for a 191-run stand, laying the foundation for India's 284 for five on a flat, slow wicket.

Australia replied with a 132-run opening partnership between Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden, the first 50 coming up in the seventh over.

But Gilchrist's departure, bowled by Zaheer Khan for an entertaining 79-ball 83 which included eight fours, sparked a top-order collapse as four wickets tumbled for nine runs. The visitors ended on 246 for nine.

Australia had retained the World Cup by thrashing India by 125 runs in Johannesburg earlier this year.

That day, Australia had amassed 359 for two, built on an unbeaten 140 by captain Ricky Ponting. Tendulkar, in reply and after a fine tournament, had made four.

Sunday was his day, however, as the 30-year-old hammered nine fours and a six in his 119-ball stay.

India had started badly, losing opener Sehwaag for a three-ball duck after stand-in captain Rahul Dravid elected to bat.

Left-arm paceman Nathan Bracken, opening the bowling in the absence of the injured Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee, had Sehwaag caught at slip off a wide delivery.

Tendulkar, though, got into his stride quickly, cutting Bracken for two fours to the point fence and then immaculately driving him down the ground.

Laxman, back in the team after being left out for the World Cup, joined in by flicking Andy Bichel through square leg and then driving Brad Williams through extra-cover.

Tendulkar, playing his 316th one-day, got to his century with a single to third man but fell two balls later when he nicked Bracken to wicketkeeper Gilchrist.

Laxman was run out by a direct hit from Andrew Symonds soon after completing a 132-ball 100 but Yuvraj Singh (44 off 33 balls) and Ajit Agarkar (22 off 11) came up with blistering cameos to improve the Indian total.

Australia were always struggling after slipping to 141 for four, with Ponting this time departing for two as 30,000 home fans celebrated by bursting firecrackers and lighting flares a day after Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

Leg-spinner Kumble was India's best bowler with figures of 10-1-28-2. Khan grabbed three wickets for 49 and occasional spinner Virender Sehwaag chipped in with two.

The opening match of the tournament between India and New Zealand had been abandoned due to rain in Madras last week.

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SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard of the day-night cricket match between India and Australia in the TVS Cup triangular one-day series on Sunday: INDIA: 284 for 5 in 50 overs (V Laxman 102, S Tendulkar 100, Y Singh 44; N Bracken 3-53)

Table with columns: AUSTRALIA, Player Name, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Gilchrist, Hayden, Bracken, etc.

Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 246

Fall of wickets: 1-132, 2-135, 3-140, 4-141, 5-176, 6-177, 7-185, 8-225, 9-229

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes Zaheer, Agarkar, Kumble, etc.

Result: India won by 37 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar.

Toss: India.

Umpires: Neil Mallender (England) and K Hariharan (India)

Next match: Australia v New Zealand, Wednesday.

SL A keep it clean

AFP, Nairobi

Sri Lanka A sealed a whitewash of their five-match one-day series when they beat Kenya by 18 runs in the final match at the Simba Union on Sunday.

Unlike the previous four matches, the final was evenly contested, with Kenya giving as much as they got from the tourists.

Sri Lanka coach Ranjit Fernando rested three of his regular players for the match and nearly paid the price as the home side staged a remarkable fightback after being set a modest target of 205.

The challenge was cut short when opener Kennedy Obuya was run out for a brilliant 94 off 91 deliveries having shared a 55-run first wicket stand with Ravindu Shah.

Nuwan Zosya should prove his place in the senior team after returning the best bowling figures in the series. He captured two more wickets on Sunday to bring his total tally to nine.

Sugiyama lifts Linz crown

REUTERS, Linz

Second seed Ai Sugiyama of Japan defeated a nervous Nadia Petrova 7-5, 6-4 to win the \$585,000 Linz WTA tournament on Sunday.

The 28-year-old dominated her young Russian opponent from the start, pressurising the fourth seed into repeated errors to win her second tournament of 2003.

The 21-year-old Russian, who appeared on edge throughout her first WTA Tour final, briefly rallied to level the score after trailing 5-3 in the first set but Sugiyama then won four games in a row to snatch the first set and take a decisive lead in the second.

Kuerten wins

AFP, Saint Petersburg

Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil beat Armenia's Sargis Sargsian in straight sets to win the one-million-dollar Saint Petersburg Open ATP event on Sunday.

The former French Open champion, who claimed his 18th career title at Auckland in January, defeated 30-year-old veteran Sargsian 6-4, 6-3 to record his third win in as many head-to-head meetings.

Sargsian, who grabbed his first and still the only career title at Newport in 1997, played cautiously from the start, trying to avoid unnecessary risks.

But third seed Kuerten, currently 19th in the ATP Champions' Race, managed however to break his opponent's serve early in the opening set to gain a comfortable 4-1 lead.

Eng spin

FROM PAGE 13

Wasim Raja for using foul language during an angry confrontation with batsman Mushfiqur Rahman during the fourth afternoon.

Fletcher has confirmed he has spoken to Clarke and all the squad about the need to control their emotions in the middle, particularly as the International Cricket Council are cracking down on player behaviour, having handed out numerous bans in recent weeks.

"We were handed the document at the start of play on the final day and we told Rikki we would try and sort it out afterwards because I didn't want him to think about it much," explained Fletcher.

"I watched him and he just got on with the game."

"The players were reminded before we started but this was just something that happened. The guys behaved well and controlled themselves well it was just an outburst probably caused by frustration."

The three points lifts Hertha off the bottom of the German top-flight, with Hansa replacing them, and completed the first part of Steven's two-match ultimatum.

"We turned up today and deserved to win," said a relieved Stevens.

"I hope this result will help turn things around. The situation here should not be about me but Hertha Berlin football club."

Elsewhere, Klaus Toppmoller endured a rollercoaster ride on his return to the Bundesliga after an eight-month hiatus with SV Hamburg surrendering a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 with Schalke 04 at the AOL-Arena.

A capacity 55,500 crowd watched on in anguish as Hamburg went two goals ahead through a Bernardo Romeo brace only for Edi Glieder to score a last-gasp equaliser for Schalke.

"What annoys me is that the team were not composed on the ball," Hitzfeld said.

"When you are leading you need to let the ball do the work."

At the opposite end of the table Hertha Berlin coach Huub Stevens lives to fight another day as Hertha recorded their first victory of the season, triumphing 1-0 over Hansa Rostock at the Ostseestadion.

Brazilian World Cup winner Luizao scored the decisive goal on the half hour mark with an outrageous nutmeg through ball from Fredi Bobic sending the Samba star clear to score.

Inspired by the Sharks

Cricket

REUTERS, Faisalabad

The performance of the Sharks rugby union team in the Currie Cup helped to inspire South Africa's Shaun Pollock to one of his best bowling performances against Pakistan on Sunday.

The 30-year-old bowler took six wickets for 78 to bring South Africa back into the second Test and said the performance of the Sharks, who reached the South African Currie Cup final on Saturday, had been a factor.

"Yeah the Sharks inspired me to perform. I follow their performances very passionately," he told this news agency.

The Sharks are from Durban, Pollock's home city, and qualified for the final of the South African Currie Cup by beating Western Province

28-25.

Pollock said he also had fond memories of the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad where he took five for 37 in 1997 to bowl South Africa to their only Test win in Pakistan.

"I even chose to bowl from the same wicket-taking end in this Test and the pitch looks to be similar to what we played on here last time."

"I feel confident about bowling on this ground. You know you have done it before. It has a bit more bounce and some pace in it and it helped me work out my leg cutters and bouncers very well."

Pollock's effort helped South Africa to bowl out Pakistan for 348 on Sunday after they had been 237-2 overnight.

"We knew we had to come out and strike early to get back into the game as we were staring down the barrel of defeat. The boys also backed very well and we came through," Pollock said.

Pollock said he felt the batsmen would have to be positive and lay a foundation for victory when they came out to bat on Monday.

"It is no use thinking about what is enough. We have to win this match to save the series and we just have to be positive and apply pressure on them," he said.



SHAUN POLLOCK

Fish ends drought

Tennis

REUTERS, Stockholm

American Marty Fish finally won his first ATP title on Sunday as he beat Swedish wild card Robin Soderling 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 at the Stockholm Open.

It was an emotional win for the fifth seed, who lost three straight finals earlier during the year.

"It is a little bit (of a relief)," Fish said. "If I had lost four finals this year, I probably would have started second-guessing myself."

The 19-year-old Soderling, cheered on by his home crowd, came back from a break down in the second set to level the match following some uninspiring play by the American.

"It felt like a Davis Cup match, but they also clapped for me," Fish said. "I love to play in that kind of atmosphere."

"I think I heard one or two people screaming 'Mardy'." "I felt in control up to my 2-0 lead in the second set, I felt I was cruising and that it was probably going to be over in two sets."

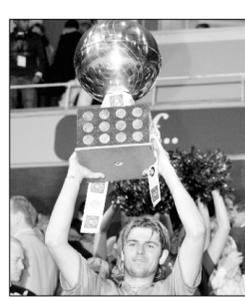
"I couldn't tell what happened then. He handled my serve better than anyone else here, and I had only been broken once before during the entire tournament."

"I don't know if I was passive, I didn't lose games, it felt like he won them. He had me on my heels and he made me play one of my best matches this year."

Fish tired in the deciding set but survived thanks to his phenomenal serve and 17 aces. Soderling contributed with some basic mistakes, wasting a 2-0 lead in the tie-break

with a wide forehand. "I did rely a lot on my serve. That's what I do when I play," Fish said.

Fish went 4-2 up with a cross-



MARDY FISH

court forehand pass and then held his serve for 6-3. Soderling saved a match point before Fish clinched the tie-break 7-4.

"It feels a little bitter, having lost after coming this close," Soderling said. "But after some time... I think I will be content with this week."

The win put 21-year-old Fish, a childhood friend of Andy Roddick, into the top 20 of the ATP's entry rankings system for the first time of his career.

Fish, who next plays in Paris, said he was already working on his goals for next season. "Winning more tournaments, a Masters Series tournament and finishing in the top ten is what I'm looking at. I'm still pretty young for the game of tennis."

Barca win

FROM PAGE 16

club and got the visitors' second strike after 58 minutes.

Espanyol then played the final 13 minutes with only nine men after goalkeeper Erwin Lemmens was sent off for bringing down Juanfran in the area.

Mostovoi put away the resulting penalty and Jandro Castro added Celta's fourth just before the whistle.

Albacete joined Espanyol and Mallorca in the relegation zone after their 3-2 loss at Real Betis, who move up to fifth.

Mikel Aguirre headed Albacete ahead after just 11 minutes but two goals in four minutes from Tote Lopez and Fernando Fernandez, just before the break, restored their home side's advantage.

Betis then went further ahead through Jesus Capitan after 51 minutes although Libero Parri later clawed one back for Albacete with a free kick.

At the other end of the table, Valencia lost their unbeaten record and the league leadership to Deportivo La Coruna after going down 2-1 on Saturday.

"These three points could mean a lot by the time we get to the end of the season. This has been a good week, with us taking over the lead both in our Champions League group and the league," said a highly-satisfied Deportivo coach Javier Irueta.

The victory took Deportivo to the top of the table with 21 points. Real Madrid overtook Valencia to go second, on the basis of having scored more goals following a 3-1 victory over Racing Santander earlier on Saturday, with both teams having 19 points and the same goal difference.

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Clijsters back on top

AFP, Luxembourg

Belgian Kim Clijsters reclaimed the world number one spot following a straight sets win over American Chanda Rubin at the 192,852 euro WTA tournament here on Sunday.

One week after losing the top ranking to compatriot Justine Henin-Hardenne, Clijsters was back in the driving seat despite a hesitant 6-2, 7-5 win over Rubin which gave her a fourth Luxembourg and 18th career title.

Shevchenko

FROM PAGE 16

Ciro Ferrara but Baggio's spot-kick was saved by Gianluigi Buffon.

Seconds later, Brescia were made to pay when seconds later Pavel Nedved unleashed a spectacular volley after being set up by Trezeguet and Gianluca Zambrotta.

Trezeguet added the vital second goal in the 57th minute, but the Italian side was back in the driving seat when he headed in a pass from Mauro German Camoraneri.

"This wasn't really an easy match for us and the penalty save of Buffon was, in my opinion, just as important as Nedved's goal," said Juventus coach Marcello Lippi.

"We created plenty of chances and hardly risked anything at the back. The rotation of the squad is to ensure that everyone is a part of Joves season."

Parma are fourth after a 3-0 home win against Modena while Lazio, beaten by Chelsea in the Champions League, bounced back with a 2-1 win at home to Bologna.

They are now fifth, one point behind Parma on 13 points but they needed a last minute goal from Bernardo Corradi to secure the three points after Osmane Dabo's own goal gave Bologna a sight of a point soon after substitute Simone Inzaghi had put the Romans in front.

"It would not have been right to share the points after this performance," said Lazio coach Roberto Mancini.

"Bologna were never dangerous and we deserved the victory."

Meanwhile, Alberto Zaccaroni's first game in charge at Inter since replacing Hector Cuper ended in a 0-0 stalemate at home to AS Roma -- a result which keeps Inter in ninth place.

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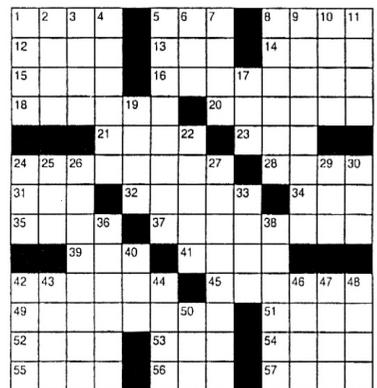
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 34 Evening hour, in old Rome 35 Hardly hirsute 37 Stiletto, e.g. 39 Child's perch, in verse 41 Fourth dimension 42 Loafer, e.g. 45 Tailoring item 49 Elegant existence 51 Barrie buccaneer 52 Algerian port 53 Born Cook novel 54 Actress Heche 55 Glazier's sheet Always, poet-ically 57 Garden invader 1 Founda-tions 2 Help a hood 3 Follow vitamins 5 Book between Ezra and Esther 6 Parisian pal 7 Elmer's expression 8 Shooting star 9 Idle 10 Drudge figure 11 26- Down's home 17 With it 19 Shape (peevd) 24 Center 25 401(k) 26 Skipper's little buddy 27 MIT grad 29 Chart format 30 Have something 33 Sigher's expression 36 "Frasier" role 38 Bray 40 D.C. figure 42 Buy stuff 43 Italian pre-euro coin 44 Baseball team 46 Finishd 47 Uninvitor 48 Scratch-ed (out) 50 Retainer



CRYPTOQUIP U T X I Z W Z F O X I A X F T Z K Z K U X X A A B B A T, G U B Q Y H A T G I J T X ' H Y G J X A B X Z A O B Q I H W Z J X . Saturday's Cryptquip: IF A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY BROKE THE LAW, DO YOU THINK HE WOULD GET COLLARED? Today's Cryptquip Clue: A equals T The Cryptquip 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.

Bayer regain lead

FROM PAGE 16

Two goals from Iranian international Vahid Hashemian and a strike from old boy Sunday Oliseh, on loan from Dortmund, condemned the 2002 champions to a heavy defeat after Sebastian Kehl had been issued his marching orders on 32 minutes for elbowing Thomas Zdebel.

"The sending off was silly," said Dortmund coach Matthias Sammer. "Perhaps it should have been yellow but a lot of things went wrong today."

It was a costly loss for Dortmund with other title contenders Werder Bremen winning 4-2 away to SC Freiburg and champions Bayern Munich running out 4-1 winners over Kaiserslautern Saturday at the Olympic Stadium.

Sebastian Deisler opened the floodgates for Bayern after just 60 seconds with his cross deceiving all to rocket into the net.

The German international added his second later on while in-form Dutchman Roy Makaay also bagged a brace in Bavaria.

Despite the scoreline Bayern chief Ottmar Hitzfeld was frustrated by the performance of the reigning champions.

"What annoys me is that the team were not composed on the ball," Hitzfeld said. "When you are leading you need to

Magnificent Henry

FROM PAGE 16

Ljungberg and Dennis Bergkamp starting in place of Edu and Sylvain Wilton.