

AWF annual sports today

SPORTS REPORTER

The annual sports of the Autism Welfare Foundation (AWF) will be held today at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. The competition will start at 10am.

Renowned sports personality Kazi Abdul Alim will distribute prizes as chief guest.

The foundation has been working for education and training of autistic children.

T&T earn full points

BDNEWS, Dhaka

T&T Club defeated Bangladesh Boys Club 1-0 in the Second Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur on Thursday.

Tushar netted the all-important goal in the 18th minute.

In the day's other match, Sadharan Bima shared points in a 1-1 draw with Kadamtala Sangsad at the same venue.

Bashir put Bima ahead in the 15th minute while Titu levelled the margin for Kadamtala in the 64th minute.

Hingis reaches last four

AFP, Melbourne

Former world No. 1 Martina Hingis continued her professional comeback Thursday with a win in the quarterfinals of the Australian women's hardcourt tournament, but was undecided on whether a similar return to the circuit by former world No. 4 Helena Dokic could succeed.

Hingis, 25, retired due to injury three years ago but has made her most determined comeback to the game at the Gold Coast tournament where she Thursday wiped out Spain's Nuria Llagostera Vives 6-2, 4-6, 6-0.

The five-time Grand Slam champion will also play in the Sydney International later this month before taking a wild card entry into the Australian Open, which begins in Melbourne on January 16.

Gunners fear Henry departure

AFP, London

Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood revealed Thursday that he fears French striker Thierry Henry will leave Highbury at the end of the season.

The 28-year-old Gunners' star is out of contract in 2007 and has been linked with a move to Barcelona.

The club are anxious to keep the Frenchman but he has so far been unwilling to discuss a new deal.

Hill-Wood told the Daily Star: "At the back of my mind there is a fear he will decide to go.

"I have no evidence other than maybe I have been here too many times before with players and become cynical.

"I'm realistic enough to know that if he wanted to go he would and there is nothing we could do about it."

Henry joined Arsenal from Juventus in 1999.

BU-MSC 2nd

FROM PAGE 16

Mohammedan is always tough.

"We have not played well in absence of the top players for national duty but it is also true that they were tired when we got them back. The extra day's rest would help them recover before the semifinal," said Amer.

Both sides are free of injury and suspension problems and are expected to field four Africa-based booters each.

Indo-Pak series

FROM PAGE 16

When asked whether India would target in-form Pakistani fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, Dravid said his team must look at the opposition as a team rather than as individuals.

"Any bowler who is doing well is an asset to the team and one cannot target one or two players," he said. "Anyone in form is going to add value to your side and we need to look at them as a team rather than as individuals."

India won both the Test and one-day series on their previous tour of Pakistan in 2004. The following year, Pakistan drew a three-Test series 1-1 in India before winning the one-dayers 4-2.

SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag (vice-captain), Gautam Gambhir, Wasim Jaffer, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Sourav Ganguly, Mahendra Dhoni, Parthiv Patel, Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Ajit Agarkar, Rudra Pratap Singh, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh.

Manager: Raj Singh Dungarpur.

Coach: Greg Chappell.

'Beware of reverse swing'



CRICINFO, undated

Former Pakistan fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz feels that one of his innovations could be the deciding factor in the upcoming India-Pakistan Test series.

Sarfraz, one of the key exponents of the art of reverse swing, believes that this classic art gives Pakistan the edge over India.

"It is not only shining the ball on one side that makes the difference but players must also realise that using the crease is very important. The Indian bowlers haven't learnt how to use the crease," Sarfraz told DNA, a Mumbai-based daily.

"Teams tend to start off well but then there is a sudden collapse and that is what often proves to be the difference between winning and losing."

Sarfraz added that in Pakistani conditions, late swinging yorkers have the potential to undo the best

of starts, and under the ICC's new ruling -- which allows a bowler to bend his arm upto 15 degrees -- this will prove decisive to those who can master reverse swing. "You can cock your wrist before you release the delivery, you will get better curve in the air," Sarfraz said.

Sarfraz also felt that the new rule made it easier for Shoaib Akhtar to utilise his slower delivery as opposed to India's bowlers. "From bowling a delivery at 150 to get it down to the low 90s is a result of a lot of practice. Otherwise, it's not really a wicket-taking delivery," he said. "In the case of the Indian medium-pacers, the variation is not that big."

On Shoaib, he had a word of caution though: "I think if he has really shortened his run-up, it will finish his career. I met Bob Woolmer around a week back and asked him why he was trying to shorten Shoaib's run-up and I was told his long run-up consumes too much time... So I said, 'Ask Shoaib to walk faster but don't shorten his run-up.' They need to realise that with a shorter run-up to get up to high

speed he will have to put in a lot more effort. The momentum will be lacking."

Commenting on India's batting, Sarfraz said Pakistan still had the edge over them. "It's easy to get them out. The bowler needs to go wide of the crease and angle the ball in," he said. "When (Virender) Sehwag tries to drive the ball, more often than not, there is a gap between bat and pad. Pakistan needs to exploit this gap. A similar line will work for Sachin (Tendulkar) as well."

Sarfraz also shared his views on Irfan Pathan, the spearhead of India's bowling attack. "Irfan Pathan is doing very, very well. I don't think he should try to bowl faster or anything like that. If he tries too many things, he will lose the qualities he possesses right now," he said. "He is using the new ball very well. Rahul Dravid needs to be careful not to use him like a work-horse. He is batting for long periods and then coming out and bowling long spells. He should not be over-used."

NATO planes for WC surveillance?

REUTERS, Berlin

Germany is preparing a request to NATO to provide AWACS surveillance aircraft to patrol its airspace during this year's soccer World Cup, an interior ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble has asked the defence ministry to draw up a formal request to NATO to supply the aircraft, part of a huge security operation to protect the month-long tournament from terrorist attack, the spokesman said.

NATO's fleet of E-3A AWACS planes has been regularly deployed in Europe to boost security at major public and sporting events, including the Euro 2004 soccer championship in Portugal and the Athens Olympics later that year.

Three E-3As equipped with AWACS, which stands for Airborne Warning and Control System, can provide complete coverage of central Europe, detecting hostile aircraft and directing fighter planes to intercept them.

Mourinho at Tussaud's

AFP, Lisbon

Chelsea's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho said Wednesday he does not expect a waxwork effigy of himself which went on display in Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London last month to last long.

"I am in the museum but I won't stay there very long. Except for royalty and major historical figures, everyone there goes out of fashion," he told sports daily A Bola.

He said former England international footballer Gary Lineker told him his wax replica was removed once he stopped scoring goals and Mourinho's could expect the same fate.

"So the day I stop winning matches what can happen is they will sell me the dummy at a low price," he told the newspaper.

Mourinho said he agreed to have the replica made and put on display because he sees the replica of himself as representing Chelsea and because the museum is visited by thousands of Portuguese visitors each week.

He is the first football manager to take his place alongside the museum's motley collection of murderers and villains, royalty and showbiz stars.

Agassi out of Aussie Open

BBC ONLINE, undated

Four-time champion Andre Agassi has announced his withdrawal from this year's Australian Open after failing to recover from an ankle injury.

The 35-year-old American sprained his ankle in October and aggravated the problem when he attempted to play in November's Masters Cup.

Agassi's withdrawal is a blow to organisers of the Melbourne showpiece, with defending champion Marat Safin and world number two Rafael Nadal both struggling to be fit for the 16 January tournament.

Neville taunts Blues



INTERNET, undated

Manchester United defender Gary Neville has taunted Chelsea by suggesting that their current side will eventually break up.

The England international concedes it will be near impossible to catch The Blues this season, as Jose Mourinho's side sit 13 points clear of United at the summit of the Premiership table.

Despite Chelsea's current grip on England's top flight, Neville insists that the West Londoners' dominance will not last forever, claiming Mourinho and his players will want to test themselves with some of Europe's big clubs.

"You can't tell me that their players and manager will not want to go to some of the European super clubs in the next few years,"

Neville claimed.

"Chelsea are looking formidable, almost uncatchable. But I disagree with those people who say they can't see an end in sight."

"I can. Why do you think the



GARY NEVILLE

Porto team broke up after they won the European Cup in 2004 or they won the league title in 1995.

"Chelsea have the resources to pay top wages, but the best players and managers will want to prove themselves at the Nou Camp, the Bernabeu, Old Trafford or the San Siro.

"I think our manager summed it up pretty well when he said that their consistency was incredible, but he did not think that Chelsea had raised the level of performance.

"It is not like watching Barcelona, who can look unplayable.

"But they have a solidity and level of defensive work, which is impressive.

"You can't argue with 19 wins out of 21."

DOHS unstoppable

FROM PAGE 16

Tapash Baisya, Nabil Samad, Mohammad Rafique and Ashiqur Rahman.

Al-Shahriar then whipped his way to 45 and skipper Mohammad Ashraf hit an unbeaten 55 as Sonargaon reached 136-2 in 31 overs.

**KALABAGAN-INDIRAROAD** Kalabagan thrived on healthy contributions from the top-order including half centuries by Mithu (53) and Nahidul Haq (55) to post a massive 285-6 -- the highest innings total in the ninth round.

Indira Road, in their chase, were all out for 236 in 46.5 overs with Golam Maala notching highest 53.

SCORES IN BRIEF

**OLD DOHS:** 264-6 in 50 overs (Tikolo 87, Shahin 44, Akram 42, Manjarul 40, Mahmud 25 n.o., extras 18; Mosharrar: 3-56, Russel: 2-28).

**BIMAN:** 223 all out in 46.4 overs (

Mushfiqur 70, Sazzad 59, Kabir 53, extras 13; Mahmud: 2-34, Sabbir 2-21, Tikolo 2-21).

**Result: DOHS won by 41 runs.**

**ABAHANI:** 203 all out in 43.3 overs (Imran 63, Jahurul 48, Foysal 37, extras 29; Sakib: 5-31, Polash 1-33, Kamrul 1-33).

**VICTORIA:** 202 all out in 49.5 overs (Jaffer 47, Sagor 36, Sakib 28, Mabud 28, extras 8; Dharmasena 3-41, Foysal: 2-33, Ahsanullah 2-42).

**Result: Abahani won by 1 run.**

**ORIENT:** 186-9 in 50 overs (Majharul 64 n.o., Tamim 38, Masumuddoula 25, Nayan 11, extras 21; Ziaur 5-23).

**BROTHERS:** 190-4 in 41.4 overs (Rashed 60 n.o., Nafees 56, Ehsanul 33, Suhrawardi 25, extras 11; Aminul 2-35).

**Result: Brothers won by 6 wickets.**

**KALABAGAN:** 285-6 in 50 overs (Nahidul 55 n.o., Karim 53, Uttam 43, Arman 34, Kamrul 31, extras 23;

Mithun 3-36, Mowla 2-58).

**INDIRA ROAD:** 236 all out in 46.5 overs (Mowla 53, Rajesh 42, Zahid 35, extras 19; Nahidul 3-26, Saiful 2-39, Fahim 2-52).

**Result: Kalabagan won by 49 runs.**

**CITY CLUB:** 187-9 in 50 overs (Shahriar 69, Sirajullah 32, Taibu 21, Kamrul 20; Shabbir 4-20).

**MOHAMMEDAN:** 188-1 in 37.5 overs (Hannan 99 n.o., Sharma 48, Shamsur 19 n.o., extras 22; Rabiul 1-40).

**Result: Mohammedan won by 9 wickets.**

**AGRANI BANK:** 133 all out in 42 overs (Towhid 32, Rasel 30 n.o., Rizwan 22, extras 20; Nabil: 3-27, Ashiqur 2-18).

**SONARGAON:** 136 for 2 in 31 overs (Ashraf 55 n.o., Al-Shahriar 45, Manvinder 21 n.o.; Sumon 1-28, Rasel 1-11).

**Result: Sonargaon won by 8 wickets.**

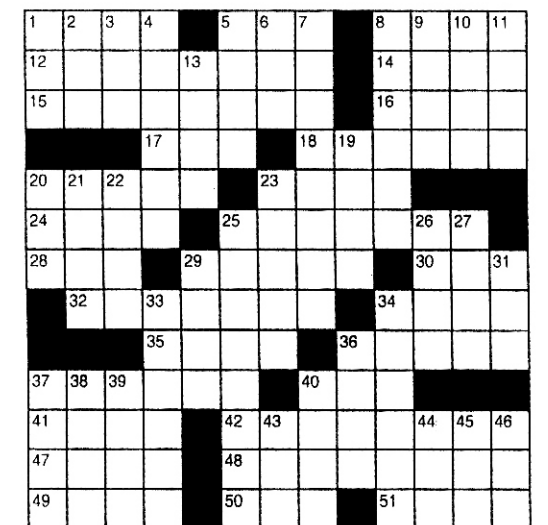
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** 35 Early time 5 Distant one 8 Offish one 12 First State 14 Staffer 15 Listless despondency 16 Broadway flasher 17 Cacophony one 18 Extreme frugality 20 Work in a refinery 23 Roll-call reply 24 Put on the payroll 25 Mrs. Bob Hope 28 Chang's brother 29 Succeeds in business 30 Anonymous John 32 Wheeled platforms 34 Be worthy of

**DOWN** 1 Do something? 21 Behave 22 Therefore 24 mins. 20 That girl 21 Behave 22 Therefore

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

A	P	E	D	A	N	Y	J	A	M
L	E	A	R	M	O	V	E	A	L
A	N	N	A	D	E	B	I	B	E
M	R	S	A	S	H				
A	P	L	E	T	S	E	A	W	A
C	A	R	O	L	A	D	A	G	E
E	L	E	V	E	N	F	L	A	G
E	T	A	R	E	D				
A	J	A	R	M	O	R	A	M	S
C	A	R	W	E	B	S	E	P	I
T	I	W	A	L	O	I	A	S	E
S	L	Y	D	V	E	S	M	O	N



CRYPTOQUIP

S E W G N T L U I Y G Z I C Q  
W G N X Q G A G X M L Y Y G L  
Q S E E I X I C Y U I Y . Z G H I H S A T Y

M L K K S Y L X I - E N X X L K .  
Saturday's Cryptquip: BUSY HUB IN THE BIG APPIE WHERE FOLKS TRADE FOOTWEAR ALL DAY: NEW YORK SOCK EXCHANGE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals L. 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.