

South Asian Archery begins

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian archers swept all the medals of the two women's events held on the opening day of the First South Asian Archery Championships at the BKSP yesterday.

Sushma won gold medals in the 60 and 70 metre events while her teammates Sumanga and Dola settled for silver and bronze in both events.

Earlier, Foreign Minister M Moshed Khan declared the four-day meet open as chief guest.

A total of 36 archers from India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and hosts Bangladesh are taking part in the meet.

Nat'l women's chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The Camelia 27th National Women's Chess Championship got underway yesterday with upsets as defending champion Shamima Akhter Liza and International Woman Master Rani Hamid both lost in the opening round.

Woman FIDE Master Tanima Parveen shocked Liza while Shamim Sultana Shirin beat veteran Rani Hamid at the BCF hall-room.

Nazrana Khan Eva also collected full points defeating Kishwara Shajrin Evana while the remaining three matches ended in draws.

Golfer Siddique off to India

SPORTS REPORTER

Golfer Md Siddique Rahman, popular in the circuit as Siddique, left Dhaka last Sunday to avail of a luxury not many Bangladeshis have the opportunity to do often. He is the defending champion of the All-India Amateur Championships, a feat he earned last year in the tournament's 104th meet.

The 105th meet is taking place from February 7-15.

Siddique's most recent international acquisition has been the championship trophy of the 118th Sri Lanka Open held from 25-28 January. He played level par.

Siddique of Kurmitola Golf Club also reigns as the champion of the SAARC Amateur held at Kandy and the 2nd Nepal Amateur Open, both held last year. 2005 had been good to him, as he picked up the champion's trophy in the Bangladesh Amateur (playing four under) and the runner-up prize of the Pakistan National Championships.

In 2004 Siddique won the 1st Nepal Amateur Open.

The absolute consistency in Siddique's game has made him the number one ranked amateur golfer in the region, no mean feat for anybody.

Prithul keeps hosts alive

SPORTS REPORTER

Henry Prithul Mondol kept Bangladesh's hopes alive for glory in the Dhaka Bank 20th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis when he reached the boys' doubles semifinal yesterday pairing with his lucky chum Huang Hsuehchung of Taipei.

Prithul and Huang, who lifted the doubles crown in the BKSP version of the international meet last month, eliminated Kandan Kiei (Philippines) and second seed Rungat Christopher of Indonesia 6-2, 7-5 in the quarterfinals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

The boys' and girls' semifinals (singles and doubles) will be held today.

Lee Hsin Han faces Ceban Achim and Rungat Peng Hsien Yin in the boys' semis while Budharto Aris takes on Shin Jung-Yoon and Silfany Vivien is pitted against Russian wild-card entry Kamenskaya Viktoriya in the girls' last four battles.

Dhaka, Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 12
DHAKA: 180-4 in 32.5 overs (Uttam 52, Shahrar 49, Opee 22, Riyad 19 n.o., Mashrafe 1-29, Zia 1-47, Shahin 2-40).
Result: Dhaka won by six wickets.
RAJSHAH: 273-7 in 50 overs (Jahurul 52, Forhad 34, Rosel 62, Naem 36, Mushfiq 34 n.o., extras 25, Rashed 1-54, Sajju 3-42, Faisal 1-29).

CHITTAGONG: 258 all out in 49.3 overs (Ehsanul 23, Faisal 82, Dhiman 76, Shafaq 3-36, Forhad 1-38, Shahjada 1-60, Mushfiq 1-54, Farhad Hossain 1-24).
Result: Rajshahi won by 15 runs.
BARISAL: 302-5 in 50 overs (Imran 94, Hannan 53, Humayun 63, Nadif 27, Ayub 20, extras 42, Hasibul 3-65, Monirul 1-56, Tushar 1-37, Imtiaz 1-24).

SYLHET: 193-9 in 50 overs (Rahman 36, Mawla 66 n.o., Rana 24, Anis 3-16, Nadif 1-32, Ayub 1-20, Humayun 3-15).
Result: Barisal won by 109 runs.



PHOTO: AFP
Egypt forward Amr Zaki celebrates his strike against Senegal in the African Nations Cup semifinal in Cairo on Tuesday.

Pharaohs in final

REUTERS, Cairo

Egypt overcame a tantrum from top striker Mido and escaped what appeared to be a clear injury-time penalty against them to beat Senegal 2-1 in their African Nations Cup semifinal on Tuesday.

The hosts will face Ivory Coast in Friday's final after Didier Drogba's third goal of the tournament gave the Elephants a 1-0 win over Nigeria in the other match.

Amr Zaki headed Egypt's winner in the 81st minute, scoring with his first touch of the ball after replacing Mido.

But Senegal were furious when Diomansy Kamara appeared to be tripped by Ibrahim Said as he charged into the penalty area in injury-time.

At first, referee Divine Evehe of Cameroon appeared to point to the penalty spot and the Senegalese substitutes jumped off the bench celebrating.

But the official then signalled a goalkick.

"Of course, we were robbed," said Kamara. "It was a clear penalty, you can look at the pictures. The referee has to whistle for it, the rule is the same for everyone whether it is at home or away."

"African football officials have

to take another look at the African game because Europeans are going to laugh at us if the refereeing is like that," said striker El Hadji Diouf.

Mido, who made a negligible contribution as he returned from injury, was involved in a furious altercation with coach Hassan Shehata on the touchline as he was taken off.

He had to be restrained by two teammates as the argument threatened to turn into physical aggression.

But as he left the stadium two hours later after being chosen for the doping test, Mido implied that his coach had been right.

"They (Egypt) had a lot of chances after I was substituted," he told Reuters. "I hope we can win the final, it's very important for us."

Egypt's assistant coach Shawki Gharib sidestepped questions about whether Mido, who plays for Tottenham Hotspur, would face disciplinary action or be allowed to play in the final.

"The Egypt team does not just mean Mido," he said.

Amy Faye had two good chances early on as Senegal took early control of the match.

He forced Egypt goalkeeper Essam El Hadary to rush out of his goal to clear the danger as he burst through the defence, then missed the post by centimetres with a long-range free kick.

But Egypt went ahead in the

36th minute when Ahmed Hassan converted a twice-taken penalty after Frederic Mendy punched the ball away in the penalty area.

The second half began dramatically as Mohamed Aboutrika hit the bar with a dipping shot before Mamadou Niang levelled in the 51st minute, heading home Lamine Diatta's long cross from the right.

The other semifinal produced limited opportunities for both teams.

Ivory Coast striker Drogba broke the deadlock two minutes into the second half when he beat the offside trap to turn onto a deep pass from Kolo Toure and hit the ball through the legs of Nigerian goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama.

Nigeria brought on Jay-Jay Okocha after conceding the goal, the first appearance in the tournament for their captain, who had been suffering with a thigh injury.

Okocha had two opportunities from free kicks, the first saved by Jean-Jacques Tizie. A long range effort also went narrowly wide in the 63rd minute.

But the Bolton Wanderers playmaker could not find any decisive passes for a Nigeria attack that was generally starved of the ball and found the Ivorian centre back, pairing of Toure and Abdoulaye Meite hard to penetrate.

Nigeria will play Senegal in Thursday's third place playoff match in Cairo.

Theft rocks Nigeria camp

AFP, Alexandria

Thieves have raided the Nigeria team's hotel rooms, stealing thousands of dollars in cash and personal belongings.

Marseille midfielder Wilson Oruma has reported 6,000 dollars stolen while Enyimba goalkeeper Dele Aiyenuga said he was missing 2,500 dollars.

Other players reported phone sets and other personal belongings taken.

Nigeria team official Bello Osagie confirmed the incident at the Hilton Green Plaza Hotel where the team stayed for their African Nations Cup semifinal clash against Ivory Coast on Tuesday.

"The matter is now being handled by the police," said Osagie.

Nigeria will tackle Senegal in Thursday's third-place match in Cairo after both teams lost their semifinals to Ivory Coast and Egypt, respectively.

Monaco knocked out of League Cup

AFP, Paris

Monaco, already smarting after being knocked out of the French Cup by amateurs Colmar, saw their hopes of landing the League Cup dashed when they lost 1-0 to Nice in Tuesday's semifinal.

The former Champions League finalists were undone by an 89th minute header from Nice's Brazilian midfielder Ederson shortly after he had come on as a replacement for Marama Vahirua.

"This is a huge disappointment, a moment of sadness for us," said Monaco coach Francesco Guidolin who will now be pinning his hopes on compensation in the UEFA Cup.

Nice's reward is a date in the final against the winner of Wednesday's semi between Nancy and Le Mans.

Monaco's hopes of lifting the French Cup were shelved last week by fifth division Colmar.

Aside from the UEFA Cup Monaco will now be concentrating on securing automatic qualification to Europe next season and that looks an uphill struggle as they're lying only eighth in the league, ten points off second place which guarantees an automatic Champions League spot and currently occupied by Bordeaux.

S Africa names WC venues

AFP, Cape Town

South Africa will host the 2010 World Cup at 10 venues, deputy sports minister Gert Oosthuizen announced here.

He said Johannesburg (Soccer City and Ellis Park), Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Nelspruit, Polokwane, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria and Rustenberg would stage matches in the quadrennial showpiece.

Kimberley and Orkney were dropped from the original short list after visits to the 11 candidate cities by officials from world football governing body FIFA.

The final of the four-week tournament is expected to be played at Soccer City, an 80,000-seat stadium on the outskirts of Johannesburg which is among five stadiums scheduled for refurbishment.

Germany hosts the 2006 World Cup in June and July and South Africa will be the first African hosts of a competition that began in Uruguay 76 years ago.

ICC did not warn him?

PTI, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday clarified that it has not issued any warning to Indian coach Greg Chappell for making any comments on Shoaib Akhtar's action, as was quoted in some media reports in Pakistan.

"I have seen those reports as well, they are quoting an unknown PCB official all I could say that this has not happened, we have not done that actually what has been suggested," ICC, General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Brenden McClements told ESPN.

A Pakistani Newspaper quoted a PCB official saying the ICC has apparently warned Greg Chappell to refrain from making any comment on the bowling action of Pakistani paceman Shoaib Akhtar or face disciplinary action.

Pakistan have

FROM PAGE 12
The Indians, on the other hand, took it easy for the day, a holiday here because of Muharram, after having travelled from Peshawar by road yesterday and reaching here in the evening in time to attend the High Tea hosted by Indian High Commissioner Shivshanker Menon at his residence.

Team Media Manager GS Walia said the team was given an off day as the members had travelled yesterday and were tired.

Turkey deplore FIFA ban

Football
REUTERS, Istanbul

Turkish media responded angrily on Wednesday to Turkey being ordered to play their next six home matches abroad and behind closed doors, saying it reflected political hostility to their country in Europe.

The sanctions imposed by soccer's governing body FIFA followed a brawl after a qualifier against Switzerland in Istanbul that ended Turkey's hopes of reaching the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Turkey has vowed to appeal against the ruling, which the country's sports minister described as politically motivated.

"A clash of civilisations," said a headline in the Islamic-leaning Yeni Safak newspaper.

"The increasing political hostility in Europe is reflected in the decisions of FIFA's disciplinary committee."

Swiss media said Turkey had been let off lightly -- there had been speculation the team could be banned from the 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign after the violent scenes.

Mass daily "Blick" said: "Verdict

is ridiculously soft."

The sanctions, which apply to official matches and not friendlies, are among the most severe handed out to a national association and Turkish papers said they unfairly punished fans.

In effect they mean Turkey must play their entire qualification programme for the 2008 European championship abroad. They are with European champions Greece, Norway, Bosnia, Hungary, Moldova and Malta in qualifying Group C.

"What is the spectator's crime? An unjust punishment from FIFA," the daily Sabah newspaper said in a front-page headline.

The paper published FIFA's phone and fax numbers and called on readers to send a protest letter to FIFA president Sepp Blatter, providing a sample letter in English. Blatter is Swiss.

"It is clear that you don't like to see our country in Switzerland at Euro 2008 but I am sure we will succeed in qualifying for the finals. We will be there," the letter said.

FIFA banned two Turkish players, Alpay Ozal and Emre Belozoglu, for six matches and Switzerland's Benjamin Huggel who admitted kicking Turkish assistant coach Mehmet Ozdilek.

Turkey were also fined 200,000 Swiss francs (\$154,200). A number of other players and officials from both teams received fines and suspensions.

"FIFA did not see the tears in our eyes. We were nearly expelled," said a headline in Milliyet newspaper.

Turkey's football federation said it would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"I describe this decision as unacceptable. This is a political decision rather than a sports decision," Turkey's sports minister Mehmet Ali Sahin told NTV news channel.

Switzerland won November's two-legged playoff to qualify for the Cup starting in June. Swiss media said Turkey had got what it deserved but many felt the punishment had not been tough enough.

"Fifa: Soft verdict against aggressive Turks," said mass daily "20 Minuten" on its front page.

Geneva daily Le Temps wrote in an editorial that the decision was a masquerade because it implied that only two Turkish players were involved and made Huggel as guilty as them even though he was only reacting to a kick from Streller.

Ricky wants new ODI rules to be scrapped

Cricket
AFP, Sydney

Australian captain Ricky Ponting has called for one-day cricket's experimental rules to be scrapped in time for next year's World Cup.

Ponting, who earlier this week was voted Australia's best-performing cricketer over the last year, said there was nothing to lose by reverting to the old system.

"I don't think there's anything lost by going back," he told BBC Sport. "We'll keep trying and making the best of it but I'd like to see us going back to 11 against 11 for the World Cup."

The trial of super-sub and powerplay rules will be reviewed

by the International Cricket Council at the end of March.

The super-sub rule allows teams to substitute any player with a 12th man, who can bat and bowl rather than just taking his place in the field.

Several players have said it makes more sense for the sub to be nominated once a team knows whether it will bat or bowl first.

Ponting said the current version of the rule is impractical if a side does not select an all-rounder as a super-sub.

He cited the game against Sri Lanka in Perth on 29 January, when bowler Brett Dorey was Australia's 12th man. Australia lost the toss and were made to bowl first, which effectively ended Dorey's involvement.

"He goes out of the game and you're playing 11 against 12," said

Ponting, who said he also wanted to see a change to powerplays.

Under current rules, the bowling team is forced to field nine players, including the bowler and wicketkeeper, inside a 30-yard circle for two five-over blocks after the first 15 overs.

Previously, fielding restrictions were only in place for the first 15 overs.

"We've used the powerplays in a couple of different ways but generally you try to get them out of the way as soon as you can," Ponting was quoted as saying.

"The reason powerplays were brought in was because everyone thought the game was a bit boring between overs 15 and 40. The powerplays aren't even being used then at the moment so that doesn't really make much sense."

From Plate to Cup

FROM PAGE 12

to a comfortable victory after the bowlers had set the platform. But I'm really disappointed with the top order that failed for a second time," Faruque told the Daily Star Sport over phone from Colombo.

The former national captain, however, was excited with the fact that Bangladesh for the first time qualified in the upper stage of the competition.

"It was not unexpected given their success in the last seven months but no doubt it was a big achievement for an extraordinary batch which has the ability to win matches consistently," said an elated Faruque.

"The boys came into this tournament as one of the favourites and so far they have proved that it was not a fluke and I can only assure you that boys are ready for further challenges. They have the rare quality to avoid complacency after winning any matches," he added.

"We are not thinking about our quarterfinal match rather we are looking forward to beat Uganda in the last group match tomorrow to maintain the winning run," he said.

Mansoor Rana, the Pakistan

coach, praised Bangladeshi spinners but he also blamed his batsmen for playing too many shots.

"Their four spinners bowled well, but obviously I would blame my whole batting side for playing unnecessary shots. Sometimes we try to be perfectionists and that is wrong. The boys will go away, think about this, and try to put things right against New Zealand, which we know is now a vital game," said Rana to Cricinfo.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN U-19s		Bangladesh U-19s	
Nasir c Nabil b Sakib	37	Tamim c Sarfraz b Jamshed	18
Ali c Dallar b Sakib	20	Raqibul b Jamshed	27
Jamshed c Kamrul b Sakib	10	Sakib run out (Riaz Kall)	25
Ibrahim c Shamsur b Saqib	5	Shamsur c Sarfraz b Akhtar	5
Asad b Mehrab	38	Mehrab c Ali b Anwar	17
Laeeq c Dallar b Nabil	1	Mushfiq c Asad b Akhtar	46
Sarfraz c Kamrul b Mehrab	14	Mehdi not out	10
Riaz c Dallar b Shuvo	12	Shuvo not out	0
Anwar lbw b Shuvo	10	Extras: (lb-2, w-18, nb-3)	23
Imad run out (Shamsur/Mushfiq)	1	Total: (For 6 wickets in 34.5 overs)	171
		Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-68, 3-86, 4-88, 5-119, 6-170.	

Bowler		O M R W		
Jamshed	10	0	53	2
Anwar	7	0	30	1
Akhtar	7.5	0	42	2
Alli	4	1	17	0
Imad	4	0	23	0
Laeeq	2	0	4	0
Result: Bangladesh won by four wickets.				
Man-of-the-match: Sakib Ali-Hasan.				

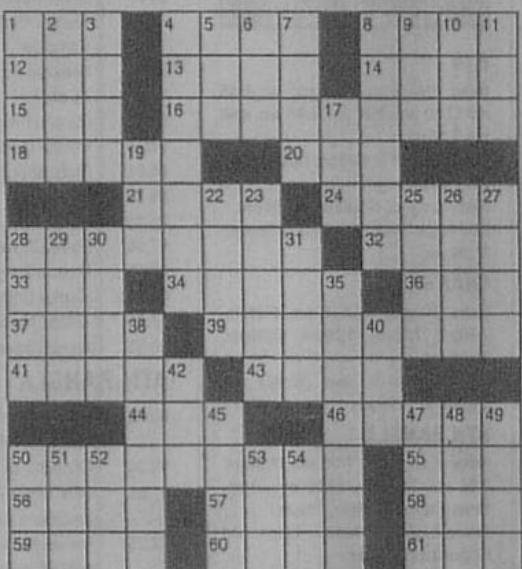
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
44 Witness
46 Figure
50 Russian
55 "CSI"
58 Drag
59 "Hud"
60 Agts.
61 Tee
62 Formerly
63 Instruct
64 Facial
65 Hodge-podge
66 Emmet
67 and
68 Moulton
69 Bando
70 Stop
71 Pizza
72 topping
73 Beach
74 blanket?
75 Unembalished

DOWN
4 Security devices
5 "Skip to My—"
6 Office
7 Lap dog, evidence
8 Hi-fi
9 Tin Man's
10 Impresario
11 Letterman list starter
12 Sound of Music
13 Top-notch
14 Mah-jongg
15 Performance
16 Cantaloupe
17 Small rug
18 Complain
19 Trawler
20 Formerly
21 Formerly
22 Con job
23 Play a
24 Instruct
25 Facial
26 Hodge-podge
27 Actress
28 Sail
29 Golden rule
30 Do a
31 Facility
32 Horror movie
33 Mexican cactus
34 Roulette
35 Writer
36 Biscaglia
37 Between jobs
38 Responsibility
39 Periodicals, briefly
40 Calendar
41 Luau
42 Mme., across the
43 Pyrenees
44 Incessant
45 Gratitude

Solution time: 21 mins.

LEGS CLAD CB
ATOM HYPE ALL
CATAPULTS TOT
CAME IMAGE
TACKRY ANALE
ALB GASTRO (W)
AOT PILES (G)
SEAWATER (EURO)
MANY GLENN
BWANA SCAB
OAR CATATONIA
AVA HIES WORM
TIEN EMMA STEP



CRYPTOQUIP
LO ZUP KUB'Y JTZ YUU
XPVG OUN VTNBLQTC ETXFD.
YGF B L DPJJUFD ZUP'QF
EUYFFB T OTLN KFTC.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT I MIGHT HAVE TO RELOCATE. I EXPECT THAT I'D BE A MOVING EXPERIENCE.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals O
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.

Shoaib to play in 2nd ODI

Cricket
REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar will play in the second one-day international against India after being rested for the first under a rotation policy, the team's captain said on Wednesday.

"He has had a slight niggle with his ankle but it would not have prevented him from playing," captain Inzamamul Haq told Reuters. "We rested him because we feel we need to keep all our players in prime condition until the World Cup."

"Shoaib had a hard test series against India on unhelpful tracks and we wanted to give him a long break of a week or so. But he will play in the second match," Inzamam said.

The second match is on Feb. 11 in Rawalpindi. The home side won the first game in Peshawar.

Inzamam said every player, including himself, would be rested when possible under the rotation

policy and that reserve players would be given a chance.

"Basically we have around 18 to 20 players in mind for the World Cup and we want to try out this rotation policy with them," Inzamam said. "It is important that not only are our top players properly fit for the World Cup but also that the bench players get enough chance to play at the top level and keep in tune."

Pakistan has previously avoided rotating players, while other countries have employed the system. Australia rested captain Ricky Ponting for games of the VB series against South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Inzamam, who had to miss the final Test against India in Karachi due to a chronic back problem, said he wanted to include reserve players in the first 11 in the ongoing series against India.

"I would like to see Faisal Iqbal, Umar Gul, Imran Farhat, Arshad Khan get proper games in this series. It is important for us to build up our bench strength," he said.

But the Pakistan skipper conceded the team still had a problem at opener and that he was also

looking for a stand-by wicketkeeper.

"We have tried Shoaib Malik in the Tests and wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal in