



Chief guest Mohammad Hanif, Mayor of Dhaka, addressing the gathering on the occasion of the lucky draw for the second The Daily Star World Cup Quiz competition at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday. Sitting on his right are: Ralph van Lotringen from Philips, Eindhoven, A S Mahmud, Chairman, Transcom Electronics Ltd — the sponsors of the quiz — Azimur Rahman, Chairman of Mediaworld Ltd., the holding company of The Daily Star, and editor of the newspaper Mahfuz Anam.

DMFA Cup without Mohammedans

Sports Reporter This year's DMFA Cup could well be without holders Mohammedan Sporting Club.

In a counter move of the ongoing tussle between the organisers Dhaka Metropolis Football Association and local football giants Mohammedans over a proposed change in schedule, the DMFA yesterday did their part of explaining its position in no uncertain terms.

In a letter directed to Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, the DMFA conveyed its inability to defer the schedule of the second round of the meet, billed for May 6 beginning.

Mohammedans, one of the traditional favourites for the curtain-raising meet of the '94 domestic football season had previously asked for a 21-day deferment on grounds of inadequate time for preparation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Anwarul Haq Helal, treasurer of the newly elected executive body of Mohammedan Sporting Club alluded to the schedule as too early for the club to field a team. "We cannot get our players in shape in such a short period of time. I do not understand how the other teams sounded game for DMFA's hasty plans," said the quiet official.

When reminded of DMFA secretary's reaction over the club's petition, Helal quipped "fixtue is immaterial. It can be changed any time last minute changes have been done before."

Kazi Mishu, general secretary of the DMFA accused Mohammedans of silence when the fixture was being made.

Mohammedans, one of the two popular clubs of the country had their representative in the fixture committee of the meet scheduled so far, to begin from April 27.

In a rather ominous forecast Helal said, "If DMFA does not relent I am afraid, we have to stay out of the meet. We just cannot, that's it."

Kiwis arrive in England

LONDON, Apr 24: England have lost their last four Test series in a row, to Pakistan, India, Australia and the West Indies. Now it's New Zealand's turn to make it five, reports AP.

But when the squad of 16 New Zealand players assembled in London Sunday to begin preparations for a three-Test tour, it wasn't so much a march into town as a limp.

"We have had a speight of injuries," said cricket manager Geoff Howarth. "The knee seems to be the popular injury this time."

He revealed that all-rounder Chris Cairns has been left behind with a torn knee ligament that will put him out of action for three months, and that paceman Danny Morrison already is doubtful because of a groin strain.

"To lose him wouldn't be disastrous but would be a big loss," Howarth said.

Then there is Martin Crowe, star of a 1980s revival

in New Zealand cricket, who has been sidelined for the past four months after knee surgery.

"He's not going to be 100 per cent for the rest of his career," Howarth said of 31-year-old Crowe, whose highest Test score is 299 against Sri Lanka.

"He's got a chronic knee injury. He's been out for four months and we really don't know how good he is right now. He's going to find that out over the first few weeks of the tour," Howarth said.

"But he won't have come on tour if he didn't think he could do the team justice. "His re-emergence in the team will be, I believe, very beneficial to the team's confidence and run-scoring."

Ken Rutherford replaced Crowe as team captain after the knee injury setback but New Zealand were crushed twice by Australia in his first two Tests in charge.

He will lead the team again with Gavin Larsen named vice-

captain even though the 31-year-old all-rounder has not yet played a Test.

The New Zealanders will play Tests at Trent Bridge, Lord's and Old Trafford after one-day international games at Edgbaston and Lord's.

The squad is a mixture of massive experience and relatively untried youth.

Left-hander Mark Greatbatch, who scored a century on his Test debut in 1986 against England, has made it despite rocky recent form and the squad only has one full-time spin bowler, 21-year-old left-arm Matthew Hart.

"It's a young and inexperienced team but we believe it will develop into a good one," Howarth said.

Rutherford believed the England and New Zealand teams were evenly matched.

"I think we're ranked side by side around fifth, sixth or seventh," Rutherford said.

"The England team has points to prove (after recent defeats), so have our guys."

Three office cricket ties today

Sports Reporter

With time's winged chariot hurrying near the back of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), over the possession of the Dhaka Stadium, office cricket league, launched for the first time is in for a hectic schedule today.

Three matches including one semifinal of the Cup phase are billed for the day with at least one match certain to be played under the flood-lights.

Press Club will take on Grindlays Bank in a quarterfinal tie of the Plate competition.

Scheduled to start from 9 in the morning, the match has to see minimum 20 overs from cash side for a result.

The unfinished Biman-IFIC match, a quarter-final engagement of the Cup phase, which fell through on April 20 because of inclement weather will be next in line for a logical completion at the busy Dhaka Stadium ground.

IFIC batted first and could make 131 for six wickets from their quota of 25 overs. Biman began their quest for the necessary 132 runs and were quite soundly placed at 40 for one in six overs when rain came down.

The winners of this contest will then be rather unfairly forced into action in a day for a Cup semifinal clash with Techvalley.

Office cricket league which has been suffering inter-ruptions right from the onset is bracing for a pressing finish because of the imminent.

DMFA Cup football tournament which too, according to a time-hallowed practice will be held at the Dhaka Stadium from April 27.

So it is time to hurry up for cricket.

Tanima shakes off company

Sports Reporter

Tanima Parvin of Chittagong took the solo lead in the 15th national women's chess championship when she beat Afsana Parvin in the seventh round at National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Tanima who shared the lead with Afsana's elder sister Shabana Parvin in the sixth round, played with white pieces adopting Queen Pawn opening to corner her opponent in the 34th move to earn highest six points.

Shabana Parvin of BTMC shared points with last year's champion Zakia Sultana when their seventh round match ended in a draw after the 44th move. It was Shabana's second successive draw that left her in the second position with five and a half points.

Afroza Khanam stayed at the third position with five points. In this round Afroza playing with white pieces stranded her opponent Nurunnahar Begum in a no-go situation at the 39th move to post her second consecutive victory.

International Women's Master Rani Hamid smarting under her dismal start registered her third win, second in a row when she subdued her opponent Jahanara Haq Runu in the 58th move. Rani who shared the fourth place with Zakia Sultana, both collecting four and a half points, adopted the Sicilian defence with her black pieces to coin the contest.

Meanwhile, first round of the 20th national chess championship will begin on May 8, said a BCF press release issued yesterday.

Curtain falls on World Championships Scherbo, Miller rule supreme

BRISBANE, Apr 24: Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus and American Shannon Miller remain on top of the world.

Scherbo won two gold medals on the final day of the World Championships on Sunday to finish with a total of three golds and a bronze for the championship, reports AP.

Miller collected her second gold by winning the women's beam, adding that title to the all-around gold medal she won on Friday.

Scherbo, winner of six gold medals at the Barcelona Olympics and three at last year's World Championships in Birmingham, England, added the vault and horizontal bar titles to the floor exercise gold he won on Saturday night.

The 22-year-old from Minsk scored 9.674 points

after vaulting second in the eight-man final. None of his rivals was able to match that total.

Li Xiaoshuang of China finished second with 9.618 points and Yeo Hong-Chul of South Korea was third with 9.600.

Scherbo then rounded off the championship by winning the horizontal bar final with 9.687 points, ahead of Zoltan Supola of Hungary (9.537) and his Belarus teammate Ivan Ivankov (9.500). American Chayney Umphrey was fourth.

Ivankov dethroned Scherbo as all-around champion on Thursday night, but Scherbo rebounded impressively from that setback.

Miller collected her second gold when she won the women's balance beam event with a total of 9.875. She had fallen in the final last year.

Miller's composed, fluid

routine gave her a clear lead over silver medalist Lilia Podkopyayeva of Ukraine, who scored 9.737, and bronze medalist Oxana Fabricnova of Russia, who scored 9.712.

Lavinia Milosovici of Romania, who said she was aiming for gold medals in all four women's individual events, finished fifth behind teammate Nadia Hategan, while American Dominique Dawes was sixth.

Miller's triumph continued a remarkable return from injury for the 17-year-old from Edmond, Okla, who missed two weeks of training in early March after straining stomach muscles.

Miller could not, however, gain a third gold medal in the women's floor exercise.

Dina Kochetkova of Russia, the last competitor to perform, won with 9.850 ahead of Milosovici (9.837) and vault gold medalist Gina Gogean of Romania (9.762). Miller finished fourth with 9.687.

Huang Liping of China won the men's parallel bars title with a total of 9.775. Rustam Charipov of Ukraine won the silver with 9.612, ahead of Alexei Nemov of Russia (9.575).

Beaming Chinese gymnast Li Luo lit up the World Championships with the highest score of the tournament to win the women's uneven bars gold medal here on Saturday night.

The petite 17-year-old, competing in her first World Championships, crowned victory with a majestic routine on the bars to earn a top scoring 9.912 points to carry off Asia's first gold of the meet.

L Luo went into Saturday's final as the leading qualifier with 9.900 but blew away her opponents with a mesmerising routine capped by a rock-steady dismount to claim the title.

She left minor medalists, Russians Svetlana Chorkina (9.875) and Dina Kochetkova (9.850) in her wake.

Li, weighing just 40 kilos, went into the World Championships having won on the bars in last year's East Asian Games.

The elfin Chinese took centre stage after six-time Barcelona Olympic gold medalist Vitaly Scherbo broke through for his first gold medal of the championships with an imperious victory on the floor exercise.



Belarus gymnast Vitaly Scherbo proudly hoists his vaulting trophy after winning the gold medal on the final day of the World Gymnastics Championships in Brisbane yesterday.

Moorer's night of the viking

LAS VEGAS, Apr 24: Michael Moorer's trainer was trying everything in the battle for his fighter's fragile heart and mind in the dressing room before the biggest fight of his career, even gangster rap and vikings, reports Reuter.

"I hate that stuff (gangster rap), but I wanted to keep him up, so I told someone to go out and get the boom box," Teddy Atlas said, on Saturday, after Moorer upset Evander Holyfield to win the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation heavyweight titles in an upset, majority decision after 12 rounds.

"I tried to keep it moving in the dressing room. I wanted to stay next to him. I wanted him to know he wasn't alone," said Atlas, who went through 7-1/2 gruelling weeks of often confrontational times with his temperamental fighter in training camp.

Atlas also tried to keep things moving in the fight. He said he thought Moorer was "making a silent contract" to do just enough to keep Holyfield away from him, and "I didn't want to go along and see the fighter lose."

So after the eighth round, Atlas jumped into the ring and sat on his fighter's stool.

"If you don't want to win this fight, I want to win this fight," Atlas screamed at Moorer. "You can go get me

some water. You don't want to fight, you can stay here and I'll go and fight."

Atlas, 37, said he thought he had embarrassed Moorer.

"All I know is I wasn't going to get up until he responded," Atlas said on Saturday.

"Do you want to fight?" Atlas asked.

"Yes," Moorer, 26, said, and Atlas let his fighter sit down.

Although Moorer lost the next round on all three of the judges' scorecards, he remained aggressive for the rest of the fight to win crucial rounds.

Moorer, who has had more than a few problems keeping his emotions in check in or outside the ring, paid tribute to Atlas the morning after the fight.

"Teddy has helped a lot. Teddy worked my ass off for 7-1/2 weeks. I did things I probably would have gotten away with before," said Moorer, known for a quick temper that several times has gotten him in trouble with police.

"I said you're a viking tonight." He likes to be thinking he's that. I told him not everyone gets a chance to be a viking and you're going to be a viking," Atlas said.

Atlas said he told Moorer in training camp that Holyfield was ready to be beaten, and showed him tapes that Atlas said showed Holyfield getting older.

Holyfield's corner was criticised, especially for not having

its usual top-notch cutman.

"I wouldn't want to have to keep my mouth shut to take swabs out of my mouth," Atlas said on Saturday.

Holyfield's manager, Shelly Finkel, said he would protest the result of the fight because one of the judges, Jerry Roth scored the second round even, despite Holyfield knocking down Moorer in that round. The other judges scored it 10-9 for Moorer.

If Roth had done the same, Holyfield, who earned 12 million dollars, would have retained his titles on a majority draw.

"But the protest does not take away from what Michael Moorer did," said Finkel, who said Holyfield had spent the night in the hospital with an injured shoulder and being treated for dehydration. Holyfield took six stitches to close a cut that had opened up near his eye in the fifth round. Finkel said Holyfield, 31, would not decide whether to continue fighting until he reviewed the video tape of Friday's fight.

Holyfield, now 30-2, had agreed to fight World Boxing Council champion Lennox Lewis in September to unify the title.

Moorer, who earned 5 million dollars, is expected to take at least one other fight in order to make a big payday before risking his title against Lewis.

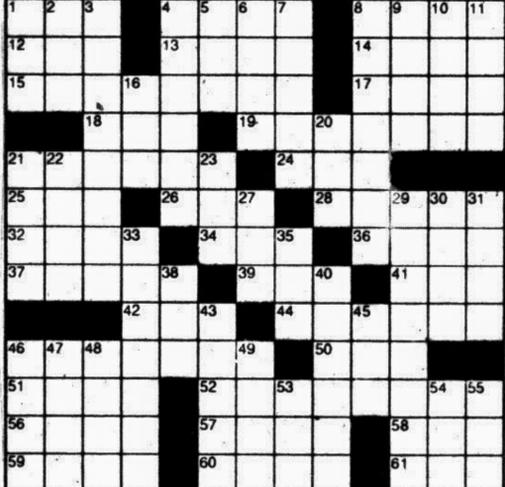


German tennis star Boris Becker (R) and his wife Barbara enjoy a funny moment as they watch a German First Division soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and Nuremberg on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 46 Marathon-er Frank 1 Lob's path 4 Urge on 8 Encrust 12 Featherly wrap 13 Therefore 14 Met melody 15 Spaghetti strainer 17 'I Remember Mama' boy 18 Salamander 19 Far 21 Legendary Yankee 24 Round Table address 25 Up in years 26 Run up the phone bill 28 Access — Laurie 32 Impale 34 Fun 'n' games; for short 36 Kelly's possum 37 More irate 39 Guy's date 41 More (Sp.) 42 Adjust the soundtrack 44 Procession

Downs 2 Aussie kopper 3 His days are numbered 4 With tenderness 5 California fort 6 On in years 7 Rock's frequent costar 8 Magic spell 9 Neighbor-hood 10 See 57 Across 11 Bridge position Solution time: 23 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

EXK EGF DXQ YQDQAO APASBFD'F YGOOBGSQ JUJFJGPPK FDAOYK? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GLUM JEWELER WHO RAN OFF AND JOINED THE CIRCUS IS NOW RINGMASTER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals M

The Cryptoquip 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.