

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Berti Vogts (German football coach) 'England can rejoice. Klinsmann won't be able to play.' Expressing his misery over the striker's possible absence in today's Euro '96 match.

WHIZZKID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZKID competition-43 Tick the Correct Answers

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options. Questions include: 1. The fastest woman of the 1995 Madras SAF Games is... 2. Sprinter Owen Torrence is the current Olympic champion in... 3. The captain of the Croatian football team in the Euro '96 is... 4. Bangladesh Rifles have won the premier volleyball league title... 5. The surname of English cricket umpire Dickie Bird is...

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any):

Kamsky narrows the gap

ELISTA, Russia, June 25: US challenger Gata Kamsky on Monday beat Russian titleholder Anatoly Karpov in the 10th game of the FIDE World Chess Championship being held in Elista (Kalmyk Republic), reports AFP. Kamsky reduced the gap and Karpov is now leading by 6.5 points 3.5 points at mid-match. The young American resident, 22, complicated the mid-game with the white pieces to win this game in 59 moves. The 11th of the 20 scheduled games will be played on Wednesday.

Maradona the master miser!

BUENOS AIRES, June 25: Six reporters who were shot and wounded with an air rifle by Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona in 1994, rejected his offer of a total of 10,000 dollars in compensation, La Prensa newspaper said on Monday, reports Reuters. The reporters' lawyer, Marcelo Bermolen, said the offer was ridiculously small. This just shows Maradona not only shot the victims but on top of that he is making fun of them. The sum offered is laughable because it doesn't have any bearing on the damage caused. It doesn't cover the moral damage or economic costs, nor the costs of investigation, transport and communications," Bermolen said. Maradona's lawyers are asking that the former Argentina captain be put on probation for firing on journalists camped outside his mansion in February 1994. He was filmed on television crouching behind a Mercedes and aiming at the camera during the wild incident, which occurred after he was dismissed by local First Division team Newell's Old Boys after repeatedly failing to turn up to practice. A state prosecutor requested that Maradona - currently playing for Boca Juniors - be jailed for four years.

FINA breaks Foschi's heart

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 25: American swimmer Jessica Foschi has had a two-year drug ban reimposed, the International swimming federation (FINA) said on Monday, reports Reuters. Foschi tested positive for the anabolic steroid mesterolone metabolite at the US summer nationals in Pasadena, California, last August. FINA said in a statement its executive board met last Friday to review the case and decided to suspend Foschi for two years from August 4, 1995, the date of the test.

Football league Minister signals ray of hope

Sports Reporter Obaidul Qader, the newly appointed state minister for youth, sports and culture, has assured footballers that he would take every possible measure to begin the football league this year. The minister said this when a group of local booters.

Eves' age-group swimming

Sports Reporter The inter-divisional age-group women's swimming competition, organised by the Bangladesh Womens Sports Association, got underway at the Dhanmondi Swimming Complex yesterday.

On the inaugural day of the two-day meet, Narayanjan established their supremacy claiming highest seven golds out of the 18 events decided on the day. Comilla got four, Rajbari three while Manikganj and Rajshahi evenly shared the remaining four golds.

The tourney which includes four age groups, features 48 nautants from six districts.

Chess camp

Sports Reporter headed by Football Players Welfare Association (BFFWA) convener Shaiful Islam Manik, met him at the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday. The minister also listened very carefully the problems of the country's football was facing at present.

Talking to this correspondent last night, Manik said, "The minister has assured us about the league which is our main demand now. Basing on his (the minister) word, the under-19 footballers, who had boycotted their camp in support of our demand, will resume training from tomorrow."

"The federation (BFF) has called a meeting tomorrow (Wednesday). We are waiting for a positive decision," Manik added.

Meanwhile, the minister took over his charge as the new NSC chairman yesterday. On assuming his responsibility, the minister had a meeting with the NSC officials at the conference room.

Addressing the officials, the minister asked all concerned officials to take necessary steps for beginning the football league immediately. The min-

Open TT

Sports Reporter Ruma and Saleha from Narail, Tumpa from Rajshahi and Jimmy from Gaibandha moved into the girls' singles semifinals in the Open table tennis tournament '96 which resumed at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday under the auspices of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Players Association.

In the quarterfinals, Ruma eliminated Sumi of Gaibandha 21-16, 21-18; while her teammate Saleha defeated Moonmoon, also from Gaibandha, 21-14, 21-19. Tumpa beat Ratna of Jessore 21-17, 14-21, 21-12; and Jimmy outplayed Bonny of Narail 21-17, 21-15.

Following are yesterday's other results: Boy's singles: Babu (individual) beat Islam (Rangpur) 21-10, 21-10; Goutam (Biman) beat Sena (Lalmonirhat) 21-12, 21-16; Edison (Biman) beat Shimul (Dinajpur) 21-8, 21-6; Mahir (Khulna) beat Shamim (Rangpur) 21-18, 21-19; Mamun (Gaibandha) beat Zia (Khulna) 21-9, 21-9; Zico (Motijheel High School) beat Jewel (Dhaka) 20-22, 21-15, 21-15; Jewel (individual) beat Shahed (individual), Mamun (Gaibandha) beat Masum (individual) 21-11, 21-16; and Jewel (individual) beat Babu (individual) 21-8, 21-18.

The first phase of the training, involving selected players from Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions, will be held from July 15-16 while the second phase featuring the remaining three divisions of the country will begin from July 30.

Bird bids bye to cricket

LONDON, June 25: Dickie Bird, the world's best known cricket umpire, left the International arena on Monday with tears in his eyes at the end of the drawn Test between England and India at Lord's, reports Reuters.

The 63-year-old Bird, who began his 66-Test career in 1937, was given a police escort from the field as he made his way back to the pavilion with the giant screen at Lord's reading "Dickie Bird 66 retired".

"I'll never forget this last week as long as I live," Bird said afterwards. "I'll miss the buzz of international cricket, the build-up to Tests, and being so involved. It's been my life."

Although the Test ended as a draw Bird was in the thick of it from the start on Thursday. A gritty rearguard action led by Ronnie Irani and Jack Russell at Lord's enabled England to hold on to their 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

The draw proved costly. England's bowlers were seven over the required rate during the Indian innings and they were fined 45 per cent of their match fee by referee Cammie Smith. India dominated the morning session and gave themselves a real chance of squaring the series as they took four wickets for just 57 runs to Tests, and being so involved. It's been my life."

But the afternoon belonged to the English middle and late order as Irani and Russell joined forces to frustrate the Indians with a stubborn seventh wicket partnership of 60. Irani, playing in his second Test, made an accomplished 41 before playing on to Paras Mhambrey, but once he was gone Chris Lewis went into add 46 with Russell for the eighth wicket and, effectively, the match was saved.

"We've had more steel in our side over the last couple of years," England captain Mike Atherton said. "We had the worst of conditions to bat in at both the start and the end. I think it was a good effort to come out of it with a draw."

"We stuck it out well, we are becoming more difficult to beat, and we are more competitive."

When Atherton declared on 278 for nine at 5.20 pm, stumps were drawn on the match and also on the 23-year international impairing career of Dickie Bird who left the field in tears at the end of his 66th and final Test match.

The Indians will rue the lost opportunity of forcing a win to level the series after England's success in the first Test at Edgbaston.

Their opening bowlers Jayasingh and Venkatesh Prasad were again outstanding during the morning, obtaining

enough bounce and movement to trouble all the England batsmen.

Alec Stewart, who on Sunday evening had staked his claim for a place in the side for the third Test at Trent Bridge but it came at a heavy price as they were fined 14,300 pounds (21,980 dollars) for bowling their overs too slowly, reports Reuters.

Graham Thorpe was next to go for 21, caught brilliantly at short leg by Vikram Rathore off a ball which leaped off the pitch from leg-spinner Anil Kumble.

Graeme Hick hit one magnificent four before edging a fine rising delivery from Prasad to Naywan Mongia behind the stumps to be out for six, and only nightwatchman Peter Martin looked capable of stopping the tourists in their tracks.

He carved out a stubborn 23 while recognised batsmen floundered at the other end but finally fell just before lunch, nudging a ball from Prasad to Rathore at second slip.

That, though, was the cue for Irani, Russell and Lewis to provide some late resistance.

Russell, who made a flowing 124 in the first innings, was in his more familiar dogged self

second time around and made 38 in a manner reminiscent of his match-saving partnership with Atherton against South Africa in Johannesburg in December.

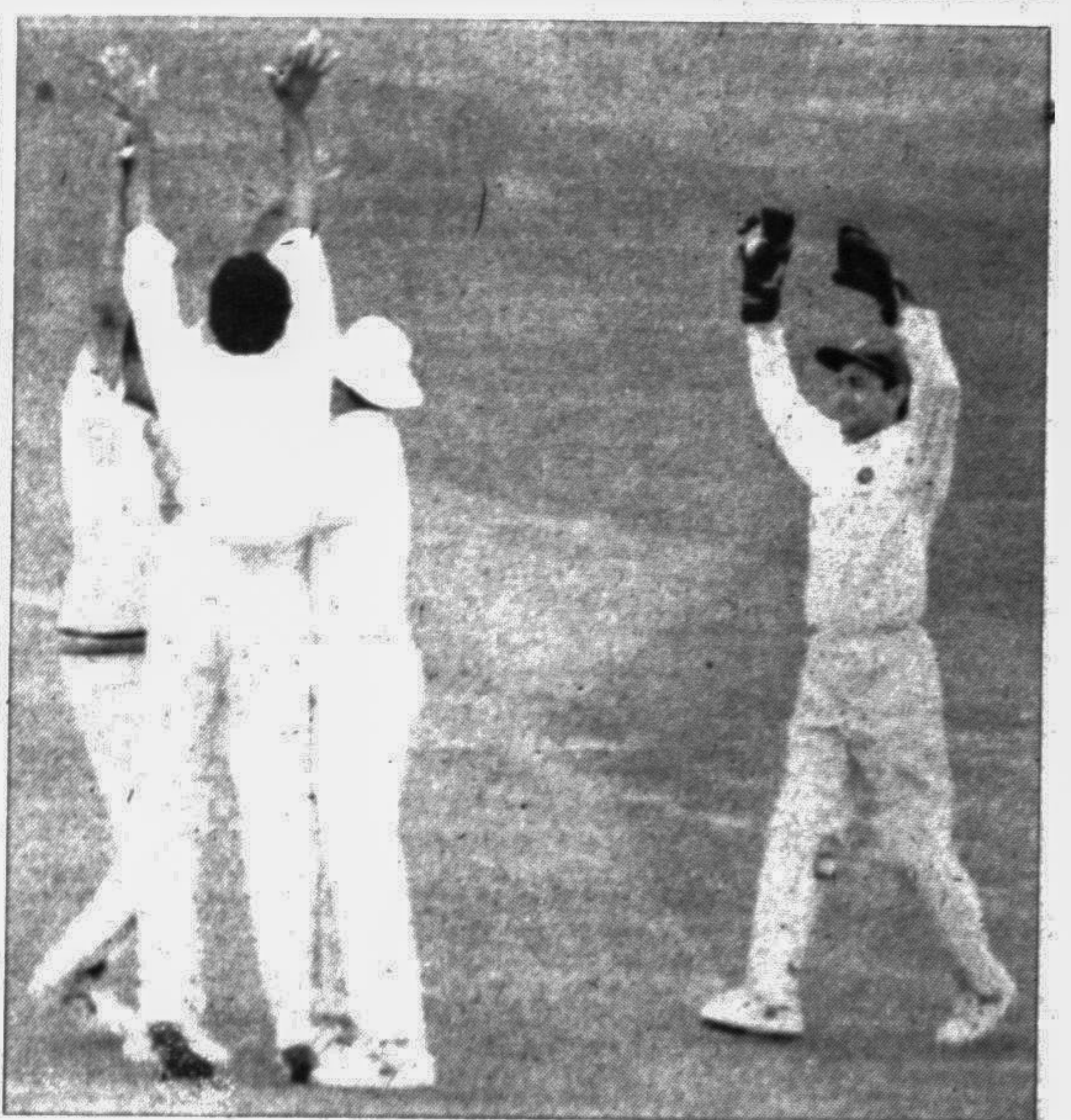
He survived one confident shout for a bat-pad catch off Kumble and a painful blow in the midriff but he battled on with his inelegant, unorthodox but highly effective style.

He was finally dismissed by Saurav Ganguly who completed a thoroughly convincing Test debut, which saw him make 131 in the Indian innings, by having man-of-the-match Russell bow.

By then it was too late to matter and, although Dominic Cork became a third victim for leg-spinner Anil Kumble, Chris Lewis, with 26 not out, and Alan Mullally took England to 278 for nine before Atherton declared and the match ended as a draw.

The third and final Test starts at Trent Bridge on July 4.

SCOREBOARD Board on the final day of the second cricket Test between England and India at Lord's Monday: ENGLAND: First Innings 344 (G Russell 124, G Thorpe 89, V Prasad 5-76) INDIA: First Innings 429 (S Ganguly 131, R Dravid 95) ENGLAND: Second Innings (overnight 113-2) Atherton b Kumble 17 Stewart b Srinath 65 Hussain c Dravid b Srinath 26 Maric c Rathore b Prasad 23 Cork c Rathore b Kumble 21 Hick c Mongia b Prasad 6 Irani c Mhambrey 41 Russell lbw b Ganguly 38 Lewis not out 26 Cork c Azharuddin b Kumble 1 Mullally not out 0 Extras (b-1, lb-5, nb-5) 11 Total: (for 9 wks, declared) 278 Fall of wickets: 1-49: 2-109: 3-114: 4-154: 5-167: 6-168: 7-228: 8-274: 9-275



Indian paceman Venkatesh Prasad (2nd from left) is the toast of his teammates as they celebrate the fall of Graham Hick on the fifth and final day of the second Test against England at Lords on June 14. - APP/UNB photo

English tail irks India

LONDON, June 25: England produced further evidence of their new fighting spirit to draw the second Test against India on Monday but it came at a heavy price as they were fined 14,300 pounds (21,980 dollars) for bowling their overs too slowly, reports Reuters.

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The draw proved costly. England's bowlers were seven over the required rate during the Indian innings and they were fined 45 per cent of their match fee by referee Cammie Smith.

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FEDERATION feedback Bangladesh Swimming Federation

Officials crowd Atlanta bus

By Hasan Masood Swimming should have been the sport through which Bangladesh should easily have earned some international name and fame because this is a riverine country and swimming comes naturally to most. But that was not to happen. Like most other sports in the country, swimming is also a discipline in which we participate but never see any noteworthy success.

Mosharraf Hossain, Mukheer Rahman and Karar Mizanur Rahman - these are the few names which at times remind us that we also have swimmers who have upheld the national flag in the regional SAF Games.

Off those, Mosharraf was the best in his hey days upto the mid-eighties. The tall fellow from Munshiganj, set a record on the verge of his retirement when he bagged five golds and two silvers in the 1985 SAF Games in Dhaka. He was then 33, rather on the wrong side to expect any more from him.

His successors, Mukheer and Karar, kept alight the glow of success, though in a truncated form, in the latter SAF editions. But they never matched Mosharraf's style.

In the last SAF Games in Madras, Karar was the lone gold medalist in his favourite 200m breast-stroke. The remaining eleven golds went to India.

Besides, Bangladesh sent teams abroad a good number of times including the Olympics, Asiad and other international meets. And for academic interest, we never had any success.

Swimming is a very technical sport now a days. Only natural ability is not enough for a swimmer to compete in the international competitions. Systematic training, the main key to success, begins from early age. There are lots of modern equipments which can help a swimmer to attain more speed. Besides, systematic doping, not officially approved, is also believed to be responsible for success. But such facilities are available only in western and other developed countries.

In Bangladesh, we have only three 50-metre pools of international competition standard. Of the three, only one - the Navy swimming pool, is now in usable condition. The national swimming pool, which was made in 1993 in connection with the sixth SAF games, is now fit for use. It is learnt that 37 faults were found in the pool when specialists surveyed it before submitting a report recently. According to the experts, the filtration plant and the deep tubewell were too

In Bangladesh, we don't have any of those facilities. That's why we are far behind the international standard. Let me tell you about the situation USA. I have seen swimmers go to the pool only to practice their start and turns. They don't swim in the pool. For gaining speed in swimming, they use flumes where water-current is controlled mechanically. Now how can we compete them until and unless we have those?

DS: You organise only three national championships per year. But you do not have any training camps for junior swimmers. Without training, how are they going to learn about competitive swimming?

Mosharraf: Well we don't have funds for organising such camps. Yes, I agree that we should run a few camps for the juniors every year. We have proposed to the NSC to allot us additional funds. If we get the fund, we will arrange camps. You see, we have got only 6.5 lakh taka this year from NSC. This we need to organise the championships and run the office. We don't have any sponsor for additional funds.

DS: There are only three swimming pools in the country of international standard. Are you planning to increase the number?

Mosharraf: Yes, at present construction of ten swimming pools across the country are going on. The last government has done this. But I am not happy with the places where pools are being made. You see Barisal, reni and Sylhet have never participated in the national championships; and yet the government has ordered the construction of pools there. This has been done with political motive. I believe this politics is ruining our sports. Please do something so that sports remains free from dirty politics.

DS: Since you have mentioned politics, let me ask you about the running of the federation on ad-hoc basis. Having had an elected body before this, why have you not gone for another election?

Mosharraf: Yes, we were the first federation who had an elected body before the present committee two years back. But the NSC did not want to hold another election in the federation. We tried our best but the government did not listen to us. Wait, a new government has come. I think we will be able to hold elections from now on.

DS: Finally, what problems are you facing now?

Mosharraf: Firstly, we need immediate opening of the national swimming pool. This is bothering us for the last one year. Secondly, Karar Mizanur Rahman is going to Atlanta.

when he gave England captain Mike Atherton out lbw to the fifth ball of the match.

On Monday, he gave his last decision at Test level when he sent back England saviour Jack Russell, lbw to Saurav Ganguly for 38.

I've had letters and telegrams from all over the world. I want to thank everyone in Britain and around the world for their best wishes - and I mean that from the bottom of my heart," said Bird.

The respect of all those people, and the receptions I've been given here in this match, that means more to me than any amount of money."

Bird will continue to umpire in county cricket until the end of next season.

Americans fear the worst ATLANTA, Georgia, June 25: Sixty-one per cent of Americans fear a terrorist attack during the Olympic Games next month in Atlanta, according to a poll published here Monday, reports AFP.

The poll by Yankelevich partners for the Atlanta Journal Constitution newspaper found respondents particularly concerned in the wake of the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing in New York and the 1995 bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma city, Oklahoma.

"Enough dreadful things have occurred in the last couple of years, it is a reasonable concern," said Walker Smith, managing partner of Yankelevich.

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MOSHARRAF H KHAN



DICKIE BIRD



Romana Akhter paddles her way to win the 100m butterfly on the inaugural day of the inter-divisional age-group swimming championships at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday. - Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1. Botheration, 5. Scrooge, 12. Beehive, 13. Airport, 14. 'oh, can -?', 15. 1966 Beatles album, 17. Acknowledge, 18. Coin, 19. They carried express mail, 21. Lead-in to plunk or chief, 22. Seine feeder, 23. Average, 26. Einstein's birthplace, 28. Debate, 31. 'no kick', 33. Hearty laugh, 35. Infamous lyricist, 36. Chocolate, 37. source, 38. Conway or Curry, 40. Checkers choice, 41. Adam's grandson, 43. Bill, 45. Snub, 47. Catch some Zs, 51. Possess, 52. Flute-like instrument, 54. It takes the cake, 55. 'That tastes awful!', 56. Aola's mistress, 57. Imperfection, 58. Flirt (with), 59. Cupid's arrow, 60. Art, 61. A lot of 'em are fake, 2 Miners' sch., 3 Except, 4 Bushy mass of hair, 5 Soprano Sills, 6 Noshed, 7 Silent partner?, 8 Intimate ballad, 9 Critic, 10 Hautboy, 11 Chapel array, 16. Place, 20. Art, 21. medium, 23. Snap, 24. Khan address, 25. Phone part, 27. Witticism, 29. Previous to, 30. Staff, 32. Abutting, 34. Tawdry, 37. Reaction, 39. fireworks display, 39. Jose's hand, 42. Walk proudly, 44. Carried, 45. Exhibition, 46. Stroboli spillover, 48. Stench, 49. -hour (crucial moment), 50. Good feeling et al., 53. T' strain?

Cryptogram puzzle: Q U H K V U H Q Z M P Q U G X D S W H M Q A S H U V W M H A A H Y W K W V H Z G Y D U V I H M P U H Q X W M I ? Yesterday's Cryptogram: THE COMPELLED VIOLINIST IS INVOLVED IN MUSIC UP TO HIS CHIN. Today's Cryptogram clue: X equals M 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.