

Sport

Nat'l bridge

The week-long 17th national bridge tournament is progressing well. After two days of preliminary league played over five sessions, six teams qualified for the round robin phase which began at the Officers' Club yesterday afternoon, says a press release.

Four teams of these six will qualify for 48-board semi-finals. The final will be 96-board to be played in six sessions.

The six team, which entered the second round, are: Dhaka Club Blue, Kamal and Partners, Bangladesh Bank Red, Aces Alpha, Bangladesh Bank Blue and Partizan White.

Jansher pulls strings

KARACHI, Aug 10: Pakistan's plans for a series of special sports events to mark 50 years of independence have been rocked by a threatened withdrawal by squash hero Jansher Khan in protest at inadequate facilities, reports AFP.

The programme features a four-nation cricket tournament, an international bridge tournament and the Pakistan squash open in October.

But Khan said Saturday he would not play in the Pakistan squash open if his demand for improvements in squash infrastructure was not met.

"We want a proper system otherwise we will lose all the titles. Who will be champion after Jansher?" Khan said.

The special anniversary programme includes a four-nation cricket tournament in November in Lahore winning host Pakistan, world champions Sri Lanka, South Africa and the West Indies.

There will also be three one-day matches with India — also celebrating 50 years of independence — in the last week of September, according to sports officials.

An international bridge tournament has begun in Karachi and a snooker tournament will be held next month with 18 foreign players among those vying for the title.

But whether Pakistan's leading squash player takes part in October's open remains to be seen. He blamed the Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) for not providing proper training facilities and demanded adequate TV coverage of international events.

Khan, due to leave for London today on his way to the world games in Helsinki starting August 12, told the news agency that he wanted proper facilities and encouragement for squash in Pakistan.

Pakistan's squash greats like Jahangir Khan, Jansher Khan and Hashim Khan between them share 23 British, Open and 14 world titles, but as the next century looms the nation does not have any up and coming world class players.

Its sports record is an impressive one for a relatively poor country. In 1994 the country held four world titles — in squash, hockey, cricket and snooker.

But its sports stars — like cricket hero Imran Khan, hockey wizard Shabbaz Ahmed and former world number two bridge star Zia Mahmood — have often lamented the lack of facilities.

Imran Khan had often complained about the lack of facilities and criticised the cricket set-up in the country, calling for regional competitions rather than departmental.

Champs rule the pool

FUKUOKA, Japan, Aug 10: Olympic champions Claudia Poll of Costa Rica, Tom Dolan of the United States and Australian Susan O'Neill led qualifiers on the first day of the Pan-Pacific Championships today, reports Reuters.

Dolan topped the morning heats in the women's 200 metres freestyle with a time of two minutes 1.01 seconds, which was outside of the 1:58.16 she swam to win the event in Atlanta.

Dolan, who won the gold in the 400 individual medley at the Summer Olympics, swam a lifetime best of 1:49.83 to top all qualifiers in the men's 200 freestyle.

Australian Michael Klim, who turns 20 on Wednesday, was second (1:49.91) just ahead of American Josh Davis (1:49.92).



Scene from the fifth day of the 12th Bata schools chess tournament at the NSC yesterday.

— Star photo

Schools chess

Sports Reporter

Ten players with full points were leading the table of the 12th schools chess championship on completion of the fourth round at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

The players who recorded their fourth consecutive victories are Javed, Ruhul Islam, Shafiqul Islam, Md. Hasan, Sadequl Haq, Kazi Shafuddin, Taposh Barua, Tanvir Hasan, Mahatabuddin and Omar Faruque.

Christie calls it quits

ATHENS, Aug 10: Former European, world and Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie announced his retirement from athletics Saturday, reports AFP.

"I woke up this morning and thought why bother?" the 37-year-old told the BBC. "I was going to run on but really I don't see the point."

Christie, who won the Olympic title in Barcelona in 1992 and was world champion in 1993, said last year that he would not compete in any more major championships.

He has been a regular on the Grand Prix circuit before the current World Championships and had intended to compete in the lucrative post-Athens races.

But just hours before he was due to fly to Zurich for next week's Weltklasse meet, he decided to call it a day.

"I still want to stay in shape, I'll still train but I want to see a bit more of my family," he said.

"I enjoy training, I like pushing my body and I'll still be coaching and doing commercial work but that's it."

Christie, Europe's fastest-ever sprinter, said his world title in Stuttgart in 1993 was his greatest achievement.

Chinese lifters going great guns

HELSINKI, Aug 10: Two Chinese strongwomen broke three weightlifting world records at the fifth World Games in Lahti on Saturday, reports Xinhua.

Yu Wenyu, 23, from Liaoning province, snatched 105 kilograms to surpass the old world mark of 103.5 kgs in the women's 70-kg category, set by compatriot Oga Shishiong at the Asia Championships a few weeks ago.

Yu also lifted 127.5 kgs in jerk for a total of 232.5 kgs which beat the old record of 230 kgs set by Chinese Tang Weifang.

The silver and bronze medals were won by athletes from Greece and Finland respectively.

In the women's 64-kg class, Chinese Shi Lihua, a 21-year-old debutant in international competitions, jerked 130.5 kgs to break the old record of 130 kgs set by compatriot Li Hongyun.

She snatched 102.5 kgs for a total of 232.5 kgs to win the two-lift title.

Chen Ruilian of Chinese Taipei took the Silver by snatching up 102.5 kgs and jerking 115 kgs for a total of 217.5 kgs. The bronze medal was won by a South Korean entry in a total of 197.5 kgs.

Nebiolo's admission

ATHENS, Aug 10: IAAF president Primo Nebiolo said Sunday he was told that security fears prompted local officials to close the stadium to spectators for the end of the women's marathon, reports AP.

Nebiolo's comments contradicted those made a day earlier by the Athens mayor, the Greek sports minister and even Nebiolo's own International Amateur Athletic Federation.

IAAF officials initially said Saturday that Greek officials had barred spectators from the Panathinaikos stadium as a security measure in the wake of the bomb blast Friday at Stockholm's 1912 Olympic stadium.

But Athens mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos denied that, as did Sports Minister Andreas Fountas.

This has nothing to do with Stockholm, Fountas said. "The mayor of Athens, wanting to give a bigger emphasis to this event, decided that Athenians and the city band should greet the athletes at the gate."

QURAAN-E-HAKEEM 1:02

BISMILLAH 1:15 Drama Serial 2:00 Drama Serial 2:50 THE FACE OF CULTURAL 3:15 Roushi 3:30 Palmyrae 4:00 Ghadar 4:35 Biology for 10th Geography/Chemistry 5:55 INTER COLLEGE QUIZ 6:25 AIOU COURSES 7:00 Tarana (Drama Serial) 7:45 ENGLISH 8:00 POTLUCK 8:20 All Baba (Drama Serial) 8:45 Serial

DD 7 10:30 Gane Gane/Jamadin 10:35 Daily Sope: Oga Prayatana 11:00 Daily Sope: Ra-jeeshwari 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 11:30 Paragon/Palmer Hour 12:30 Serial: Chul Chul 1:30 Simarinda/Trisha Serial 2:00 Kuasha Zekhan 2:30 Daily Sope: Oga Prayatana 3:00 Daily Sope: Rajeshwari 3:30 Feluda 30 (Serial) 5:05 Nepali Programme 5:30 New 5:35 Dash Bidesher Khetra 6:00 Jarmabhumi (Serial) 6:30 Tarander Janney 6:55 Palli Katha 7:30 Bangla Samabd 7:55 Dinandan 8:00 Serial: 52 Parba 8:30 Feluda 30 (Thriller Serial) 9:00 Jarmabhumi (Serial) 9:30 Drama 10:00 Bengal Movie Club Film Show 1:00 Closed

EL TV 7:00 Yeondon Ki Barat 7:30 Stand By (Trailer Show) 7:40 Ched Ched 8:00 Haseen Pal 8:30 Fit Or Fit 8:40 Aayaw Naye Andaz Wohi 9:30 People's Club 10:00 Hindi Feature Film 1:00 Hey Ha Ha 11:10 Archis — Top Of The Tops 2:00 Gujrat: Sopna Na Vaeter 3:00 Shatrana 3:30 Alco-Ba-Bu 4:00 Tenan 4:30 HFF 7:30 Serial: Campus 7:50 Haseen Pat 8:00 Lamee Tea — Chalo Cinema 8:30 Sorry Meri Lorry 9:00 Tehrikat 9:30 Parol — Superhit Hangama 10:30 Stand By (Trailer Show) 10:45 Hindi Feature Film 1:30 Na-Master 2:00 Ashaa (Serial) 2:30 Lamee Tea — Chalo Cinema 3:00 Alco-Ru-Ba 3:30 Hey Ha 4:00 Hindi Feature Film 12:00 Drama Serial 12:55

STAR MOVIES 7:30 Family : Careful, He Might Hear You 12:30 Thriller: The Lawmower Man 15 11:30 Adventure : Starlight One 12:30 Miniseries: Pride and Prejudice Part 6 2:30 Classic : Made For Each Other PG (Hindi Subtitles) 4:00 Adventure : Golden Needles 15 5:30 Comedy : Stepkids 8:00 Big Girls Don't Cry 7:30 Western: Buller For The General 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 This Week That Year 10:00 Comedy: National Lampoon's Scuba School 12:00 World Cinema: Du Riffi A Paname 18 (English Subtitles) 2:00 Romance : Nell 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 4:00 Film Club : The Wild Party 18 5:30 Formula 1 One World Championship 1997 Grand Prix 5:30 Trans World Sport 6:30 The World Of Super League 9:30 Sports Unlimited 16:30 Icelandic Motorsports 11:30 ITU World Triathlon Series 12:30 US PGA Tour 1997 Legg Mason Classic Final 10:00 Marlboro Asia Pacific Road Racing Madras 11:00 Trans World Sport 12:00 Waterpolo World 1:00 10:35 ENGLISH Film: Goof Troop 10:55 MILLI NAGMA 11:00 KHBRAIN 11:10 The Saint (Eng Film Roger Moore) 12:00 Drama Serial 12:55

STAR PLUS 6:00am Rewind VJ Sophiya 7:00 Tune On T V 8:30 Rewind VJ Sophiya 9:30 Tune On T V 1:30 By Demand VJ Tracy 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Winner Mangat Hai 2:30 Close Up Close Encounters 4:00 Tune On T V 6:00 Tune On T V 7:00 By Demand VJ Tracy 8:00 Tune On T V 9:00 The X-Files 2:30 Star Trek 3:00 Vega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 21 Jump Street

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