

Nat'l badminton

Elina & Nuri
lift doubles

CROWN

Sports Reporter

Elina and Nuri clinched the women's doubles title of the Meri 20th national badminton championships when they thrashed compatriots Momo and Konika 15-1, 15-1 in an all-Biman final at the Pabna Stadium yesterday.

The shuttlers of the national flag carrier also dominated in the boys' singles semifinals when Biman's Mahboob overcame teammate Sarwar 15-10, 9-15 and 15-8 while Suman also of Biman eliminated Rashed of Ansars 15-9, 15-5.

Kashem Group
karate on

A two-day long Kashem Group karate competition began at the Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, reports BSS.

The Shaolin Temple Martial Art School and Bangladesh Taekwondo Association (BTA) jointly organised the competition.

550 participants representing 31 clubs of the country are taking part in the competition.

Eight events were decided yesterday, the first position was scored by Shaila Sharif Ila in 24-kg women group; Nasrin Akhter Nila in 36-kg women group; Reshma Pinky in 42-kg women group; Jamila Khatun Jhinuk in open competition; Rajan in 25-kg male group; Amin in 30-kg male group; Kamrul Hasan in 35-kg male group and Sajjad Hussain in 40-kg male group.

State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharraf inaugurated the meet.

Across the Sino sporting spectrum

HONG KONG, Dec 28 (AFP): Chen Yan? Jiang Who? Out of the blue, China, "bitter" at its treatment by other nations, has unleashed a new generation of sports stars on what is looking increasingly like a revenge mission.

Dozens of records in swimming, athletics, weightlifting and other sports, plus a national games staged with the grandeur of an Olympics, set the world talking about Chinese sport — and Chen Yan and Jiang Bo in particular.

Sixteen-year-old Chen came from nowhere to break a 15-year-old world record when she swam the 400m individual medley in 4 min 34.79 sec at the national games in Shanghai. Wu Yanyan, equally unknown, set a women's 200m individual medley world record of 2:09.72.

Jiang, the new teenage running sensation of supercoach Ma Junren, smashed the women's world 5,000m record twice in two years, roared on by 80,000 people in the Shanghai Barrel Stadium. Fellow teenager Dong Yanmei also broke the old record.

China has again become the world's best at badminton, brought on stream new table tennis champions and was even tipped as a future Rugby Union set to become the international rugby board.

But to the anger of Chinese athletes and their cadres, too much of the talk is again of drugs, secrecy and conspiracy.

Chinese women, revelations at the Rome World Swimming Championships in 1994, go into the World Championships in Perth in January holding five of the 10 fastest times of 1997 in six of the 13 individual Olympic events.

But the reaction of rival swimming powers has been dismal.

Many openly say China has not learned the lesson from seeing seven swimmers, including two world champions, fail drug tests at the 1994 Asian Games in Japan.

US swimming president Carol Zaleski said she was "shocked" at China's times. The US body offered to pay for random tests on all Chinese swimmers taking part in Perth. Australian swimming coach Don Talbot joined the accusations.

Monday 29th December
(All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change.)

BTV

3:00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary 3:10 Recitation from the Bible 3:15 Patriotic songs 3:20 Banshares Session of Folk Song 3:50 Dosh O Bigray 4:00 News 4:40 Dolan Chanda 5:15 Open University 6:00 Bidhyanow 6:30 The Battle of Beluina: Bangladeshi Army 7:00 News in English 7:05 Health programme 7:25 A special programme of Victory Day 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package Drama 10:00 News in English 10:30 Shiplod 10:55 Comedy Series: Senefield 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Tuesday Programme summary 11:40 Close down.

BBC

6:00 am BBC World Headlines 6:05 USA Direct 6:30 World Living: Top 7:00 BBC World News in World Report, Asia Today & 24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus, World Review 9:30 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Top 5:00 The World Today 6:30 Wild World: The Secret Nature of the Channel Shore 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 The World Today 8:30 World Living: Film 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Style 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Living: Classic Adventure 12:00 The World Today 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 Europe Direct 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Interactive 4:00 BBC World News in World Business Report & 24 Hours

Lankans level the series
India aghast at Aravinda

MARGAO, India, Dec 28: World champions Sri Lanka beat India by five wickets in the third and final one-day match in the western town of Margao yesterday to level the series at one game apiece, reports Reuters.

Play was held up briefly as spectators threw missiles onto the ground as India's defeat became apparent.

India had won the first game and the second was abandoned due to poor pitch conditions.

Set to score 229 runs to win at just over 4.5 runs an over, Sri Lanka at no time looked to be under pressure, with runs flowing smoothly on a pitch where the ball came onto the bat.

Master-blaster Sanath Jayasuriya set the pace with four blistering boundaries in medium-pacer Debasish Mohanty's first over.

He did not last long, however, slaming at a Mohanty delivery outside off-stump to be caught brilliantly by a diving Robin Singh at cover.

Aravinda de Silva settled down quickly, dampening the home side's hopes. He stroked his way to a masterly unbeaten 82 off only 93 balls with six boundaries and a huge six. He was named player-of-the-match.

Roshan Mahanama was the other major scorer with a polished knock of 46.

Earlier India, winning the toss and choosing to take first strike, failed to capitalise on a fine opening stand.

Openers Ajay Jadeja (53) and Saurav Ganguly (61) gave India a solid start, putting on 131 for the first wicket before their departure in quick succession left

the Indian innings floundering. Jadeja mis-timed a turning delivery from Sanath Jayasuriya and skied to mid-off where Muttiah Muralitharan took a fine running catch.

Ganguly was caught at square leg by Hashan Tillekeratne while attempting a sweep off Muralitharan. His 61 runs from 91 balls included a six and four fours.

The other key Indian players, Sachin Tendulkar, Navjot Sidhu and Mohammad Azharuddin all fell cheaply, trying to step up the scoring

rate.

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its own programme to prepare winners. "There is a lot of talk in international sporting circles that China is aiming to get its own back for losing the 2000 Games," said one Asian sports leader.

But China is investing across the sporting spectrum.

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Sports chiefs point to the fact that more than 7,000 swimming pools have been built around the country in the past two years and around 10,000 children are undergoing what Guo calls "systematic training" as potential stars of the future.

China is just as defensive over whether it will make a new attempt to host the Olympics, with the 2008 event the next to be decided and several Chinese cities — including Shanghai and Hong Kong — known to be keen on a share.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch publicly urged China to put itself forward.

But the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) is reluctant after the humiliating way it lost to Sydney for the 2000 Games.

Amidst continuing Chinese accusations that "political factors" decided the 2000 bid, COC secretary general Tu Mingde said China endured "very bitter lesson" in the attempt.

"China will definitely, I think sometime in the future, host an Olympic Games," he said, before adding, "The timing of a bid is very important and also very sensitive."

Nearly every Chinese coach, from Ma Junren to national swimming coach Zhang Xiong now insist their portages will peak for the Asian Games in 1998 and more importantly Sydney 2000.

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And that worries Australia which is spending heavily on

INDIA

Jadeja c Muralitharan b Jayasuriya 53
Ganguly c Tillekeratne b Muralitharan 61
Tendulkar c Sajeena b Muralitharan 6
Azharuddin c and b Muralitharan 24
Sidhu run out 17
R Singh not out 19
Monga c Muralitharan b Sajeena 14
Babutule not out 0
Extras: (b-13, w-20, nb-1) 34
Total (6 wickets in 50 overs) 228Fall of wickets: 1-131; 2-134;
3-152; 4-181; 5-190; 6-223.

Bowling: O M R W

Vaas 9 0 28 0
Sajeena 8 0 30 1
Dharmasena 10 0 38 0
Muralitharan 10 2 53 3
Jayasuriya 10 0 52 1
Aravinda 3 0 14 0

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c R Singh b Mohanty 17
Atapattu c Azharuddin b Mohanty 14
Mahanama b Bahutule 46
Aravinda not out 82
Ranatunga c Jadeja b Srinath 20
Kaluwathana b Mohanty 30
Dharmasena not out 5
Extras: (b-1, w-13, nb-1) 15
Total (five wickets in 48.2 overs) 229

Fall of wickets: 1-26; 2-72; 3-125; 4-185; 5-220.

Did not bat: H Tillekeratne, S De Silva, C Vaas, M Muralitharan

Bowling: O M R W

Srinath 10 1 26 1
Mohanty 10 0 58 3
R Singh 5.2 1 29 0
Bahutule 10 0 46 1
Chauhan 9 0 37 0
Ganguly 3 0 25 0
Tendulkar 1 0 7 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by

five wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Aravinda-de-Silva.

First match: Guwahati, Dec 22 — India won by seven wickets.

Second match: Indore, Dec 25 — Abandoned.

Series drawn 1-1.

A DE SILVA.... player-of-the-match

rate.

Muralitharan was the most successful bowler, finishing with three for 53 off his 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third and final one-day international between India and Sri Lanka on Sunday:

The Indian team for the 1998 World Cup will be based in a chateau belonging to the French national pastry school in the town of Yssingeaux, the mayor's office said Saturday, reports AP.

The Chateau du Montbarnier, home to the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Patisserie (National Pastry School) was chosen after an inspection by Iran's ambassador to France and the team trainer.

The Iranian team chose Chateau du Montbarnier after it met several strict requirements regarding the practice of Islam, food and the presence of women, said Bernard Gallot, deputy mayor.

The town of Yssingeaux is located about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Saint-Etienne, one of the 10 French cities that are host to the 1998 World Cup.

Security was another factor in choosing Yssingeaux.

The United States, which will meet Iran in round one, insisted that the Iranian team be located at least 100 kilometers (60 miles) away for security reasons.

The US team will be based in Saint-Jean-d'Ardières, a village of 1,200 people on the Rhone River, which is about 120 kilometers (75 miles) northeast of Yssingeaux.

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Sport

Game Two drawn

GRONINGEN, Netherlands, Dec 28: Viswanathan Anand of India and Michael Adams of England fought their way to a second successive draw on Saturday, remaining deadlocked in their best-of-four World Chess Championship eliminator, reports Reuters.

Anand, ranked third in the world, was playing with the white pieces and opened with the queen's gambit.

He maintained the initiative through much of the game, but Adams defended accurately and the two players agreed a draw after 48 moves.

Their first game on Friday was drawn in 55 moves.

Iran's WC address

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