

SL shrug off T-ton

SHARJAH, Oct 21: Sachin Tendulkar scored his 26th one-day century for India but failed to stop Sri Lanka from clinching a comfortable five-wicket victory in the Sharjah triangular series opener on Friday, reports Reuters.

Tendulkar, playing his 254th limited-overs international, stroked 101 off 140 balls with three fours and one six to consolidate a faltering Indian innings marred by four run outs.

Jayasuriya and Mahela Jayawardene did the repair work with a stand of 73 for the third wicket. Jayasuriya, the most aggressive of the two, hit 48 off 53 balls which included seven fours while Jayawardene chipped in with 38 off 57 balls.

Tendulkar completed his century in the 46th over but ran himself out in the next by failing to beat a direct throw from Arishka Gunawardene.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Country, G, S, B. Lists medal counts for various countries like Spain, Great Britain, China, etc.

Table with columns for Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowling figures for players like Z Khan, Prasad, Agarkar, etc.

Result: Sri Lanka won by five wickets. Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar.

India plans big for 2003 WC

LONDON, Oct 21 (Internet report): India will tour South Africa in October 2001, playing three Tests and six one-dayers in an attempt to help the team acclimatise for the 2003 World Cup to be held in the Republic.

United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) communications manager Bronwyn Wilkinson confirmed the plans to Gulf News, saying that the dates are yet to be finalised.

It is believed that most of the venues for the tour are ones in which the World Cup matches will be played. India toured England prior to the 1983 World Cup and it stood them in good stead as the team led by Kapil Dev went on to an upset tournament win - so far their only World Cup triumph.

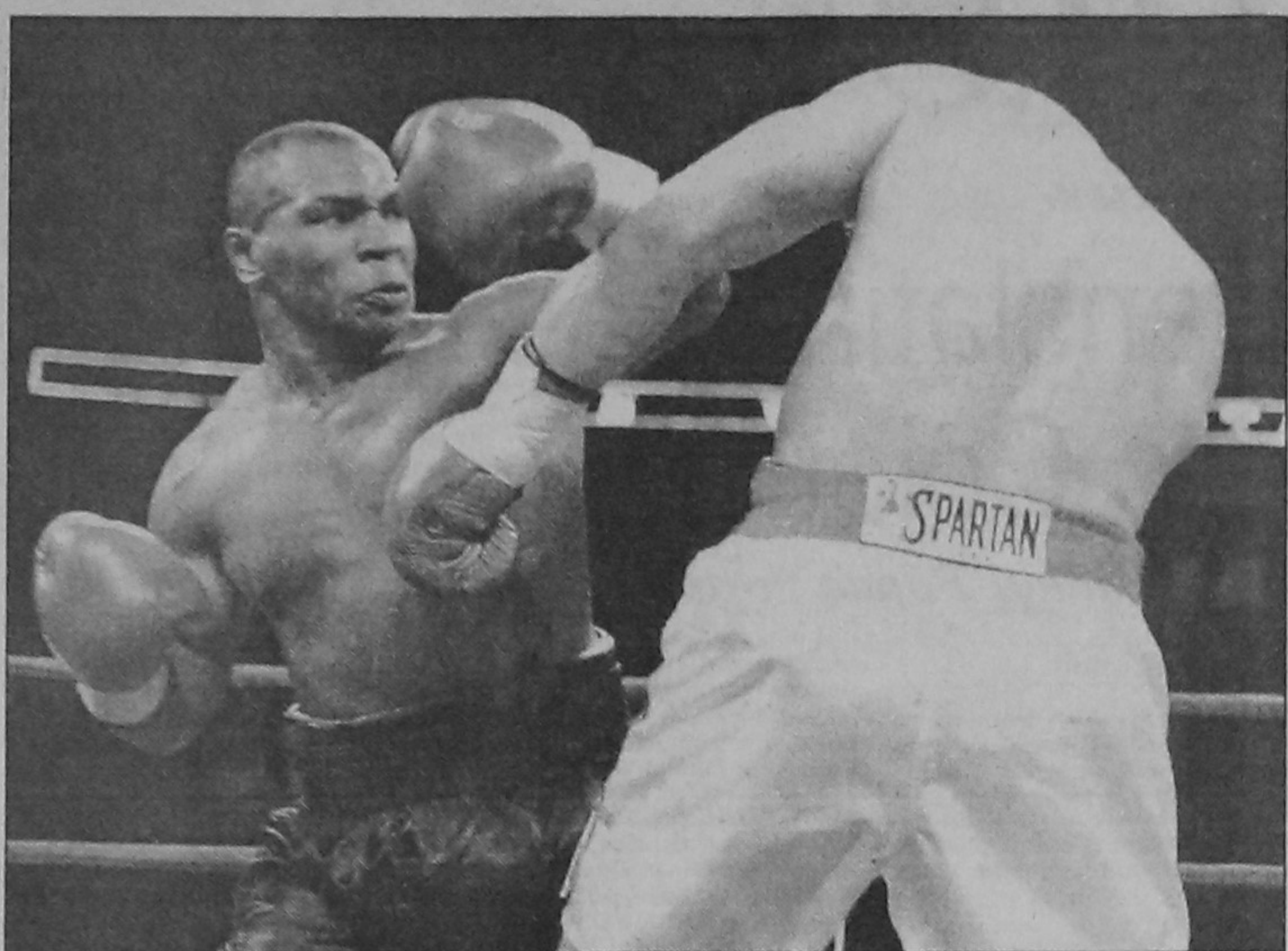
Lindsay, Venus move into semis

LINZ, Austria, Oct 21: Top seed Lindsay Davenport breezed into the semifinals of the Linz women's tournament on Friday while her weary American compatriot Venus Williams struggled at first before reaching the last four, reports Reuters.

Davenport went through after Austrian rival Barbara Schett retired with a foot injury at 6-2, 4-1, while Olympic champion Williams beat Russian Elena Likhovtseva 6-3, 6-2.

World number two Davenport next faces Czech player Kveta Hrdlickova, who surprisingly knocked out fourth seed Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-3, 6-4.

Williams set up a semifinal with another American, fifth seed Chanda Rubin. Rubin, who won this tournament in 1997, beat Slovak qualifier Henrieta Nagyova 6-4, 6-4.



TAKE THAT: American Mike Tyson (L) lands a blow on his Polish opponent Andrew Golota in their 10-round heavyweight bout in Michigan on October 20. Tyson scored a TKO after Golota failed to respond to the bell in round three.

Tyson wins a farcical fight

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, Oct 21: Former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson beat Poland's giant Andrew Golota with a technical knockout in their 10-round non-title fight here Friday, reports AFP.

And then, as with most Tyson or Golota fights, the fun started.

Tyson landed with a series of overhand rights in the first two rounds and Golota refused to answer the bell for the third, angering about 16,000 fans.

When the second round ended, Golota trudged back to his corner and would not take instructions from trainer Al Certo.

After the bell rang for the third round, Golota refused to take his mouthpiece despite pleas of his cornermen. He shook his head several times as Certo tried to force the mouthpiece on him.

Golota proceeded to stalk away from the ring as the crowd threw beverages at him. It was an embarrassing performance and fans continued to pelt him with beer, popcorn and soft drinks as he walked back to his locker room.

Golota said he could not continue to fight because of a cut over his eye and claimed Tyson head butted him several times.

I was head butted, the referee did not respond. Everyone says I'm a dirty fighter. I don't know why there was no reprimand, said Golota.

I'm sorry to all my friends who count on me. It wasn't my day today. I was dizzy. I slipped and I fell down. Boxing is a very, very difficult sport and I'm sorry for all my fans who came down here. I have to give myself a very heavy talk.

Asked if he would retire, Golota said: "I don't know." After the fight he was taken to a hospital.

Tyson's trainer Tommy Brooks said of Golota's performance: "The guy was in there trying to make a living for his family. Seriously, he needs to get help psychologically. He has the ability to fight."

Tyson did not attend the post-fight news conference. "I think (Tyson) fought well," said Brooks. "Mike put in his work and did what he was supposed to do."

That's the first time I've ever seen that (referring to Golota). I never would have guessed that from Andrew. I still believe Andrew is not a coward. I think that he suffers from anxiety attacks and he was probably having one in that round."

Certo said: "The guy has ability... I know he can do it. He can beat guys out there." According to reports, Tyson was paid 10 million dollars while Golota got about 2.5 million dollars.

Officially ruled a third-round TKO, the fight was virtually over before it started. Golota (36-5) delayed his entrance to the ring when he refused to don the Everlast boxing gloves that the Michigan Boxing Commission had sanctioned for the 10-round bout.

Wenger praises Vieira

LONDON, Oct 21: Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger insisted here Friday that Patrick Vieira had finally shed his bad-boy image ahead of Saturday's potentially explosive clash with West Ham, reports AFP.

Vieira was fined 45,000 (£7,500 dollars) and banned for seven matches after the corresponding fixture last season after spitting at then West Ham defender Neil Ruddock and tugging with a police officer in the player's tunnel following his sending-off.

Already, the red mist has descended twice on the Frenchman with consecutive sendings-off against Sunderland and Liverpool in the opening games of the season.

That led to a five-match domestic ban but the Arsenal midfielder showed a welcome maturity on Tuesday night when he was a model of dignified restraint despite outrageous racist abuse from some

struggling with his troublesome back injury. But goalkeeper David Seaman has shaken off the back problem that saw him miss Tuesday's draw in the Olympic Stadium. 39-year-old Jolin Lukic dropping back down to the bench.

Meanwhile Wenger confirmed that the deal to bring Brazilian star Edu to Highbury is back on after the midfielder appears to have resolved his embarrassing passport problems.

Edu was detained at Heathrow Airport and turned away after being caught with a fake Portuguese passport but now seems to have obtained genuine documentation through his Portuguese grandfather.

"If he has the right passport he could be the right player for us," said Wenger of the 22-year-old Corinthians midfielder. "He was destroyed when that happened, he did not try to cheat, he was cheated by people who pushed the passport in his hands."

Pineda - full name Hector Mauricio Pineda - arrived at ailing Napoli Friday after making a loan switch from Italian Serie A rivals Udinese, reports AFP.

Pineda - full name Hector Mauricio Pineda - arrived at a newly-promoted club, without a point after two matches, in the company of his agent Jorge Cysterpiller, who was formerly the manager of Argentinian great and former Napoli star Diego Maradona.

"Before I was at Udinese I was a midfielder," said Pineda. "But I am quite happy to play at left-back."

"I am sure Pineda will do very well in this city which is close to my heart," said Cysterpiller.

Pineda, aged 25, is expected to make his debut in Sunday's home match with Bologna at the San Paolo Stadium.

There was less good news for Napoli's Czech coach Zdenek Zeman in the injury that has ruled out Portuguese midfielder Viduel for three months.

Laila's eighth in a row

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, Oct 21: Laila Ali, the 22-year-old daughter of boxing legend Muhammad Ali, ran her professional ring record to 8-0 with a tough six-round decision over a game Kendra Lenhart on Friday, reports Reuters.

Ali, by far the more disciplined puncher of the two, landed the hardest punches in the early rounds and was the superior boxer.

But the 32-year-old Lenhart was very determined, landing looping punches to Ali's head, if she had been able to throw straighter punches she very well may have done considerable damage to Ali.

With her famous father watching from ringside, Ali appeared to be getting more than she had bargained for in the Lenhart, who managed to rock Ali several times with windmill punches to the head.

Lenhart is now 6-8-1.

Paris, Oct 21: Former world number ones Carlos Moya and Marcelo Rios signalled their return to form when they qualified for the last four of the men's Toulouse Grand Prix tennis tournament on Friday.

Spain's Moya, the 1998 French Open winner, beat fifth-seeded American Jan-Michael Gambill 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 in two hours.

Chile's Rios, the third seed, dismissed lucky loser Juan Albert Viloca of Spain 6-4, 6-4.

In the semifinals Rios will meet top seed Alex Corretja of Spain, who beat Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom 7-5, 6-3.

ASUNCION, Oct 21 (Reuters/Internet): Paraguay captain Jose Luis Chilavert threatened on Friday to stop playing for his country in protest at interference from politicians he described as leeches and parasites.

Chilavert, who refused to play in last year's Copa America because he said his country could not afford to host the tournament, was livid at a proposal by the Paraguayan Congress to interfere in the national soccer federation (APF).

"The only thing that these leeches and parasites in the Congress want to do is steal money from the Paraguayan people and destroy the work we are doing," said the outspoken goalkeeper, who once said he wanted to be president of his country.

The Paraguayan Congress has announced that it is setting up a commission to investigate the handling of money from the Pan-American Sports Network (PSN), a cable television station that has the rights to show Paraguay matches.

It is also proposing a law forcing Paraguay's matches to be shown on terrestrial television.

Pittman on course

SANTIAGO, Oct 21: Australia's Jana Pittman completed the first leg of her bid for a gruelling one-lap double when she won the 400 metres at the World Junior Athletics Championships on Friday, reports Reuters.

"Now I have a chance of making history," said Pittman, who is also hoping to win the 400 metres hurdles.

Pittman took the gold medal in 52.45 seconds, 0.33 seconds ahead of the Poland's Aneta Lemiesz, who set a national junior record in second place.

Colombian Norma Gonzalez was third in 53.30. Pittman runs in the final of the 400m hurdles, her preferred event, today.

On Friday the Australian powered through the first half of the race - her fourth in as many days - and came into the finishing straight some 12 metres clear of her closest challenger, Jamaica's Karen Gayle.

But as Gayle blew out Pittman came under attack in the last 80 metres from Lemiesz.

The teenager from Sydney - who celebrates her 18th birthday in three weeks' time - responded to come home in front, the finishing time perhaps reflecting the rigours of a week's hard racing. Her personal best on the flat is 51.76.

"I was feeling so tired today," she admitted. "I never slept well at all last night."

The second Australian bidding for double gold, George Clarke, found one other runner just a little better than her in the 800 metres final.

Kenya's Jebet Langat ran the legs of 16-year-old Clarke, and thus completed a full set of world junior medals.

Langat, 19, had won her first world junior medal, a bronze, four years ago, and took silver in Anney at the 1998 championships.

Langat clocked 2 minutes 01.51 seconds after leading from the gun.

Clarke was never able to get on terms with her older rival, finishing in 2:02.28.

The bronze was won by Lucia Klovoča, of the Slovak Republic, in a personal best 2:04.00.

A miserable championship for the American team was compounded in the men's 200 metres semi-finals, when Rae Edwards fell to the track with a high strain 50 metres from the finish.

It meant that the United States failed to have a finalist in any of the sprint events. By the end of the fourth day of the six-day meeting they remained without a medal.

Moya, Rios reach last four

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Four lifters expelled

SYDNEY, Oct 21: The shadow of drugs fell on the Sydney Paralympics Saturday with four power lifters named, shamed and banned for taking performance-enhancing substances, reports AFP.

Mirroring the tainted Sydney Olympic weightlifting competition over three weeks ago, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Saturday expelled three male and one female lifter who were exposed by extensive out-of-competition testing.

The IPC said they were Romanian Aurel Berbec, Russian Marina Diakonova, Iranian Ali Mahmoudikordkheili and Bulgarian Radko Radev.

The four would be expelled from the Games and would not be allowed to compete in any sports competition for the next four years, including the 2004 Athens Paralympics, the IPC said.

Berbec was found to have traces of an anabolic steroid stanozolol; Diakonova (diu-

retic/hydrochlorothiazide), Mahmoudikordkheili (anabolic steroid/methandienone) and Radev (diuretic/chlorothalidone).

About 600 random drug tests will be conducted during the Sydney Paralympics, which feature some 4,000 athletes from 121 countries competing in 18 sports.

About 300 drug tests were conducted at the last Paralympics in Atlanta but none returned positive. In Barcelona, five drug cheats were nabbed, three for steroids.

Meanwhile on the medals count, Spain led the way after the third day of competition with 13 gold, 10 silver and five bronze. Great Britain followed with 12 gold, 5 silver and 11 bronze. China came in at third with 12 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze.

Spaniard Jose Antonio Exposito won the men's long jump final with a Games record 7.00 metres, while Enrique Sanchez-Gujo took out the men's 200m final in 24.14 seconds.

In the swimming pool, Spain's Jesus Collado won gold in the men's 100m butterfly final in 1:04.58.

Captain Santiago Lopez scored from a free kick in the 55th minute to give Atlanta bronze medalists Spain a 1-0 win over Australia in the football.

Thai wheelchair athlete Prawat Wahoram, 19, streaked away to take gold in the men's 10,000 metres. He proudly waved a picture of the mother of the king of Thailand during victory celebrations.

Frenchman Claude Issorat won the men's 400m wheelchair final in 48.58 seconds beating Canada's Jeff Adams and Ernst van Dyk of South Africa.

Isabel Newstead won the gold medal for Great Britain in the women's air pistol with a world record score of 474.6 points from 40 shots at a 10 metre range, beating China's Hai Yan Lin and Naygerh Akef of Iran.

Jonas Jacobsson of Sweden set a new Paralympic record to win gold in the final of the men's 3x40 Free Rifle.



Chinese Paralympian Qiming Dong shows off her gold medal after winning the 200m individual medley in Sydney yesterday. -- AFP photo

Chilavert retaliates

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Buenos Aires. "There are so many more serious problems, because here there are people who are dying of hunger and the only happiness this people has is its national soccer team."

"If they (Congress) interfere, I'm not playing any more," Chilavert, 35, is one of the world's top goalkeepers and a hugely influential member of the Paraguayan team. His mere presence on the field appears to boost his side and intimidate the opposition.

He has scored more than 50 goals from penalties and free kicks in an often explosive professional career.

Although Paraguay is only a small, landlocked country of around 5.6 million people, the national soccer team is capable of giving the best teams in the world a run for their money.

They reached the last 16 of the 1998 World Cup in France, progressing from their first round group at the expense of Spain, and beat Brazil in a World Cup qualifier earlier this year.

Paraguay are third in the South American World Cup qualifying tournament and well placed to reach their second successive finals.

CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. 1 Nasly, 2 Under par, 3 Intro, 4 Symbol, 5 Witty one, 6 Somebody, 7 California town, 8 Khayyam, 9 Sharif, 10 MacGraw, 11 Silent film legend, 12 Taradiddle, 13 Some cast members, 14 Different, 15 Trucker's radio, 16 Country house, 17 Peace symbol, 18 Scoundrel, 19 Applaud, 20 George's brother, 21 The whole enchilada, 22 Roman's poker deck?, 23 Cheesy sandwich, 24 Wish undone, 25 Stringed instrument, 26 Under par, 27 Intro, 28 Symbol, 29 Trojan, 30 War hero, 31 Gun dog, 32 Impale, 33 Barracks array, 34 Capt. Jean, 35 Picard, 36 Odin's attendants, 37 Jackie's second mate, 38 Falco of Nastase, 39 The Sopranos' structure, 40 Arduous journey, 41 Ovine handed remark, 42 Tramp's love, 43 Coop group, 44 LACE, 45 ACUTE, 46 RIBBON, 47 REAR, 48 RID, 49 ARS, 50 OTIN, 51 LAYS, 52 BEL, 53 PECIA, 54 AMLE, 55 TEMPLE, 56 AWOL, 57 GORE, 58 SKIED, 59 Yesterdays' answer.

CRYPTOQUIP

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11. Cryptogram puzzle with grid and key: NL JVHSI NQ PWNP, HSNL JVHNFHS, CLY, LJQHLYPAC BFQW NL XLVLP, NBW WSAHPB XBFSSWA, Yesterdays' Cryptoquip: THE FAILED GYMNASIUM PITIFULLY SOBBED, 'T'M NOTHING BUT A FLIP FLOP. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals N.

WINNING STREAK: Retired boxing legend Thomas Hearns (L) raises the arm of Laila Ali after she stopped Kendra Lenhart in the sixth round in Michigan on October 20. The daughter of Muhammad Ali notched up her eighth successive victory. -- AFP photo