

Faisal, Choi clinch Aga Khan Cup Golf titles

Faisal Khan and ES Choi clinched the men's and women's titles after the two-day Aga Khan Cup Golf Tournament ended at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Saturday.

The prestigious 36-hole competition attracted a field of 219 players. In the evening president of the club and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Lt Gen M Harun-Ar-Rashid gave away the trophies.

OTHER RESULTS Senior Winner: Maj Gen M Kamaluddin, Junior Winner: Parash, Men's Runner-up: Syed Mohd Ali, Ladies' Runner-up: JS Park, Ladies' Second Runner-up: SW Lee, Best Gross: Yakib Jumat, Ladies' Best Gross: Jun Kim, Men's Second Best Gross: Sadiq Quddus, Best Net (Day 2): Col M Aminul Islam, Best Net (Day 1): Nafiz Farid, Second Best Gross: Arshi Haider and First Best Gross: CR Kim.

Ukrainian GMs split points

AFP, Moscow

Ukraine's Ruslan Ponomarev and Vassily Ivanchuk drew the third of their eight games in the FIDE World Chess Championship final in Moscow Friday, leaving Ponomarev 2.0-1.0 up in his bid to become the youngest ever title-holder.

The fourth game, in which Ivanchuk will take the white pieces, begins on Saturday.

Ponomarev, 18, and Ivanchuk, 32, ranked seventh and eighth respectively in the world ratings, are contesting a 750,000 dollar prize.

MU sign Uruguayan Forlan

AFP, London

Reigning champions Manchester United on Friday pulled off a last-minute coup to beat Premiership rivals Middlesbrough to the signing of Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan from Independiente.

Middlesbrough thought they had landed the highly-rated player when they travelled to South America and had a 6.9-million-pound (9.9-million-dollar) bid accepted by the 22-year-old's Argentine club.

Cairns crushes Proteas



AFP, Brisbane

Explosive all-rounder Chris Cairns unleashed another one-man demolition job at the Gabba Saturday to steer New Zealand to a thrilling win over South Africa in their tri-series clash.

Cairns returned to the ground where he tormented Australia's bowlers during the Test series last November, hitting an unbeaten 102 from 99 balls as New Zealand (244-6) passed South Africa's target of 241 with five balls to spare.

It was a remarkable rescue mission after New Zealand's run chase appeared doomed at 73 for four in their chase.

Then the powerful Cairns strode to the wicket and began a trademark onslaught which included nine fours and three sixes, inflicting the first loss on the South Africans in the tournament.

It was his fourth century in international one-day runs. The Kiwis were carried home on the back of a stirring seventh-wicket stand of 84 between Cairns and Adam Parore, who finished with 21 not out.

Cairns completed his century in stunning fashion with the last ball of the match, hammering a delivery from South African captain Shaun Pollock to the cover boundary.

The win takes New Zealand to the top of the tri-nations ladder, with 12 points, ahead of South Africa (8) and Australia (nil).

It was the result that Australia didn't want, leaving the winless home team further behind in the race for the finals.

South Africa and Australia lock horns here Sunday in a match crucial for the home country's hopes of reaching next month's best-of-three finals after losing their first three fixtures in the series.

In Saturday's clash, New Zealand looked to be a beaten side before Cairns took over.

After losing open Mark Richardson to the second ball of the innings for a duck, the Kiwis skidded to 98 for five as Pollock and his pace partner, Jacques Kallis, each snared two early wickets.

The only significant resistance among the top order came from 20-year-old Dunedin right-hander Brendon McCullum, who crafted a useful 37 in only his second one-day international.

The South Africans had earlier appeared set for a formidable total when they reached 204 for the loss of only four wickets, but the lower order failed to fire as six wickets

crashed for only 37 runs. South Africa regrouped well after opener Herschelle Gibbs was bowled by paceman James Franklin from the very first ball.

SCOREBOARD Complete scoreboard of the one-day international between New Zealand and South Africa at the Gabba Saturday. Includes batting and bowling statistics for both teams.



Chris Cairns (R), adjudged man-of-the-match, and Adam Parore celebrate their win over South Africa at the Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday.

Match statistics table showing batting and bowling figures for both teams. Includes a 'Man-of-the-match' section for Chris Cairns and 'Next match' information for Australia vs South Africa.

Shaheed Zia Marathon

BSS, Dhaka

Sergeant Hannan of Bangladesh Army and BJMC's Rahima Khanom Juthi won the Shaheed Zia Open Mini-Marathon on Saturday.

The men's race ended at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and the women's competition finished at the Manik Mia Avenue.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the marathons at the Paltan Maidan.

The event was organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation and held to mark the 66th birth anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, who participated by good number of men and women.

Australia down New Zealand

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

New Zealand did well to shake off their jet-lag but still went down 4-2 to old rivals Australia in the opening match of the Six Nations Invitational here Friday.

The New Zealanders arrived in the Malaysian capital barely 18 hours before starting the field hockey tournament, a curtain-raiser for next month's World Cup also being played in Kuala Lumpur.

They came back from two goals down, helped by a Brett Leaver penalty stroke on 42 minutes, before Jamie Dwyer destroyed their hopes with two late scores for the Australians.

"We were too loose at the back in the second half and New Zealand deservedly equalised," said Australian coach Barry Dancer.

"We were not at our best and nearly paid for it in the end," he said. "But the players managed to regroup to score the two vital goals in the closing stages of the match."

New Zealand coach Kevin Towns found consolation in the performance of his side, which fielded two debutants.

"It was difficult to perform especially after we had only arrived late last night," he said.

"But I am happy with the performance and we hope to improve as the tournament progresses."

In the other opening-day clashes, the Dutch world champions were facing Pakistan while hosts Malaysia were taking on Japan.

Aussies make 4 changes

Waugh fends off 'weak link' tag



AFP, Brisbane

Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh has rejected a claim that he is the "weak link" in the country's struggling one-day team.

Waugh Saturday shrugged off the views of former Australian Test batsman David Hookes, who said Waugh should be dropped from the one-day team.

Hookes also said Steve Waugh's twin brother, Mark, should be tossed out of the Test team and used only in one-day matches.

Despite Hookes' call, Australia's selectors Saturday night retained both Waugh in a reshuffled team for Sunday's clash with South Africa here.

Steve Waugh, 37 in June, has not enjoyed his best summer, but he was adamant he still belonged at the elite one-day level despite Hookes' suggestion that he should play only Tests.

"There's not much you can say, everyone's got an opinion. I believe in myself, I know I can do the job

here," Steve Waugh said. Waugh has stated his desire to play in the next World Cup in South Africa next year and insisted he would keep playing while he enjoyed his cricket.

The veteran said the Australians were trying to ignore the reaction to their winless start to the tri-nation series after their batsmen failed to fire in two losses to New Zealand and one to South Africa.

A further loss Sunday would make it difficult for the World Cup one-day champions to reach next month's best-of-three finals.

Meanwhile, Australia, desperate to find a winning combination, have made four changes in the team for Sunday's clash against South Africa.

Wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist, opening batsman Matthew Hayden, all-rounder Andrew Symonds and fast bowler Andy Bichel were selected Saturday in the eleven for the match to be played in front of a sell-out crowd of 35,000-plus.

Dropped from the side beaten by New Zealand in Sydney on Thursday are stand-in govtman Ryan Campbell, regular middle-order batsman Michael Bevan and fast bowler Brett Lee.

All-rounder Ian Harvey was demoted to 12th man duties.

The return of Gilchrist in place of Campbell was predictable.

The side's regular govtman, Gilchrist was given a brief leave of absence from Thursday's match so he could return to Perth, Western Australia, to be with his wife and newly-born son.

It was always understood he would return for the Sunday duel.

But Bevan, Lee and Harvey were apparently removed because selectors are not satisfied they are earning their keep.

Bevan's absence is somewhat puzzling because he top-scored with 66 in the last match against New Zealand.

However it is believed selectors may not be happy with his scoring rate.

TEAM Steve Waugh (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Damien Martyn, Andrew Symonds, Shane Warne, Andrew Bichel, Ian Gillespie, Glenn McGrath, lan Harvey (12th man).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 25 mins.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with a key: H E X Z S R Z X P P A W Q L S F D F M W S H Y F H Y O M X L Z E Y W Q O Z R H E F D F K X B P H S A E M O P O K U W Y B S X Y U.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: THE COOK'S HOBBY MUST BE BODYBUILDING. WE ALWAYS CATCH HIM MAKING MUSSELS. Today's Cryptogram Clue: F equals E

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.

TV GUIDE

Ekushey TV channel schedule listing programs like Ekushey Midday, Shoptaho Ghura Deshjure, Expedition to the Animal Kingdom, etc.

HBO channel schedule listing programs like Empire Of The Sun, Balto, Meet Joe Black, Python, etc.

6:30 This Week channel schedule listing programs like BBC News, Holiday, Simpson/Directs ex, Mars Weekend, etc.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS and PICK OF THE DAY sections. Includes Desperado and Jurey program descriptions.

STAR NEWS and STAR SPORTS sections listing news and sports programs.

STAR NEWS and STAR SPORTS sections listing news and sports programs.

AXN channel schedule listing programs like Exploring the Unknown, Grandeur Musashi RV, Curious Play, etc.

ANIMAL PLANET channel schedule listing programs like Natural World, Battersea Dogs Home, Zoo, Wild Rescue III, etc.