

Indian shooters bag fifth gold

India's sensational run in the Commonwealth Games shooting competition continued here on Monday when Mukesh Kumar and Bhanwar Lal Dhaka won gold in the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Pairs event.

Their score of 1141 points was enough to beat South Africa's Allan McDonald and Frederick Van Tonder's score of 1131 into second spot with the Australian duo of Bruce Favell and Bruce Quick taking bronze with 1127 points.

The winning performance was India's fifth gold medal of the Games and it was a result which broke Australia's stranglehold on the event which they had dominated since 1990.

India's first gold of the Games came courtesy of Abhinav Bindra and Sameer Ambekar in the Men's 10m Air Rifle pairs on Saturday, while on Sunday it was the turn of Anjali Bhagwat and Suma Shirur to take gold in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Pairs and then Rajyavardhan Singh teamed up with Ali Khan Moraad to win the Men's Double Trap Pairs.

Not to be outdone, Samaresh Jung and Vivek Singh then claimed gold in the Men's 50m Air Pistol Pairs while Shweta Chaudhary and Sheila Kanungo took silver in the Women's 10m Air Pistol Pairs.

Agarkar fails

FROM PAGE 13 3-90, A. Kumble 3-128) INDIA: First innings 221 (V. Sehwag 84, M. Hoggard 3-33) ENGLAND: Second innings 301-6 dec (M. Vaughan 100, J. Crawley 100 no, A. Kumble 3-84)

India: Second innings (overnight: 232-6, target 568) W. Jaffer c Hussain b Vaughan 53 V. Sehwag b Jones 27 R. Dravid b Giles 63 S. Tendulkar b Hoggard 12 S. Ganguly lbw b Hoggard 0 V. Laxman c Vaughan b Jones 74 A. Ratna c Butcher b Hoggard 1 A. Agarkar not out 109 A. Kumble c and b Hoggard 15 Z. Ahsan c Stewart b White 19 A. Nehra c Thorpe b White 17 Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-2, nb-8) 17 Total: (For 10 wkts in 109.4 overs) 397 Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-110, 3-140, 4-140, 5-165, 6-170, 7-296, 8-320, 9-334, 10-397

Bowler O M R W Hoggard 24 7 87 4 Flintoff 17 2 87 0 White 16.4 2 61 2 Jones 17 1 68 2 Giles 29 7 75 1 Vaughan 6 2 12 1 Result: England win by 170 runs. Man-of-match: Nasser Hussein Series: England lead 1-0 Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (Rsa), Russell Tiffin (Zim) Third umpire: Peter Willey (Eng) Match referee: Mike Procter (Rsa)

Payment of 'greeting'

FROM PAGE 13 for him. Men are required to wear jackets and ties when sitting there although because of the hot weather here pavilion dwellers were allowed to remove their jackets Sunday. The intruder was wearing a collar and tie.

This latest incident came on the same day a group of Indian journalists complained that a steward had assaulted them on Saturday. "We have taken some witness statements and we are investigating," said Knight.

Lord's ground regulations prohibit spectators from coming on to the ground at any time.

This rule was tightened up after Australia batsman Michael Bevan was hit by a beer can thrown from the crowd beneath the pavilion during a post-match presentation ceremony following last year's triangular series Lord's final against Pakistan.

Historic win for Edwards



REUTERS, Manchester

Triple jumper Jonathan Edwards completed his "grand slam" of major championships and distance runner Paula Radcliffe won her first track title on a triumphant day for England at the Commonwealth Games on Sunday.

Edwards added the Commonwealth title to his Olympic, European and two world golds in the triple jump with a leap of 17.86 metres.

Radcliffe produced a typically brave performance of front-running to win the women's 5,000 in 14 minutes 31.42 seconds, just over three seconds outside the world record.

Hammer thrower Mick Jones completed a golden night for England when he won the final event of an action-packed day that decided 12 gold medals, including the marathons and 20 km walks.

Tanzania's Francis Naali pounded his way round the streets of central Manchester to win the men's marathon then completed an extra lap of the track because he was confused as to whether or not he had completed the race.

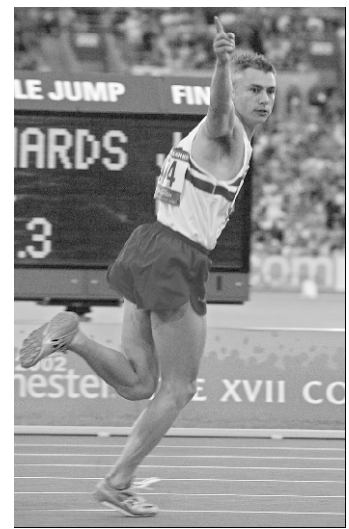
Kerry McCann led an Australian sweep of the medals in the women's marathon before Jane Saville and Nathan Deakes completed an Australian double in the walks.

Saville erased some of the bitter disappointment of being disqualified at the 2000 Sydney Olympics when she was within sight of victory. Australia won a fourth gold medal when Jana Pittman won a drama-charged 400 hurdles final in 54.40.

The teenager, dubbed the "next Cathy Freeman," lived up to her tag with comfortable win after Atlanta Olympic champion Deon Hemmings cut her foot in the warm-up and had to pull out.

England's Natasha Danvers then missed out on a certain bronze medal when she tripped up at the last hurdle.

Jamaica won two titles with Michael Blackwood winning the 400 in 45.07 and Claston Bernard earning the title as the Commonwealth's best all-round athlete with victory in the decathlon with a total of 7,830 points.



JONATHAN EDWARDS

Nigeria picked up its first gold in Manchester when Vivian Chukwuemeka won the women's shot put with a throw of 17.53 metres and Aliani Pompey gave Guyana its first athletics gold in 68 years when she capitalised on Freeman's absence to win the women's 400 in 51.63.

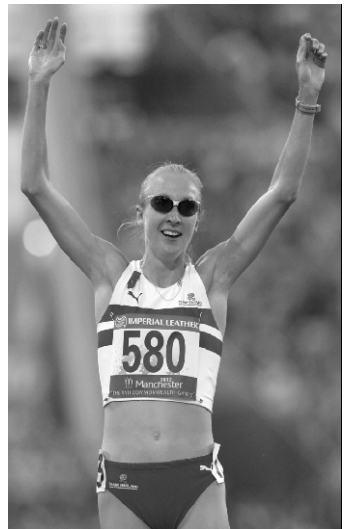
The 24-year-old held on to beat Scotland's Lee McConnell in thrilling finish to claim her country's first Commonwealth title in track and field since Phil Edwards won the 880 yard event for British Guyana in London in 1934.

But the biggest roars in the City of Manchester Stadium were reserved for Edwards and Radcliffe

who did not let down the full-house in the 38,000 capacity seat venue.

Edwards, 36, trailed through the first two rounds but pulled out a big jump of 17.86 on his third effort, the best performance in the world this year, to win the gold.

"I was very relieved to get it out," Edwards said. "I was very nervous because everyone was saying that I would win. That's tough, second



PAULA RADCLIFFE

place is losing." Radcliffe finally dispelled her image as an underachiever on the track with a brilliant display of distance running.

The 28-year-old, who won this year's London marathon, has enjoyed considerable success in cross-country events and won a silver medal in the 10,000 at the 1999 world championships but a title on the track had eluded Radcliffe until Sunday.

"It's been hanging around my neck a bit and it's nice to get it out of the way before going to the European Championships," she said.

Lance's fourth in a row

AFP, Paris

Lance Armstrong's fourth consecutive Tour de France triumph on the Champs Elysees has guaranteed his place among a handful of legends from the world's biggest bike race.

Now, in order to join Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain definitively, the US Postal team leader has no choice but to go for a fifth title next year.

But have no fear. The tough-talking Texan is going nowhere fast, despite admitting recently his commitments to racing have caused him to miss some key family moments.

"I think I'll be around a couple more years," Armstrong affirmed at his hotel in midweek.

Two days later he put his passion for the Tour in perspective.

"This is what I dedicate my entire life to. If I lost this race I would be extremely disappointed. More than anybody knows."

Given the ease with which Armstrong clinched his latest triumph, becoming in the process only the fifth rider to have won the Tour four times, he could easily win the race another two times, and rewrite Tour history in the process.

The first rider to win the Tour five times - Frenchman Anquetil - did so in style, and was the first to win the

race four years in a row between 1961-64 after his first victory in 1957.

Anquetil won his fifth Tour, beating compatriot Raymond Poulidor by just 55secs, after three weeks spent worrying about his imminent death - which had been ominously predicted in a French newspaper prior to the race.

The advent of Belgian legend Eddy Merckx followed. Like Armstrong, the "Cannibal" had already claimed a world championship title before imposing his voracious appetite on the rest of the peloton.

Merckx, considered the cyclist of the century, held sway on the Tour between 1969-72 - becoming the second rider to claim four in a row - before he won his fifth overall victory in 1974.

Merckx, more than any other of the remaining Tour legends, believes Armstrong can do better than them all.

"Lance is going to last a very long time. He can go on and win six Tours, as many as he likes," Merckx said recently.

Next up was Bernard Hinault, who at 24 years old was considered too young for the race, but who added the yellow jersey to his national title on his first attempt anyway.

From then on, little could be done to stop the Breton 'blaireau' (badger) who, in an era when team and riders were becoming more and more professional, won in 1978-79, 1981-82 and 1985.

The only thing that stopped Hinault from aiming for a sixth victory in 1986 was a promise he'd made the previous year to his sponsor, Bernard Tapie.

Tapie wanted his young prodigy Greg Lemond - a team-mate of Hinault's - to help boost his plans to invest in America. Hinault, on his final Tour, was obliged to lead Lemond to the first of three Tour victories.

Since Hinault's retirement, France is still looking for its next big champion.

So, too, is Spain. Since Miguel Indurain became the first Tour rider to win five races in a row (1991-1995), every talented Spaniard is scrupulously given the once-over to see if he is the next 'Big Mig'.

However riders of Indurain's approach and athletic ability are few and far between.

With a resting heart beat of 28 per minute and an eight-litre lung capacity, Indurain already had a few aces up his sleeve.

But it was also his immaculate management of the race, with special attention given to time trials, that would give him the key to his own destiny.

Armstrong, undoubtedly, has taken a leaf out of every one of their books - and perhaps more from Indurain whose methodical approach matched to his unflinching style was revolutionary.

One man who knows what it takes to become a legend, Jose-Miguel Echevarria, admits Armstrong is simply untouchable.

"You have to accept his dominance," Echevarria, who coached Indurain on his five Tour victories, told AFP.

Venus topples Clijsters

AFP, Stanford

Top seed Venus Williams won her fourth WTA title of the year, defeating defending champion Kim Clijsters 6-3, 6-3 here Sunday in the final of a \$65,000-dollar hardcourt tournament.

Williams had not won a WTA title since Amelia Island in April. She lost to her younger sister Serena, the world's top-ranked player, in the Wimbledon and French Open finals and fell to Belgium's Clijsters in the final at Hamburg in May.

Second-ranked Williams, 22, won \$3,000 dollars in addition to avenging her only loss to fourth seed Clijsters. Williams, who overcame 10 double faults and lost only 21 games all week, has won two of three career meetings with Clijsters, 1-2.

"She brought out the best of my game," said Williams. "She ran down a lot of balls."

Williams won here for the second time in three years while Clijsters failed in her bid to become the sixth player to win back-to-back crowns here.

"You have a few chances on her service game. You have to go for it," Clijsters said. "I had some chances, but she hardly made any unforced errors. Almost every shot, every ball, has to be perfect. Either you try hitting the ball a few inches higher or away or you have to go deep down the middle."

Leading 3-2 in the opening set, Williams recorded her first service break, ripping a forehand down the line at 30-30. She took the first four games of the second set but double-faulted twice and committed two unforced errors in the eighth game as Clijsters broke to climb within 5-3.

But Williams broke right back to close out the match and her 26th career title.

"If she held serve, we could still be out there right now," said Williams, who played no match longer than 67 minutes on the Stanford University campus.

"She does a little bit extra, she moves so well," Clijsters said. "She has that fire. She is really focused. That's how all the top players play. They raise their level so well. They focus on every tournament they play."

PCB wants

FROM PAGE 13

originally scheduled for Pakistan in August and was supposed to involve New Zealand, has been transferred because of security concerns to Kenya to also involve the host nation after the Kiwis pulled out because of the same worries.

But after the Kenya's hosting had since also been put in doubt because of political tensions, the PCB has followed the earlier lead of the International Cricket Council and the Kenyan government by backing Kenya's hosting, saying there are no more "grey areas."

"The matter has been resolved, the government has directed them (the Kenyan Cricket Association) to sort it out and they have given the go ahead," said a PCB spokesman.

"All the hurdles have been cleared... there's no problem. "We were concerned, we had to go through the certain protocols and that has been done and they have resolved the matter. There are no grey areas any more."

Sri Lanka offered to host the series if the KCA were unable to resolve their differences with the Kenyan government.

"Sri Lanka's offer is a gesture of goodwill and Pakistan much appreciates that, but basically this choice of Kenya had come primarily because of past experience," the PCB spokesman continued.

"Otherwise it was an option which was preferred by the (broadcaster) who has the TV rights. And that's a very big do."

Costs and revenue from the tournament would be sorted out in a meeting in Kenya next week, the PCB added. The triangular series will be held in Nairobi and will run from August 29 to September 5.

Corretja victor

AFP, Kitzbuhel

Alex Corretja beat fellow Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 to win the one-million-dollar ATP event here on Sunday.

It was the 17th career victory for 28-year-old Corretja, who won here in 1997 and was a semifinalist in this year's French Open.

"This was one of my better tournaments," Corretja said afterwards. "I played some of my best tennis and beat three of the world's best clay-courtiers."

Before beating Ferrero, Corretja had cast aside both third seed Gaston Gaudio of Argentina and top seed Albert Costa of Spain.

"Since the French Open, I have been really motivated and I have become a different person," added Corretja. "I'm more relaxed now."

Both players made numerous errors in the first set but the next two were clearly one-way traffic as Corretja motored to the title.

Ferrero, who said he was tired after some long matches this week, congratulated the champion. "To win a tournament like this without losing a single set, you are a worthy winner," he said.



Australia's Brent Livermore (R) battles Marvin Bamm of South Africa for possession during their Commonwealth Games men's hockey tournament at the Belle Vue Stadium on July 28.

England earn first points



AFP, Manchester

A controversial penalty stroke two minutes before the final whistle earned England a lucky 2-1 win over Canada in the Commonwealth Games men's hockey here on Sunday.

Umpire David Leiper of Scotland awarded a stroke when the ball hit a Canadian defender on the foot following a goalmouth melee. David Mathews pushed past goalkeeper Mike Mahood to earn England full points.

An angry Mahood banged his stick on the ground after the goal which ended a remarkable fightback by the Canadians in the pool B match.

The result earned England their first points in the competition, keep-

ing them in second place behind pool leaders Pakistan, who demolished Wales 3-0 later on Sunday to record their second straight win.

England, still recovering from a 3-0 defeat at Pakistan's hands on Saturday, were held goalless in the first half by the spirited Canadians.

The hosts took the lead in the 42nd minute with a penalty corner by Jon Wyatt, but Canada drew level four minutes later through Robert Short.

The match appeared headed for a draw till England earned the lucky break just before the end.

"It was daylight robbery," Mahood said later. "I can't understand what made the umpire give a stroke...it should have been a corner at the most."

England's senior players like Wyatt and captain Craig Parnham declined to comment on the umpire's decision, saying they had not seen the incident.

Pakistan, meanwhile, survived a barren first half in which they had two players, Mudassar Khan and Mohammad Sarwar, sent off for rough play before taking the valiant Welsh in their stride.

Pakistan took the lead in the 44th minute when Mohammad Nadeem deflected a pass off a penalty corner.

Veteran Kamran Ashraf then struck twice in three minutes to carry Pakistan home safely.

In the last round of matches on Tuesday, England take on Wales while Pakistan clash with Canada.

Defending champions Australia lead pool A with six points, followed by New Zealand and South Africa on three each.

Australia scored an emphatic 4-1 win over South Africa and New Zealand thumped first-timers Barbados 13-0 in the day's other matches.

GAMES DIARY



AFP, Manchester

Commonwealth Games diary for Monday:

Australian 400m hurdles Jana Pittman is so entranced by the mysteries of the sport that she has a tattoo of a bee on her left thigh just to remind her of the difficulties of the sport.

The 19-year-old won the Commonwealth Games title in a time of 54.40sec to take her first senior title on Sunday and then explained the significance of the body art.

"Aerodynamically speaking, bees shouldn't be able to fly, but they can," said the clergyman's daughter. "It's like my body shouldn't be able to get over all the hurdles but that's what I make it do."

THORPE IN AWE OF DISABLED ATHLETES Aussie superstar Ian Thorpe inspires awe in swimming fans and foes, but who inspires him? "The disability athletes are amazing," the 19-year-old said. "I look at

some of the impairments some of those athletes have, and I wonder if I would swim if I had those difficulties to overcome.

"I'm not sure I would. People look at excuses why they are not performing, but you look at those people who take what they've been given and play it to its full advantage."

HEAP PILES UP THE GOSIP English gymnast Craig Heap, out of the running for an all-around medal at the Commonwealth Games, spent part of the later stages of competition cheering on compatriot Kanukai Jackson as he closed in on the individual title on Sunday.

But that doesn't mean Heap's not prepared to dish the dirt on his roommate, saying he's got the worst snore in the country. Jackson wasn't perturbed. "It's true, I probably do," Jackson admitted. "But he's roomed with me long enough to learn to put up with it. I had to learn to live with stinky feet."

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER 'EM Martyn Woodruffe, the Welsh swimmer who took silver and double

bronze at the 1970 Commonwealth Games, is still involved with the sport and is working as the competition co-ordinator in Manchester with a special task on helping the youngsters get through the daunting days of competition.

"First time swimmers here can be overawed and don't handle their first multi-sports competition very well," said Woodruffe. "It's amazing to see inexperienced, developing and world class teams competing in the same events. It's great that everyone mucks in together."

SHAME ABOUT THE LEAP Kiribati women's long jumper Kaitiano Mmemweata is an athlete with a long name who came up short when qualifying got underway for her event in the City of Manchester Stadium. The 17-year-old from the tiny Pacific island could only record a 'leap' of 3.52 metres.

By comparison, England's Jade Johnson, who headed the qualifiers for Monday's final jumped 6.65m.

Agassi wins LA title



AFP, Los Angeles

Andre Agassi captured his fourth ATP title of the year, beating fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill 6-2, 6-4 in the final of the 400,000 dollar Los Angeles hardcourt tournament on Sunday.

"Right now I feel good about my game," said Agassi. "I need to keep bringing it."

"I am going to find a way to get down to most guys' tanks. That's what it boils down to, executing my game."

Heavily favoured Agassi executed perfectly against Gambill, using superior groundstrokes and a precision serve to successfully

defend his title before 7,100 spectators.

With the score 5-4 at double set point, second seed Agassi hit a forehand that Gambill dropped into the net to give Agassi the victory in one hour, 17 minutes.

Agassi picked up 51,500 dollars for his 53rd career singles title while Gambill received 30,300 dollars. Agassi improved to 34-5 on the season.

Agassi became the 10th player in the 77-year history of the event to win three times, joining Pancho Gonzalez, Arthur Ashe and Jimmy Connors.

"To be put in the same category as the other greats to have won it three times is something special," Agassi said. "You never know when it is going to be your last one."

Agassi gave up just five points on

his serve in a 29-minute first set and had two service breaks in the second set.

Agassi punished the unseeded Gambill with his backhand, freezing him in the far side of the court then blasting winners into the open area.

"I can serve better and even get more aggressive," Agassi said. "That's how I feel when everything is well within myself."

Agassi raised his career record to 8-2 against Gambill, who is trying to break out of a mid-season slump. Gambill, who had 26 unforced errors to Agassi's 16, appeared frustrated throughout the match, at times talking to himself and at other times swearing out loud after a mistake.

"He didn't make any errors," Gambill said. "There's no excuse. I tried different strategies it just didn't work. You have to get your first serve in against Andre so you can attack him. He just doesn't miss returns."

Agassi has four ATP victories in five finals in 2002 having won previously at Scottsdale, Miami and Rome. His only loss was in San Jose to world No. 1 and Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia.

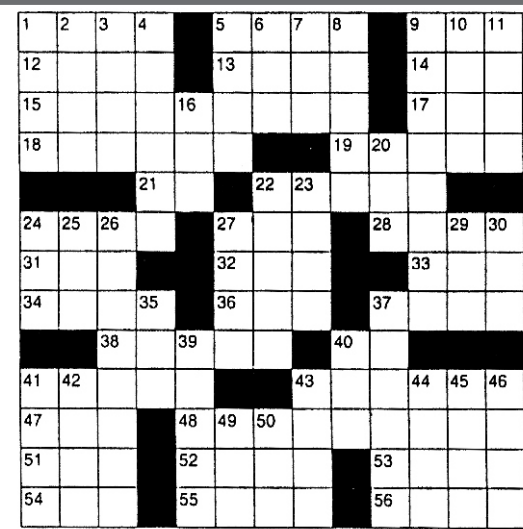
Agassi advanced to Sunday's final with a straight-set victory over Max Mirnyi of Belarus while Gambill beat American Andy Roddick in three sets.

Agassi cruised through his final two matches, losing just one set in five matches. His biggest test of the week came in the quarter-finals when he beat Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-4.

"I enjoy challenging myself," said Agassi. "I enjoy playing great matches and feeling like I'm playing better than I ever have."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 34 Dilbert's place 56 Admonisher's word 16 Cowboy nickname 20 Four-poster 22 Gotham City 23 Spuds' buds 24 Legume home 25 Have bills 26 Protesting, a la bigwig 27 "Hey, --" 29 Heavy weight 30 Billboards 35 Family staffer 37 Used the micro-wave 39 Surpasses 40 Dander 41 Spiral 42 With competence 43 Blossom 44 April 2001 "space tourist" Dennis Press 46 Faxed 49 Churn 50 Dogfight participant



CRYPTIQUIP

HVELV NGTJZOEL ZFUXQX QVG HFNOC'X ZEAAGXQ IEXV TFFTJOUQEFW? IEWOUWC FIFLJNXG Yesterday's Cryptiquip: I IMAGINE WHEN GEOLOGISTS HAVE A SWEET TOOTH, THEY'D MOST LIKELY CRAVE ROCK CANDY. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: O equals L

The Cryptiquip 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.