# SPÖRT

#### Sino dominance on Day 3

AFP, Colombo

China's Liu Xiang impressed by coasting to a comfortable win in the men's 110 metres hurdles as his country bagged four golds on the third day of the Asian athletic cham-

pionships.
The 19-year-old from Shanghai did not set any record but the ease with which he won at the Sugathadasa Stadium here on Sunday showed his potential.

Xiang, who set a continental record in a Grand Prix 'B' level meet at Lausanne (Switzerland) last month, led from the start and was clear of the field by 95 metres.

Xiang eased up towards the end to finish with a timing of 13.56 seconds, which was way off his Asian record of 13.12 seconds and even outside the meet mark of 13.49.

China's other three golds came in the women's section, Wu Lingmei winning the triple jump at 13.83 metres after the country had clinched both gold and silver in the 20 km walk as well as the javelin

#### Wagar banks

FROM PAGE 13 one-day tournament involving Sri Lanka and South Africa.

"The only option we've got is a neutral venue. It's very sad that we can't play any cricket in Pakistan at the moment, very sad."

"I'm very upset about it and the (Pakistan) board is probably very unhappy about it," said Waqar.

"The tour management isn't very pleased with the whole story but that's just the way it is.

"It's not very good back home so I don't think anybody can blame the Australians for not coming. We can iust hope that the situation improves and we'll be able to play some cricket there Waqar speculated that Sri

Lanka, Bangladesh or Sharjah might be used as neutral venues for the series but that it was up to the PCB to secure the best deal "As far as we are concerned, we

would like to play as close to home as possible," he said "But we could even play in

Kenya -- there are a number of options open to us. We would like to play in front of a crowd, obviously." Pakistan coach Mudassar Nazar also said his team are pre-

pared to play on neutral soil. "We want to play this series

against such quality opposition, even if it has to be at a neutral venue." said Nazar.

"We do not want to miss out on this series. It is disappointing not being able to play at home, but our players have become accustomed to playing at neutral venues," he

#### Age tricksters

FROM PAGE 13 ing in under-18 sports.

It is hard to identify over aged players as the maximum Bangla-deshi sports individuals look so tiny in stature throughout their career. Average height of most sports persons ranges from 5' to 5'5"! As there is no proper birth record system in this part of the world, it is very difficult to have an idea about the

age judging their miniature statures. In this way all the age group sports activities of Bangladesh are going down the drain with full-grown adults getting nurtured like teenagers. A fake young player can be very successful in domestic circle but becomes a huge letdown at the international leve

Back in 1984, I remember my registration with Rahmatganj Football Club where my birth year was mentioned as 1969 instead of 1964! Although this misdeed was a normal practice, but it still haunts me after all these years.

There is no age-cut way to attain success. We all should raise awareness amongst the sporting mass about the pitfall of age cheating and save our sports from the longstanding curse.

39 Eventual

41 Admitting

-- M S Hamid (Bobby), Old DOHS. Dhaka. e-mail

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 

4 Permit

Sternward



Israeli pole vaulter Alex

Averbukh won a title heavy with

significance when he vaulted 5.85

emigre, also gave Israel its first ever

gold at the European

Averbukh, a 27-year-old Russian

Germany's Lars Borgerling and

On the penultimate day of the

Tim Lobinger won the silver and

bronze medals, both clearing

championships, triple jumper Ashia

Hansen won Britain's fifth gold

medal after producing a last-gasp

of Finland who jumped 14.83m in

the first round but Hansen's jump,

the longest in the world this year,

gave her another gold to add to the

Carolina Kluft ushered in a new

generation in the heptathlon by

adding the European title to the

world junior crown she won recently.

photogenic Kluft ran a storming 800

metres to beat Sabine Braun of

Germany's score by 108 points.

After six gruelling events, the

Kluft, also helped by a superb

high jump of 1.89 metres and a

23.71sec 200m, scored 6,542

points to Braun's 6,434. Natalya

Nineteen-year-old Swede

She had been led by Heli Koivula

metres for victory

hampionships

jump of 15.00 metres.

Commonwealth title.

Championships in Munich on August 10.

### Colin creates history

Athletics

**REUTERS**, Munich

Four-times European champion Colin Jackson has described his place in the history books as "amazing" after winning gold again in the 110 metres hurdles

The 35-year-old Welshman, who plans to retire next year, sprinted into the record books on Saturday by becoming the first athlete to win four consecutive European titles for the same track event. "I'm really pleased. When you sit

back and think that through the whole span of your career to have four European titles to your name is an amazing achievement," said Jackson after an emotional podium ceremony in the Olympic Stadium. The double world champion and

world record holder has said he will hang up his spikes after the world indoor championships next March in Birmingham, England. Asked if he would reconsider

time by a European hurdler this season - 13.11 seconds - Jackson gave an unequivocal "No". "I won't prepare for another

retiring after clocking the fastest

outdoor season," he said.

"It's been important for me to be the dominant force in Europe. But

however, was readying his men for

Monday's Morocco Cup clash

Australia in April and Sri Lanka

played poorly in England, but you

can't underestimate these teams

ever...especially in one-day cricket,"

"Its going to be an exciting tour-

nament between three good sides.

You can't afford to blink out there in

Pakistan will be without pace-

man Shoaib Akhtar, who preferred

to rest for the Morocco Cup after the

2-1 win over world champions

the home defeats against Australia

in both the Test and one-day series,

are determined to make a new start

at the first ever tournament in this

disappointment, but we have to

forget that and look ahead," captain

"A win here will kick-start our

preparations for the World Cup. I am

looking forward to playing here

against two very competitive sides."

"The previous season ended in

South Africa, clearly shaken by

"South Africa may have lost to

against South Africa.

he said.

the middle.'

Australia in June.

north African city.

Shaun Pollock said

By Eugene Sheffer

58 Disen-

Morocco Cup

younger guys and let them take on the Americans." he added.

Those vounger hurdlers include European silver medallist Stanislavs Olijars from Latvia, whoc clocked 13.22 seconds, and Poland's Artur Kohutek who took the bronze in 13 32

"It's sad that I won't compete in another European championships. But I've still got the World Cup to perform well in for Britain in Madrid.

"Then it will be a special occasion for me in Birmingham. I've really got that focus now. I've got this one out of the way so I can now concentrate on my last championships.'

Jackson's success in Munich more than made up for his Commonwealth Games disappointment when he was denied gold by South Africa's Shaun Bownes, although he did become the British athlete with the most medals from major championships The world record holder, whose

time of 12.91 to secure his first world title in Stuttgart has stood since 1993, said he had quickly got over that race in Manchester. "What happened in Manchester

was like just a freaky accident and I paid the penalty for that," he said.

"But I didn't feel any pressure whatsoever here. I was very cool the

PAKISTAN: Wagar Younis (capt),

Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain),

Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Imran

Nazir, Younis Khan, Yousuf

Youhana, Rashid Latif, Abdul

Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, Shoaib

Malik, Wasim Akram, Mohammad

Sami, Saglain Mushtag and

SRI LANKA: Sanath Jayasuriya

(capt), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar

Sangakkara, Mahela Jaywardene.

Russel Arnold. Aravinda de Silva.

Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul

Chandana, Hasantha Fernando,

Chaminda Vaas, Chamila Lakshitha

Gamage, Dilhara Fernando,

Muttiah Muralitharan, Pulasthi

Gunaratne, Charitha Buddika

South Africa: Shaun Pollock (capt),

Paul Adams, Nicky Boje, Mark

Boucher, Boeta Dippenaar, Allan

Donald, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques

Kallis, Gary Kirsten, Lance

Klusener, Makhaya Ntini, Justin

Ontong, Jonty Rhodes, Graeme

Umpires: Srinivas Venkata-

raghvan (Ind), Daryl Harper (Aus),

Smith, Roger Telemachus.

Simon Taufel (Aus).

**SQUADS** 

Misbahul Hag.

Fernando.

Sazanovich of Belarus was third with 6.341 points Olympic champion Denise Lewis of Britain will have a fight on her hands for the world title next year in a comeback

Paris if she decides to return to competition after the birth of her first child this year. Antonio Jiminez of Spain won the 3,000 metres steeplechase after

pipping Dutchman Simon Vroemen on the line in an exciting race.

#### Cute handball

FROM PAGE 13
Sajal netted four while Shidur, Titumir, Waliur and Shamim three goals each for the winners. Milon scored seven while Sajal and Paltu two each for the losers. Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club beat

Old Ideals 15-13 after lading the first Koko Wai Marma and Neo Thao

netted three goals each for Mariner while Murshed, Jewel and Tareq netted three goals each for Ideals.

Monday's matches: Bangladesh Police vs Dhaka Wanderers Club and Narinda Progoti Boys Club vs Meniees Krira Chakra

#### **Hewitt on** course

World number one Lleyton Hewitt used 20 aces to win a bruising battle with Chilean challenger Fernando Gonzalez, advancing to the ATP Masters Series final here Saturday with a 6-7, 7-5, 6-2 victory. Hewitt, winner of the last 10 finals

he has played, was severely tested as Gonzalez unleashed the blockbuster ground game that had already sent packing Briton Tim Henman, past Wimbledon winner Richard Krajicek and American Andy

Reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion Hewitt will play Sunday for the title against Spain's Carlos Moya, who rode his own fearsome forehand to a his first victory in three years against fellow Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-

#### Davenport, Rubin thru

AFP, Los Angeles

Chanda Rubin registered her second-straight upset at the 585,000 dollar WTA Los Angeles Open, crushing Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia 6-0, 6-2 to reach Sunday's final.

The match lasted just 42 minutes, making it the worst defeat of the year for No.4 seed Dokic who is ranked fifth in the world. Rubin said Dokic simply "packed

it in" early in the second set as spectators at the Manhattan Beach Country Club expressed their displeasure by booing her. Dokic said afterwards she had the flu. "I was surprised when she went

into semi-tank mode," said Rubin, who was ecstatic to be playing in her first final in two years. "She packed it in early in the

second set. I am not sure the reason other than getting beat and not wanting to accept the challange. Dokic, 19, also complained

earlier in the week of having the flu. But it didn't prevent her from playing a doubles match on Saturday imme diately following the singles' loss. Rubin will meet fellow American Lindsay Davenport in Sunday's

round match last week in San Diego that was won by Davenport 6-2, 2-6, Davenport advanced to the Los Angeles final with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Ai Sugiyama of Japan on

final. It will be a rematch of an early

Dokic committed 40 unforced errors and failed to hold serve six times. Rubin committed just 21 errors and had seven aces to Dokic's none.

It was the second straight upset for Rubin who beat world No. 1 Serena Williams 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 on

### Jansher plans

AFP, Karachi

Former world champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan has announced the end of his retirement from international squash, saving he is fit enough to regain his old form.

"I have been training for the last three months and am now feeling fit enough to stage a comeback in international squash and regain my old form," Khan, 33, told AFP late Saturday.

Khan won eight world titles and six British open crowns during an illustrious career between 1987 and 1999. He announced his retirement on his 32nd birthday in June 2001 at

"After playing three, four minor level tournaments in Pakistan I will play the qualifying round of a major event, hopefully in the next year," he



Action from the Cute Premier Division Handball League fixture between Old Ideals and Mariner Youngs Club at the court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## The search continues

Football

REUTERS, London

The tight-knit community of Soham in Cambridgeshire joined together today to say prayers in the local church for the safe return of 10-yearolds Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells who went missing exactly one

As shocked residents of the small town attended the church service on Sunday extra police were being drafted in to widen the search

Officers are hoping to have triggered memories after Saturday's reconstruction of the girls' last known movements

Best friends Jessica and Holly were both wearing England and Manchester United superstar David Beckham's replica shirts when disappeared last Sunday near a Cambridgeshire sports centre, but a massive police hunt backed by hundreds of local volunteers has yet to vield any hard clues.

A newspaper publisher has offered an unprecedented one million-pound reward for information. Football star too has appealed for their return.

A man in his mid 30s, who was arrested on Friday because he failed to co-operate with police making inquiries into the missing friends, was released at 4.00 a.m on Sunday. Police said another man -in his late 40s -- who was also detained for failing to co-operate, remains in custody. Prior to the release, police had been playing down the arrests Jessica and Holly spent a half

hour on the Internet shortly before



Jessice Chapman (L) and Holly Wells

they vanished, but police have quashed speculation that they were using chatrooms before they disap-

During Saturday's reconstrucseen nearly a week ago.

Police said at least 250 officers,

special waterway search teams and

tion, two child actors meandered through the centre of the Cambridgeshire town of Soham, where the missing girls were last

Police have already released grainy CCTV footage of Jessica and Holly, who were captured on film near a sports centre wearing the red football shirts not long before they

hundreds of local volunteers were taking part in the hunt. Surveillance aircraft have also been used Express newspapers have

offered one million pounds for information. There was an earlier offer of 150,000 pounds from the Sun and the News of the World, part of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp The parents of another missing

schoolgirl -- Amanda Dowler, known as "Milly", who vanished more than four months ago -- have sent a letter of sympathy to the families of

### Carry on boys system is starting to change

Cricket

BBC, undated

England's Academy director Rodney Marsh is a happy man at the moment with his young charges earning international recognition. When Robert Key walked out to

bat on Saturday morning for England he followed fellow Academy graduates Simon Jones and Steve Harmison in making England debuts this summer. It adds up to a successful first few

months in charge of England's next generation for Marsh, who this winter will even be cheering on his adopted country against Australia. Marsh played 96 Tests for Australia but his involvement with

arch rivals England has led to a swap of allegiance. For the time "I'm a professional. I've taken on

the job and my heart will be with England," he said on radio show. "Overall what I really long for is to see good cricket played and in the

"If England don't win the Ashes but go down fighting I will be satis-

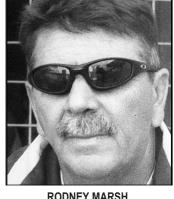
end, results don't matter that much,

but what I don't like to see is one side

"If they do bring the Ashes back then I will be happy as then we will all be able to see that the whole

"The whole world of cricket needs a strong England. "In 20 years time I may think

'what was I doing supporting England?' but at the moment I'm paid to do a job and I believe that if



**RODNEY MARSH** 

you accept money for your efforts you should give 100 per cent.

back home is. It's none of my business what people are saying. Key and Jones, along with lan Bell and Andrew Strauss have shown marked improvements in their game since returning from a

winter in Adelaide working under

Marsh. Yet while Harmison and Jones have made an impression in their

brief England careers, Marsh is wise enough not to let the glimmer of early success hide the harsh realities of Test cricket. "The boys are putting pressure

front of them. "They have been a bit lucky because of injuries but let's hope they make the most of their chance.

on the selectors and on those in

"Quite often though it's easier to get picked for a side than to do well. "The name of the game is to play at the top level for a long while and

these guys want to do that and I hope they are successful in doing "Rob Key has worked hard over the last couple of years and he is a

because if he hadn't been then he would not be in the England team. "He has worked very hard but he

lot fitter than he has been in the past

realises the hard work really begins now if he wants to keep his place.

"I don't get to see much of the Tests because I'm around doing other things but from all reports and having spoken to Simon he enjoyed the experience and would have loved to have fronted up in Nottingham.

"It was a great experience for him and I hope he gets fit and has an impact over the next 10 years."

The next Academy intake will be named at the end of the season and a tour to Sri Lanka is under consideration for Marsh's squad as well as

FRMC's media and communica-

tions manager Nick Jennings said.

possible neutral venue for Test

series matches if the tournament

In a bid to attract a high atten-

"We will also organise on a daily

Jennings said the federation's

"ICC's new ten-year plan aims at

Percy Sonn, vice-president of

"This historic event is an impor-

aim was not so much to fill the

introducing the game to new areas,

the African Cricket Association, said

earlier this year that Africa was the

tant milestone in the globalisation of

the game and in its growth in Africa

in particular." he said of the tourna-

Jennings said he hoped the

"The prize money of the tourna-

Morocco Cup would meet enough

success to be a regular annual

ment is the sport's second highest

after that of the World Cup," he said.

The winning team will be awarded

120,000 dollars, the second 80,000

game could become a great suc-

in white playing cricket, following

Jennings said he believed the

"When I see Moroccans dressed

dollars and third 50,000.

cess in the Morocco.

stadium as to develop the sport.

dance at the tournament, the FRMC

basis competitions and raffles for

proves a success," he added.

will allow free entry.

new zone for cricket.

ment.

the public," Boujoual said.

"Morocco can become the

### Cricket's new oasis!

AFP/REUTERS, Tangiers

World cricket enters the realm of exotic fantasy when the threenation Morocco Cup opens in this north African city on Monday.

Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka contest the 250,000-dollar limited-overs tournament at the picturesque Tangiers National Stadium, landscaped by a French groundsman of the nearby golf course. It becomes cricket's 141st venue

cricket in an Arabic-speaking country, more famous for athletes like Said Aouita than the willow game, would have been scoffed at a few years back. But the International Cricket Council's attempts to globalise cricket - despite strong reservations

The idea of playing international

demands of television have thrown up an unlikely venue. Cricket was brought to Morocco in 1993 by Abdulrehman Bukhatir who was encouraged by the success of his venture in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

from its anti-corruption unit - and the

success with millions of cricketcrazy expatriates from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh getting an opportunity to watch their heroes in action. In Tangiers, spectators at the

Sharjah was guaranteed to be a

5,000-seater modern pavilion and the grassy mounds around the ground will be filled with bemused Moroccans getting their first glimpse of bat and ball What counts for the organisers

ers in the Indian sub-continent who will be beamed live action by Bukhatir's TV company, Ten Sports. "Its obvious that TV viewers generate more money than the paying spectators," a Ten sports producer said.

"Tangiers is timed perfectly to meet that demand. An afternoon start in the sub-continent is ideal for The number of senior cricketers

is a mere 240 in eight clubs, half of which are based in the capital Rabat, Moroccan Cricket Federation (FRMC) spokeswoman Atim Boujoual said. The state-of-the-art stadium was

built by Hercules International Sport Tangiers (HIST), a firm owned by The multi-million dollar, 5,000seat arena overlooking the Straits of Gibraltar includes five pitches for matches and another seven in the

practice area. "Cricket in Morocco is like a new language," said former Indian Test all-rounder Mohinder Amarnath, who oversees coaching in the FRMC with his brother Surinder and

compatriot Narayan Rau Satham. Mohinder, a member of the Indian side that memorably upset the West Indies in the World Cup final at Lord's in 1983, said his task was demanding but very interest-

"India has a cricket history of over 100 years. Here it started two years ago and they had no idea about the game so we started at the grass-roots level but now they know etter," he said.

While acknowledging that he would struggle against a longestablished soccer history in the country, Mohinder said cricket in Morocco "is like a newly-born baby who is growing".

"The game will grow in the future and people will be more aware of are the millions of prime time viewcricket and I hope we will be able to achieve something," he said. The ICC recently approved the

venue at which tournaments will be

organised by the Cricketers Benefit

Fund Series (CBFS), an United

Arab Emirates-based group, the

the rules of the sport and in a sporting manner, it's just tremendous. Any cricket fan must only be pleased," he said. Veteran Pakistani all-rounder

Wasim Akram was suitably impressed. "Some of the guys are quite nippy," he said. "They have picked up very fast and are keen students of the game."

#### DOWN 7 Rued the opposite 45 Watch 1 Lessen 12 Prevent this 2 Prefer 30 Actress space? 13 Flamenco 3 Roman Thomp-47 Miss fountain cheer son 31 "Hooray! 14 Relinquish neighbor 4 Places 32 Ostrich's 16 Antimede's 6 Conica 33 PETA spillage role 52 in good 7 MPs' 36 "David 18 "Mazel health quarry 53 Whopper Copper-19 Perfect sch.

20 Actor La 22 Wet wiggler 23 Recording 27 FedEx alternative 29 Light blond Line' 31 Consult, song with "to" 34 Make modifica tions 35 Unlike Queen Victoria? 37 Upper

9 Concealed 54 Bestow, to 10 First lady 55 Rushmore 11 Aachen article 17 Fair share 56 Archie Bunker 21 Search 23 Florida 57 "A Chorus city 24 Tin Man's Solution time: 28 mins. 38 "Children 50 Glutton Lesser God'

25 Corral 26 Conclucharacte 37 Ingredient of cheese or plastic

neighbor 42 "Aladdin' 43 Suspect's 44 Designateď PG. 45 Scooted 46 Genechart 48 Stocky

steed

(Pref.)

word

UP XIK QZT Z NUFNKR CIH QKEZM NZMMIMHZBB XIK, T A V S S U M A P U F V T .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I CAN'T HELP
GOSSIPING. YOU COULD SAY I'M GIFTED WITH PUFVT

A WONDERFUL SENSE OF RUMOR. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals C The Cryptoquip 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



CRYPTOQUIP