

North Korean gymnasts practice ahead of the 14th Asian Games in Busan yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Pak women's pledge

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

AFP, Rawalpindi

Pakistani sportswomen vowed Tuesday to make their mark in the 14th Asian Games starting on September 29 as the country's contingent left for the South Korean city of Busan.

"This is the first time that a large number of women are going to the Asian Games and we are determined that with each opportunity we will improve," said swimmer Sana Wahid.

Apart from her, women swimmers Kiran Khan, Ayesha Tajwar, Mahira Karim and Mehrunnisa Khan will compete in the Asiad.

Wahid and Khan took part in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester but failed to bring home any medals.

Sportswomen Nazish Khan, Urooj Fatima and Nida Saeed will get a rare chance in the shooting.

"I have been performing well for the last four years in air rifle events and this will be my first chance to compete outside Pakistan," said Nazish, 26, a national record holder.

She said the perception of Pakistan as a male-dominated society was wrong. "We get good chances and hope to get the needed exposure with the Asian Games."

Sumera Khan will be the lone woman athlete while Andre Yasmene will feature in Optimist sailing.

In all Pakistani women will com-

pete in swimming, shooting, table tennis, sailing and athletics.

Confusion remains over the size of the total Pakistan contingent amid wrangles between the Pakistan Sports Board and the Pakistan Olympic Association.

The board financed 146 members while the association paid for 30 members. But some others will leave for Busan on their own.

Pakistan will compete in athletics, bodybuilding, boxing, billiards, cycling, field hockey, football, judo, kabbadi, karate, rowing, sailing, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, taekwondo, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu.

Its best medal bets will be field hockey, boxing, squash, billiards, shooting, wrestling and weightlifting.

Minhaz awaits

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week of November.

Asghar hinted at major changes in the national side after the South Africa tour ends on October 29.

Dissecting the causes of failures of the national team he said "lack of commitment" was the main reason behind the disastrous performance, specially of the batsmen.

"I am totally disappointed watching our batsmen's suicidal show against New Zealand in Sri Lanka," he added.

The cricket supremo, however, agreed that the players lacked facilities. "But you can't change their level of commitment providing facilities."

The BCB president informed that some incentives were arranged for the players and the

Ganga takes

FROM PAGE 13
during an innings of 111 against Kenya and spent several days in hospital in Colombo.

He now faces at least six weeks out of action.

Fellow Trinidadian Ganga has a modest record at Test level.

In 15 appearances so far, he has made 563 runs at an average of only 20.85 and has not been picked since the series against Pakistan in Sharjah earlier this year.

The 23-year-old captained the West Indies A team on recent tours of England and Canada.

SQUAD
Carl Hooper (captain), Gareth Breeze, Shivnarine Chandernagore, Pedro Collins, Cameron Cuffy, Mervyn Dillon, Chris Gayle, Ryan Hinds, Wavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Daren Ganga, Jermaine Lawson, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Darren Powell, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan.

SCHEDULE
Oct 9-13: 1st Test, Bombay
Oct 17-21: 2nd Test, Madras
Oct 30-Nov 3: 3rd Test, Calcutta
Nov 6: 1st ODI, Jamshedpur
Nov 9: 2nd ODI, Nagpur
Nov 12: 3rd ODI, Rajkot
Nov 15: 4th ODI (D/N), Ahmedabad
Nov 18: 5th ODI, Baroda
Nov 21: 6th ODI, Jodhpur
Nov 26: 7th ODI, Vishakhapatnam

14th Asian Games Busan 2002 Men's football

Group A

- South Korea
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Oman

Group B

- Thailand
- United Arab Emirates
- Vietnam
- Yemen

Group C

- Bangladesh
- China
- India
- Turkmenistan

Group D

- Bahrain
- Japan
- Palestine
- Uzbekistan

Group E

- Afghanistan
- Iran
- Lebanon
- Qatar

Group F

- Hong Kong
- Kuwait
- Pakistan
- North Korea

Preliminary league (36 matches)

Tiger survives

Golf

REUTERS, Thomastown

Tiger Woods held off a superb closing round of 10-under-par 62 from South Africa's Retief Goosen to win the WGC-American Express Championship by a shot despite bogeying the last.

The world number one, who began the day five strokes clear of the field, carded a last-day 66 to secure his sixth title of the year in calm but overcast conditions at the par-72 Mount Juliet course.

Woods, who dropped his only shot of the tournament at the 72nd hole when he missed a putt for par from 10 feet, also collected five birdies and an eagle-three at the 562-yard 10th to finish at 25-under 263 on Sunday.

It was a master class over four days and sounded an ominous warning to Europe's Ryder Cup squad ahead of The Belfry clash starting on Friday.

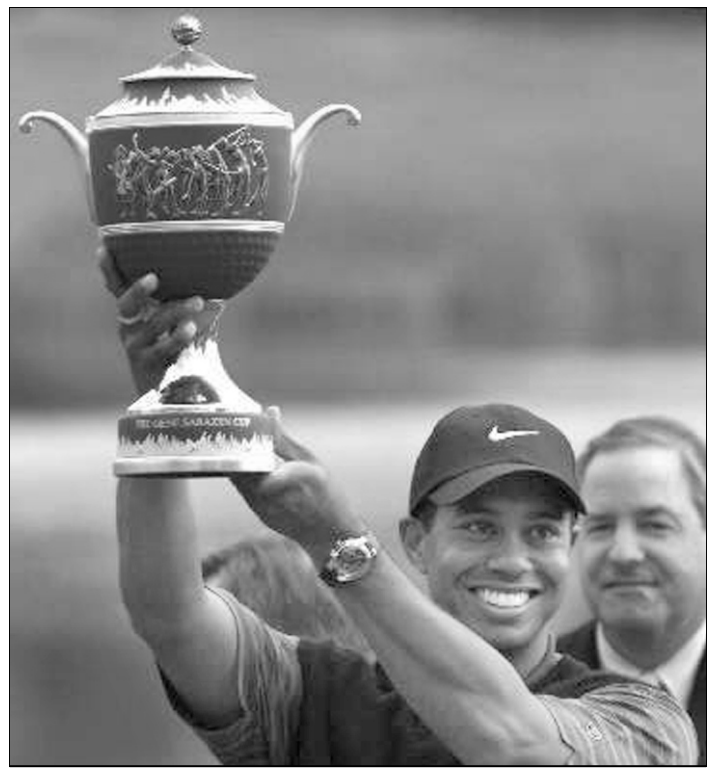
Although Woods has a modest Cup record, he produced some sublime stuff this weekend, acknowledging: "I've played well all four days here and, as a 72-hole performance, it ranks right up there with some of my best."

It was the 30th time in 33 tournaments he had triumphed after leading -- or being tied for the lead --

going into the final day and it was his sixth victory in a World Golf Championship (WGC) event.

But he was run desperately close by world number five Goosen, who

eagled the par-five 17th to close to within a stroke of the lead before paring the last to equal the course record set earlier in the day by Sergio Garcia.



Tiger Woods holds up the Gene Sarazen Cup after winning the American Express Championship on Sunday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Becker v Stich-II

Tennis

REUTERS, London

Former Wimbledon champions Boris Becker and Michael Stich are expected to renew their fierce on-court rivalry in London for the first time in nine years when the duo take part in December's Honda Challenge.

Stich, who will be making his Royal Albert Hall debut in the seniors event, could face Becker for the first time in Britain since he lost out in a five-set thriller to the six-times Grand Slam winner in the quarter-finals of Wimbledon 1993.

The two Germans also clashed in the 1991 Wimbledon final when 33-year-old Stich handed Becker, 34, one of the most demoralising defeats of his career.

The eight-man field at the event features two groups of four players battling it out in a round-robin format before the top two from each section advance into the semi-finals.

Stich's entry into the tournament comes shortly after he attempted to lure Becker out of retirement from the top-class game for Germany's Davis Cup playoff tie against

message was conveyed through Mahbub Anam, a director of the suspended board.

"But what has been done by the players in the ICC Champions Trophy was totally frustrating."

Replying to a question on the South Africa tour, a frustrated BCB boss said that he is not hopeful to see any improvement in the tour that includes two Tests and three one-day matches.

When his attention was drawn to senior players' inclusion in the team, Asghar informed that equal chances would be given to all senior and junior players.

Replying to a question he said even veteran Minhazul has a good chance to play against the West Indians.

The West Indies will arrive in the capital on November 26 to play two Tests and three ODI matches.

Venezuela last weekend.

Stich's efforts backfired, however, and he was forced to resign as Davis Cup captain after Germany's top players Tommy Hass and Rainer Schuettler opposed the move.

Three-time Wimbledon winner Becker and Stich had a difficult relationship at the height of their careers. Stich, cool and calm, never managed to attack the same popularity among German fans as the more flamboyant Becker.

But in 1992 they joined forces to win an Olympic gold medal for Germany in Barcelona. They retired from singles competition with Becker leading their head-to-head record 8-4.

Becker will be making his second appearance at the Honda Challenge. His first outing ended in disappointment last year when a back injury forced him to withdraw ahead of his group match with the eventual winner, Guy Forget.

John McEnroe, Pat Cash, Guy Forget and Petr Korda, will also play singles in the December 4-8 event. The first of the two wildcards has been awarded to Britain's Jeremy Bates.

Sonia eyeing NY Marathon

REUTERS, New York

Sonia O'Sullivan, Ireland's Olympic 5,000 metres silver medalist, ended months of speculation when she confirmed she would make her first serious attempt at a marathon in New York on November 3.

"I am definitely going to run the New York Marathon, I have been training for it and looking forward to it," O'Sullivan told reporters.

"I'm really excited by the whole idea of the marathon, that's one of the reasons I chose New York."

"I love that there are a lot of Irish in New York and I expect them to be cheering for me and that will give me great motivation," she said.

The 32-year-old won her only previous marathon two years ago in Dublin in two hours 35 minutes and 42 seconds after deciding to run the day before the race.

"I know that when I ran in Dublin there was no pressure, I could have stopped anytime, no one even knew I was in the race," said O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan, who returned to racing in March three months after the birth of her second daughter, won silver medals in the 5,000 and 10,000 at the European championships in Munich in August.

O'Sullivan will join Kenyan Lornah Kiplagat and Susan Chepkemei and American Marla Runyan in one of the strongest women's fields in the history of the 32-year-old race.

Ricky angry

FROM PAGE 13
in the hotel lobby.

More than 300 plain-clothed police are being deployed for the largely covert operations during the tournament, officials said. This is in addition to uniformed police for usual crowd control at match venues in the capital.

Rangamati

FROM PAGE 13
yesterday.

Mihir scored the only goal in the 22nd minute.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the 31-team tournament as the chief guest.

Thorpe

FROM PAGE 13
English batsmen unlikely to be overawed by the superiority of the Australians.

On the 1994-95 Ashes tour, he scored 444 runs at an average of just over 49. When Australia were in England in 1997, Thorpe managed a total of 453 runs against them at 50.33.

The strains in his home life first became apparent when he pulled out of the 1999-2000 tour to South Africa to spend more time with his children after ten successive years of playing through the Northern Hemisphere winter.

Lleyton's other passion

Tennis

REUTERS, Melbourne

Lleyton Hewitt may be the number one tennis player in the world but when he was a boy he wanted to be an Australian Rules footballer.

The Wimbledon champion proudly wore his Adelaide Crows Football Club jumper during his on-court warm-up as Australia beat India 5-0 in their Davis Cup world group relegation tie in Adelaide last week.

Unfortunately for Hewitt, the Collingwood Magpies defeated the Crows in their Australian Football League (AFL) preliminary final on Saturday.

But the 21-year-old from Adelaide is still looking forward to attending Saturday's grand final between the Magpies and Brisbane, a match that will be watched by a crowd of 90,000 at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"Growing up, I played as much football as I could and now travelling around the world I am always trying to keep up with what's happening in the AFL and the Adelaide Crows," Hewitt wrote in the 'AFL Record' official programme this week.

"I can't wait to be at the grand final again. Last year was the first one I had been to and it was just fantastic."

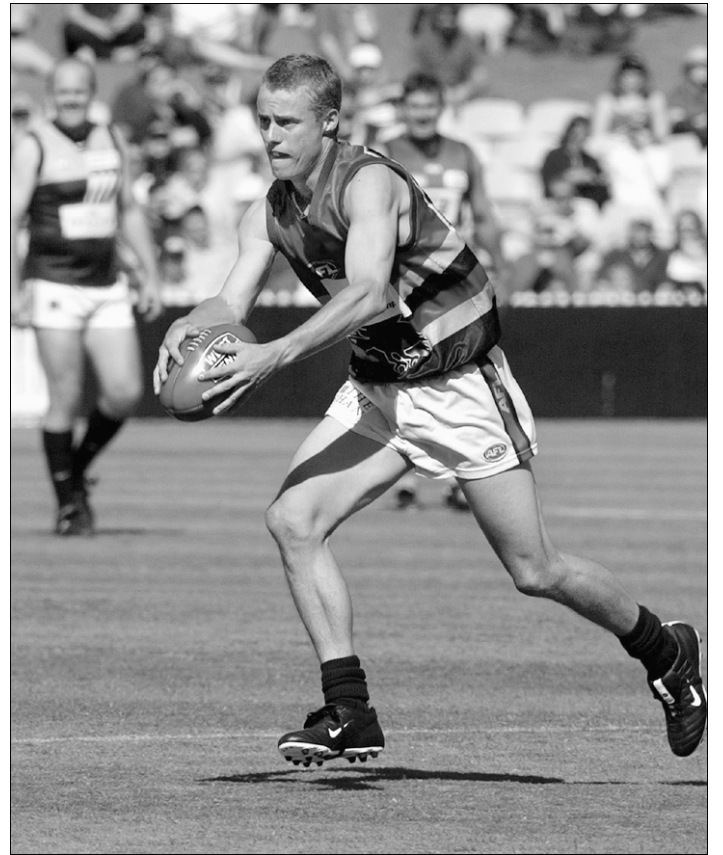
Hewitt said he started playing the 18-a-side game when he was six and had success at high school level.

"Football was my number one sport until I was about 13 or 14 and then tennis took over," he said.

"I was going away overseas with junior (tennis) teams."

Hewitt's father Glynn played for Melbourne AFL club Richmond in the 1970s.

The world number one was given permission to miss Sunday's reverse singles against India, which



Lleyton Hewitt in action during a charity Australian Rules Football game in Adelaide on September 22.

PHOTO: AFP

were dead rubbers, by Davis Cup captain John Fitzgerald so that he could play in a Crows charity football match in Adelaide.

Hewitt kicked three goals in the match, celebrating with a typical double-fisted arm pump, and showed enough dash to avoid any possibility of a heavy tackle interrupting his tennis career.

"I'm definitely not the greatest footballer out there but it's great to be playing with people I idolised as a

kid," Hewitt was quoted as saying in the Adelaide newspaper The Advertiser.

Hewitt's passion for Australian Rules football matches that of 1987 Wimbledon champion Pat Cash.

Australian Cash, whose father Patrick Cash Snr played for Hawthorn in the 1950s, often visited the players in the locker room on grand final day during the club's golden run of five premierships between 1983 and 1991.

Yevgeny getting closer

Tennis

REUTERS, London

Yevgeny Kafelnikov has had only one thing on his mind all year -- to win the Davis Cup for Russia before hanging up his racket for good.

While the 28-year-old has been chanting his Davis Cup mantra at every opportunity throughout the year, the trophy is at last within touching distance after Kafelnikov and Marat Safin steered Russia into their third final with victory over Argentina at the weekend.

Hoping to spoil Kafelnikov's farewell party will be the likes of Sebastien Grosjean, Arnaud Clement, Fabrice Santoro or any other willing candidate picked by captain Guy Forget, who will be hoping to lead France to their 10th Davis Cup triumph.

The French will host the final but the venue has yet to be decided.

"Davis Cup keeps me going as I want to win it badly before I retire," Kafelnikov said as far back as February during the Rotterdam ATP tournament.

Having bagged the French and Australian Open crowns, the often outspoken Russian feels he has little left to prove, except perhaps in the sport's premier team competition.

Despite guiding Russia into the finals twice during the 1990s, Kafelnikov clearly feels he will have unfinished business in his career unless he manages to land a first Davis Cup title for his country this

year.

"I want it so badly that it puts pressure on me," admitted the world number seven. "I have won majors so there is nothing left to prove there but the Davis Cup remains the main focus."

Kafelnikov's commitment to Russia's Davis Cup cause was apparent on Friday after he hung on to win a five-set thriller in his opening singles match against Argentina's Gaston Gaudio.

If that was not enough to test Kafelnikov, he and Marat Safin were then embroiled in a marathon six hours 20 minutes doubles clash -- the longest ever doubles match in the tournament's history -- before losing out to Argentina's Lukas Arnold and David Nalbandian 19-17 in the final set.

Safin's four-set win over Wimbledon runner-up Nalbandian on Sunday gave the Russians a winning 3-1 lead in the semi-final and thankfully spared Kafelnikov the dilemma of whether to test his reserves in a nerve-jangling deciding rubber.

Kafelnikov's desire to win the event has also put extra strain on Safin.

"Yevgeny keeps telling me all the time 'I want to retire, I want to quit, let's go and win the Davis Cup this year,'" Safin said. "Of course, I want to win it for him, but it gives you so much extra pressure that can harm you at the last minute."

schedule to preserve himself for the Cup, his French counterparts are in buoyant mood to defend their title on home turf.

Having disposed of the United States without much trouble in the semifinals, Forget's troops -- who spectacularly upset the Australians in the final last year -- will be looking to extend their hold on the event after reaching their third final in four years.

"It's going to be really tough. The French team can play on any surface and have many different players they can use," said Russian number one Safin.

Ali's daughter charged

AP, Perrysburg

A daughter of Muhammad Ali agreed Monday to enter a theft diversion programme to avoid facing shoplifting charges.

Hana Yasmeen Ali, 26, of Berrien Springs, Mich., agreed to the deal with prosecutors in Perrysburg Municipal Court.

She was charged last week with trying to shoplift bedding from a store in suburban Toledo.

She will need to complete a five-day programme in order to have the case dismissed. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a 750 dollars fine.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Cupid's forte
- Pinafore letters
- Piece of hardware
- Capt.
- Wading bird
- Valentine words
- Pop
- Mrs.
- McKinley
- Shower participant?
- Boutique buy
- Practice pugilism
- Art-class guest, maybe
- Thick log
- comparison
- Movie director Lee
- Sorrowful poem
- Meadow
- Coastal area
- 34 Individuals

DOWN

- Human genome letters
- Will Smith movie
- Actress
- Egg (Pref.)
- Edit
- George-town athlete
- Long March leader
- "High Society" song
- Jack-in-the-pulpit member
- Cozy furniture
- Ashen
- Verily
- Sea eagle
- Human genome letters
- Actor
- Capital of Fiji
- Caviar, basically
- Not under, to a bard
- It'll get you moving
- Summit on the Seine
- Baseball stats
- Film
- Run-down
- With suppleness
- Arm bone
- Incubator sound
- Start of Idaho's motto
- Foolish sort
- Take for granted
- Threat words
- Roller coaster shout
- Applaud
- Emancipation
- Julia
- Capital of Fiji
- Caviar, basically
- Not under, to a bard
- It'll get you moving
- Summit on the Seine

Solution time: 24 mins.

ERIK HOME KAY
 OTOO ELIAN TICE
 ASEIA ATRS ERIA
 METAL ROT EVER
 AICT YOU
 CLASBAR RUICKUS
 AMEER TIANIA
 BITICARIS SELLDOM
 RIVE CRY
 KISS WAR PYLE
 EST MAXI TOJK
 PLY DRILP URJLE
 TEX OEST SLED

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51

6-17 CRYPTOQUIP

O C O Y N B H O Z H B Q X W S J W
 G U J F O O Z O O D O Y W J Z O X
 G K K . W S O U G Y X W X N A D W B A
 Q G K K F O S G C O X .

Saturday's Cryptquip: IF SOMEONE WERE AUCTIONING OFF CHEWING GUM, IT HAD BETTER BE IN MINT CONDITION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals E

The Cryptquip 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.