

School kabadi

BSS, Dhaka

Four lonas enabled Alhaj Zafar Bepari School to capture the third slot of the school kabadi competi- tion with an exciting 61-55 victory over Maniknagar Model High School in the play-off at the outer stadium yesterday.

The winners led 33-25 at the interval.

In the girls' group, Khilgaon Government Staff Quarters Primary school outplayed Rajdhani High School 30-7 to bag the third position at the same venue.

Final of the boys group will be held on July 25 between Ansars & VDP High School and Dholaipar High School.

Girls' group final will be played between Dholaipar High School and Khilgaon Government Staff Quarters High School also on July 25 at the same venue.

Chittagong TT

CU CORRESPONDENT

MES School defeated Chittagong International School 3-0 while Municipal Model High School beat Chittagong Government High School by the same margin in the opening day's matches of the Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha - Aniruddha Barua Ani memorial table tennis tournament at the CJKS gymnasium yesterday.

In the under-13 age group, Tanveer of Muslim High School defeated Tanmoy of Municipal Model High School 3-0 and Abdullah Rajib defeated Nasser of Kadem Mobarak School beat Sadek of Saint Placid 3-0 and Asif of Muslim High School defeated Shahbir of Little Jewels School 3-0 in the same group.

In the individual boys group (under-17), Monwar of Muslim High School beat Ziku of Saint Placid 3-1, Faisal of Saint Mires School beat Amanullah of Chittagong Government High School 3-0 and Aniruddha of Saint Placid beat Sejan of William Cary School 3-0.

A total of 47 contestants of 12 schools are taking part in the tournament.

First Test

FROM PAGE 13

Gough, 32, has not played Test cricket for two years because of knee problems and, despite his impressive return in the triangular, there are lingering doubts over his fitness.

The first two Tests are back-to-back games which could rule Kallis out of Lord's as well, and were Gough to break down it would be a huge blow to England's morale.

TEAMS

ENGLAND: Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (captain), Alec Stewart, Anthony McGrath, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Darren Gough, James Anderson, Steve Harmison, James Kirtley.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Herschelle Gibbs, Gary Kirsten, Jacques Rudolph, Boeta Dippenaar, Neil McKenzie, MV Boucher (wkt), SM Pollock, RJ Peterson, M Ntini, D Pretorius, M Zondeki, CM Willoughby.

Kambli's ambition

FROM PAGE 13

Kambli made 349 not out and Tendulkar an unbeaten 326.

Kambli insisted he would return a better cricketer if given a chance to team up with his friend again.

"You will see a different me," Kambli said. "I am training hard and have shed a lot of weight. I am really keen to do well.

"My job is to play and perform. The rest is up to the selectors."

India have a busy season ahead starting with two home Tests against New Zealand in October and followed by a one-day tri-series also featuring world champions Australia.

The Indians will also tour Australia later this year for four Test matches and a one-day series against the hosts and Zimbabwe.

Indomitable Thorpedo



Swimming

AFP, Barcelona

Ian Thorpe of Australia underlined his status as the world's greatest swimmer when he successfully defended his men's 200m freestyle title at the expense of Olympic champion Pieter van den Hoogenband at the World Swimming Championships here on Tuesday.

Thorpe, the world record holder over the distance, clocked 1min 45.14sec to push the Dutchman into second in 1:46.43 with Australian Grant Hackett taking third in 1:46.85.

But after notching up his tenth world gold, the Australian now faces another challenger in American teenager Michael Phelps who later lit up the Palau Sant Jordi pool with a new world record in the 200m butterfly semifinals.

The 18-year-old from Baltimore timed 1:53.93 to better the previous mark of 1:54.58 he achieved on his way to gold in the event two years ago in Fukuoka, Japan.

Phelps is one of Thorpe's major rivals after shattering the long-standing 200m medley world record, with the duo set for a mouth-watering showdown in that race next weekend.

But the 20-year-old Thorpedo, bidding to match his six world titles at the last world championships, showed that he was ready for his challengers as he dashed van den Hoogenband's bid to claim the title after being runner-up at the last world championships to the Australian.

"I was pleased and disappointed, I wasn't quite as quick as I would have liked to be," said Thorpe whose world record is 1:44.06.

"But then Pieter was a little disappointed with his time, I was disappointed with mine and so was Grant."

"I was aware of where Pieter was the whole time but I wanted to concentrate on my own swim and not worry about where he was. Overall I'm pleased that I've swum so well in the first events."

Thorpe already has more world titles than any swimmer ever, and has not been beaten in an individual world championships' race since he became swimming's youngest world champion at 15 when he won the 400m freestyle in Perth.

He became the first swimmer ever to win three consecutive titles in the same event when he won gold in the 400m at the weekend.

But his Australian teammates Matthew Welsh and Leisel Jones were not so fortunate with Welsh losing his 100m backstroke crown to Aaron Peirsol of the United States, who won gold after younger sister Hayley took silver behind Germany's Hannah Stockbauer in the 1500m.

"It took my mind off my own race," said 20-year-old Peirsol. "It actually relaxed me seeing her doing so well and gave me confidence, I've never been so relaxed before a race."

Peirsol, the world champion and record holder in the 200m backstroke, clocked 53.61sec to push defending Welsh into joint silver with Russia's Arkady Vyatchanin after both timed 53.92.

Welsh had surprised by winning the 50m fly Monday night in a new world record time. "The last few metres were so difficult. Tomorrow I won't be competing so I'll have

come second," said 17-year-old Peirsol.

The 24-year-old Buschschulte claimed her first major title in 1min 00.50sec, with Louise Ornstedt of Denmark and Britain's Katy Sexton sharing silver.

Earlier Luo Xuejuan of China became the first woman to successfully defend her women's 100m breaststroke title.

"I felt under pressure but I was confident I could win. Confidence is the most important thing," said the 19-year-old Luo, who clocked



PHOTO: AFP

Australia's Ian Thorpe celebrates after winning the 200m freestyle gold at the 10th FINA Swimming World Championships in Barcelona on Tuesday.

some rest," added 26-year-old who will also compete in the 200m backstroke.

Stockbauer meanwhile led a German double by successfully defending her title and Antje Buschschulte won the women's 100m backstroke.

It was the fourth world gold for the 21-year-old Stockbauer, who also took the 400m freestyle title last weekend.

She clocked 16min 00.18sec to come in comfortably ahead of Hayley Peirsol, who timed 16:09.64, with fellow German Jana Henke taking bronze.

"I was sure Hannah Stockbauer would win, but I didn't expect to

1:06.80 ahead of Amanda Beard of the United States in 1:07.42, with Jones having to settle for bronze after timing 1:07.47.

Jones set a new world record of 1:06.37 in the semi-finals and the 17-year-old had been bidding for her first world title after being runner-up at the last world championships and the Olympics.

The competition continues Wednesday with finals in the men's 50m breaststroke, 200m butterfly and 4x200m freestyle relay, and in the women's 200m freestyle.

Kallis loses

FROM PAGE 13

team in England when he felt ready.

England captain Nasser Hussain, speaking at Edgbaston on Wednesday, said: "Our commiserations go to him and his family. Some things are more important than cricket."

Depending on the date of the funeral, Kallis could play in the second Test of the five-match series which starts at Lord's on Thursday, July 31. The third Test of the five-game series starts on August 14 at Trent Bridge.

South Africa skipper Graeme Smith told a news conference: "We have given him free rein... When he feels ready to rejoin us we'll gladly take him back."

Open tennis from July 31

BSS, Dhaka

Modern Builders Open Tennis Championships will be held from July 31 to August 7 at Ramna National Tennis Complex.

The events are: men's singles and doubles, women's singles, veterans' doubles (over 50), boys' singles (under-16 and under-13) and girls' singles (under-13).

Intending players have been requested to send their entries by July 29.

Ctg handball

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police Lines Institution and Chittagong Residential School moved into the final of the Igloo Mohanagari Handball League at the Chittagong Police Lines ground yesterday.

The final will be held at the same venue on July 26.

In the first match Police Lines Institution defeated Municipal Model High School 19-8.

Sohel netted 8 goals while Farhad scored 4 for the winners.

Nishan and Shuvandimat scored 2 goals each for the losers.

In the other match of the day Chittagong Residential School beat Kazem Ali High School 13-8.

Nazmul of the victorious side scored 7 goals while Imrul and Liakat netted 4 and 2 goals respectively.

Pintu scored 4 and Towhidul 2 on behalf of the losing side.

Corretja bows out

AFP, Kitzbuhel

Defending champion Alex Corretja suffered a surprise exit at the hands of local favourite Werner Eschauer at the one-million-euro (1.1-million-dollar) event here on Tuesday.

The Spanish number 12 seed, slumped 6-4, 6-4 in the second round to Eschauer, who reached the third round of an ATP tournament for the first time in his career.

Third seed Rainer Schuttler of Germany, the Australian Open runner-up, also crashed out in round two in the Austrian mountains, going down in three sets against Paul-Henri Mathieu.

The Frenchman next meets 13th seed Feliciano Lopez, who ended the ATP tournament debut of Florin Mergea, the Wimbledon junior champion from Romania, with a 6-3, 6-4 victory.

Lee relishes

FROM PAGE 13

three or five years time ... I'm channeling all my emotions and my energy toward it in the long run.

"While it was good to bowl fast it still comes to taking wickets and I was pleased to be able to do both in Darwin."

Chess checkmated

FROM PAGE 13

chaired by the NSC secretary.

Without a home, the BCF now faces a period of absolute uncertainty despite commendable success over the last few years. Bangladesh now boast two Grand Masters, the highest status for chess players. For the record, the BCF hosts more events than any other sports federations of the country. At present, it has 200 rated players including an exclusive list of 22 who have a prestigious rating of 2200 or above.

Roddick rallies



AFP, Indianapolis

Top seed Andy Roddick's fate hung in the balance until the very end of his 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) second round match against France's Cyril Saulnier on Tuesday night at the ATP hardcourt tournament here.

In the second meeting between the two, Saulnier again dogged the sixth-ranked Roddick through three long sets. But as at Key Biscayne in March, Roddick emerged with a victory.

According to Roddick, the 101st-ranked Saulnier played a "smart match" against him, keeping the American guessing with a mix of power and finesse.

"It's encouraging," Saulnier said. "We have to take good things from our matches. I played Roddick close in two matches. It's not easy - sometimes we win, sometimes we lose."

Saulnier's tactics, coupled with strong serving, kept Roddick off-balance, especially in the first set where the American failed to capitalize on 10 break point opportunities.

"It was almost as if the better shot I hit, the better one he would come up with," Roddick said. "I was definitely a little perplexed."

Along with new coach, Brad Gilbert, Roddick has been working on curbing his on-court anxiety,

but tonight he allowed his frustration to surface, throwing his racket in the first set and swiping it on the court when he dropped serve in the third game of the second set.

"I thought I was getting the better end of him, but all of a sudden I'm down a set and a break," Roddick said. "I told myself to chill out a bit and said, 'what can you do to get back into this?'"

"I tried to use a little bit more energy to get the crowd into it a little more and feel the situation a little more and it worked."

After leading 3-1 in the second set, Saulnier's game dropped off and he lost the next five games to allow Roddick to even the score at one set apiece.

In the third set tiebreaker, Roddick finally benefited from a Saulnier error when the Frenchman sailed a backhand long on the eighth point to put the American ahead 5-3. Three points later, Roddick watched Saulnier net a backhand to end the two-hour, nine minute match in his favor.

In another second-round match, fifth-seed Jan-Michael Gambill improved his career head-to-head against Thomas Enqvist of Sweden to 4-2 with a 6-2, 6-2 win.

Gambill, who served up 13 aces, secured a 71 per cent first serve percentage and saved all three break points he offered to Enqvist, was encouraged by his strong performance.

Under pressure?



Cricket

REUTERS, Birmingham

There is perhaps no position more wretched in sport than that of 12th man.

First comes that sense of rejection as the coach reads out the team, a heavy punch to the solar plexus which must be immediately masked by a genuine-as-possible smile and hearty congratulations to the preferred few.

Isolation follows as you are gently ushered to the periphery of things.

Worse is to come.

Just ask yourself. The team is in deep trouble when the man who deprived you of a starting place steps up, the chance of transforming certain defeat into unlikely victory within his grasp.

Where do your loyalties lie now?

Or, put another way, who was Nasser Hussain supporting when England met South Africa in their triangular one-day NatWest Series final at Lord's earlier this month?

Hussain, of course, who remains firmly in charge of the Test side against South Africa at Edgbaston on Thursday was no 12th man.

He took the decision himself to stand down as one-day captain and team member after a wretched World Cup. He may have felt, however, that he should jump before he was pushed.

Michael Vaughan's startling success as his limited-overs successor has certainly done Hussain no favours.

For not only did new-look England win under Vaughan, but they did so with unexpected style as well as with the biggest of smiles.

In effect, their joyous performances perfectly reflected Vaughan the man open, optimistic, ambitious and hugely talented.

His trust in his team mates "I said at the start I wanted 11 players thinking and I think I have had 11 out there thinking" was amply rewarded. Marcus Trescothick and Vikram Solanki scored breathtaking centuries against South Africa, while James Anderson took a hat-trick in the series win over Pakistan.

Ten games into Vaughan's leadership six wins and three losses and coach Duncan Fletcher was already enthusing: "I've been very impressed... He's got a good relationship with the leads."

Hussain's England have simi-



NASSER HUSSAIN

larly mirrored their leader, a figure-head whose lesser natural abilities are bolstered by steely determination and a love of a dog fight.

If Vaughan was made for cavalry charges, the respected Hussain, who remains at the helm of the Test side, seems happier deep in the hand-to-hand fighting of the trenches.

"Vaughanie is probably more relaxed and chilled out," according to all rounder Andrew Flintoff. "Nasser can be more intense. But I don't see a problem. They both have immense respect for each other."

Hussain's England have rarely

about whether Gough, who has had three operations on his right knee, will be fit enough to play back-to-back Tests the second game of the five match series starts at Lord's on July 31.

"If he's fit he'll be up there on the list," Hussain said. "He's a proven performer," he added of Gough who has taken 228 wickets in 56 Tests at an average of 27.57.

"Any bowler (England have picked) in the last couple of months, couple of years even, has been a risk because they've had injury scares and doubts."

"But anyone with the heart, fight and character of Darren Gough, I'm prepared to take that risk," Essex batsman Hussain maintained.

"In the winter I saw how much he was missing it. He craves the limelight and he wants to be out there."

Hussain, by saying Gough would play and that England were likely to play a spinner (Ashley Giles) on a wicket that 'might be a little dry' effectively named his starting eleven 24 hours ahead of schedule.



AFP, Birmingham

England captain Nasser Hussain said playing fast bowler Darren Gough in Thursday's first Test against South Africa was a risk worth taking.

Yorkshire quick Gough, 32, has not played Test cricket since appearing in the final Ashes Test of 2001 against Australia at The Oval having been sidelined since with a knee injury.

But he impressed during the recent triangular one-day series, which England won when they defeated South Africa by seven wickets in the final at Lord's earlier this month.

Hussain said had full confidence in the experienced pacer.

"As long as he doesn't fall over between now and quarter to 11 tomorrow morning he's play," Hussain told reporters at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

Doubts have been expressed

Akram's denial

FROM PAGE 13

for cricket gears for an Indian company which has other businesses as well," said Wasim.

Wasim is one of eight international players including India's Harbhajan Singh, Australia's Glenn McGrath, Jonty Rhodes of South Africa, Mervyn Dillon of the West Indies, Stephen Fleming of New Zealand, Marvan Atapattu of Sri Lanka and Andy Flower of Zimbabwe who have modelled for the Indian company Royal Stag.

Earlier this month, Wasim, a diabetic for six years, was forced to terminate his contract with English county Hampshire on health grounds and prematurely ended his first class career.

"I had to take the decision because due to ill health I was not contributing as per the demands so I thought there is no reason to hang around," said the renowned left-arm pacer who also played for English Lancashire county between 1988-1998.

Wasim sees a remote chance of playing a farewell one-day match for Pakistan at Lahore during the South African team's visit here in October.

"October is still far but I think once I am retired I am retired."

"It was a great gesture by Pakistan Cricket Board to offer me a farewell game but I can just walk in the field for some time for a final applause from the home fans in

been pretty, but then they could hardly afford to be.

When he took over, they were the worst Test side in the world and needed a man to kick them into shape. Hussain obliged.

Under him, the side hammered the West Indies and ground out rare series victories in the stifling heat and humidity of Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

When Australia's all-conquering captain Steve Waugh himself under threat from a more colourful and gifted teammate suggested that England were boring to watch, Hussain shrugged. He was employed to win battles, after all, not popularity contests.

His Test achievements have been admirable to date he needs just three more victories to surpass Peter May's England record but there was always going to come a time when more would be demanded.

That time may be fast approaching.

Vaughan, reflecting on England's surprising demolition of South Africa at Lord's, concluded: "What has impressed me is... the manner in which we have won."

He could have been speaking for all English fans now thirsting for more panache in the hour of victory.

Hussain, hardly an automatic choice as a batsman when compared to his nearest rival, will be under pressure for the first time in years when he runs out at Edgbaston on Thursday.

He will be under pressure to make runs.

He will be under pressure not just to win but to do so with a flourish.

And, considering Vaughan's publicly stated Test captaincy ambitions, he may also feel under some pressure to watch his back every now and again.

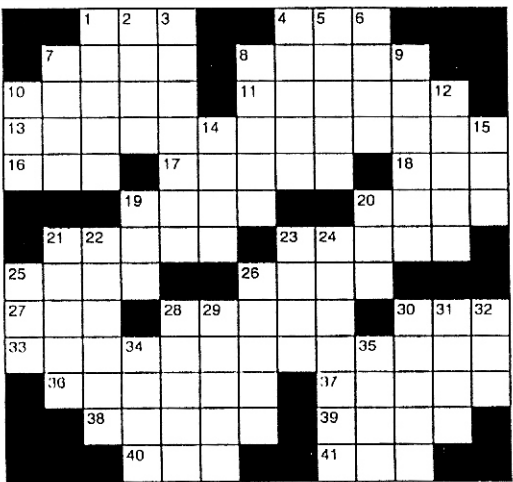
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 27 Mimic 28 Goes 4 Miniver 7 Daytime TV 8 Singer 10 Expiate 11 Sweater choice 13 Last-one-wins game 16 Rush-more 17 Small bay 18 Slapstick missile 19 Oodles 20 Show off at the gym 21 "Positive thinking" propo- nent 23 Chau- feur's handful 25 Tailless cat 26 Suitable

DOWN 1 Squirrel's cartoon pal 2 Hindu princess 3 One-of-a-kind 4 Terpsl- choro's realm 5 Middling card 6 Portico of old 7 Movie- goer's memento 8 Come-back 9 Nearly a homor 10 Docs' org. 12 The Little Mermaid 14 Bancroft or Boleyn 15 Gender 19 Upper limit 20 Govt. agent 21 — New Guinea 22 Vim 23 St. John's — 24 Shout of admira- tion 25 WWE surface 26 Ballpark figure 28 Wander off 29 Chicago airport 30 Consecrated 31 Cincin- nati squad 32 Fool 34 Yule refrain 35 Gridlock noise

Solution time: 26 mins.

DATA FAIN SCOW ERIN IMP LALA AGEES FORMALLY FORNIA TILIAS ELEC FORMICA LEA ULM DOW FORMOSA PHONE ADORE FORMULA FORMEHLY FORMULA ALTO EAU LINE REIST XYZ STEW



CRYPTOQUIP

O H X N H O L K O A V Y R L T S S N H Y Z D F N H E E L N R Y V B A O Z A Z O K A H X L Y X T H F L Q R L Z K Z X B O D ? Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF YOU REALLY WANT TO THROW IN THE TOWEL, YOU COULD SIMPLY FIND A CLOTHES HAMPER. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: L equals E

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.



PHOTO: STAR

Action from the inter-school kabadi competition encounter between Khilgaon Government Staff Quarters Primary School and Rajdhani High School at the outer stadium yesterday.