

National TT

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Biman clinched the men's team title of the 26th National Table Tennis competition beating Bangladesh Ansars in straight 3-0 sets at the Jessore Zilla Gymnasium yesterday.

Earlier, Biman outplayed Dhaka DSA 3-0 in the first semifinal, while Ansars beat Rajshahi DSA3-1 in the other semis.

Meanwhile, in the first semifinal of sub-junior girls' singles, Narul DSA defeated Gaibandha by 3-0 sets in "Group A" while Kustia DSA brought down Jessore DSA, also by 3-0 sets, in the second semis of the same group.

In "Group B" of the event, Joypurhat DSA beat Jessore DSA by 3-0 sets in the first semis.

Div II chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Star Vision were leading the Second Division Chess League table with 18 points at the end of sixth round at the Chess Room of National Sports Council yesterday.

Muktijoddha Sangsads were in the second position with 17.5 and Friend Chess Power in third position with 17 points.

In the day's games, Star Vision beat Hazaribagh FSC by 2.5-1.5 points. Muktijoddha drew with Friends Chess 2-2, Protiva Daba Gosti beat Promise Cooperative by 3-1 points, Uttara Daba Sangha drew with Dhaka Chess Vision 2-2, RDCPA beat Rajshahi Unnayan by 3.5-5 points, Faith Chess Club beat Dhaka University B team by 3-1 points, Faith Gold beat Dohar Daba by 3-1 points, Deaf Sports beat Alam Nur by 3-1 points, Seikhdi beat BBKA by 4-0 points, Youth Society outplayed New Colony by 4-0 points, United Chess beat Dhaka College by 3.5-5 points, Notre Dame Blue blanked Dhanmondi Progati 4-0, Josephite drew with Beginners 2-2 and Matuail drew with Notre Dame Gold 2-2.

The seventh round games start today (Tuesday) at 3:30pm at the same venue.

Nasser doubtful for Oval Test

AFP, Leeds

Nasser Hussain rated himself "doubtful" Monday for next month's final and final Test against South Africa at The Oval after sustaining an injury here Saturday.

Former captain Hussain suffered an undisplaced fracture on the big toe of his left foot after being hit by a delivery from fast-medium bowler Andrew Hall batting in England's first innings of the fourth Test at Headingley.

"Andrew Hall reverse swung in. It (my toe) is broken. I have broken the big toe near the joint. It is undisplaced at the moment.

Ashraful, Monjurul

FROM PAGE 13

Karachi which was good to bat on even on the fifth day," he said.

On whether beleaguered captain Khaled Mahmud should be considered more as a batsman than a bowler, Whatmore said that he did not have any choice because the team needed three medium pace bowlers and he was one of them.

"Mahmud batting at number eight is not bad on paper but he would like to get some runs and I'm pretty confident that he can get that."

Asked if he was enjoying his new assignment, the former Sri Lankan World Cup-winning coach said that overall he was happy with the way things were going.

"Yes, I'm enjoying it despite having some frustrations and some mistakes."

'It's tainted sans sisters'



AFP, New York

Kim Clijsters hungers for a Grand Slam trophy, but the women's world number one from Belgium admits this year's US Open crown will be a tainted title without Serena and Venus Williams competing for it.

"That's always going to be said of course, because in the last few Grand Slams they have definitely been somewhat dominant," she said. "For any winner this year there's always going to be a point where they always point that out."

Clijsters and Belgian second seed Justine Henin-Hardenne spoke here Sunday on the eve of the year's final Grand Slam tournament. They are favourites on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts with the Williams sisters injured.

"It's still very early to talk about any 'Belgian final,'" Henin-Hardenne said. "A lot of other players can win this tournament."

Anything less than an all-Belgian final will be a failure for the caretakers of the women's throne, ruling only with six-time Slam winner Serena Williams out after knee surgery and fourth seed Venus out with an abdominal strain.

"It's going to be tough to win even if Serena and Venus aren't here," said Henin-Hardenne. "I don't feel much pressure. I don't feel like the favorite here. I think Kim is the favorite. She is number one in the world right now."

"On the paper, she is. On the court, we will see."

Clijsters, 20, is the first number

one without a Grand Slam title, a status she longs to erase here.

"That would be nice but it takes a lot more than just saying it," Clijsters said. "With Serena and Venus pulling out, a lot of players are definitely believing more in their chances now -- are even extra motivated."

"I don't think it puts any more pressure. There's definitely more attention. But those things are not



KIM CLIJSTERS

going to change the way I prepare, the way I feel, the way I look toward my matches."

Henin-Hardenne, 21, beat Clijsters 6-0, 6-4 in the French Open final and again earlier this month in a San Diego hardcourt final. Clijsters would like the chance to avenge the losses but is not overlooking her half of the draw.

"If you think too far ahead, you probably shouldn't even come to the tournament because you've probably lost already," Clijsters said. "I don't feel comfortable doing that."

Angela tales her story



AFP Sydney

A Melbourne stripper claims in a tell-all interview with an Australian magazine that Test cricketer Shane Warne pursued and romanced her in a three-month affair in which he sent her sexy mobile phone messages.

Angela Gallagher, 38, said she started a sexual relationship with Warne in May this year and that the leg-spinner owes her an apology for telling her he had an open relationship with his wife Simone.

Gallagher's claims, paid for by the New Idea magazine and by the Channel Seven television network, were published in the magazine on Monday as the banned superstar sets up temporary refuge in Britain with his wife and children. Channel Seven is due to screen the interview later Monday.

Banned from playing cricket for 12 months after testing positive to a banned diuretic or fluid-loss pill, Warne is reported to have moved to England where he is due to play in a one-day charity fund-raiser on Friday with the Lashings Cricket Club - a touring team of former Test players - at Weybridge in Surrey.

The latest episode in the Warne soap opera follows allegations by South African Helen Cohen Allen earlier this month that he had harassed her with lewd text messages.

The scandal-prone leg-spinner lost the Australian Test vice-captaincy over an earlier scandal in England three years ago, in which a nurse accused him of making raunchy telephone calls to her.

Mother-of-two Gallagher told New Idea magazine she decided to go public over her relationship with Warne because she was angry at public criticism of Helen Cohen Allen.

Gallagher said Warne was on the phone to her "every spare minute he had."

"We'd meet up, go out to clubs and meet up with his mates," she said. "He seemed to make no secret of me."

She described Warne as a "gentle, charming man" whom she said could do a lot of good with his profile. "This saga is a real shame but it's time he faced the truth and apologised," she added.

"I want Shane to apologise and I want him to get help," she said.

"I expect awful things will be said about me after this, but everything that happened is true and I hold my head up high."

Gallagher said she exchanged mobile phone numbers with Warne after meeting him on May 11 at Melbourne nightspot The Motel.

She discovered several explicit text messages from the cricketer after she arrived home later that night, including one that said: "Sweetie, I want to meet you in the toilets".

Warne had later called and asked if he could come around and see her.

"I'd had enough by then so I said goodbye. He said: 'Well, if I can't be with you, can I have phone sex with you?'"

Gallagher, separated from her husband at the time, agreed to meet Warne after he called again the next day.

"I asked him about his wife and he led me to believe they weren't together," she said.

"He told me they had a very open marriage."

She said his story was confirmed by a friend of hers who worked with the Victorian Cricket Association.

A sexual relationship started and continued until Warne went to the United States with the Starlight Children's Foundation and Gallagher reunited with her husband Paul.

Warne won't play in charity match

AFP, Melbourne

Disgraced cricketer Shane Warne has defused potential further disciplinary action from Cricket Australia (CA) by deciding against playing in an English charity match while serving a drugs ban.

Already serving a 12-month ban for testing positive to a banned diuretic and under intense scrutiny over his very public private life, Warne risked further trouble by indicating he planned to play with the Lashings Cricket Club in Surrey on Friday.

CA chief executive James Sutherland said on Monday it was inappropriate and against the spirit of cricket for Warne to play as he is halfway through a 12-month ban for taking a prohibited fluid-loss pill.

But a CA spokesman said late Monday that Warne's manager and brother Jason had phoned Sutherland and confirmed Warne wouldn't play in any charity matches during his England trip.

Warne left with his family on Saturday bound for London to get away from intense scrutiny over his private life.

In the latest episode in the Warne soap opera, a Melbourne stripper claimed she had a sexual affair with the scandal-prone leg-spinner.

Arnold skippers SL's A squad

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka's selectors have picked an experienced squad for the forthcoming A tour of South Africa as they look at their back-up options ahead of England's tour of Sri Lanka later in the year.

Russel Arnold, an experienced 29-year-old middle-order batsman, recently axed from the national side, will captain a 15-man squad that includes 11 players with international experience.

SQUAD

Russel Arnold (captain), Naveed Nawaz, Avishka Gunawardene, Ian Daniel, Jehan Mubarak, Michael Vandort, Prasanna Jayawardene (wk), Lanka de Silva (wk), Thilan Thushara Mirando, Dharshana Gamage, Nuwan Zoysa, Omesh Wijesiriwardene, Kaushalya Weeraratne, Rangana Herath, Janaka Gunaratne.

Drab start

FROM PAGE 13

stadium through their lacklustre display despite the presence of Nigerians Ladi Baba Lola and Bode Baba Lola in their ranks.

Their only notable chance in the entire ninety minutes came when Ladi Baba's brilliant curling free-kick from the left was somehow kept out by Mohammedan custodian Raju.

While Mohammedan's Tapu was clearly the outstanding player in the game, a three member adjudicators panel surprised everybody by declaring Ladi Baba as man of the match.

TEAMS

Moulvibazar Wanderers: Mohammad Ali, Gobinda Chandra Sarker, Faisal Islam (Shahanur Rahman), Jumratul Hossain Mithu, Deen Mohammad, Murad Ahmed Milon, Kabir Hossain, Mahmud Alam, Ladi Baba, Saiful Islam Chanchal and Bode Baba (Mashud Khan Johny).

Chittagong Mohammedan: Rashed Chowdhury Raju, Shaiful Islam (Anupom), Kingshuk Chakma, Ishrafil Hossain, Abu Faisal Ahmed, Shawkat Khan, Abul Hossain (Ashfaq Babu), Shahazuddin Tipu, Arman Aziz (Zahid Parvez), Masud Parvez Kaiser and Mehedi Hasan Tapu.

Referee: Ramkrishna Gosh.

Yellow cards: Abu Faisal Ahmed (Chittagong Mohammedan).

Bekele steals the show



AFP, Paris

American sprinter Jon Drummond brought the World Athletics Championships to a standstill here on Sunday but an outstanding display by Ethiopian wunderkind Kenenisa Bekele in the 10,000 metres later came to the rescue of the competition's battered image.

While a tearful Drummond was disqualified from the 100m quarterfinals for a false start, 21-year-old Bekele displayed maturity which the 34-year-old American lacked by outpacing his legendary countryman Haile Gebrselassie to take gold.

Youth was also the order of the day as 20-year-old Swedish pin-up Carolina Klufft held her nerve mas-

terfully to win the heptathlon and become only the third athlete to go over the 7,000 points landmark seeing off a spirited challenge by France's 1999 champion Eunice Barber.

There was joy for the Americans after the Drummond drama as Kelli White stormed home in the women's 100m from compatriot Torri Edwards with 2001 champion Zhanna Block in third - but the ghost of the absent Marion Jones still hung over the field.

The false start rule, which was introduced this season, was what led to Drummond's stubborn refusal to leave the track, a decision which was roundly booed by the French crowd.

The self-styled Clown Prince of the Track had delayed his heat for 20 minutes after refusing to accept the decision and lay down on the track.



PHOTO: AFP

Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele celebrates after winning the 10000m gold at the 9th IAAF World Athletics Championships on Sunday.

'My next goal is No 1'



AFP, New York

Wimbledon winner Roger Federer is taking aim at Andre Agassi's world number one ranking and a rare Grand Slam double when the US Open starts here Monday.

The 22-year-old Swiss standout is seeded second in the year's final Slam tournament here on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts after capturing his first major tennis crown last month on grass at Wimbledon.

"You have always got to fix new goals after a big title," Federer said Sunday. "I have been very close to number one. I'm number two now so my next goal is number one and to win more titles."

Federer is trying to become only the sixth man to win Wimbledon and the US Open back-to-back, the first since Pete Sampras in 1995, and to dethrone Agassi, at 33 the oldest man at the US Open and ever to own the top ranking.

But just winning one Slam crown after being highly touted has lifted a burden off Federer's back.

"I feel much more relaxed," Federer said. "The pressure I have felt over the past few Grand Slams hasn't been so much fun. So I am very happy to come over that stage."

"Now it's about proving more

than that Wimbledon title, not about just proving I can win one. It's totally different. I feel much more relaxed inside."

With reigning US Open champion Sampras retiring Monday after not playing another match since beating Agassi in last year's final, Federer sees a host of potential replacements ready to sit upon the throne.

"I wouldn't see one guy who is the absolute favorite," Federer said. "I



ROGER FEDERER

think there are three, four, five guys who really have the best chance.

"You have to come through the early rounds, see who is left in the quarters to see who has the best chance. So I think it's open again."

The new rules state that once any athlete has committed one false start the next person who jumps the gun is thrown out regardless of who was penalised first.

Drummond was joined by another disqualified runner Jamaica's Asafa Powell, though he simply stood by his blocks.

Their behaviour bore relation to Linford Christie after he refused to leave the track when he was disqualified in the 1996 Olympics 100m final.

The Briton was one of the first to embrace Drummond on the training track afterwards.

Drummond, who eventually stormed out of the Stade de France in tears, remonstrated with officials declaring "I am not moving, I am not moving and this rule sucks," while staminate Ato Boldon admitted his friend had also used the "F" word.

In the 10,000 metres, Bekele not only left Gebrselassie trailing in second but rubbed salt into the wounds by breaking his compatriot's championship mark with a time of 26min 49.57sec destroying the old one by 23sec.

However, the ever smiling Gebrselassie said defeat here would not bring to an end his brilliant career.

Klufft produced the best heptathlon performance for more than 11 years.

The last time 7,000 points was exceeded was when the American multi-event legend Jackie Joyner Kersee won the 1992 Olympic Games gold medal.

Joyner Kersee holds the heptathlon world record with 7,291 points, which she scored when winning the 1988 Olympic title.

Klufft refused to say whether that had now become her next target.

White, the 26-year-old who was seventh in the 100m final two years ago, clocked a season-leading 10.85sec.

Before the championships she had coolly rejected suggestions that Jones' year off would devalue her win, but after the race she chose her words carefully.

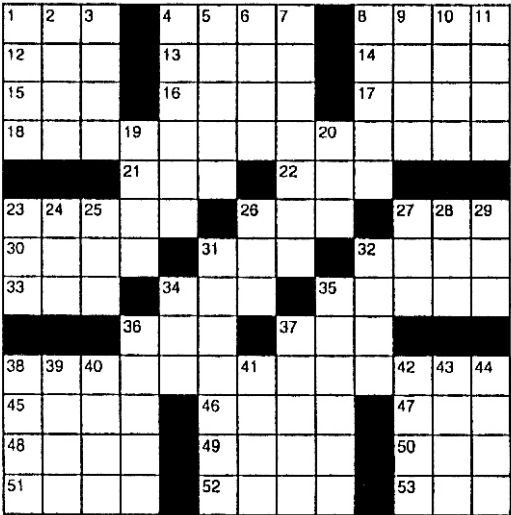
Drummond would be well advised to also seek some advice on how to behave the next time he steps out onto a championship track.

For such a battle weary athlete he surprisingly forgot the golden rule - rules are rules.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Mole swan
4 "Sad to say, ..."
8 Seductress
12 Shade
13 Money-making enterpriser?
14 Sheltered
15 Noun-to-verb suffix
16 Cupid's concern
17 Speaker's place
18 Philippine leader, 1986-92
21 Part of L.A.
22 "That '70s Show" role
23 Durable black lacquer
26 Roulotte bot
27 Driller's deg.
30 Shakespeare's river
31 "Okla-homa" baddie
32 Je ne sais —

DOWN
1 Stylized
2 Anisole-flavored liqueur
3 "Cheers" supply
4 Powerful woman
5 Wheels of fortune
6 Any second now
7 Assaulted from above
8 Capital of Liechtenstein
9 Jai follower
10 Chow —
11 Mexican money
19 Sues of choice
19 "Laugh-In" news-paper
20 Post-proof abbr.
23 Traffic llo-up.
24 "Hall, Caesar!"
25 "Wham!"
26 Aromatic plant
27 Payable
28 Two, in Tijuana
29 Perch
31 1938
32 Campus area
34 In favor of
35 First-aid wraps
36 "Cross of Gold" orator
37 Scarecrow's desire
38 Energizes
39 Land in the water
40 Foll cousin
41 Shredded
42 Diner sign
43 Jesus of baseball
44 Fairy-tale word



CRYPTOQUIP

H H B I C H L J I L H B O T A A H X U

K F C J R K H L J A J N J A Z I F N I L Z

T N M J N R T F U M X J

" T L J - Z T L A T F O . "

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: THE SERVICE AT THIS LUMBERYARD IS SIMPLY SUPERB. ITS MOTTO IS "SAND AND DELIVER!"

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: T equals O

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, about words and words using an anagrammatic give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Kallis routs England

FROM PAGE 13

made a streaky 15 before he too fell to Western Province ace Kallis, wicketkeeper Mark Boucher catching the edge this time.

England were 189 for eight and Kallis had his fourth five-wicket-haul in Test cricket.

Debutant seamer Kabir Ali (nine) became another Kallis scalp when he holed out to Gary Kirsten at mid-on and England were 206 for nine. Kallis had Test-best match figures of nine for 92.

Andrew Hall ended the match when he had James Kirtley caught in the gully for 11 by Gary Kirsten. James Anderson was nought not out.

The result capped a remarkable fightback by the Proteas, who went into this match without star bowler Shaun Pollock.

They had been 21 for four and 142 for seven in their first innings before rallying to 342 with man-of-the-match Gary Kirsten making 130 and debutant Monde Zondeki 59 on a pitch of varying bounce which made life tough for batsmen.

But just as important was the Proteas tail, the last three wickets adding 200 runs in the first innings and 133 runs in the second.

Andrew Hall's Test best 99 not out was the centrepiece of South Africa's second innings 365.

But Kirsten's gritty 60 set up the innings and meant the left-hander had batted for over 11 hours in the match.

England had been going well in their first innings at 164 for one with Marcus Trescothick and Mark Butcher taking 54 off the Proteas in the 9.5 overs possible after tea before they accepted an offer of bad light on Friday.

South Africa regrouped and England, who had been 169 for one were bowled out for 307.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the fourth Test between England and South Africa at Headingley on Monday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 342 (G Kirsten 130, M Zondeki 59, J Rudolph 55; Kabir Ali 3-80)

ENGLAND: First innings 307 (M Butcher 77, M Trescothick 59, A Flintoff 55; J Kallis 3-38, M Ntini 3-62)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 365 (A Hall 99 not out, G Kirsten 60; J Kirtley 3-71)

ENGLAND: Second innings (over-

night 165-5)				
Trescothick c Gibbs b Ntini	4			
Vaughan c Gibbs b Kallis	21			
Butcher c Hall b Kallis	61			
Hussain lbw b Kallis	6			
Smith c Smith b Hall	7			
Stewart c Boucher b Ntini	7			
Flintoff c Hall b Kallis	50			
Bicknell c Boucher b Kallis	15			
Ali c Kirsten b Kallis	9			
Kirtley c Kirsten b Hall	11			
Anderson not out	0			
Extras: (lb-9, w-2, nb-7)	18			
Total: (All out in 61.4 overs)	209			
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-44, 3-62, 4-81, 5-95, 6-169, 7-182, 8-189, 9-206				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ntini	11	2	40	2
Hall	21.4	3	64	2
Pretorius	9	3	27	0
Kallis	17	4	54	6
Zondeki	3	0	15	0
Result: South Africa won by 191 runs and take an unbeatable 2-1 lead.				
Man-of-the-match: Gary Kirsten.				
Next match: Fifth Test, Sept 4-8. Toss: South Africa.				
Umpires: Billy Bowden (New Zealand) and Simon Taufel (Australia).				

Vaughan vexed at Eng



REUTERS, Leeds

Michael Vaughan launched a scathing attack on English cricket just moments after his side were crushed by South Africa on Monday, arguing its players were weighed down by fear and lacked a ruthless streak.

"We play so much county cricket that it can get boring, a treadmill. We don't get enough time in the nets to work on our skills."

"County cricket is not producing mentally tough players. It needs to be looked at."

The England captain, whose side lost by 191 runs at Headingley despite appearing to hold the upper hand on several occasions, said: "Why did we lack ruthlessness? It's a good question. I think over the last few years a lot of England teams have been very similar."

"When you get on top of opposition as good as South Africa, you have to really make those situations count. We didn't do that here and we have not done it in the past very well. "Maybe it's mental, maybe it's to do with attitude, the way we are brought up in our game."

"It's happened a hell of a lot in the past, this wasn't the first time and it's

33 called up

FROM PAGE 13

Hossain Pavel and Hasibul Hossain (Khulna), Dhiman Gosh (Dinajpur) and Golam Fayez (Gazipur).

The players have been instructed to report to Sri Lankan coach Carlton Bernurdus on August 28 at 3pm at the Bangabandhu National stadium.