Murali needs shoulder op

REUTERS, Colombo

World record Test wicket-taker Muttiah Muralitharan requires shoulder surgery and is expected to miss the rest of South Africa's tour of Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan off-spinner was forced out of the second and final Test against South Africa which started on Wednesday after complaining of "intense pain", said team manager Ajit Jayasekera.

Muralitharan, 32, had complained of shoulder pain leading up to the drawn first Test in Galle but decided to play anyway, a decision that led to the injury being aggravated.

"We decided not to play Murali this morning because he was in intense pain and there was a grave risk that he would miss the ICC Champions Trophy (in England next month)," Jayasekera told

"We sent an MRI scan to Doctor David Young (Sri Lanka's medical adviser) in Melbourne on Monday and he says there is a fluid build-up that needs to be removed.

"It seems that the fluid is too deep to be removed here and we may have to send Murali to Australia. We are discussing the situation with David Young and will know more later in the day,' added Javasekera.

Muralitharan has taken 532 wickets in 91 Tests.

South Africa will next week start a series of five one-day internation als in Sri Lanka.

Best, Jacobs out

FROM PAGE 13 experience and consistency to the bowling.

Carew also said Wavell Hinds was now fully fit and that his all-round ability would strengthen the team.

West Indies meet Bangladesh (September 15) and South Africa (September 18) in Pool B of the Champions

SQUAD

Azharuddin.

Ian Bradshaw, Dwayne Bravo, Courtney Browne, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Corey Collymore, Mervyn Dillon, Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Sylvester Joseph, Brian Lara, Jermaine Lawson, Ricardo Powell, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Dwayne

BCB chooses

FROM PAGE 13 Rahman, Ashrafuzzaman and

The under-13 players are Masud Alam, Ashaduzzaman Prince, Ahsan Ali Tipu, Mobasir Khan, Fovsal Kabir, Sangar Rabiyat, Azizul Islam, Aminur Rahman, Shahed Adnan, Rezwan Sunny, Even, Tayebur Rahman, Ashiqul Islam, Abdul Majid, Shahedur Rahman and Al Masud.

Singapore

Oman and Afghanistan have already sent their final team list. Myanmar and Iran are the other teams to participate.

Meanwhile, the hosts will begin their preparation for the event very soon and a 40-member squad is expected to be announced today. The camp will begin at the BKSP in Savar from August 15.

New coach Qamar Ibrahim is expected to take charge and the former Pakistani stick-wielder is due in Dhaka between August 15-20. He will be accompanied by Bangladesh team's new trainer Ershad Haider. who was a trainer of Pakistan's junior

Unlike Ibrahim, Haider will be working with the BHF as a full-time

39 Festive

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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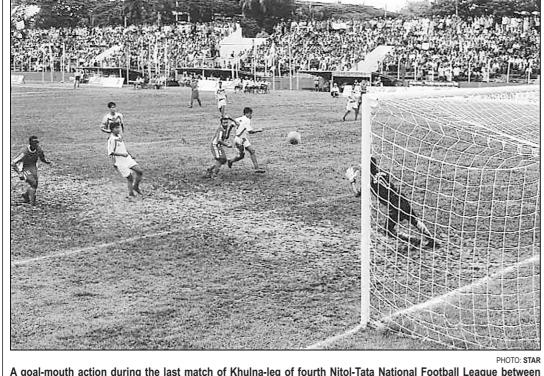
by head-

lights

Solution time: 27 mins

10 Neigh-

One



A goal-mouth action during the last match of Khulna-leg of fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League between Muktijoddha Sangsad and Panchagarh Brothers Union at the local stadium yesterday.

First shame to Kenya



A Kenyan boxer has become the first in what the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is warning could be a long line of athletes to

be thrown out of the Athens Olympics

Bantamweight David Munyasi tested positive for cathine, a stimulant closely related to ephedrine, hours IOC medical director Patrick

Schamasch said on Tuesday the drug found in his system was similar to Bangi - a commonly used recreational drug in East Africa.

Munyasi, 24, who had been due to compete in the men's 54-kilogram bantamweight division, is the first athlete to be caught under the new extended out of competition testing system which the IOC says gives athletes nowhere to hide.

Under the old method he would have escaped detection.

"In previous Games, in out of competition testing we only tested for steroids. These Games we are testing for every banned substance on the IOC list," said Arnie Ljungqvist, chairman of the IOC medical commission.

Liungqvist said he feared there could be a record number of positive tests here at the Athens Games - not because there were more cheats but

000

named, told AFP.

Games," he said.

favorite

place?

shield of Zeus to protect the Games.

'We've created an environment

which is hostile to any threat. What we

have done is huge, but an absolute

guarantee does not exist," a high-ranking

security official, who asked not to be

information about a possible attack,

launched either by foreign or Greek

perpetrators, in Greece during the

"At this time, we have no specific

"Very much has been done already

Greek officials are

confident the

massive security

operation they

have put in place

for the Athens

Olympics, which

open in two days,

will serve as a

because the tests were now much more

Kenyan Olympic officials said they were disappointed with the expulsion "It is a very sad situation," said team

manager Stephen Soi. "We have educated our athletes against taking stimulant rugs to avoid being labelled as cheats. We don't

told AFP in Nairobi A handful of other competitors will not be stepping foot in an Olympic venue after falling victim to the testers.

know what happened to Munyasi," he

Cyclist Oscar Camezind was barred from the Swiss Olympic team after the banned endurance-boosting drug EPO (erythropoietin) was found in his system last month and, in an embarrassment for the host nation, two baseball players from Greece's Olympic team have been dropped after testing positive for drugs.

Andrew James Brack and Derek Nicholson, both US citizens of Greek descent, tested positive for the steroid stanozolol and the diuretic hydrochloro-thiazide respectively. With Friday's opening ceremony

fast approaching, IOC President Jacques Rogge is bracing himself for more positive dope tests in Athens than "In 2002 we had seven positive tests as opposed to five in the previous 18

Games. We might see the same effect in Athens, and I won't be sorry," Rogge

"Each positive case is a victory. It eliminates a cheat and sends a message to those who want to cheat.'

but of course there are still things we

could do, but we have done everything

In Greek mythology, Zeus was the

supreme god, a protector and ruler of all

has "spent a lot" on ensuring the 10,000

Olympic competitors from 201 nations.

accompanying officials, foreign tourists

and Greeks are able to enjoy a safe

"Everything is in place: in the air, on

More than 100,000 police, soldiers,

coastguards and even hunters are already

patrolling Olympic cities and venues

NATO AWACS radar planes have been

monitoring Athens since Tuesday and the

Zeus protects Games

that is humanly possible.

the sea, on land.

However there are signs that athletics - traditionally the showpiece of the Games - could be rocked by a succession of positive tests.

The golden girl of the Sydney Olympics, sprinter Marion Jones, is competing in Athens under the cloud of a wide-reaching investigation carried out by the the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

Even though Jones has never tested positive, she is accused of buying and using steroids and other doping prod-

Confusion surrounds her US teammate, sprinter Torri Edwards, who tested positive for a banned stimulant and is waiting to find out if she will be able to compete in the Irish distance runner Cathal

Lombard, a bit player in the world of

athletics, said after it was revealed he

had tested positive for EPO this week that he was just trying to keep up with his fellow competitors. "I didn't set out to try to win medals or to make money. I just wanted to be as competitive as I could and have an equal chance with everyone else,"

"I looked at some of the times being consistently run and I asked myself if this was possible naturally: the only logical conclusion I could reach was that, in a lot of cases, the answer was definitely ôno'.

said the 28-year-old who trained as a

Athens looks set to prove more than ever that the desire to win medals sometimes pushes Olympians to

Kiwis pick Mills not Franklin

AFP, Wellington

SPÖRT

The New Zealand cricket selectors named a predictable squad Tuesday for the ICC Champions Trophy oneday tournament in England next month

The only possibly contentious call was their decision to select seamer Kyle Mills ahead of all-rounder James Franklin, who performed admirably when injuries saw him called into the Test and one-day teams in England in

Coach John Bracewell said Mills got the nod because he "offers just a little bit more flexibility than Franklin as regards the roles he plays as part of the bowling unit".

Mills was one of three players to undergo fitness tests before their selections were confirmed.

The selectors are satisfied he has overcome a side strain and are like wise content that Chris Cairns (ankle) and Daryl Tuffey (knee and thigh) would be available to participate fully

Leading wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum returns to the team in place of Gareth Hopkins, who donned the gloves when New Zealand won the one-day tri-series against England and the West Indies in England last month after McCullum returned home to attend the birth of his first

New Zealand enter the tournament ranked as the No 2 one-day team in the world. They will face the world's No 1 side, Australia, in their second match on September 16.

They play the United States in their opening pool match on September 10. SQUAD

Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Ian Butler, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Hamish Marshall, Brendon McCullum, Craig McMillan, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Michael Papps, Scott Styris, Daryl Tuffey, Daniel

Queen Mary 2

The Queen Mary 2 officially entered service on January 12. In November, 15 people were killed and 28 injured when a gangway of the ship collapsed while it was undergoing offshore testing in the shipyards of Saint-Nazaire, western

French President Jacques Chirac and former US president George Bush will stay in Piraeus during the August 13-29 Games, according to Greek

In preparation for its high-profile guests, Piraeus underwent extensive security checks and is being guarded by a thousand guards and police officers.

From Gaza

toe -- demanded she dress more

in her austere, breeze-block home earlier this year. Her team mates in Athens, 17-

800 metres runner Abdelsalam Al-Dabagi, have not had it easy either. "I consider it a big dream to take part in the Olympic Games," said Al-

Dabagi, who also comes from the Gaza Strip but had been training in Egypt before the Games.

instead of Gaza was that I was afraid that while training the Israelis might consider me a terrorist and shoot me."

Four-star Moni

FROM PAGE 13

the one-hour mark. Kabua found the net again in three

minutes when the robust striker dribbled past three rival booters including the goalkeeper to make it 4-

netted a consolation goal for Brothers 10 minutes from time. But the dying minutes turned out to be a nightmare for them as Kanchan scored once again and set up another for man-ofthe-match and fellow national striker Moni inside the last three minutes. Yellow cards: Saiful, Enamul

(Muktijoddha) and Mojibur (Panchagarh Brothers). TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA: Aminul (Titu), Hassan Al Mamun, Pradip (Deen Mohammed), Papel, Lajuk (Enamul), Biddyut, Kabir, Kanchan, Kabua and PANCHAGARH BROTHERS: Shapath

Mojibur, Jibon, Sony, Jet, Sumi, Nayan To bat: Harrison, Cusden (Palash), Chanchal, Najib, Mantri Munday, Turner. Fall of wkts: 1-33, 2-54, 3-103, 4-140, 5-

(Alam) and Zakir (Ainul). Referee: Ibrahim Nesar.

Larger than life

REUTERS, Athens



Ian Thorpe might swim like a giant shark but he still feels like he's living in a tiny fishbowl Thorpe had

been hoping to keep a relatively low-profile in Athens after all the hype in Sydney four years ago but it was just wishful thinking.

Even with American Michael

Phelps chasing a record eight gold medals, Thorpe remains the most recognisable swimmer in the world and a constant source of fascination. It was standing room only when he

held his first news conference at Athens on Tuesday with journalists, photographers and television crews from around the world cramming into an undersized auditorium to hear him And it's not just the media that are

hooked on Thorpe. The Australian says he has been besieged by other athletes at the Olympic village and his only sanctuary is the bedroom he shares with Craig Stevens. "I do get a little bit hounded in the

village," Thorpe said. "But being athletes they understand there is a job at hand and it is just about getting Thorpe is remarkably unfazed by

all the attention. Now 21, he has been living in the spotlight since he made the Australian swimming team as a 14

He was world champion by 15 and won three gold medals as a 17 year old at the Sydney Olympics, earning millions in endorsements and sponsorship deals

His list of achievements is already staggering but the best may be yet to come. He is entered for six events at Athens and has strong prospects in

Thorpe is the favourite to win the 200 and 400 metres freestyle races and is one of the leading contenders for the 100m, giving him the chance of a



unique treble. He is also entered in the three relays with Australia expected to finish in the medals in each event.

Thorpe is unbeaten over 400m in seven years and hasn't lost over 200m since he finished second to Pieter van den Hoogenhand in Sydney He avenged his loss to the flying

Dutchman by beating him at the past

two world championships and regaining the world record, but not everything has gone smoothly for him.

Thorpe almost missed the 400m in Athens after he was disqualified for a false start at the Australian trials and only got to swim the event after

Stevens stood aside to focus on his

Thorpe faces a great challenge in the 200m with van den Hoogenband. Phelps and former world record holder Grant Hackett all lining up against him in what shapes as the best race of the Olympics.

At 1.95 metres tall and weighing 98 kilograms, Thorpe has the perfect physique for swimming with hands like plates and size-17 feet that act like He also cuts an imposing figure as

he prowls the pool deck in his black bodysuit but there are lingering concerns about his form. He set 13 long-course world

records between 1999 and 2002 but hasn't set another one since dumping his long-term coach Doug Frost for Tracey Menzies, his high school art Under Menzies, Thorpe has been

refining his technique and focusing more on his sprint, and the pair are confident the benefits will be there to see in Athens. "The only way you can judge

performances is after the race, Thorpe said. "And for me, it's not about medals, it's about performance and knowing you've done the best you



Pakistan hockey players stretch while Indian players (in the background) look on during their practice sessions in

Abbas aims at gold



Pakistan's goalchurning machine and penalty corner expert Sohail Abbas yearns for an Olympic gold at Athens for his

field hockey

Abbas, 23, has 247 goals from 201

international matches. He needs just 20 more goals to match the world record held by the legendary Dutch striker Paul He is tipped to be one of the stars of

the field hockey event with his ferocious goal-scoring penalty corner conversions, which are known for sending shivers through rival camps. Abbas has bagged 19 hat-tricks, a record unmatched in international field

hockey. But he is not banking on the "I know past records don't count in

Enamul c Davies b Turner

Ashim c Cook b Turner

Extras: (lb-2, w-8, nb-7)

Total: (All out in 92.4 overs)

6 - 158, 7 - 160, 8 - 167, 9 - 228, 10 - 273.

ENGLAND U-19: First innings

Cook c Aftab b Shahadat

Patel c Shahriar b Nadif

Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-5, nb-8)

Total: (For 5 wkts in 87 overs)

Bopara b Nadif

Hildreth not out

Wright b Nadif

Davies not out

Denly c Dhiman b Shahadat

0 M

> 5 57

6 41

4 42

0 39

0

31

21

65

310

20.4

14 5 35

21

18

Shahadat not out

Harrison

Bopara

Wright

Munday

Patel

Olympics, a player is great only when he performs to the best on the hockey fields," he told AFP. "Litjens was a great player so it

would be nice to overhaul his record but if you compare goal-scoring it was easier Pakistan hired Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans after it lost all its field hockey

titles, the latest in 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. "With Oltmans we have developed quite a few surprises for other teams

and hope these win us a gold medal," said Abbas. But the unassuming star knows the

which we will only try in the Olympics

severity of the task "Every team comes with an aim to win gold so we need to do over 100

percent to win the Olympics and I know my responsibility, which is to score as many goals as possible." Abbas, the nephew of former

Pakistan international Safdar Abbas, emerged as a leading goal-scorer at domestic level in 1996 but was overlooked for two years due to internal

He finally made his entry at the international level against India in the 1998 bilateral series and instantly made

Abbas helped Pakistan win against India in 1998 and 1999. In 2000 he helped Pakistan to play in the Sydney Olympics with 12 goals in the qualifying event in Japan.

Pakistan went out in the semi-finals against South Korea but Abbas finished as second top scorer with eight goals in the 2000 Olympics.

He earned a reputation as a goalchurning machine when he broke two world records -- scoring the most goals in a calendar year (60 in 1999) and the

fastest century of goals (two years, six months and 18 days). "My goals are not mine, they are of the team. At times I don't know how I have scored. Maybe it's because the prayers of the entire nation are behind

Coach Oltmans admitted Abbas was the potent weapon but he disagreed that

Pakistan's team was a one-man show. "Abbas is our best player but I rely on all 16 players and if the inspiration comes from one player so be it," Oltmans said.

Hildreth defies junior Tigers

59 Nazmul 16 3 Shahadat 44 17 Nadif 29 7 79 273 2 19 74 Fall of wkts: 1-38, 2-63, 3-69, 4-84, 5-152 Toss: Bangladesh Under-19. Umpires: B Leadbeater and AGT

Global Insurance TT from Aug 30 SPORTS REPORTER

The second Global Insurance Open

Table Tennis competition, which was earlier postponed due to flood, will begin at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium on August 30. The three-day meet includes seven

boys' team, men's singles, women's singles, boys' singles and unseeded players' singles. Interested teams and players have been asked to register their names by August 25 at the Bangla-desh Table

Tennis Federation office

events -- men's team, women's team,

Serena misses **Olympics** 0

Serena Williams has pulled out of the Olympic tennis tournament with a knee US Olympic spokesman Randy

Walker said her sports surgeon had

advised her to withdraw rather than risk

long-term injury to her left knee which

forced the American out of the San Diego and Montreal tournaments in the last two She was replaced by Australia's

Samantha Stosur in the event which starts Sunday "She was in New York vesterday to join her team-mates and fly to Athens and just

see David Altcheck," Walker said. "He said she would risk long term injury by competing and advised her to Williams, who had surgery on her left

before going to the airport she stopped to

knee in August 2003 which left her sidelined for eight months, was probably more concerned with getting fully fit for the US Open. There was no news on her elder sister

Venus was was due to defend her singles

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CRYPTOQUIP

GY VA VAFSW XGSM HNSN EVAM UA V MUUSPAUX,

G FQNCC GK HUQEM YEW KRN RVAMEN Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON GETS HEAVY FROM HAVING TOO MUCH SWEET WINE,

COULD YOU CALL HIM PORTLY? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals F

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.

transatlantic alliance's ships are patrolling international waters near Greece. A high-tech blimp is hovering over Athens, keeping activities on the ground under surveillance and closed-circuit

mankind. In the 21st century, though, cameras are watching over Athens Greeks are relying on a little more than the blessing of the gods for the Games to pass Some 400 soldiers, mostly US troops are on the alert on a base in Germany "ready to intervene, but only at Greece's With the budget for the Games' security at 1.2 billion euros, the country request in the event of a really hard blow,

said the official.

"But that seems highly improbable given the level of mobilisation of the Greek army.' Greek air force jets have since Monday

"An air exclusion zone has been set up over a radius of 40 miles above the Olympic complex." And the high-tech C4I system -- for

"command, control, communications

computers and intelligence" -- is "opera-

tional at between 85 and 90 percent.

been patrolling the skies above Attica. the

region of which Athens is the main city.

"A few cameras are missing, so we don't have an absolute image of the Attica region, but that does not affect the general security plan," the source said.

But, as if all that were not enough, the organisers have called on the population to help out. "We are also counting on the Greek

people lending a hand," said the security

A free telephone number, 1014, has been set up for Athenians and visitors to report suspicious objects, people or activities, and has already taken dozens of

"The callers, mostly aged under 40

report abandoned packages or other

suspicious things that worry them." Two Greek liaison officers have been dispatched to NATO headquarters in Belgium to coordinate civil assistance operations in the event they become In addition to Olympic athletes,

be welcoming some 70 heads of state and royalty during the Games, including former US president George Bush, who arrived in northern Greece on Tuesday. Bush Senior is to head the US delegation of dignitaries who will reside on luxury ocean liner, the Queen Mary II

which arrived in the port of Piraeus

Wednesday morning.

officials and spectators. Greece will also

The Queen Mary will remain moored in Piraeus, south of Athens, for the duration of the Games, serving as a luxury hotel on water for hundreds of dignitar-

When she started out in 2000, running in shorts and a T-shirt, residents of the Deir al-Balah refugee camp -- where most women are covered from head to

modestly "It's not easy being a woman athlete here," she said in an interview

year-old swimmer Raad Awassat and

"My reason for training in Egypt

who looked irrepressible at the flank was also behind the third goal when he set up Kabua to score his first goal on

Moni completed his treble -- the third of the league -- with a spectacular header on a left-flank centre by Kanchan halfway through the second

Substitute Mohammad Alam