

Sagar second

SPORTS REPORTER

Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar finished runner-up in the Telegraph School Chess Championship securing 9.5 points after the end of the eleventh and last round in Kolkata on Monday.

Sagar, who dominated the table till the seventh round, beat Debayan Majumdar in the final round while Jain Shrenhin Daklia emerged champion with ten points.

Other Bangladeshi participants Imran Ali Elin bagged eight points while Suvo Ghosh and Farzana Hossain collected seven points each.

Hockey players' transfer Sept 7

SPORTS REPORTER

The First Division hockey players transfer for the 2004 season will begin on September 7 at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation office at Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

The bourse will end on September 9.

Each club will be allowed to register a maximum of three foreign players this year and the clubs will be able to field all of them in a match.



Kostadinos Kenteris

(Greek athlete)
"I suffer a great injustice. With all sincerity, I have never made use of illegal substances."

Star

Whizz KID

OMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post

The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 10, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?	Gakina	Devers
2. Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?	India	Pakistan Sri Lanka
3. Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title?	Federor	Henman Agassi
4. Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey crown?	Usha MSC	Bangladesh Army
Name		
Class	Roll No.	
School Address		
Phone: (If any)		



Chinese Olympians, who achieved their country's best ever performance in the Games, return to Beijing to heroes' welcome at the airport yesterday.

Beijing rolls out red carpet

AFP, Beijing



China's Olympic team returned Tuesday to a hero's welcome and dedicated its medals to 'the motherland', as the country swelled with nationalistic pride and vowed to host a 'glorious' Games in 2008.

"These results are the product of the concern of the (communist) party and government and of the strong support of society," said Feng Kun, captain of the gold medal-winning women's volleyball team, speaking on the athletes' behalf.

"They do not just belong to the individual athletes who won the medals, but also to the motherland and the people."

As the athletes, dressed in formal blazers and carrying flowers, worked their way from their plane at Beijing airport to the terminal, many were mobbed by reporters and well-wishers asking for autographs.

The plane was greeted by dozens of dancers in red and yellow costumes, a traditional drum and cymbal troupe, a military brass band and some 100 family and friends waving welcome banners and mini Chinese flags.

Politburo Standing Committee member Li Changchun welcomed each of the 245 athletes as they stepped back onto Chinese soil.

Other members of China's 407-strong team had already returned.

China claimed 32 gold medals in Athens, four more than its previous best in Sydney four years ago.

Its total medal tally amounted to 63, with 17 silver and 14 bronze, also four more than its record in Sydney.

He said the focus was now on the Chinese capital and he pledged that the 2008 host would not let the world down.

He called on every Beijinger to take their responsibility seriously.

China has invested heavily in the 2008 Olympics and will build 18 new stadiums and revamp the city's infrastructure.

Yet despite an Olympic cam-

paign that surpassed the wildest pre-Athens expectations of 20 golds, Chinese officials are adamant that there is plenty of room for improvement between now and the 2008 Games.

And Chinese officials insist they will now concentrate on winning more golds in the blue riband events of the Olympics such as athletics rather than their overall position on the final medal table in four years time.

China hope that their two gold medals in athletics won by Liu Xiang and Xing Huina in the 10,000m will inspire a new generation of track stars.

Yuan said China could recruit more foreign coaches as it attempted to close the gap on the sporting superpowers.

China has already dabbled with hiring foreigners in sports such as basketball and football and five-time Olympic gold medalist Michael Johnson has already been to China to conduct coaching clinics.

The trend is set to continue, Yuan said.

No slowing Schumacher

REUTERS, Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium)

Michael Schumacher has no intention of calling a day on his illustrious career after winning his seventh world title, Ferrari team boss Jean Todt says.

The German continued his relentless domination of Formula One when second place behind McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen in Sunday's Belgium Grand Prix was

enough to wrap his fifth consecutive drivers' championship.

But Todt said on Monday the 35-year-old would not be retiring.

"I think it's an enjoyable experience for him now which he has no wish to end," said Todt, who has set up around him the Ferrari 'Dream Team', including technical director Ross Brawn and chief designer Rory Byrne.

"He has nothing to prove but he

drives for pleasure," Todt added.

"He does the job, which is his passion, to drive for a team that he loves and he is loved by the team."

"In a way it might seem extraordinary but he's still young, he's very motivated, he's very fit and he feels good."

"He's in an environment which brings him joy, serenity, the feelings that he enjoys, so there's no reason for him to finish."

Schumacher has put the pretenders to his throne in the shade again this year in winning 12 of the 14 races so far.

The 82-time Grand Prix winner has a special relationship with boss Todt, who believes that has helped Ferrari to lift the six constructors' and five drivers' titles since 1999.

"We have such a unique relationship. There's nothing special, it's just that we aim for the same final result and we just feel so much happiness and reward if we can achieve it."

"Sometimes it's hard to believe what has happened over the last years," Todt added.

"What Ferrari is doing, what Michael is doing for Ferrari, it has never happened in the whole history of motor sport so it's just fantastic."

Ferrari have dropped only 36 points all season and Todt hailed the team work that has kept them at the top of the sport.



THE RED MACHINE: Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher (R) from Germany who won his seventh world title, poses with mechanics after the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix at the Spa-Francorchamps race circuit on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

42 Jongg preceder

1 Hoofed beast of the tropics

6 Exalted

12 Danson's "Cheers"

13 Hard and cold

14 In the vicinity

15 Kitchen gadget

16 "Well"-financed org.

17 Basilica section

19 Expert

20 Ship's framework

22 Trench

24 Blubber

27 Carrots' mates

29 Stead

32 Joe Klein best seller

35 Bygone times

36 Actress

37 Polo

37 Tandoori bread

38 Stick with a kick

40 Hang (on)

DOWN

1 Rainout

2 Lotion

3 Joey's additive

4 Hostel

5 Signal of imminent danger

6 Venomous

7 Precipitous

8 Driver's spot

9 Kinship

10 A

11 Baldwin

12 Long March leader

18 Cast

21 — tree

23 Under the weather

24 Austin Powers, e.g.

25 Acapulco gold

26 Present time?

28 Used caller ID

30 Detergent

31 Annapolis abbr.

33 Chaps

34 Tin Man's team

39 Moment

41 Long

42 Maximum

43 St. Louis landmark

45 Individuals

47 "Phooey!"

48 Continental Airlines

49 Oklahoma city

51 Branch

53 Prior to

Solution time: 27 mins.

ACROSS

42 JONGG

1 HOOFED

6 EXALTED

12 DANSON

13 HARDY

14 IN THE

15 KITCHEN

16 WELL

17 BASILICA

19 EXPERT

20 SHIP'S

22 TRENCH

24 BLUBBER

27 CARROT

29 STEAD

32 JOE KLEIN

35 BYGONE

36 ACTRESS

37 POLO

37 TANDOORI

38 STICK

40 HANG

DOWN

1 RAINOUT

2 LOTION

3 JOEY'S

4 HOSTEL

5 SIGNAL

6 VENOMOUS

7 PRECIPITOUS

8 DRIVER'S

9 KINSHIP

10 A

11 BALDWIN

12 LONG

18 CAST

21 TREE

23 UNDER

24 AUSTIN

25 ACAPULCO

26 PRESENT

28 USED

30 DETERGENT

31 ANNAPOLIS

33 CHAPS

34 TIN MAN

39 MOMENT

41 LONG

42 MAXIMUM

43 ST. LOUIS

45 INDIVIDUALS

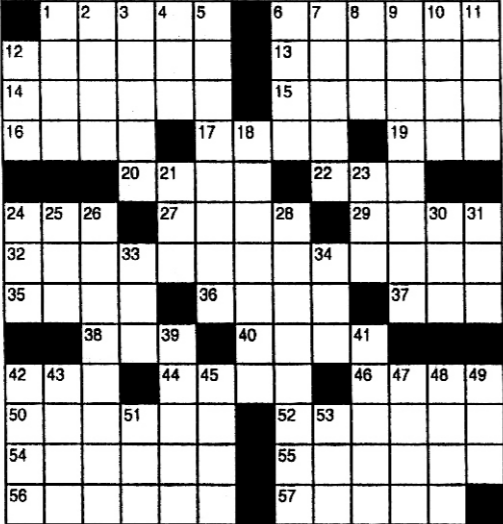
47 PHOOEY

48 CONTINENTAL

49 OKLAHOMA

51 BRANCH

53 PRIOR



CRYPTOQUIP

B B Z W F B K D W E D W Y Y X

F I I C - Y I I O B K F G W E G W E B W K

F H X Z B F Q J G D K W Z D C

W J J B Y W I Q D Q H K O

Yesterday's Cryptogquip: WHAT LAMINATED PLASTIC BRAND WOULD A BIBLICAL PROPHET USE? FOR MICAH, OF COURSE!

Today's Cryptogquip Clue: G equals B

The Cryptogquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to localizing vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Lanka keep

FROM PAGE 13
Duminy 2 0 10 0
Kallis 3 0 31 0

SOUTH AFRICA

Smith run out 25
Gibbs b Zoysa 6
Kallis c S'kara b Chandana 101
Rudolph c Dilshan b Chandana 48
Boucher c L'rachchi b Jayasuriya 24
Pollock c L'rachchi b Jayasuriya 11
Duminy c G'wardene b Chandana 0
Klusener c Chandana b Jayasuriya 4

Boje not out 21
Langeveldt c S'kara b Jayasuriya 2
Ntini c sub (Malinga) b Chandana 7
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-6) 10
Total: (All out in 48.1 overs) 259
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-59, 3-173, 4-210, 5-221, 6-222, 7-225, 8-239, 9-242

Bowler

Zoysa 8 0 25 1
Maharoof 6 0 42 0
Dilshan 5.5 0 31 0
Jayasuriya 10 0 47 3
L'rachchi 6 0 29 0
Herath 3 0 19 0
Chandana 9.1 0 61 5
Jayantha 0.1 0 1 0
Result: Sri Lanka won by 49 runs and clinch the five-match series 5-0.
Man-of-the-match: Upul Chandana.
Man-of-the-series: Kumar Sangakkara.

FIDE chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Ten players were jointly leading the table with maximum three points in the Destiny Open FIDE Rating chess tournament after the third round at the federation hall room yesterday.

They are: IM Abdullah Al Rakib, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Khadakar Aminul Islam, Saifuddin Lavlu, Deen Mohammed, FM Rezaul Haque, Noor Alam, Mahatabuddin Ahmed, Delwar Hossain and Nazrana Khan Iva.

Open TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Ripon became champion in the unseeded players' singles in the Second Global Insurance open table tennis competition, which began yesterday at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium.

He beat Parag 11-7, 12-10, 10-22, 15-13 in the final.

On the opening day, 42 boys' singles, eight women's singles, six men's singles, eight boys' team, five women's team and eight men's team matches were held.

Shantoo

FROM PAGE 13
explained Shantoo.

The coach however, was not happy with the lack of match practice.

"We had only nine practice matches whereas most of the other participating teams have played over 60 games in the same period."

TEAM

Mazharul Islam, Imdadul Haq Monu, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Abul Kashem, Arafat Ali, Mamunul Islam, Rony Islam, Mamun Hossain, Zahid Hussein, Rajan Miah, Mithun Chowdhury, SM Rajib, Sarwar Hossain, Al Amin Hossain, Nasirul Islam, Rubel Ahmed, Hirak Juardar, Ali Hossain, Abid Hossain and Rahatul Kabir.

Mukti march

FROM PAGE 13
match in hand against title contenders Brothers.

"We don't have to worry about that match but it does not mean that we will relax. Our target is the semifinal and I think many of my boys who have picked their second yellow cards today, will be free for the semifinal," Manik told after the match.

"We had the option to be attacking from the start because we had an extra forward in Moni. Getting two goals in the first half was sweet."

He however, denied that his players looked tired in the second half.

"They were desperate and played very spirited football after the first hour. Anything can happen under these circumstances but the way we survived proved that we can go further in this tournament," Manik added.

Yellow cards: Munna, Saiful, Kabua (Muktijodha) and Narayan, Burdeep (Russel KC).

TEAMS

Muktijodha: Aminul, Papal, Hassan Al Mamun, Pradip, Saiful, Ghansah, Munna, Belal (Kabir, 79th minute), Moni, Kanchan (Biddyt, 65th) and Kabua.

Russel KC: Biplab, Narayan, Burdeep, Rezaul, Nurul Islam, Asif, Asad (Maruf, 46th), Jalal, Mintu (Royal, 68th), Bulbul and Milon.
Referee: Abdul Hannan Miron.

Easy in the end

FROM PAGE 13
the wins over Surrey and the West Indies - it's a shame to go out on a losing note."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second warm-up match between Bangladesh and Ireland at Limavady in Belfast on Monday:

BANGLADESH

Omar c J Bushe b G Cooke 8
Ashrafutal ct sub (Mooney) b Shoukat 22
N Iqbal lbw Shoukat 10
R Saleh b McCallan 26
AAhmed b McCallan 15
M I Rana ct Molins b McCallan 0
K Mashud not out 51
M Rafique ct sub (Morgan) b Cooke 42
K Mashud c & b G Cooke 10
T Baisya ct P Gillespie b G Cooke 7
N Hossain b G Cooke 40
Extras: (lb-4, lb-6, nb-7, w-23) 231
Fall of wkts: 1-27, 2-45, 3-51, 4-87, 5-93, 6-116, 7-195, 8-210, 9-230, 10-231.

Bowler O M R W
Coubrey 10 0 47 0
Cooke 9.4 1 55 5
Shoukat 9 0 32 2
McCallan 10 0 33 3
Botha 9 0 44 0
White 2 0 10 0

IRELAND

J Molins b K Mahmud 17
J Bray M Rafique 46
A Botha ct N Iqbal b K Mahmud 5
A White ct M I Rana b M Rafique 1
P Gillespie b Tapash Baisya 29
K Mc Callan ct J Omar b M I Rana 22
D Joyce ct K Mashud b T Baisya 3
N Shoukat ct T Baisya b K Mahmud 5
G Cooke not out 17
J Bushe ct K Mashud b K Mahmud 6
AMcCoubrey b T Baisya 10
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-3) 6
Total: (all out in 46.3 overs) 177
Fall of wkts: 1-46, 2-54, 3-76, 4-88, 5-130, 6-136, 7-137, 8-148, 9-161, 10-177.

Bowler O M R W
T Baisya 8.3 0 45 3
N Hossain 10 1 37 0
K Mahmud 10 1 34 4
M Rafique 8 0 30 2
M I Rana 10 0 30 1
Result: Bangladesh won by 54 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammed Rafique.
Toss: Bangladesh
Umpires: DW Caldwell, E Cooke.

Red Rooney



Football

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United finally got their hands on Wayne Rooney on Tuesday after nearly a week a tense negotiations concluded with the club agreeing a transfer fee with his current club Everton.

In a statement to the Stock Exchange, United said they had reached an outline agreement to sign the 18-year-old England forward subject to him passing a medical.

There was no immediate confirmation of the transfer fee, believed to be in the region of 25 million pounds (45 million dollars).

That was the level of the last offer tabled by United on Saturday to see off competition from Newcastle, whose chances of signing Rooney disappeared on Monday when they sacked manager Sir Bobby Robson.

Rooney is currently sidelined as a result of a broken metatarsal bone, which he suffered in England's Euro 2004 quarter-final defeat by Portugal. The injury was not however expected to prevent him from passing the medical.

Presuming there are no last-minute hitches, Rooney will join up with Ruud van Nistelrooy, Louis Saha and Alan Smith to complete a formidable quartet of international strikers at Old Trafford.

Despite his young age, Rooney demonstrated at Euro 2004, where he scored four goals and was England's outstanding player, that he can thrive on football's biggest stage.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has described the teenager as the most gifted English player he has seen and admitted that his arrival at Old Trafford will significantly strengthen United.

Among United diehards, the hope is that Rooney will have the kind of galvanising effect on the rest of the team that Eric Cantona had in the trophy-rich 1990s.

The scale of Rooney's impact will not be clear for some time but it is clear that United are in need of an injection of new talent.

A stuttering start to the season has left Sir Alex Ferguson's side seven points adrift of Arsenal and Chelsea after just four matches, a gap that many already regard as too big to be made up.

A fee of around 25 million pounds (45 million dollars) for Rooney would make him the third most expensive acquisition by United or any other British club, behind the 29 million United paid for Rio Ferdinand and the 28 million they splashed out on Juan Sebastian Veron.

Since those deals were done however the transfer market has gone into freefall and United had initially balked at meeting Everton's valuation of their most prized asset.

Ferguson's hand was forced however when Newcastle made a surprise bid of 20 million pounds last week, subsequently raising their offer to 23.5 million.

Up until then, Everton boss David Moyes had been confident that Rooney would agree to sign a new five-year contract at the club that discovered and developed him.

Any hope Everton had of clinging on to Rooney disappeared on Friday when he handed in a formal transfer request, citing his desire to move to a club that could provide him with regular European football.

Rooney's desire to leave Liverpool has also been driven by recent lurid press revelations that he had frequented back-street brothels in his home city.

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Premiership Portsmouth win a thriller

AFP, Portsmouth

Portsmouth beat Fulham 4-3 in a fast-paced Premiership match here on Monday night with countless chances for either side though question marks surrounded the quality of both defences.

Ayeybeni Yakubu scored a hat-trick in a night of high drama when Harry Redknapp's side finally got off the mark for their first win of the season.

After 19 minutes, Portsmouth were ahead. Yakubu ran into the box and came up against Zat Knight but the ball cannoned across the edge of the box to Eyal Berkovic who hit an inspirational volley just inside the right hand post.

Just three minutes later, Yakubu got Pompey's second through a penalty which he converted via the crossbar.

Portsmouth went three goals up inside the first half hour.

Fuller got past Alain Goma on the edge of the box before feeding Yakubu on the left of the area and he made no mistake with a rasping shot.

Fulham were clearly prepared to battle back and by the break they had clawed back two goals.

Boa Morte floated in a cross from the left and Andy Cole brilliantly made space for himself at the far post and fired a looping header past Pompey keeper Hislop in the 39th minute.

Then Boa Morte got on to the scoresheet two minutes later after shooting under the body of Hislop.

midway through the second half Yakubu completed his hat-trick. Berkovic turned on the edge of the box and found Yakubu who stroked the ball home low