Pioneer football

SPORTS REPORTER

Friends Social Welfare Organisation emerged Shinepukur Pioneer Football League champions when they crushed Dhaka Junior Sporting Club 3-0 in the final at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamlapur yesterday.

Al-Amin, who opened the account for Friends after 13 minutes, doubled the lead in the 47th minute while Arif sealed the victory ten minutes later.

The two finalists and third-placed Jirabo Sporting Club have been promoted to next year's Third Division league.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir distributed the prizes after the final.

Top accolade for Holmes

REUTERS, *Monaco*

Kelly Holmes, who won the 800-1,500 double in Athens, has been named as the International Association of Athletics Federations' women's performance of the year award.

Ethiopian distance runner Kenenisa Bekele and Russian pole-vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva won the male and female athletes of the year awards.

Bekele, 22, won the world cross-country long and short course titles for the third consecutive time this year.

He set a world indoor 5,000 record and also broke his compatriot Haile Gebrselassie's world outdoor 5,000 and 10,000 marks before going on to win the Olympic 10,000 metres title in Athens followed by a silver medal behind Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj in the 5,000.

Isinbayeva, also 22, won the Olympic title and set eight world records, three of them indoors.

El Guerrouj was given a special award for the male performance of the year with his Olympic 1,500 and 5,000 double.

WI worries

FROM PAGE 13

"It's certainly something new for me as a cricket coach to understand that pressure. I think it got to both sides as I think the pitch was more than a 200 pitch. But the pressure was so great that the batting wasn't what it should have been."

Only a stand of 82 in 83 balls between Rahul Dravid (67), the ICC World Player of the Year, and Ajit Agarkar (47), took India to a competitive total after they slumped to 73 for five.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the ICC Champions Trophy Pool C match between India and Pakistan at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Sunday:

INDIA: 200 all out in 49.5 overs (Dravid 67, Agarkar 47, Kaif 27; Naved 4-25, Akhtar 4-36)

PAKISTAN

Hameed c Nehra b Pathan	15
Farhat c Dravid b Pathan	0
Malik c Dravid b Pathan	5
Inzamam c Dravid b Agarkar	41
Youhana not out	81
Razzaq b Sehwag	9
Moin c Yuvraj b Nehra	10
Afridi c Sehwag b Yuvraj	25
Naved not out	5
Extras: (lb-7, w-3)	10
Total: (For 7 wkts in 49.2 overs)	201

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-10, 3-27, 4-102, 5-127, 6-152, 7-187

Did not bat: Sami, Akhtar

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	9	1	34	3
Nehra	10	0	45	1
Agarkar	10	2	33	1
Harbhajan	10	1	37	0
Ganguly	4	0	17	0
Sehwag	4	0	22	1
Yuvraj	2.2	0	6	1

Result: Pakistan won by 3 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Yousuf Youhana.

Trophy comes alive

ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY ENGLAND 2004

REUTERS, *London*

The ICC Champions Trophy has finally burst into life with Pakistan and West Indies recording thrilling victories over India and South Africa to set up an intriguing semifinal showdown.

Pakistan sneaked to a nervy three-wicket win over India at Edgbaston, overhauling their rivals' 200 all out with four balls to spare while West Indies' win was equally tight, beating South Africa at the Oval by five-wickets with seven balls left.

"I think we showed a lot of character. We won the crucial parts of the game," West Indies captain Brian Lara said on Sunday. "Wickets in hand is what one-day cricket is all about."

If Pakistan and West Indies can perform in their semifinal as they did on Sunday, their match at the Rose Bowl in Southampton on Wednesday should be peppered with incisive bowling, explosive hitting but most crucially some cool, calm batting amid chaos.

West Indian Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Pakistan's Yousuf Youhana were the lynchpins of Sunday's run chases and their sides might have lost without them.

Man-of-the-match Youhana hit an unbeaten 81 from 114 balls and even needed a runner towards the end as cramp set in but he battled on to take his team to their third successive win over India.

Chanderpaul made 51 from 52 to take the game away from South Africa and help make amends for West Indies' poor recent form.

Pakistan seamers Shoaib Akhtar and Rana Naved-ul-Hasan took four for 36 and four for 25 respectively to set up their win although India, especially Irfan Pathan who bagged three cheap early wickets, did well to nearly force a victory.

Nevertheless captain Sourav Ganguly knew where the game had been lost.

"We have not been playing good cricket since the time we came back after our break," he said. "If you look at the last four months we have just not had enough totals. But it is not a worry, we know we are a good side."

Australia and England will contest the other semifinal at Edgbaston on Tuesday after the world champions eased to victory over New Zealand on Thursday and the hosts needed heavy rain and Duckworth-Lewis to send Sri Lanka packing on Saturday.

Before Sunday the tournament had been dogged by one-sided matches against minor cricketing nations and the unpredictable English weather.

Many have criticised the International Cricket Council for organising the tournament in the English autumn but it has argued September fits in well between the cricket seasons in the northern and southern hemispheres.

Even West Indies' match with South Africa in Pool B was rolled over from Saturday when rain brought a halt to proceedings with Brian Lara's men on 20 without loss after a century from Herschelle Gibbs took South Africa to 246 for six.

The spectacle at the Oval on Sunday made up for that, Ramnaresh Sarwan striking 75 and Ricardo Powell firing West Indies towards victory with 16 from 10 balls.

Shahid Afridi mirrored the feat for Pakistan smashing 25 off 12 including two sixes in one Pathan over to snatch any initiative from India.

Captain Inzamamul Haq also made an important 41 after his side were wobbling on 27 for three and in the process became only the second player after Sachin Tendulkar to reach 10,000 one-day runs.

"The boys played really well together especially the bowlers and in the end Yousuf Youhana played an excellent knock," he said.

FINAL STANDINGS

REUTERS, *London*

ICC Champions Trophy standings on completion of the first phase on Sunday:

POOL A Team	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
Australia	2	2	0	0	4	+3.237
N Zealand	2	1	1	0	2	+1.603
USA	2	0	2	0	0	-5.121

POOL B Team	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
W Indies	2	2	0	0	4	+1.471
S Africa	2	1	1	0	2	+1.552
Bangladesh	2	0	2	0	0	-3.111

POOL C Team	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
Pakistan	2	2	0	0	4	+1.413
India	2	1	1	0	2	+0.944
Kenya	2	0	2	0	0	-2.747

POOL D Team	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
England	2	2	0	0	4	+2.716
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	2	-0.252
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0	-1.885

China sends F1 pulses racing

REUTERS, *London*

Next weekend's inaugural Chinese Grand Prix could be the most significant race in the history of Formula One.

That may sound over the top, particularly with both constructors' and drivers' titles won already by Ferrari and seven-times champion Michael Schumacher, but it is what Mercedes motorsport boss Norbert Haug believes.

"In my view this is a very important race, probably the most important race in the history of motorsport," declared the German.

Shanghai, with a breathtaking circuit and a sellout crowd of at least 150,000, is one of two debut grands prix this year -- the other was Bahrain's first race in the Middle East -- that allow Formula One to boast of being a truly global championship.

"It is a new era and I think we will have more spectators worldwide for television than for any race before...especially in America I think there will be a lot mentioned about the race," said Haug.

Mercedes are part owners of McLaren and, like other carmakers in Formula One, they are licking their lips at the prospect of putting on a show in the world's most populous nation and fastest-growing market.

Even if the average Chinese, with an annual salary of $1,000, can only dream of owning a car, the market is potentially massive although there are fears of a margin-sapping glut emerging as new plants come on stream.

'Follow the money' has long been a mantra for the costly glamour sport and comparisons have even been made between Formula One's efforts to win over China and the 19th century Canadian gold rush.

"China is the Klondike, it's the new frontier," said BAR boss David Richards, whose team are partnered by Japanese auto giant Honda.

"The new regions, especially China with 1.3 billion people who for the first time are coming into contact with Formula One, that's the future," said BMW motorsport head Mario Theissen.

"I will be very cautious about it being the most important," said Ferrari boss Jean Todt. "But I've been in Shanghai for the opening of the circuit because we were opening our showroom as well and it's unbelievable what they have done, just unique.

"This year we will sell about 50 cars in China, hoping that we will sell 100 cars next year.

"It will take a long time before we will be able to compare China to the United States, which is over 30 percent of our market, but countries like China, India and Russia definitely have a huge potential."

Theissen said China was already BMW's fastest growing market in the luxury bracket, with more sales there of the top-of-the-range 760Li V12 than in any other country.

The Munich carmaker's sales in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan grew to 16,620 cars in the first eight months of this year -- an increase of 23.9 percent over the same period in 2003 -- with almost half of them built in China.

"In terms of market power, I think nothing so far compares with this race," said Theissen, whose company have a local joint venture -- BMW Brilliance Automotive Ltd. -- which has been making 3 and 5 series models for the last year.

"I think it is unique and we are really looking forward to it," he added.

Honda and the world's second largest carmaker Toyota are well established there while Renault -- which owns 44 percent of Nissan -- have forged a joint venture with Dongfeng Motor Corp.

Jaguar, whose owners Ford are pulling out of Formula One at the end of the season and selling the team, began marketing in China this year with the first 20 buyers promised that they would have their names put on the grand prix car.

But selling cars is only a part of what China offers to Formula One.

The other side is the commercial attraction for sponsors, with existing backers eager to increase brand awareness and teams hoping that new partners will be encouraged in.

"Everybody commercially is looking at the Far East, looking at China, the growth in China, the potential markets out there. It certainly broadens our horizons as a sport," said Richards, whose team is owned by tobacco giant BAT.

China, with cigarette branding allowed at the race, is a key market for them.

"It's more about when you talk to companies, they are all looking to expand their markets and China is obviously on everybody's agenda," added Richards.

"When you say that you have a race in China that certainly raises people's interest levels," he said.

"I personally think it's more likely to attract sponsors in the West looking to get awareness and a foothold in China. I think it's rare to see Chinese companies who yet understand the potential of Formula One for promoting themselves on a global basis but I'm sure that will follow."

Jordan, among the tail-enders on the track, have set the pace there with two Chinese sponsors already -- property developer Shoulu-Huayuan and B&Q China.

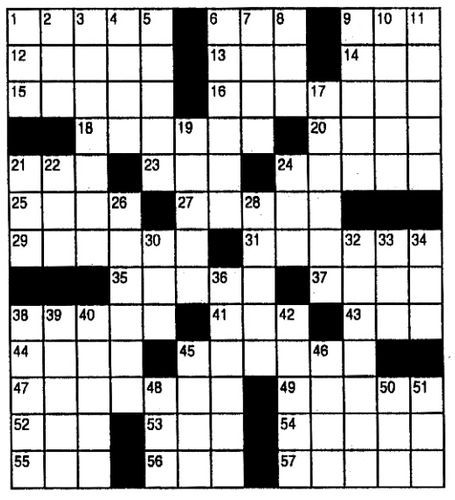
CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

1 Guitar-neck features
6 Make a decision
9 Rather's network
12 Station
13 By means of
14 Appomattox VIP
15 Acid type
16 Gourmand
18 Sound quality
20 Pay attention
21 Cattle call
23 Crony
24 Shoppers' aids
25 Cavort
27 1976 Sally Field TV movie
29 "— not to reason why, ..."
31 Give in
35 Big production number?
37 Jet forth
38 Teapot feature
41 He gives a hoot
43 Altar affirmative
44 Sumptuous
45 In possession of
47 Serial segment
49 Incursion
52 Pop
53 Zilch
54 Profession
55 Witness
56 Em halves
57 Mead's bailiwick

DOWN

1 Food safety org.
2 Sleep phenom
3 Embodiment
4 Writer Morrison
5 Unorthodox percussion troupe
6 Too
7 Prop for Sherlock
8 Mai —
9 This list
10 Guardian Angel's chapeau
11 Burpee wares
17 Ague factor
19 Deep voice
21 "A-Team" actor
22 La-la lead-in
24 Tell tales
26 Irritates
28 Muscle power
30 Same old same-old
32 Terse witticism
33 Actor Beatty
34 See 48-Down
36 Ersatz beach blankets
38 Coasters
39 Former larvae
40 Water, for instance
42 Elevators
45 Thor's father
46 Asta's mistress
48 With 34-Down, kayo combination
50 Commotion
51 Verily



Solution time: 25 mins.

A	L	S	O		W	O	K		A	F	A	R
D	A	H	L		I	R	E		E	R	I	E
A	V	I	D		L	E	E		R	E	D	S
M	A	M	M	A	L		P	R	I	E	S	T
			A	M	I			Y	A	W		
P	A	W	N		A	N	G	E	L	I	C	A
A	N	I			M	O	O			L	O	P
C	A	L	L	I	S	T	O		B	L	O	T
		L	A	C			D	O	E			
W	R	I	T	E	R		W	H	E	E	Z	E
H	O	W	E		A	L	I		T	R	E	Y
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N	E	W	T		E	E	L		E	N	O	S

CRYPTOQUIP

L LEXHLUV X OKQKG OKKGMLUXJKG'F EKJJK ELHWJ AV "XQQ'F ZVQQ JWXJ AQVUMF ZVQQ!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU THINK THAT A MONASTERY'S LEADING MONK COULD BE CALLED THE BIG BROTHER?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

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.

Green Herald, St Joseph's in last eight

SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Green Herald and St Joseph's advanced to the boys' quarterfinals of the AKTEL school basketball tournament from Group B yesterday.

Green Herald's sharpshooter Raja contributed 45 points in his side's massive 105-30 win against Maple Leaf at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium.

Green Herald emerged group champions with an all-win record while St Joseph's finished runners-up after defeating St Jude's 69-26 in the day's other match. Sterlin top-scored with 22 for the winners who will face Group D champions St Nicholas in tomorrow's last eight match.

In girls' competition, Maple Leaf dumped Sunnydale 42-2 with in-form Mehjarin scoring 33 points.

Paralympics

China climb atop table

AFP, *Athens*

China edged to the top of the medals table at the end of the second day of the Athens Paralympics, and was poised to continue its strong showing as competition resumed on Monday.

Three other countries also picked up five gold medals over the weekend: traditional Paralympics powerhouses Spain and Britain, along with Germany.

Hong Kong hung on tenaciously to its unexpectedly high standings, earning its fourth gold medal -- like the other three, in wheelchair fencing -- on Sunday, but slipped from 1st into 5th in the overall medals table.

Still shaken by doping scandals at the Sydney Paralympics, where 11 athletes were disqualified for using banned substances, the Interna-tional Paralympics Committee has stepped up doping controls at Athens.

"We have carried out 209 controls so far," said IPC spokeswoman Miriam Wilkens.

"All of them were negative," she said.

Among the highlights Sunday was a spectacular 10,000-metre final for blind non-seeing runners, Henry Wanyoike of Kenya, shattered his own world record by nearly one minute, finishing in 31 minutes and 37.25 seconds.

"Even Henry was surprised," said Wanyoike's guide, Joseph Kibunja Gachui, who runs along with him during competition tethered by a rope.

The able-bodied world record is under 27 minutes.

In wheelchair basketball, one of the marquee sports at the Paralympics, Australia, Canada and Germany were at the top of their pools in both men's and women's competition, almost certain to advance to the next round.

Athletes in the Paralympics, the premier sporting event for the disabled, compete over 12 days in 19 sports in six different categories of disability, resulting in more than 500 podiums and 3,000 medals awarded.

Abahani going

FROM PAGE 13

Mohammedan marksman Ariful Kabir Farhad and a central defender from their arch rivals. Mohammedan are not in action until November when they go to India for the Durand Trophy and can afford to lend players.

Arambagh midfielder Arman Azizi, who captained Chittagong Mohammedan in the NFL is one of the players Abahani will hope to take to Bhutan, informed Abahani and Bangladesh Football Federation official Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnu.

"It will be a tough competition because Nepal and Bhutan will field their national teams. Kolkata Mohammedan, Indian Army and club teams from Thailand and South Korea have also confirmed their participation," Chunnu said.

PHOTO: AFP

EUROPEAN RYDERS: Team captain Bernhard Langer (C) of Germany is carried on the shoulders of his players Darren Clarke (L) and Lee Westwood after Europe defeated USA to win the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield, Michigan on September 19.

Ryder Cup Europe's

Golf

REUTERS, *Bloomfield Hills (Michigan)*

Rampant Europe retained the Ryder Cup after dominating the last-day singles matches to beat the United States by a record 18-1/2 points to 9-1/2.

Wildcard selection Colin Montgomerie secured victory on Sunday with a one-hole win against David Toms at Oakland Hills Country Club before the Americans slumped to their heaviest defeat in the competition's 77-year history.

The point gained by the 41-year-old Montgomerie took Europe to an unassailable total of 14-1/2 points, and that soon became 16-1/2 after rookies Ian Poulter of Britain and Frenchman Thomas Levet won against Chris Riley and Fred Funk.

Irishman Paul McGinley, who holed the winning putt for Europe at The Belfry in 2002, then beat Stewart Cink 3 & 2 before his compatriot Padraig Harrington put the icing on the cake, winning two up against veteran Jay Haas in the final game.

Europe's winning total eclipsed their previous best, achieved at The Belfry in 1985, when they beat the U.S. by 16-1/2 points to 11-1/2.

It also matched the record total set by the US against Europe at Walton Heath Golf Club in England in 1981.

"I'm so happy for all the guys," a jubilant European captain Bernhard Langer said after his team won for only the third time in the US.

"We were down in a hole this morning but the guys came strong when it mattered and put point after point on the board," added Langer, after Europe had won the singles encounters by 7-1/2 points to 4-1/2.

It was only the fourth time the Europeans had had the better of the singles matches in the last 13 Ryder Cups.

Europe had to hold off an early challenge by the Americans, who took initial leads in the first five matches, before clinching the trophy for the ninth time -- and a fourth success in the last five matches.

US captain Hal Sutton had predictably packed the upper half of his last-day singles order with his best players but could only watch as the Europeans, more cohesive as a team all week, resisted the early onslaught.

"I made mistakes, and I take full responsibility for the mistakes that I made," Sutton said.

Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk won the first two matches of the day after the Americans, trailing 11-5 overnight, made a fast start, but victories by Sergio Garcia and Lee Westwood and a half by Darren Clarke put Europe on the brink of victory.

But it was left to Montgomerie, who has struggled for much of this year while in the throes of a divorce, to seal the win in his seventh Ryder Cup.

The resounding cheers of "USA, USA" that had echoed around the par-70 South Course in the early afternoon were wiped out by passionate European fans singing the football-style chant of "Ole, Ole, Ole, Ole".

Britain (or Europe since 1979) have now won nine times in the history of the competition. The United States have won 24 matches and two have been tied.

Can hosts pull one back?

FROM PAGE 13

Michael Vaughan, now England captain, scored 60 as the visitors lost by five runs in Melbourne.

Vaughan's one-day form since has been patchy at best and his struggle with the bat in the shorter version of the game was illustrated last week by the manner of his dismissal for five in the win over Sri Lanka -- wandering across the stumps to be bowled around his legs by Nuwan Zoysa.

Vice-captain Marcus Trescothick and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff performed much better, hitting 66 and 104 respectively in the rain-affected match.

The fact that ICC one-day player of the year Flintoff scored a century without striking the ball as cleanly as usual will enthuse England while the Australians will wonder what he is capable of in full flow.

"I hope I have got two more games left in me this summer," said Flintoff, eyeing England's first appearance in a major final since 1992. "Everyone is excited about the chance to play the best in the world."

Flintoff's bowling has been equally important to England and it was after he returned as a bowler following ankle trouble earlier this month that England impressed to beat India 2-1.

The winners of Tuesday's match in Birmingham play either Pakistan or West Indies in the final on Saturday.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Marcus Trescothick, Vikram Solanki, Michael Vaughan (captain), Andrew Strauss, Andrew Flintoff, Paul Collingwood, Geraint Jones, Ashley Giles, Alex Wharf, Darren Gough, Steve Harmison, James Anderson, Gareth Batty, Anthony McGrath.

AUSTRALIA (from): Matthew Hayden, Adam Gilchrist, Ricky Ponting (captain) Damien Martyn, Andrew Symonds, Darren Lehmann, Michael Clarke, Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprowicz, Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath, Shane Watson, Ian Harvey, Brad Hogg.

PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon meets the participants of the Stamford inter-private university football tournament during the inaugural ceremony at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Private uni football on

SPORTS REPORTER

Northern University of Bangladesh and Gono Bishwabidyalaya shared points as the opening match of the Stamford inter-private university football tournament ended in a goalless draw at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Northern University goalkeeper Salvin was adjudged man-of-the-match for his heroics.

Daffodil Univeristy will take on North South University in today's match at 2 pm at the same venue.

Earlier, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon inaugurated the 12-team meet.

BCB calls

FROM PAGE 13

Mahmud, Sazid Islam, Sirajullah Khadem Nipu, Nazmul Hossain Milon, Rubaiyat Huq, Saeef Mahmud, Saify Moazzem Marten, Showardy Shuuvo, Saqlain Sajib, Raihan Uddin Arafat, Rezaul Islam Rajon and Rashedul Haque.

Div II chess

FROM PAGE 13

and Shahin, remained unbeaten in the 19-team table with 23.5 points.

Faith Chess Club came close to upsetting the champions but their 3-1 win against Keraniganj CC on the final day saw them end up as runners-up with 23 points. Both teams have qualified for next year's First Division League.

The third place went to Dolphin CC who collected 21 points.

NZ coming

FROM PAGE 13

Test in Dhaka from October 19 to 23 and the second in Chittagong from October 26 to 30.

The tour begins with a three-day match in Dhaka on October 14. A separate squad will be named later for the one-day matches.

TEST SQUAD

Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Ian Butler, James Franklin, Hamish Marshall, Chris Martin, Brendan McCullum, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Michael Papps, Mark Richardson, Scott Styris, Daniel Vettori and Paul Wiseman.