PHOTO: AFP

German Maike Stockel (C) tries to make her way through Chinese Zhou Wanfeld (L) and Yu Dan during their Champions Trophy field hockey match in Rosario, Argentina on Tuesday. Germany won 2-1.

Spain remain same for Davis Cup final

REUTERS, *Madrid*

Spain have named an unchanged team for next month's Davis Cup final against the United States in Seville as they bid to secure a second title in five years.

World number five Carlos Moya, Juan Carlos Ferrero, teenager Rafael Nadal and Tommy Robredo -- the team that secured a 4-1 victory over France in September -- will form the quartet for the tie in the southern city on December 3-5.

Spain won the Davis Cup in 2000 and reached the finals last year but lost to Australia in Melbourne.

Moya and Ferrero, who has been struggling with form this year, are likely to play the singles rubbers with Nadal and Robredo continuing their doubles partnership.

A vociferous capacity crowd of about 22,000 is expected to cheer them on at the converted Olympic stadium.

The team chose low-altitude Seville, and red clay courts, to minimise the impact of their American opponents' big serves, among them Andy Roddick, who holds the world record for the fastest serve at 155mph (249kph).

Spain's top singles players Juan Carlos Ferrero and Carlos Moya learned their trade on slow clay courts and do not have such fast serves.

Dispute between

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was part of the process of transformation of the game in the region to meet the many commercial and other challenges of the new era," a statement said.

The training camp is due to begin on November 29 and the WICB said it hoped the players would sign up.

The WICB is also under pressure after the BBC reported that Barbados would have a shortage a beds when it hosts the World Cup final in 2007.

Stuart Layne, president of the Barbados Tourism Authority, said: "We will only build two or three new hotels so we are also looking at bed-and-breakfasts."

On the field, West Indies silenced their critics in September by winning the ICC Champions Trophy with a two-wicket victory over hosts England in the final.

Champions Trophy

Germany, Holland roll on

Hockey

AFP, *Rosario*

Olympic women's field hockey champions Germany saw off a spirited China here on Tuesday beating them 2-1 in the Champions Trophy.

But they trailed the Netherlands on goal difference after the Dutch recorded their third win with four unanswered goals against New Zealand.

Olympic bronze medalists Argentina stayed third after blasting Australia 5-1.

A Kim Lammers' brace and other goals from Fatima Moreira de Melo and Maartje Scheepstra saw off New Zealand.

A double from Nadine Ernsting-Krienke in the first-half was enough and despite China striking early in the second period through Gao Lihua the Germans held on.

Germany coach Markus Weise was satisfied with the three points but said there was room for improvement.

"We have to get better and we are certainly going to try to," he said.

China captain Zhou Wanfeng was left frustrated.

"I thought we could have got a draw but the Germans just were too good in defence," she said.

Ernsting-Krienke struck early for the Germans hitting home in the fourth minute from a free strike and made it 2-0 seconds from half-time on a rapid counter-attack which caught the Chinese defence napping.

However the Chinese refused to fold and Gao desevedly reduced the deficit in the 48th minute as she fired home after the initial shot from a corner rebounded off German keeper Yvonne Frank.

The Chinese, who lost to Germany in an extra-time tie-breaker in the Athens semi-finals, sought desperately for an equaliser but the extra physical edge to the Germans game saw their hopes dashed.

But they should record their first win of the tournament on Thursday when they play the once mighty Australia, who have no points from their first three matches.

The Hockeyroos, 2003 Champions Trophy winners, are rebuilding and brought only six of their Athens Olympic squad.

Germany face the Netherlands in their last league game on Saturday and the two countries appear set for the gold medal showdown unless Argentina can beat the Dutch on Thursday.

They will be eager for revenge having lost in an extra-time tie-breaker to the Netherlands in the Athens Games semifinals.

Lindsay, Amelie run for top spot

Tennis

REUTERS, *Los Angeles*

World number one Lindsay Davenport and second-ranked Amelie Mauresmo will be fighting for the year-end women's top spot at the WTA Championships.

Since neither has won a grand slam this year, however, any of the three grand slam champions, all Russians, in the field could steal the mantle of "people's number one" by winning the prestigious title.

"I would feel like the most successful player of the year if I win here," said U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, one of five Russians in the eight-woman, round-robin tournament.

"Rankings don't always show quality, they show consistency."

Play opens on Wednesday with Mauresmo facing Russia's Vera Zvonareva, followed by French Open champion Anastasia Myskina against 2001 WTA champion Serena Williams, while Davenport plays twice grand slam finalist Elena Dementieva.

On Thursday, Kuznetsova faces France's Mauresmo, Zvonareva plays Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova and Williams takes on Dementieva.

The Black Group consists of Mauresmo, Kuznetsova, Sharapova and Zvonareva, while the Red Group features Davenport, Myskina, Williams and Dementieva. The top in each group advance to the semi-finals.

Australian Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium, world number one at the end of last year, is missing after a season plagued by illness.

"Each match you have the play your best because you are playing the best players possible," Kuznetsova said.

Had Nadia Petrova not upset her in the quarterfinals at Philadelphia last week, the third-ranked Myskina would also have had a shot at the top spot this week.

Myskina knows, however, she is close enough to make a serious run at it early next year and a title here would put her on her way.

"You try to find energy for the biggest tournaments," Myskina said. "It's still possible to be number one in the future, so I'm thinking of doing really well here.

"I was the first Russian to win a win a grand slam and I want to be the first Russian to be ranked number one."

Sharapova comes into the tournament nursing a shoulder injury, but the 17-year-old has played stand-out tennis since the U.S. Open, winning two titles and reaching the final in Zurich.

After coming back from knee surgery in March, former number one Williams only won two tournaments. But the six-times grand slam champion has not lost her bravado.

"I'm like Tiger Woods," she said. "It's bigger news for me to lose. I make people's careers. I wouldn't come into a tournament expecting anything less than winning."

Ironically, the last time that three-times grand slam champion Davenport finished the season at number one was 2001, another year when she had not won a grand slam.

"Personally, I would have liked to have a grand slam title and compete for number one," Davenport said.

"It's a little different feeling. It's not going to replace winning Wimbledon or the U.S. Open, but it would be nice to come through. It's like the fifth grand slam."

Beijing braces for MU

AFP, *Manchester*

Manchester United are set to visit Beijing for the first time as part of next summer's Far East tour.

Full details of the four-match trip, which will also take in Hong Kong and Japan, are not due to be confirmed until the middle of December but it has been confirmed that Sir Alex Ferguson's side will take on Chinese Super League outfit Beijing Hyundai on July 26.

Despite their indifferent Premiership form of late United can expect to play in front of packed houses as they embark on their first Asian trip for four seasons.

United have a massive following on the continent and are eager to pay regular visits there, even if there is no chance of the anonymity Ferguson's squad have enjoyed in the United States over the last two summers.

Coach confident of Jones return

BBC ONLINE, *London*

Former Olympic champion Marion Jones is set to put a disappointing 2004 behind her, according to her coach.

Jones had her worst season as a professional, failing to win a medal in Athens after claiming three golds and two bronzes at the 2000 Games.

The 29-year-old is being investigated by the US Anti-Doping Agency, although she has never failed a drugs test.

"We're preparing for the World Championships and training quite well," said coach Steve Riddick.

"Whatever you saw last year, put it out of your mind."

Jones joined her partner, 100m world record holder Tim Montgomery, in Riddick's camp in mid-October.

The couple had a son in 2003 and Riddick believes childbirth took its toll on Jones.

"Some portion of the body has to deteriorate. So the abdominal and pelvic area have got to be developed (again)."

"She has to work twice as hard to get where she wants to go."

Jones's manager, Charles Wells, said last week he expected the athlete to run several times indoors but no meets had been finalised.

"I'm sure she'll come out publicly and say she is going to run indoors but I wouldn't want to be the one (to confirm that)," Riddick added.

Flemo missing

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"While we believe that Stephen will be right for the Test match it is important that, with it being such a short flight, we have someone like Craig to come and join the team," Bracewell said.

"He has battled hard in Bangladesh and his arrival gives us cover in the middle order should we need it."

With Fleming and Vettori unavailable for the match against NSW, Scott Styris was promoted to captain the side.

TEAM

Scott Styris (captain), Mark Richardson, Mathew Sinclair, Hamish Marshall, Nathan Astle, Jacob Oram, James Franklin, Gareth Hopkins, Paul Wiseman, Ian Butler, Chris Martin.

Bob's money

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But it is the performance of the two seam attacks which Woolmer thinks will decide the series.

He said England's Steve Harmison, who has taken 61 wickets in 11 Tests so far in 2004, will pose a "genuine threat" to the home side.

And he expects Andrew Flintoff's duel with South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis to "determine at least one Test of the five".

Assessing South Africa's pace bowlers, he added: "Shuan Pollock is wiser but slower and Makhaya Ntini is as willing as ever, but the rest are only just better than ordinary."

England last won a Test series in South Africa in 1964-5 when Warwickshire's MJK Smith led them to a 1-0 triumph, with the other four matches ending in draws.

Their sole success came in the opening Test at Durban when Ken Barrington and Jim Parks hit centuries before spinners Fred Titmus and David Allen bowled them to victory by an innings and 104 runs.

GP-Biman final

FROM PAGE 13

the 20-overs a-side matches in a bid to spice up domestic cricket.

Both the captains agreed that the tournament has failed to attract the fans as well as failing to present run feasts as expected.

"I think players have yet to cope with the newly introduced system. But the scenario will be changed if we continue playing it," said Mahmud.

Sanwar added that it would be better to arrange the tournament in the gap between two big domestic competitions.

"It was not the right to arrange such a tournament at the beginning of a season. It would be better if it was held between the Dhaka Premier League and the National Cricket League," Sanwar suggested.

Lanka wait on Muttiah

Cricket

AFP, *Colombo*

Sri Lanka's star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan will know next week if he is sufficiently recovered from a shoulder surgery to resume his international career in New Zealand early next year, officials said on Wednesday.

The former world record holder was left out of Sri Lanka's 20-man preliminary squad for the December-January tour of New Zealand that features five one-day internationals followed by two Test matches.

But officials were hopeful the prolific off-spinner, who has been out of the game since August due to surgery on his bowling shoulder, may be available for the two Tests at Hamilton (January 15-19) and Wellington (Jan 22-26).

"Muralitharan was not included in the list of probables because he has not been medically cleared to play," said Sri Lanka Cricket spokesman Ray Illangakoon.

"We are monitoring his improvement and will decide later if he can play the Test matches."

Muralitharan will be told next week by his Melbourne-based surgeon, David Young, when he can start playing, Illangakoon added.

The 32-year-old was Test cricket's most successful bowler with 532 wickets till Australian Shane Warne overtook him on the recent tour of India and took his tally to 541.

Muralitharan, whose career was been marred by accusations of chucking, has been banned by the International Cricket Council from bowling the going-away delivery -- the 'doosra' -- because of his controversial action.

Sri Lanka will travel to New Zealand without veteran wicket-keeper Romesh Kaluwitharana who announced his retirement on Tuesday after being left out of the preliminary squad.

Kaluwitharana, 35, was best known for his aggressive batting and was part of Sri Lanka's World Cup-winning team in 1996.

His decision to quit was sparked by a wrist injury sustained on the recent tour of Pakistan. Sri Lanka drew the series 1-1.

PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Marvan Atapattu (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas, Upul Chandana, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Rangana Herath, Saman Jayantha, Thilan Samaraweera, Thilina Kandamby, Kaushal Lokuarachchi, Lasitha Malinga, Ian Daniel, Farveez Maharoof, Nuwan Kulasekara, Jehan Mubarak, Prasanna Jayawardene.

Sharapova's appeal rejected

Tennis

REUTERS, *Los Angeles*

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova has complained that the official WTA Tour balls are too heavy and caused her recent chest and shoulder injuries.

Due to her discomfort, the 17-year-old Russian asked the Tour not to use its official Tretorn edition balls at this week's season-ending WTA Championships, but her request fell on deafears.

"They are heavy on my arm," Sharapova said on Tuesday, two days ahead of her opening match at the eight-women round robin event against compatriot Vera Zvonareva.

"It's something that the Tour and (CEO) Larry Scott have to look into. I'm sure the WTA doesn't want anyone to get injured."

Tour spokesman Darrell Fry said that after Sharapova made a private complaint a few weeks ago, the WTA consulted experts and other players as to whether the balls had become a problem but could not find any evidence that her assertion was true.

"There's no correlation at all between player injuries and Tretorn balls," Fry said.

"The health of our players is first and foremost in our minds. That's why we conducted blind tests with dozens of players last year to find the best ball, which turned out to be Tretorn.

"If there are complaints in the future, we'll look into them."

The WTA has a three-year contract with Tretorn but Sharapova and Zvonareva want to see a change as soon as possible.

"The most important thing is figuring out which ball isn't going to injure players," said Sharapova, who claims that the heaviness of the balls led to a pectoral injury at a tournament in Zurich three weeks ago.

The Russian also blames the balls for her shoulder injury in Philadelphia last week, when she was forced to pull out of her semi-final against eventual champion Amelie Mauresmo.

Zvonareva, who reached the final in Philadelphia, agreed.

"In Philadelphia, the surface was faster and a lot of times you aren't in a good position, so you have to use your arm and wrist more. That's why the pain might come."

Frenchwoman Mauresmo, however, is opposed to a change of equipment.

Third ranked Anastasia Myskina added that since nothing could be done this week, the players needed to grit their teeth and forget about it.

MARIA SHARAPOVA

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office o the Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
Dist: Sherpur

Memo No: LGED/EE/SHER/2004/2211 Dated: 03-11-2004

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Tender Notice Number-19/2004-2005

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned list of works under different projects as per terms and conditions stated below:

Sl No/Group No	Name of contract	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Tk)
LGED/SHER/G. Mymensingh/02/ 2004-2005	Construction of 90.10m long bridge over Shamesari River at Diner Ghat on Jhenaigati-Paikura Road under Jhenaigati Upazila, District: Sherpur.	2,55,500.00	150 days	3000/-

1. Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting : 12-12-2004, 12.00 Noon at Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sherpur.
2. Last date, time and places of selling tender documents : 27-12-2004, 4.00 PM
   a) Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sherpur.
   b) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Upazila: Sherpur Sadar/Nalitabari/Nakla/Jhenaigati/Shrebordi, Dist: Sherpur.
   c) The Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur.
   d) Project Director, Greater Mymensingh Development Project, LGED, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
3. Last date, time and places of receiving tender : 28-12-2004, 12.00 Noon.
   a) Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sherpur.
   b) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Upazila: Sherpur Sadar/Nalitabari/Nakla/Jhenaigati/Shrebordi, Dist: Sherpur.
   c) The Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur.
4. Date, time and place of opening of tender : 28-12-2004, 3.00 PM at office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sherpur.
5. Tender shall be valid for a period of 119 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by the tender security mentioned above in the form of BD/PO from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, LGED, Sherpur. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents by Treasury Chalan (Code No. 1-3731-0000-2366) from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders.

Md Jamal Hossain
Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
District: Sherpur
Phone: 0931-61430

DFP-26723-6/11/04
G-1089

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

1 Bellow
5 Will Ferrell movie
8 Mulligan, e.g.
12 Advantage
13 Actress Gretchen
14 Emanation
15 TV
17 Wading bird
18 Watchful guardian
19 Dormant
21 Tavern stack
24 Kreskin's claim
25 Chip in a chip
28 Sauce thickener
30 The whole shootin' match
33 Addressee
34 Political affiliation
35 Part of NIMBY
36 Undergo recession
37 Concept
38 Venomous vipers
39 Fleece provider
41 "Begone!"
43 Oscar contenders
46 "Silver Streak" star
50 Odin's kid
51 Centrifuge insert
54 Klutz's comment
55 Rd.
56 "I cannot tell —"
57 Majority
58 Archery-bow wood
59 Pip

DOWN

1 Ms. McEntire
2 Aroma
3 Eager, and then some
4 Scold
5 Ostrich's cousin
6 High arcing shot
7 Dog bane
8 Takes to the lake
9 Bundt makers' needs
10 Ontario neighbor
11 Nasty stinger
16 Mao — -tung
20 Erotic
22 Alumnus
23 Abrasions
25 Seaman's assent
26 San Francisco's — Hill
27 Sleeveless garments
29 Beehive State
31 Prune
32 USN officers
34 Harbor structure
38 Headlines?
40 Bottom of the list
42 Make up your mind
43 Teensy bit
44 Train sound
45 Command to Rover
47 Year-end celebration
48 Stage statuette
49 Harmonica part
52 Leading lady
53 Wield a needle

Solution time: 21 mins.

CLAY HAS FANG
COKE ALI EVIL
STARTLED RICE
TOT ELEVEN
VOILE SCAN
OBOE STARCHES
WIT SWORD ELL
STARTERS BABA
HUEY FORAY
TYRANT NOW
BOOM STARLING
AGUE OAT ERIE
RATS PRO RAPT

CRYPTOQUIP

G F U W I X J B X U T F R U C J I D C C U Q U W I B G D M X D Q F W - X D F P C J D F C , U I M F C C U ' O B C B W P B R O D W I F T .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I CAN PROVE THE BASEBALL OFFICIAL MADE A BLUNDER, IS THAT UMPIRICAL EVIDENCE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals S

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.

Edu breaks toe

AFP, *London*

Arsenal's Brazilian international midfielder Edu broke the toe on his right foot in Tuesday's 3-1 League Cup win over Everton at Highbury.

Edu, who has only just recovered from a calf injury, was also involved in a mass free-for-all after a two-footed tackle that went unpunished.

Edu joins Gilberto Silva and Sol Campbell on an injured list that also includes promising French full-back Gael Clichy.

Manager Arsene Wenger said: "It's bad news. I don't know how long he will be out yet."

Arsenal, who play Tottenham on Saturday, won only their second game in seven days with two goals from promising Italian teenager Arturo Lupoli and one from Dutch star Owusu-Abeyie Karbassiyoon.

"It's great for the club. It's not only that we won, but that we did it in style and we love doing that," Wenger added.

"I believe I could put that team out against Tottenham if we had to, but I won't do that as I have a great belief in the first-team squad."