

Visitors win opener in Pepsi v'ball

Kathmandu Metropolitan City team got off to a fine start in the Pepsi Victory Day Volleyball Tournament defeating Bangladesh Police 3-2 yesterday.

Two more chess meets in shortly

Leoline Chess Club will organise the Leoline International Rating Chess tournament from December 19 at the Chess Federation hall room.

Only rated players can enroll their names by December 17 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation office.

The nine-round Swiss League competition will offer cash awards worth Tk30,000.

Besides, on the Victory Day, the Chess Players Association of Bangladesh will organise the Blitz Simultaneous Chess Tournament at the same venue.

Zia goes

FROM PAGE 13 with Nguyen, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed beat Saifuddin Lavlu, Rahul Sangma of India beat Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin, FM Abu Sufian Shakil beat Shamima Akter Liza, Tanomy Pattanayk of India beat Arman Monir, Sohail Chowdhury beat Monir Hossain, FM Rezaul Haque beat Souvik Charaborty of India, Debaraj Chatterjee beat Rabiul Islam and Prasentji Dutta got walk-over against Aminul Islam Palash.

Indians shop

FROM PAGE 13 visited Elephant Road, Gulshan and the Bashundhara City, the biggest shopping mall of the country, where they had snacks in the afternoon at former Bangladesh cricket captain Naimur Rahman's eatery.

Ctg gets set

FROM PAGE 13 referring to ICC code of conduct. CJKS already fixed the rates of tickets that would be available at the stadium counters in the outer sides of the stadium from.

The daily ticket prices for the Test and ODI match are as follows:

	Test	ODI
East Gallery	Tk30	Tk100
West Gallery	Tk50	Tk150
Pavilion	Tk200	Tk500

The six hospitality boxes of the stadium would be offered for Tk 50 thousand each for both the matches.

Saqib ends Agrani run

FROM PAGE 13 But Abahani's four-prong spin attack got on top as the Agrani middle order lost their way. Despite Pakistani batsman Iqbal Sheikh's 54 off 64 balls featuring four fours and two sixes, they were all out for 188 in 46 overs.

Off spinner Naimur was the pick of the Abahani attack with 3-42 while fellow spinners Rajan, Umar and Ashanullah Hassan shared six wickets evenly.

MSC-CITY Tareq Aziz was on fire as he took six wickets for 26 runs from 7.4 overs as City Club easily defended their 210-9 at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Mohammedun who lost their previous match to archrivals Abahani, never got a start and were skittled out for 165 in 43.4 overs.

Man-of-the-match Tareq, left out of the national team for the Test series against India, removed opener Mukhtar Siddiki (0) and Shahriar Hossain (1) in his first two overs.

One-down Shamsur Rahman was retired hurt but Kenyan star Steve Tikolo tried to halt an impending disaster during a third wicket stand of 51 with Mazharul Haque.

But Tareq came back to destroy the middle order as Mohammedun slumped to 56-5 losing three wickets including that of out of sorts captain Minhajul Abedin for a three-ball duck in the span of two runs.

The talented Wasel Uddin's 68-ball 49, studded with three fours and a six had given Mohammedun slight hope as he shared an 88-run stand with Arafat Sunny (36) but once it was broken, the end came fast.

Earlier, City Club had been in deep trouble at 25-4 after being put into bat. Lanky paceman Anwar Munir took the first four wickets to on way to a five-wicket haul but half-centuries from Bangladesh U-19 opener Shahriar Nafees Ahmed and skipper Khaled Mahmud took City beyond the 200-run mark.

Left-handed Nafees played the anchor role in a 125-ball stay while ex-national captain Mahmud hit two fours and two sixes in his 72-ball effort. It was City's third win in five outings.

BIMAN-PEGASUS Having lost their last two games, Biman faced another scare before holding their nerve at the Dhammondi Cricket Stadium.

Biman made just 182 and Pegasus were chasing well with openers Asadul Habib (52) and Junaid Siddiqi (23) putting on 74. But paceman Mohammad Sharif captured three wickets for 22 form 8.4 and man-of-the-match Humayun Kabir, who scored 29, chipped in with a couple of wickets as Pegasus folded for 166.

Shevchenko rules

FROM PAGE 13 received this award," said Shevchenko. "I want to dedicate this to the Ukrainian people. I offer this 'Golden Ball' to my people.

"It is difficult to speak of the situation in Ukraine, but it is clear that people in Ukraine deserve democracy," he said in reference to the fragile political situation in the country after a first presidential election run-off, officially won by the country's pro-Moscow prime minister, was annulled by the supreme court because of fraud.

Known as the Ballon D'Or (Golden Ball), the prestigious prize was created by the French football magazine France Football in 1956. Voting is undertaken by a group of European football journalists.

Shevchenko has scored 102 goals in Serie A since signing from Dynamo Kiev five years ago in a 37.5-million-euro transfer.

He became the first foreigner to top the scoring charts in a debut season in Italy with 24 goals in 32 matches.

Shevchenko is also in the running for FIFA's world player of the year, along with Arsenal's French striker Thierry Henry and

Ronaldinho, to be announced on December 20.

SHEVA FACTS

Factfile on 2004 European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko:- Date of birth: 29/09/1976 Place of birth: Dvirkivshchyna (ex-Soviet Union, Ukraine) Nationality: Ukrainian Height: 1.83m Weight: 73kg Position: striker Club career: Dynamo Kiev (1994-1999), AC Milan (since 1999) Caps: 58 Goals for country: 26 Honours: Champions League: winner (2003), top scorer (1999) European Super-cup: winner (2003) Italian League title (2004) Italian Cup winner (2003) Italian league top scorer: (2000, 2004) Ukraine league title: (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999) Ukraine Cup winner (1996, 1998, 1999) Club statistics: 118 matches in Ukraine with Dynamo Kiev, 60 goals 164 matches in Italy with AC Milan, 102 goals

Barred by male desire!

FROM PAGE 13 discourages women from taking part in sports. "I think an Indian sports-woman's lifespan is very short ... because of pressures of marriage and the Indian male's concept of beauty," she said.

"Most of the Indian men want to have a bride with a fair skin," she said. To this end, Indian's largest consumer company, Hindustan Lever, promotes a skin cream called Fair and Lovely with an advert of an aspiring female cricket broadcaster who gets a job after she uses the product to lighten her skin.

"In Australia sport is a culture. It is not the same over here. Women are not allowed to come out of their homes in villages. They are denied opportunity," the captain says.

She blames school authorities and the government for failing to encourage women to take part in

sport. Girls do not play cricket at school here and take more readily to traditional women's sports such as hockey, athletics and tennis.

But the game is played in the universities and national championships are held regularly. "For us it is just the pride of playing for the country which is keeping us going. There is no monetary benefit here and we keep pushing ourselves. Few people do that. When you come to the crossroads and it is a career option most women opt out," Maben says.

Belinda Clark, the Australian captain, agrees that Indian sports-women face more challenges than her own compatriots.

"At home women's sport does not generally get the media attention or interest. But at the same time I think in our culture women have an equal opportunity. It is not

England's bad warm-up

AFP, Potchefstroom

England went down to a convincing seven-wicket defeat against South Africa A here Monday in their final warm-up match before this week's first Test, losing by seven wickets in a three-day first-class fixture played in hot weather and interrupted by rain and lightning.

South Africa A needed just 30 overs to overhaul England's lead of 134, with the visitors all out earlier in their second innings for a meagre 190.

Chasing a moderate target, the home-team got off to a poor start when Martin van Jaarsveld -- top scorer in the first innings -- was caught behind by Geraint Jones off paceman Matthew Hoggard for a duck.

SCOREBOARD

Final score board on the third and final day of the tour match between South Africa A and England at Sedgars Park on Monday.

ENGLAND: First innings 225 (Strauss 50; Langeveldt 5-48)

SOUTH AFRICA A: First innings 281 (Van Jaarsveld 71; S Jones 3-49, Flintoff 3-50)

ENGLAND: Second innings (over-

night 154-7)

Trescothick lbw b Willoughby 2

Strauss c Duminy b Mbhalati 0

Butcher lbw b Willoughby 0

Vaughan c Boucher b Willoughby 100

Thorpe b Willoughby 11

Flintoff b Morkel 21

G Jones c Boucher b Mbhalati 26

Giles c Van Jaarsveld b Thomas 2

Hoggard c Prince b Langeveldt 3

S Jones c Prince b Langeveldt 5

Harmison not out 13

Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-4) 7

Total: (All out in 53.1 overs) 190

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 29, 5-64, 6-109, 7-125, 8-164, 9-176

Bowler O M R W

Willoughby 14 2 63 4

Mbhalati 12 3 38 2

Langeveldt 12.1 5 25 2

Morkel 6 0 31 1

Thomas 6 1 15 1

Ontong 3 0 16 0

SA A: Second innings

Puttick c G Jones b S Jones 45

Van Jaarsveld c G Jones b Hoggard 0

Ontong c Giles b Harmison 23

Prince not out 23

Duminy not out 25

Extras: (lb-2, w-3, nb-4) 19

Total: (All out in 30 overs) 135

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-72, 3-76

Did not bat: Boucher, Morkel, Thomas, Langeveldt, Mbhalati, Willoughby

Bowler O M R W

Hoggard 4 0 21 1

Harmison 12 1 51 1

Flintoff 5 1 10 0

S Jones 8 0 36 1

Giles 1 0 5 0

Result: South Africa A won by 7 wickets.

GP Nat'l Pair Bridge from Dec 16

PRESS RELEASE

The GrameenPhone National Pair Bridge Championship-2004 for Khondkar Fazle Sobhan Trophy will be held from December 16-17 at Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha in the city.

Registration of teams will start at 9:00am at the venue and the game will start at 10:00am.

Interested pairs are requested to register their names as per schedule.

The two-day meet organised by Bangladesh Bridge Federation and sponsored by GrameenPhone.

Souness given one-match touchline ban

AFP, London

Newcastle manager Graeme Souness has been given a one-match touchline ban and fined 10,000 pounds (14,500 euros) after being sent from the dugout during his side's defeat at Fulham last month.

Souness was dismissed for protesting when Alan Shearer was not awarded a penalty in the first half of Newcastle's 4-1 loss at St James' Park on November 7.

Souness pleaded guilty to a charge of improper conduct by a Football Association disciplinary commission.

The ban means Souness will not be in the dugout for the January 3 fixture at West Brom.

Premiership

Fulham blot for MU

Football

AFP, London

Papa Bouba Diop's superb equaliser for Fulham blew Manchester United's chance to reel in English Premiership front-runners Arsenal and Chelsea in a 1-1 draw at Craven Cottage here on Monday.

England striker Alan Smith looked to have ensured a fifth straight United league win when he scored from close range in the 33rd minute after Portugal winger Cristiano Ronaldo sped down the left flank before crossing.

But Senegal midfielder Bouba Diop levelled in the 87th minute with a fierce blast from outside the box ensured United missed the chance to capitalise on Arsenal and Premiership leaders Chelsea's 2-2 stalemate on Sunday.

United's setback leaves them four points behind third-placed champions Arsenal and nine adrift of Chelsea. Fulham moved up to 14th in the table, just four points above the relegation zone.

Afterwards United boss Sir Alex Ferguson asked if he felt the result meant his team had dropped two points, rather than gained one, told Sky Sports: "What do you think? Christ, the goal was an absolute give away."

"It was a great performance, the football was fantastic but we just never finished them off and when you don't finish teams off things like

Goals guaranteed

Football

AFP, Rome

Andriy Shevchenko, who was named as European Footballer of the Year on Monday, has been a revelation since he signed for AC Milan from Dynamo Kiev five years ago.

Combining pace and skill with great accuracy, the 28-year-old Ukrainian striker has scored 102 goals in Serie A, proving his 26 million pound (37.5 million euro) transfer fee was money well spent.

He became the first foreigner to top the scoring charts in a debut season in Italy with 24 goals in 32 matches.

Shevchenko matched that with another 24-goal haul in the following campaign to prove he was no one-season wonder.

His finest moment was scoring the winning spot-kick in the 2003 Champions League final penalty shoot-out against Juventus at Manchester's Old Trafford stadium.

He followed that by grabbing the only goal as Milan won the European Super Cup by beating Portuguese side Porto in Monaco.

Last season he was top scorer in Serie A with 24 goals which helped the club win the Italian league title for the first time since 1999 and was rewarded with a contract extension that will keep him at the San Siro until 2009.

Before joining Milan, Shevchenko spent five seasons at Dynamo and enhanced his reputation as a prolific goalscorer on the European stage.

In the 1997/98 season he scored a first-half hat-trick in a stunning 4-0 win at the Camp Nou against

Spanish giants Barcelona.

The following season Shevchenko scored eight goals to help the Ukrainians into the semi-finals of the competition and his outstanding performances saw him come third in the poll for the 1999 FIFA World Player of the Year award.

He won five championships and two Ukrainian Cups with Dynamo before packing his bags for Italy.

Shevchenko is the talisman of the Ukraine national team, but despite playing in many qualifying matches he is yet to play in a major final tournament for his country.

He married girlfriend Kristen Pazik in July and became a father in October when his son Jordan was born.

On Sunday, Shevchenko scored

twice in AC Milan's 6-0 home win over Fiorentina that left the defending champions in second place, four points behind leaders Juventus.

Shevchenko beat off competition from Brazilian midfielder Deco, a Champions League winner with Porto last season, and Barcelona's Brazilian star Ronaldinho to win the prestigious award.

Known as the Ballon D'Or (Golden Ball), the prize was created by the French football magazine France Football in 1956. Voting is undertaken by a group of European football journalists.

Juventus' Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved won the award last year.

RESULTS

AFP, Paris

European Footballer of the Year results for 2004:

1. Andrei Shevchenko (UKR) AC Milan	175 points
2. Deco (POR) FC Porto then Barcelona	139
3. Ronaldinho (BRA) Barcelona	133
4. Thierry Henry (FRA) Arsenal	80
5. Theodoros Zagorakis (GRE) AEK Athens then Bologna	44
6. Adriano (BRA) Inter Milan	27
7. Pavel Nedved (CZE) Juventus	23
8. Wayne Rooney (ENG) Everton then Manchester United	22
9. Ricardo Carvalho (POR) FC Porto then Chelsea	18
10. Ruud van Nistelrooy (NED) Manchester United	18
11. Angelos Charisteas (GRE) Werder Bremen	15
12. Milan Baros (CZE) Liverpool	11
13. Cristiano Ronaldo (POR) Manchester United	11
14. Zlatan Ibrahimovic (SWE) Ajax then Juventus	8
15. Samuel Eto'o (CMR) Real Mallorca then Barcelona	7
16. Kaka (BRA) AC Milan	7

NB: The 2004 European Footballer of the Year was chosen from a list of 50 players (selected by journalists at France Football magazine) by a jury of European journalists from 52 countries.

exchanges.

However, the visitors were grateful to skipper Roy Keane for a last-ditch tackle on Brian McBride when the USA striker connected with a defence-splitting pass with only keeper Roy Carroll to beat in the United goal 24 minutes in.

But the writing was on the wall for Fulham as Republic of Ireland midfielder Keane and then Rooney rattled Fulham's woodwork before Smith scored to cap a three-minute assault.

First, Ian Pearce's weak clearance went straight to Keane, who unleashed a right-foot shot that struck Van der Sar's left upright with half an hour gone.

Rooney then hit the Netherlands stopper's other post after Paul Scholes played in the teenage forward down the left channel for a low shot.

Within a minute, Smith had put United ahead when Fulham again failed to clear the ball from the box.

Smith won the ball in midfield and fed Cristiano Ronaldo whose pace saw him burst down the right to cross.

Smith's first shot was blocked by Rosenior but he won the ball back with a firm tackle as he and Sylvain Legwinski slid in.

After finding his feet, Smith stumbled through a Rosenior challenge before flicking a shot past Van der Sar with the outside of his right foot.

But the Cottagers, who put a run of three straight Premiership defeats

behind them with a 1-0 win at Norwich City on their last outing, started the second-half well when a minute after the re-strat Bouba Diop forced Carroll to tip his header over the bar.

Fulham skipper Andy Cole scored 121 goals in 268 appearances for United and showed why Ferguson still rates him highly when he hit the post five minutes later.

On his 350th league appearance, the former England striker turned Rio Ferdinand in the box before hitting a rising shot against the woodwork with Carroll well beaten.

United's Argentina left-back Gabriel Heinze curled a 72nd minute free kick just wide before Fulham threw on pacy Canada striker Tomasz Radzinski as Collins John in an attempt to rescue a point.

John thought he had won a penalty in the 84th minute when Heinze pushed him in the face and Cole sent a late header just wide before Bouba Diop's strike flew inside Carroll's right post.

TOP SIX

English Premiership table after Monday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Chelsea	17	12	4	1	33	8	40
Everton	17	11	3	3	21	14	36
Arsenal	17	10	5	2	44	22	35
Man Utd	17	8	7	2	23	11	31
Middlesbrough	17	8	5	4	29	22	29
Villa	17	6	7	4	22	19	25



Fulham's Liam Rosenior is ecstatic after the equaliser scored by teammate Papa Bouba Diop in London on December 13.

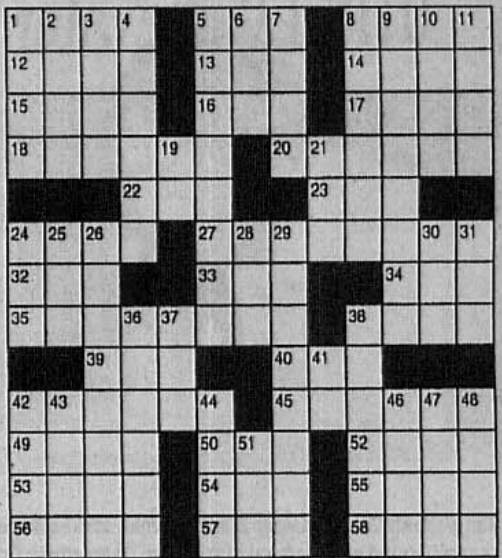
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Non-specific duration 40 Tilling tool 42 Music halls, once 45 Got one's dander up 49 Unfavorable votes 50 History chapter 52 Actress Sorvino 53 Saskatch-ewan tribe 54 Moreover 55 Lens 56 Takes opening 58 Theater-goers' mecca

DOWN 1 Idaho, the State 2 Cast-of-thousands movie 3 Sch. mil. org. 4 Open a clasp 5 Fad 6 Noshed 7 Flagged Ann, e.g. 8 Slow, in music 9 Theater-goers' mecca

Solution time: 25 mins.

SHAW AFT GYAN  
HOMO MER HULA  
EUTOIGIZE ELLY  
LOVE ME TIT  
FEUD OVAL IVY  
ILL EWELL DIE  
EMU PARE DEED  
LIT YEAR  
SNATCH WOULD  
TOTE VOULCEE  
LOVE ME TIT  
REDS NEE NAST



CRYPTOQUIP  
CV C EOLRRDH L GDOILCM  
NLOI TV QI UKTD, L  
NDOUTM GTWFH ULJ C'Q  
KTFHCME QJ ITMEWD  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD A DEPARTMENT STORE THAT SOLD STUCCO AND PLASTER CHOOSE THE NAME WALL MART? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals E

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.