

Sumita sets national record

UNB, Dhaka
The first-ever Maxcom Athletics competition began at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday with one national record set on the first day. Sumita Rani Das created the new national record in the 100m hurdles clocking 14 seconds to better the previous mark of 14:28 seconds.

Sunrise's first win

SPORTS REPORTER
Sunrise Sporting Club (SSC) secured their first win in the Metropolitan Senior Division Football League with a 2-0 victory over Dipali Juba Sangha at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

BCS Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER
Shakil smashed 71 as Bangladesh ICT Journalists Forum (BIJF) won their second consecutive match, with a 69 run win over D-Net, in the BCS Cricket Fiesta at the Kalabagan Club ground yesterday.

Ispahani ride

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Abahani defeated Digital Vision by 11 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Khulna beat Chudanga by 20 runs at the Khulna Stadium and Jahangirnagar University earned a 69-run win over Tetulia at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Ishant's fine

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Andhra Pradesh to earn Delhi a draw they desperately needed -- was well known. But in this Test, he showed another facet: getting the ball to hold its line, and even move it a shade away. From the angle he comes in and with the bounce he can generate, that's a deadly ball when he can get the line right. It's no coincidence that all his three wickets in this Test came with that ball.

Van Gaal wants

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In April 2007 he extended his contract with AZ to 2010, but included a clause that would allow him to leave in July 2009 if he was offered the job of coaching either Germany, Argentina, Spain, the Netherlands or England.

Fright for

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overhaul Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean, 4-6, 2-6, 6-0, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 in three hours eight minutes. "That's got to be my biggest comeback. Down two sets to love, two breaks against a guy who was getting a lot of free points on his serve, 4-1 in the (fourth set) tiebreaker, 5-3 in the breaker," Blakesaid.

'We must level series'

Cricket

AFP, Perth
Buoyed by their stunning 72-run win in Perth inside four days, India have set themselves to square the four-Test series against Australia. The fourth and final Test begins at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday and the Indians, winners on their previous visit to the ground, are determined to make it successive wins against the world's best team.

Pitch dupes Ponting

Cricket

AFP, Perth
Australia captain Ricky Ponting said Saturday his team weren't pressing the panic button following their first Test loss in two years, but admitted they erred in team selection for the third Test against India. India snatched a memorable win by 72 runs here after Australia plumped for four pacemen and went into the match without a specialist spinner for the first time in 16 years.

'We are still on top'

Cricket

FROM PAGE 17
Ricky Ponting refuses to believe Australia's global domination is over after their record-equalling winning streak was ended in Perth. While India's 72-run victory gave the world hope that the gap between Australia and the rest was closing, Ponting was not convinced his team was "on the slide".

Brilliant India

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return to Test cricket when he had Clark caught behind for 32. When RP Singh (2-95) clean bowled number 11 Shaun Tait for four, the Indians had recorded one of their best wins in recent years and it sparked boisterous celebrations. Spinner Harbhajan Singh, who was dropped for the third Test to make way for Pathan in what proved to be an inspired decision, and team manager Chetan Chauhan immediately dashed to the middle carrying Indian flags.

Seeds crash and burn

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she believed was her best shot ever at the Australian Open and said she would reassess her Grand Slam preparations after failing again to bag a second major. "Otherwise this will happen to me many times," she said.

to win a series in Australia, but we can only level the series," he said. "That was the talk before this Test match and I'm delighted we've been able to win this Test. We will take this confidence to Adelaide and are looking forward to winning that and levelling the series. "It's important that we take this momentum forward and ensure that we level the series. That will be the best result after what happened in the first two Test matches."

TV channels take all semi spots

SPORTS REPORTER
Four television channels filled up the semi-final spots to be played out on Monday in the Pepsi Media Cup six-a-side cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. In the first quarterfinal, Channel 1 beat Daily Destiny by 27 runs after racking up 97-1 in their stipulated six overs. ATN Bangla crushed state-owned BTB by 83 runs in the second quarterfinal.

Home talent proceed

SPORTS REPORTER
Local boys moved to the second round in the boys' singles Group II opening matches of the Mobil ITF Asian Tennis U-14 Championship at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. Hasibul Haque beat Hussein Hasan of ITF team 6-2, 6-1, Sajib Passi defeated Tandin Mangchuk of Bhutan 6-3, 6-2 and Biplob Ram outplayed Wangchuck Gyalpo of Bhutan 6-0, 6-0.

Focus on Ghana

FROM PAGE 20
westcoast neighbours the Ivory Coast with Didier Drogha, Nigeria and Samuel Eto'o's always dangerous Cameroons. But it would be a mistake to suggest the three-week footballing feast can be reduced to a shortlist of this quarter if the lessons of the 2006 World Cup are to be learned. In Germany the national African order of things was turned on its head with traditional heavyweights like Nigeria and Cameroon making way for novices Angola, Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast.

Seeds crash and burn

"It's quite good to win for me. Before I beat a couple of good players, like top 10, but usually I'm losing every time first round in the Grand Slams," she said. "Really it's good I broke this tradition." With some of the major threats against her removed, Ivanovic revealed she was allowing herself to dream about going all the way at the Australian Open, where she has become a crowd favourite.

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Fischer: the man who made chess popular

AFP, Reykjavik

Chess legend Bobby Fischer's victory in the 1972 'match of the century' with Soviet world champion Boris Spassky elevated the game into a Cold War weapon and turned the eccentric young American into an international hero. Fischer, who died on Thursday, became the first US world chess champion ever when he beat Spassky in the six-week match that became a symbol for the Cold War standoff, pitting an 'individualistic' American against a 'collectivist' Russian.

claim. Spassky won the first game without too much difficulty, and Fischer didn't show up for the second, losing him a second point. Just as an anti-climax seemed to set in, Fischer returned to the chess board and brilliantly won the third game. Suddenly the encounter was hot news again, and even media never concerned with chess before started treating the Reykjavik match as a top story. The two men drew the third game, and Fischer won the next two, setting him up to take the chess crown, which he did with a final score of 12-1/2 to 8-1/2 points after a total of 21 games, many of which still feature in chess textbooks.



Bobby Fischer (R) makes a move against Boris Spassky in their great battle of 1972, dubbed later as the 'greatest chess match of the century'.

Tower toppled

Cricket

FROM PAGE 17
The end of the era came quickly. An Australian unit that seemed unbreakable over the past 24 months had actually been admirably masking the dints. During the past four days they could not survive any more collisions and Ricky Ponting's stunning tower was toppled. Through 16 wins there were many one-sided successes, but the handful of near-death experiences had stolen the energy for a world-record miracle. Australia has lost their first Test since August 2005 and India retain the tag as the great spoiler of baggy green parties.

Al Amin off to KL

UNB, Dhaka
Long jumper Al Amin left for Malaysia last night for a high performance training programme. The athlete would undergo a four-month training in Kuala Lumpur under an International Olympic Committee (IOC) scholarship. He is the third athlete of the country who got the opportunity after SAF gold medal-winners Mahfuzur Rahman and Sumita Rani Das.

Australia fined

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of a suspension. "Eight overs down, I had to be able to claw quite a few back to get back under six, we got a few more allowances as the day went on and with the spinners we dragged a lot of the overs back. "It was definitely a concern, with a Test match on the line like it was, I wouldn't have been doing it as I was if it wasn't a legitimate concern." Ponting noted that recalled fast bowler Shaun Tait, who was playing just his third Test, was a victim of the problem. Tait is notoriously slow and bowled just 21 overs in the match -- including eight in the second innings -- and failed to take a wicket.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Peaches' singing partner, 5 FDR pooch, 9 Apprehend, 12 Hydrox competitor, 13 Yoked team, 14 Id counterpart, 15 Runt, 17 'Char-lotte's--', 18 Endow with a spirit, 19 Cow catcher, 21 Whom bleacher-ites greet in close-ups, 22 Dweeb, 24 Suitable, 27 Ram's mate, 28 Network, 31 Deceive, 32 Hideaway, 33 Alias, 34 One of the Jack-son 5, 36 Cause corrosion, 37 Epidemics, 38 How brave do you do, 40 Fashion-able, 41 Oregon city, 43 Postage head?, 44 Colorado mountain, 51 Jetsam, 52 Squared, 53 Pre-catcher, 54 Wapiti, 55 Fast time, 56 Ashen link, 20 Branch, 22 Adapt slightly, 23 Departed, 24 Hallow-een abbr., 25 Japanese pond, 26 Escape-proof, 27 Paradise, 29 Schuss, 30 Solo of 'Sta-Wars', 35 Indivisible, 37 Take eagerly, 39 Urge, 40 'Monty Python' opener, 41 Fill till full, 42 First victim, 43 Faxed, 44 Gnor-mous, 45 Feeling of gloom, 46 Terrier type, 49 'got it!', 50 Barbie's companion.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: ZKWA T LTIDVVA 'YWATLW', SWDE HIWEWH WTLK HTU, HV UVX EXOOVEW KW YBSKD, ZWTI HWAABE EKVWE?, Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF HAVING A BOUT OF INSOMNIA, BUT I'D PROPOSE NOT LOSING SLEEP OVER IT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals Y.