

Ishchenko keeps world title

AFP, Rome

Reigning champion Natalia Ishchenko of Russia retained her title in the technical solo synchronised swimming event at the World Championships here on Monday.

The 23-year-old matched her preliminary round score of 98.667 to beat Spain's Gemma Mengual (97.833) into second, for the second World Championships in a row.

Canadian Marie-Pier Boudreau-Gagnon came third with a score of 96.000, denying hosts Italy their first medal of the tournament as Beatrice Adelizzi (94.667) finished fourth.

Japan's Yumi Adachi finished fourth with 93.334 points.

"I was a little bit nervous but finally everything worked well. I managed to do my exercise very well and I won my second gold medal in this event," said Ishchenko.

"Now it's time to start preparing for the London 2012 Olympic Games."

Ishchenko won Olympic gold with Russia at the 2008 Games in Beijing, where Mengual was a silver medallist in the team and duet disciplines.

It was Russia's second gold medal in synchronised swimming at these championships having won the team technical event on Sunday.

They are second behind China in the overall medals table with three gold compared to three gold, three silver and three bronze.

Doudreau-Gagnon was delighted with her third place finish, her first medal at this level.

"I am so proud, it is really an honour for me to be on the podium with the best swimmers in the world," she said.

"These girls have always been an example for me, I used to watch videos of them and tried to reach their level. I'm so excited."

Kirrajagat turns 33

UNB, Dhaka

The 33rd founding anniversary of the country's oldest fortnightly sport magazine Kirrajagat was held yesterday with festivities at the National Sports Council.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar, who is also a patron of the magazine, was present as chief guest.

Sarkar said Kirrajagat has to be popularised and made more readable by sports fans across the country.

As NSC is publisher of the magazine, the government has certain responsibility for continuation of its publication. That will do, added Sarkar.

The NSC chairman assured of steps for improving the quality of the magazine.

Earlier, a one minute silence was observed in memory of Kirrajagat's executive editor Salma Rafiq who died recently.

Crowe tries

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dismiss Phillip Hughes.

The batsman started to walk off the field but was told to stay put by Australia captain Ricky Ponting.

However, this time there was no referral with South Africa's Koertzen and West Indies' Doctrove deciding Hughes was out without calling in English official Llong, even though replays again made it seem uncertain if the catch had been taken cleanly.

International Cricket Council (ICC) Test-match playing regulation state "the umpire at the bowler's end shall be entitled to refer an appeal for a caught decision to the third umpire if both he and the square-leg umpire are unable to decide whether a catch was taken cleanly".

Crowe, explaining the difference between the two incidents, said in an ICC statement: "In the first instance, when Nathan Hauritz was the fielder, the on-field umpires consulted and neither was able to decide if the catch was taken cleanly so they referred the decision to the third umpire."

KP may miss

be a miracle cure, or prove completely ineffective. But the most likely result is that it will give temporary relief, ideally for three or four weeks and that could allow him to avoid surgery in the short term. If Pietersen opts for surgery it will take him six months to get back on field.



Russia's Natalia Ishchenko performs during the synchronised technical solo final at the FINA World Swimming Championships in Rome yesterday. Ishchenko won gold.

Aus press blast umps

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Umpiring controversies were a burning issue in the Australian media Monday as the Aussies kept alive their faint hopes of victory in the second Ashes Test against England at Lord's.

Michael Clarke and Brad Haddin held England at bay with an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 185 to leave Australia at 313 for five and needing a further 209 runs to achieve an improbable victory on Monday's final day.

But there was raging debate in Australia's newspapers and blogging sites over three controversial umpiring decisions that went the spot years ago.

The Australian's Malcolm Conn said cricket continues to make a fool of itself over its reluctance to fully utilise technology to adjudicate in dismissals.

"Umpires Koertzen and Doctrove have proved with a series of terrible blunders at Lord's that no amount of technology can improve a game if those in charge can't or won't use it," Conn said.

Hughes stood his ground, the umpires conferred, and the other match official Rudi Koertzen ruled that the catch had carried without referring it to the video umpire.

The Aussie press also contended that Doctrove gave Mike Hussey out caught at slip by a delivery from spinner Graeme Swann which appeared to miss the edge of his bat.

"Australian anger is now likely to bubble over at Hughes's controversial dismissal -- especially as the umpires had referred Nathan Hauritz's contentious diving catch to the third umpire earlier in the match," The Daily Telegraph's Ben Dorries said.

"Replays appeared to show the ball touching the ground before Strauss's fingers curled around the ball and the Australians were entitled to feel aggrieved that the (Hughes) decision was not referred," The Sydney Morning Herald's Chloe Saltua said.

"It is undeniable to say that England looked just a little bit shabby," Matthews said.

"How many times in the history of Test match cricket do you see a captain pull his boys into a huddle with an hour to play? I could just smell a bit of fear."

Manzoor, Yousuf rescue

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throw.

Yousuf drove Thushara to mid-off and easily completed a single -- his 7,000th Test run from 82 matches -- even as the throw from the fielder missed the mark and the ball sped to the outfield.

Yousuf tried to take a second run, but this time failed to beat Vaas' return into the wicket-keeper's gloves as Misbah hesitated mid-pitch.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Monday:

PAKISTAN: First innings

Manzoor c Jayawardene b Vaas 93
Fawad Dilshan b Thushara 16
Yousuf b Thushara 2
Yousuf run out (Vaas/Dilshan) 90

WEST INDIES: Second

innings (overnight 56-1)
Richards lbw b Shakib 12
Phillips c Ashraf b Shakib 29
Dowlin lbw b Enamul 22

BANGLADESH: First innings

232 (Mushfiqur 48; Roach 6-48)

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Rain pulls Tigers back

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three wickets for 21 runs in the space of 43 balls.

Shakib, leading Bangladesh

in the absence of the injured Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, had Chadwick Walton caught at slip for one edging a loose drive at a wide ball before Shahadat Hossain returned for a second spell and had Ryan Austin caught in the mid-wicket region for three.

Rain sent the players scampering for a slightly early tea break, and they never returned to the field, despite several attempts.

Bangladesh lead the two-Test series 1-0, after they won the opening Test which ended last Monday in St. Vincent by 95 runs.

The Tigers need only to draw the match to clinch their first-ever Test series victory overseas.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the rain-affected third day of the second and final Test between West Indies and Bangladesh at

Misbahul c Dilshan b Kulasekera 27
Malik lbw b Thushara 45
Akmal not out 1
Gul b Kulasekera 2
Kaneria not out 1
Extras: (b-10, nb-2) 12
Total: (For 7 wkts in 86 overs) 289

To bat: Ajmal, Aamer

Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-36, 3-

203, 4-210, 5-285, 6-285, 7-287

Bowler O M R W

Vaas 20 6 43 0

Kulasekera 14 1 43 2

Thushara 19 2 77 3

Herath 23 4 76 0

Mathews 8 2 31 0

Jayawardene 2 0 9 0

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Simon Taufel and Ian Gould.

Ganguly

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first Chief Executive David Richards will come together to reflect upon the big issues they had to deal with during their times at the helm of the global game.

The ICC began as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 with just three members - Australia, England and South Africa.

A century later it has 104 members and its development over those 100 years will be charted by a host of experts including Sir Hilary Beckles, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal and Professor of Economic and Social History of the University of the West Indies and Brian Stoddart, the former Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, Australia.

Women's cricket past and present will be represented by former England captain Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, who lifted the inaugural women's World Cup in 1973, as well as current captain Charlotte Edwards and teammate Ebony Rainford-Brent, the latter duo part of the squad that holds the ICC Women's World Cup, Twenty20 World Cup and the Ashes.

KR may miss

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School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdullah Al-Saif of South Bonnor Model School and Debtopal Dey of

Ramkrishna School of Tripura improved their tally to 6.5 points to share the lead after the end of the seventh round games of Class VI to X Group in the 11th Standard Chartered School Chess tournament at the NSC tower auditorium yesterday.

Zoar Haque Pradhan of Mohammadpur Model High School followed the leaders with six points while Ikrumul Haque Siam of Motijheel Model School, Saiful Islam of Vashantek High School, Emon Hossain of Aporajeyo Bangladesh, Souvik Roy Chowdhury and Rupesh Jaiswal of Nepal were sharing the third spot with 5.5 points each.

Tanzina Akter Tani of Motijheel Govt. High School maintained her solo lead with maximum 6.5 points after end of the 7th round games in Girls Section.

Shanta Thapa of Nepal followed the leader with 6 points.

Debdeep Das of Kolkata took solo lead with 6.5 points after seventh round game in the Class KG to V Group. Abigyan Mukherjee of Kolkata followed the leader with six points.

Bogra Gabtoli XI clinched the title of the Gobindaganj Khelwar Kalyan Gold Cup football with a 3-2 win over Gobindaganj Akbar Ali Smriti Sangsads at the Gobindaganj High School ground yesterday.

Gobindaganj upazila chairman Principal Abul Kalam Azad witnessed the final as chief guest and gave away prizes.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Read quickly 34 Female deer

35 Roscoe data

5 The whole 36 Falafel

shebang 37 Meccas

8 Eastern for

potentate shoppers

12 Author 40 Break suddenly

13 Hallowe'en shout 41 Pearl's

home

14 Easter 45 \$50, in

emblem "Monopoly"

15 Winged 47 Sportage

bird? 49 Black-

17 Gilligan's 49 and-

home white

18 Bicycle- treat

seat style 50 Lotion

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