

Bolt blazes on cricket pitch

Usain Bolt rose to superstar status on the athletics track, but the treble world record-holder showed his prowess on the cricket pitch in a charity match on Sunday.

As soon as Bolt arrived at the Kaiser Sports Club in Discovery Bay on Jamaica's north coast, hundreds of fans rushed him -- some saying they only wanted to touch the superstar while others wanted pictures and autographs.

When Bolt took the field to warm up, his security team had trouble keeping away thousands who just wanted to get close to one of Jamaica's biggest heroes.

Bolt spun the toss for his Trelawny team, but his opposite number Chris Gayle called correctly and opted to field.

In his brief innings, Bolt brought the crowd to their feet despite only making 13 runs off 10 deliveries, hitting a four and six off West Indies captain Gayle as Trelawny reached 124 for six off 15 overs.

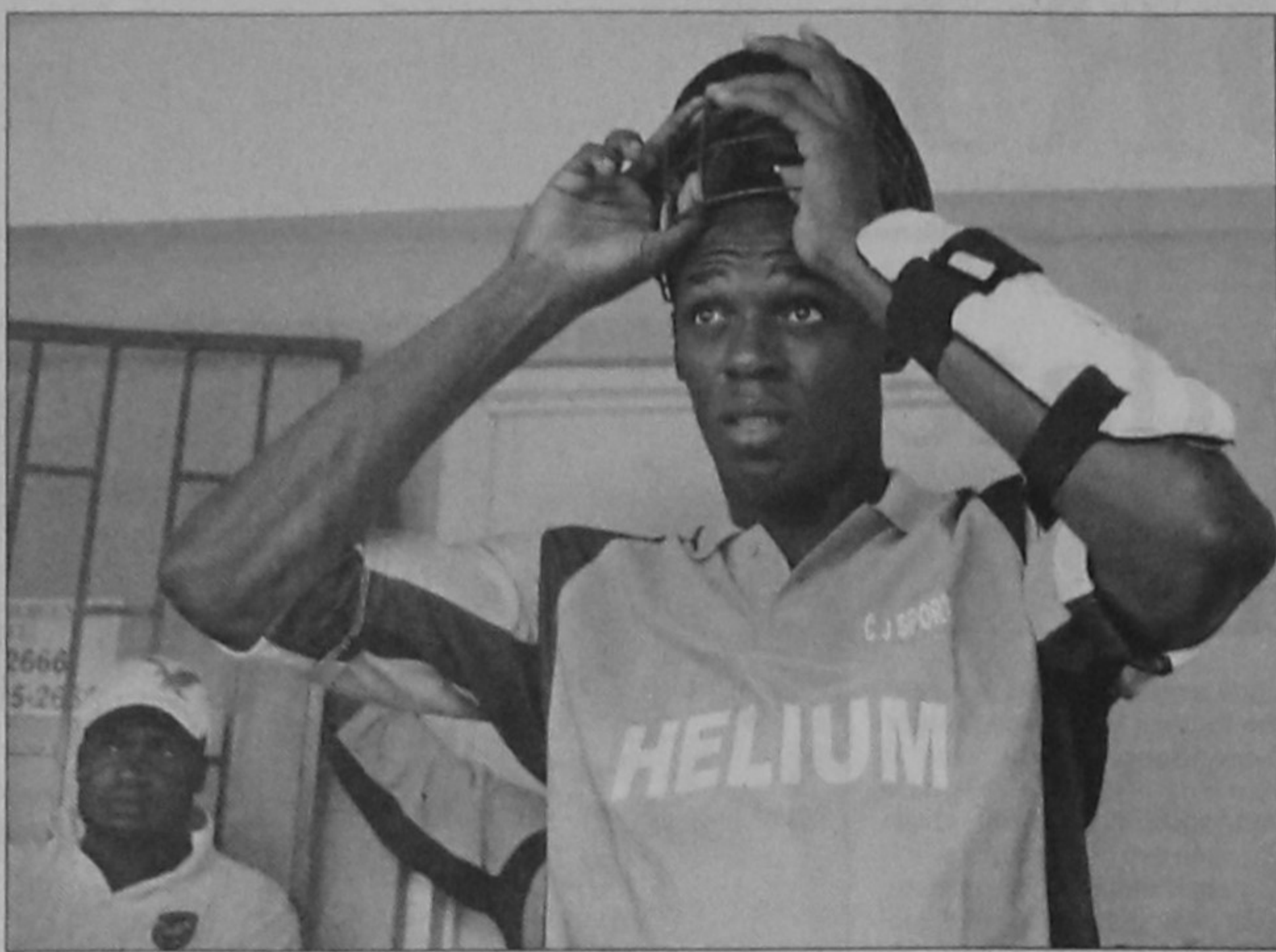
With his team defending the modest total, Bolt had the crowd of more than 6,000 firmly behind him as he bowled West Indies opener Gayle -- the host of the event. Bolt said it was a day of fun for him.

"It was a good game, I really enjoyed it," said Bolt, who played cricket as a youngster. "These are the things I like to do, it's fun."

"I am always in for charity," he added.

Bolt, who followed up his 2008 Olympic triumphs in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay with world championship victories in the same events this year, said he would rest his body prior to beginning his preparations for the 2010 season.

AFP, Kingston



Olympic 100m champion and world record holder Usain Bolt prepares for a charity invitational celebrity cricket match in St. Ann, Jamaica on Sunday.

Zim take it 4-1

Cricket

AFP, Harare

Hamilton Masakadza smashed the 11th highest score in ODI history on Sunday when his career-best, unbeaten 178, led Zimbabwe to a 142-run win over Kenya.

The home side piled up 329-3 off 50 overs, their second 300-plus total of the series which they claimed 4-1.

Masakadza and fellow opener Forster Mutizwa put on on 127 by the 25th over for the first wicket before off-spinner Jimmy Kamande provided the breakthrough, having Mutizwa stumped for 55.

Brendan Taylor joined Masakadza and the two then put on 102 for the second wicket with Taylor hitting three fours and three sixes.

Masakadza reached his century and his 167-ball effort yielded 17 fours and five sixes.

Kenya then slumped to 85 for 5 with Chris Mpofu claim-

ing three wickets.

Jimmy Kamande top-scored with 37 as Kenya were all out for 187 in 39.3 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth one-day international between Zimbabwe and Kenya at the Harare Sports Club here on Sunday:

ZIMBABWE

Masakadza not out 178
Mutizwa st D Obuya b Kamande 55
Taylor c C Obuya b Odhiambo 52
Coventry c Kamande b Odhiambo 25
Matsikenyeri not out 1
Extras: (b-1, lb-10, w-6, nb-1) 18
Total: (For 3 wks in 50 overs) 329
Did not bat: Garwe, Waller, Utseya, Cremer, Price, Mpofu
Fall of wickets: 1-127, 2-229, 3-311

Bowler O M R W
Odoyo 8 0 50 0
Onyango 4 0 40 0
Luseno 5 0 41 0
Odhiambo 8 0 56 2
Kamande 10 0 63 1
Varaiya 9 0 39 0
Patel 6 0 29 0

KENYA
D Obuya lbw b Price 27

Obanda fined

AFP, Dubai

The International Cricket Council has fined Kenya batsman Alex Obanda 15 per cent of his match fee for a breach of the ICC Code of Conduct during his team's latest ODI against Zimbabwe at Harare.

Obanda was found to have shown dissent at an umpire's decision during Saturday's game, which Zimbabwe won by six wickets to take a 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

The 21-year-old right-hander was dismissed, caught at the wicket off the bowling of Ray Price but instead of leaving immediately, stood at the wicket for a substantial period of time shaking his head.

Wigan hold

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ball roll to his favoured left foot before driving a superb strike past Kirkland.

It took a fine tackle from Bramble to deny Adebayor as he bore down on goal moments later.

Kirkland was called into action to push away Barry's header from a deep Petrov cross as City went for the winner.

But City's hopes of going on to claim all three points suffered a blow in the 65th minute when Zabaleta was dismissed by Wiley for his rash lunge on Jason Scotland.

Zabaleta's second foul clearly deserved a booking but there had been some debate about Wiley's decision to issue the Argentina defender with his first yellow card for a challenge on Maynor Figueroa.

Wigan's slick passing style was beginning to wear City out and midfielder Mohamed Dime lashed just over as the hosts pushed on.

The sight of Adebayor limping off with an injury could hardly have raised Hughes' spirits and he breathed a sigh of relief when Hendry Thomas's effort was ruled out for offside.

City could have had a penalty in the closing stages when Wright-Phillips went down under Figueroa's challenge but Wiley turned down their appeals.

AFP, London

Towering ambition

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

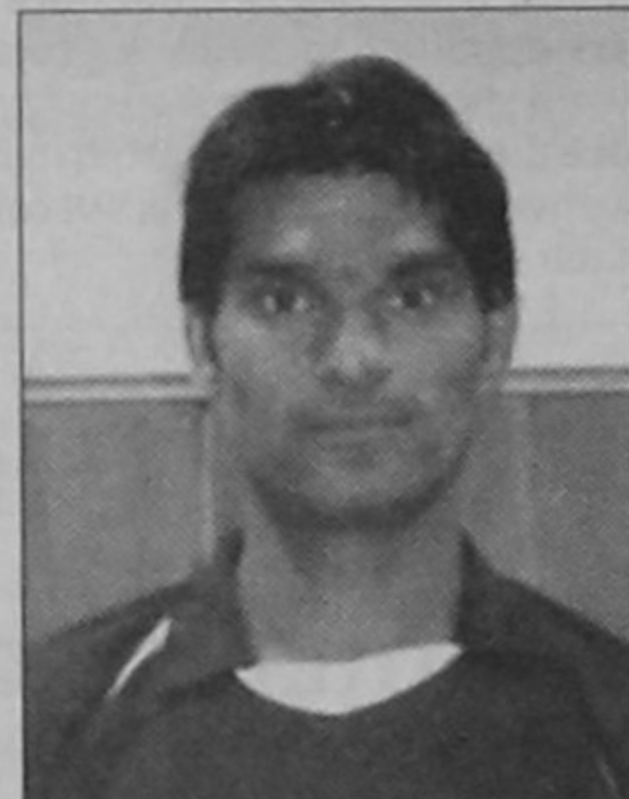
Towering Pakistani paceman Mohammad Irfan Monday said he hoped his extraordinary height will help him emulate the feats of fellow bowling giants Joel Garner and Bruce Reid.

West Indian Garner and Australian Reid were two of the tallest bowlers ever to have played international cricket -- both six feet eight inches tall.

The emerging Irfan, who reaches the same height in his socks, made his mark with a burst of 7-113 for Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) against a star-studded Habib Bank team on Sunday in only his second first-class match.

"I have heard a lot about Garner, have seen his videos

and I want to emulate his feat. It would be tremendous to register Pakistan's name in a world record," the 26-year-old told AFP, setting his sights on



MOHAMMAD IRFAN

becoming the tallest international bowler of all time.

Irfan, who hails from the small Punjab town of Gaggu

Mandi, is just two inches short of three English players who set the record of being the tallest to play at first-class level.

"I was 17 when my height started to increase and people used to see me with amazement. Some doctors say that my height can still increase," said Irfan, who was first spotted by former first-class bowler Nadeem Iqbal.

Iqbal brought the lanky Irfan to Pakistan's National Cricket Academy where former Pakistan player and bowling coach Aaqib Javed trained the youngster.

"He was raw but after noticing his height I thought that if he has speed then he can become a good bowler. He definitely has the potential to become a good international bowler if he works on his diet and other aspects," said Aaqib.

Asif has to wait

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available for selection -- following completion of a year-long ban for another doping offense last year -- but has been told by authorities that he is not allowed back in. "Asif cannot play in the UAE," Ijaz Butt, the PCB chairman, said. "We checked with authorities in UAE what his position was and we can confirm that he cannot play there. If he goes there he will be arrested."

The situation leaves Pakistan in a quandary: following terrorist attacks on the Sri Lankan team in March this year, international cricket is unlikely to return to Pakistan till 2011. Till that time, it is likely Pakistan will play a number of 'home' series at neutral venues in the UAE. For the time being, however, they will have to make do without the services of one of their leading fast bowlers.

Youths finish

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bowler. Chris Bent with 25 off 43 balls was the other notable scorer for England.

Shabbir, Shaker, Alauddin and Mahmudul with two wickets each were the bowling heroes of Bangladesh amidst the final day's drama.

Danny Briggs might have considered himself unlucky as his five for 50 runs in 20 overs eventually failed to inspire England to avoid a stinging defeat.

BRIEF SCORE

ENGLAND 1st innings 221 and 2nd innings 107 (Joe Root 13, Chris Bent 25, Azeem Rafiq 4, Michael Bates 27, Calum Haggett 18, Danny Briggs 11, extras 7)

BANGLADESH 1st innings 172 and 2nd innings 157 for 8 in 47.1 overs (Amit Majumder 20, Saikat Ali 29, Imamul Hossain 9, Anamul Haque not out 58, Mahmudul Hassan 17, Abul Hasan not out 9).

Result: Bangladesh Under 19 won by two wickets.

Man-of-the-Match: Anamul Haque (Bangladesh).

PCB rejects

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he understood why Younus handed in his papers. "I have not accepted Younus Khan's resignation. There is no justification in removing him as captain. I realise and understand his reaction. Had I been in his place I would've done the same."

Though Younus could not be reached for comment, Butt said he had agreed to take up the captaincy one again.

Clarke eyes

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Australia have a heavy workload in the next few months, and Clarke's injury is proving to be a persistent one, but he was confident he wouldn't need surgery any time soon. "I certainly haven't considered surgery at this stage," he said. "I'm seeing a physio who specialises in backs and she's been fantastic and at this stage we're very confident that I'm not going to need surgery."

T&T take final spot

CRICINFO, Hyderabad



Trinidad and Tobago, powered by a fearless batting performance, secured the final spot in the semifinal line-up of the Champions League T20 on Sunday. Their batsmen thrilled the Hyderabad crowd by playing a shot a ball during a relentless assault on the Eagles that propelled them to 213 for 4, the highest total of the tournament.

And it wasn't even Kieron Pollard who devastated the bowling, although he did contribute at the end; the damage was inflicted by Adrian Barath, William Perkins and Lendl Simmons. To seal their place in the final four, T&T's bowlers just had to ensure Eagles didn't reach their target in 14.2 overs. They did that, but only after overcoming an early scare.

The Eagles were perhaps the most unheralded team at the start of the tournament. But despite the lack of international players in their ranks, they were tenacious, punching above their weight, keeping calm in tense situations, and progressed into the second round. Rilee Rossouw led the charge today, blazing 44 off 19 balls, and propelled the Eagles to 50 off only 3.4 overs. They pillaged 77 runs from the Powerplay and raced to 100 off 56 balls. However, their desperate pursuit of runs forced errors and Rossouw's dismissal, with the score on 81 for 2, ended Eagles' slim chances of reaching the target before the 15th over. They continued to fight manfully, pushing for what would have been an impressive consolation victory, but eventually fell 24 runs short.

T&T's enterprising style of play in India had already made them the most exciting side of the tournament, but today they turned the intensity up several notches. Their batsmen didn't merely try to time their shots and find gaps in the field, they wound-up and swung hard, aiming to smash the ball with every ounce

of power they could summon. Adrian Barath, playing his first game because Darren Bravo was unfit, scored 63 off 41 balls and blitzed 64 off the Powerplay with Perkins. Lendl Simmons then blazed to 40 off 25 balls, Pollard chipped in with 23 off 13, and the spectators were treated to T&T's newest finisher, Navin Stewart, who ransacked 33 off 11. There were 13 sixes and 18 fours in all in the innings, and the carnage left the Eagles shell-shocked.

The Eagles' hopes of restricting T&T to a total they could achieve in 14.2 overs began to vanish in the first over. Perkins was the pace-setter, cover-driving Victor Mpitang through cover, clearing the boundary in the same region, before slashing over the third-man boundary. Barath didn't take long to join in, carving Mpitang over the backward point boundary as well. Cornelius de Villiers, Eagles' best bowler in their last two games, wasn't spared either. Soon, the opening partnership was a blur of flashing bats and balls speeding through and over the infield.

The Eagles received fleeting relief when Thandi Tshabalala beat Perkins' cut with a slow offbreak, but normal service resumed the very next ball. Tshabalala greeted Simmons with a friendly full toss and watched it disappear over long-on. With his confidence soaring, Simmons square drove the next ball for four and stamped out any thoughts of an Eagles fightback. Barath had been the quieter partner until then, because he hit relatively fewer boundaries initially, but he opened his shoulders to swing Tshabalala over long on and reached his half-century off 34 balls.

Boeta Dippenaar had been forced to make frequent bowling changes right through and he brought de Villiers back in the 14th over. It cost the Eagles 20 runs. Barath carved the first ball over the point boundary and drilled the last straight down the ground. In between those shots, Simmons sent the ball speeding to fine leg and cover point.

Simmons fell soon after -- he was Ryan McLaren's first wicket of the tournament -- and Barath and Pollard followed in subsequent overs. The damage had already been done, though, but the only player from Tobago in the XI wasn't going to relent. Stewart had replaced Samuel Badree in the XI, and was promoted ahead of Daren Ganga and Denesh Ramdin to give the innings an explosive finish. He did precisely that, ransacking 27 runs off the penultimate over bowled by du Preez, ensuring that the Eagles would need a miraculous effort to win, never mind qualify for the semifinal.

There aren't too many ways to go about chasing 214 in 14.2 overs, and Rossouw began by smacking the last two balls of Ravi Rampaul's first over down the ground for four. He improved on that against Dwayne Bravo, lofting the last two balls of his first over for monstrous sixes on the leg side. Morne van Wyk also wasted no time, dispatching Rampaul to the midwicket and square-leg boundary before scoring a hat-trick of fours against Sherwin Ganga. It was adrenalin-saturated action and Rossouw, who was dropped on 31 by Daren Ganga off Simmons, heaved the same bowled over the midwicket boundary.

The breakthroughs eventually came off tame deliveries. Sherwin Ganga delivered two straight full tosses, both van Wyk and Adrian McLaren played across the line and were trapped in front. Rossouw continued to fight a losing battle; one attempted six didn't come off and he was caught on the deep midwicket boundary, easing T&T's nerves.

The 24-run victory was T&T's third win in League A, and they topped the group with six points, setting up a semifinal clash against either Victoria or Cape Cobras in Hyderabad.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Trinidad & Tobago 213 for 4 (Barath 63, Simmons 40) beat Diamond Eagles 189 for 5 (Rossouw 44) by 24 runs.

Stosur wins first title

AFP, Osaka

Samantha Stosur captured her first career WTA title when she defeated Francesca Schiavone of Italy to win the Japan Open women's tennis tournament on Sunday.

The Australian third seed, who dashed Caroline Wozniacki's defence of the title in the semi-finals on Saturday, chalked up a 7-5, 6-1 victory over the fourth seed in just 68 minutes.

It was her sixth appearance in a final, following Cincinnati this year, Seoul in 2008, Prague in 2006, Gold Coast and Sydney in 2005.

Stosur, 25, has previously won four ITF titles, three of them in Japan including one in Osaka.

Stosur, the 2008 Wimbledon mixed doubles champion, put an end to Japanese Akiko Morigami's last appearance on the tour, and eliminated 2002 champion Jill Craybas of the United States on her way to the final.

"I'm very, very pleased to win my first title after losing five previous finals," said Stosur.

"It has been a personal goal for a while, so I am glad to have achieved that and it's the perfect way to finish my year in singles. My next goal is to reach the Top 10 for which I would need to play like today every day."

Derby date in final

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against a side they beat 1-0 in the Super Cup final.

"Compared to Abahani's performance in the tournament, Mohammedan are favourites in the final and the players look determined to retain the title through putting up an impressive show," said

Maruf yesterday at the club tent.

Nevertheless, Maruf will try to utilise his coaching sense against Abahani, who are crownless since their last Fed Cup triumph in 2000 as he has more than one match winner in his armory as well as last season's best right-back Wali Faisal, who can be a real threat for

Abahani for his relentless crossing overlapping the midfield.

Maruf sounded confident about winning the match and a surprise may be in store for the Black and Whites. Because Abahani are no pushover, winning the prize seven times to the Black and Whites' nine.

"It is true our midfielders are yet to be up to mark, but the backline lead by Rajani Kanta Barman and Ghanaiya Samad Yousuf is much stronger and have ability to foil Mohammedan's attempts," said Abahani coach Amalesh Sen.

But, the good thing for the Abahani midfield, is that they more organised in the semifinals and are getting better with the match providing a battle to control the midfield.

After having served a suspension, the return of Ghanaian striker Awudu Ibrahim will strengthen the Abahani attack, also comprising of national striker Enamul Haq.

Abahani may drop Sheriff Deen Mohammad, a striker from Ghana, in the starting eleven in a bid to ensure a place for Awad, who made his Sky Blues debut in the semifinal and played a key role in Abahani's crucial 4-1 drubbing to Beanibazar SC.

Amalesh plans to restrict Mohammedan trio Emily, Bukola and Emeka while Awudu and Mehdi Hasan Ujjal will be marked by the Mohammedan defenders which is being marked as the most vulnerable department of the defending champions.



Samantha Stosur of Australia kisses the winner's trophy after defeating Francesca Schiavone of Italy in the Japan Open final in Osaka on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Before," in an Alger story

5 Dieter's no-nos

9 Weep

12 Baghdad's land

13 Singer's come-back

14 "I — Camera"

15 Carte

16 Messes

17 Eve, originally

18 Long story

19 Main-lander's memento

20 Location

21 Cather's place?

23 Off-read

25 Web page item

28 Has faith in

32 Corrosive fluids

33 Ray's mom, on "Every-body Loves Ray-mond"

34 Reservations

36 Money of Hungary

37 Cleo's slayer

38 Anger

39 Bellow

42 Lithium — battery

44 Charts

48 Recede

49 Advantage

50 Grand tale

51 Micro-brew, maybe

52 Collapsed

53 Cruising

54 Harrison or Reed

55 Deuce topper

56 For fear that

6 Farm fraction

7 Frugality

8 "Help!"

9 Indian wrap

10 Leave out

11 Infant

20 One of a daily trio

22 Affirmative responses

24 Mail

25 Grimalkin

26 Expert

27 Wardrobe malfunction

29 — Lanka

30 Stannum

31 Prepared

35 Muffet's bugaboo

36 With delicacy

39 Sport

40 Competent

41 Mountain goat

43 Gawk at

45 Basilica section

46 Slapstick arsenal

47 "Begone!"

49 Newt

Solution time: 27 mins.

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W A F E R E C H O
A M O K S P L E N D O R
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CRYPTOQUIP

YCO HTNUMU COYJ NC NXJL
WKYHWXYZCL? MTYM WU MTO
MNBWS ND KL DCWOXRU
UBWCWMOR RWUSFUWNX
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE
COMPANY IS OFFERING MEN'S PRODUCTS ONLY.
YOU MIGHT CALL IT A MALE ORDER BUSINESS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals R



Did U Know?

While a 6-year-old Maria Sharapova was performing at a tennis clinic in Russia, Martina Navratilova was in the building and she was flabbergasted by the talent of the 6-year-old. Martina went to Maria's father, Yuri, and recommended that he took his daughter to the world-famous Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida.