



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Indian swimmer Richa Mishra strokes her way to winning the women's 100m butterfly gold of the 11th South Asian Games at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

# Records roll in the pool

SPORTS REPORTER



There was no exception on the second day of the 11th South Asian Games swimming competition as India maintained their supremacy at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

Four records tumbled on the second day as two Indian natants set three new records while Sri Lankan Heshan Bandara Unamboowe, who like the previous day, again denied India's hundred per cent success by clinching the gold in the men's 100m backstroke with new Games record.

Indian Virdhawal Vikram Khade hogged the spotlight on the day by winning two gold medals in the men's 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly with new South Asian Games records.

It was a disappointing day for the local swimmers after an impressive first day when they won three silver and two bronze medals as they even failed to make any impression in the pool in front of a cheering crowd. The hosts could manage only three consolation bronze medals participating in five events of the day.

The focus was on Rubel Rana and Mahfizur Rahman but they were far away from the expectations.

Adaveshiah Puttaveeraswamy Gagan Ullalmath set the tone for India on the day when he won the first gold in the men's 400m freestyle with a new record. He clocked 04:04.85sec to eclipse the previous best of 04:05.94 set by another Indian Rehan Poncha in the 2006 Colombo Games.

Mandar Divase followed his compatriot with 04:07.41sec and Pakistani Israr Hussain bagged the bronze clocking 04:24.85sec.

It was then turn for Khade to confirm the second gold for India with another SA Games record in the men's 50m freestyle. Khade finished with 00:23.73sec to break his compatriot Sebastian Xavier's 1995 Games record of 00:23.89sec.

India also got the silver as Aaron Agnel D'souza clocked 00:24.42sec while Bangladesh's Mahfizur secured bronze with a timing of 00:24.53sec.

India's national anthem continued to play as Richa Mishra won the gold in the women's 100m butterfly by clocking 01:05.74sec in the day's third event and she was followed by her teammate Vandita Dhariyal who finished with 01:08.40sec while Sri Lankan Miniruwani Shashiprabha Samarakoon bagged the bronze with a timing of 01:10.38sec.

Sri Lanka finally stopped the Indian march as Heshan Bandara won the men's 100m backstroke gold with the timing of 00:58.98sec which was much better than the previous best timing of his countryman Andrew Aboysinghe who had a timing of 01:00.11sec in the Colombo Games.

Indian Balakrishnan Melkote Badarinath offered a stiff challenge before finishing with 00:59.08sec to secure the silver and Bangladesh's Rubel Rana clocked 01:02.65 to finish third.

Khade reassured the Indian dominance by winning the last goal in the 50m butterfly with new record timing of 00:25.54 to better his own effort of 00:25.97sec in Colombo four years ago.

Indian Arjun Muralidharan clocked 00:26.15sec for silver and Bangladesh's Anik Islam bagged the bronze by clocking 00:26.61sec.

# Press hails sacking

Football

AFP, London

British papers applauded the sacking of England captain John Terry Saturday, praising manager Fabio Capello for stamping his authority on the team ahead of the looming World Cup.

The Sun newspaper reported that Terry was not ruling out a return ahead of the crucial tournament in South Africa which starts in June. It said the Chelsea captain was heard to say: "If there's a one percent chance of being World Cup captain, I will fight for it tooth and nail".

Most papers, though, turned their attention to Capello, praising the Italian manager's uncompromising stance after Terry's alleged affair with the ex-girlfriend of England teammate Wayne Bridge.

"Grazie, Signor Capello" -- "Thank You Mr Capello" in Italian -- was the front page head-

line on the Daily Mail.

"We applaud manager Fabio Capello (an Italian with strong Catholic values) for taking only ten minutes yesterday to strip Terry of the England captaincy," the paper's editorial said.

"John Terry is captain of England and a role model to millions of young boys.

"That is why, by sacking Terry, Mr Capello has delivered a long overdue reminder that even millionaire sportsmen have a duty to behave with a modicum of decency".

The Times hailed Capello's decisiveness in dealing with the situation.

"The one clear winner has been the personal authority of Capello. That is why yesterday was an excellent day for English football," it said in an editorial.

The Sun added: "It sent out a message to players and fans alike that was loud and clear: 'I'm in charge'".

Elsewhere, though, questions were raised about the suitability of Terry's apparent successor, Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand.

# Football fan shot dead in Argentina

AFP, Buenos Aires

A 14-year-old Argentine football fan has died after being shot three times in the head, a medical official said.

Walter Caceres, a supporter of Newell's Old Boys, was shot on Thursday as he travelled back by bus from the club's away game at Huracan in Buenos Aires.

Police said the bus came under attack after breaking down on the highway, 250 kilometres (150 miles) north of the capital.

Lelio Mangiaterra, a hospital spokesman, said Caceres died from his injuries on Friday.

"Doctors tried to keep him alive but it was no use," Mangiaterra said.

# Pakistan take h'ball gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan won the gold medal in men's handball of the 11th South Asian Games with a hard-fought 37-31 win over India in the final at the newly-built handball stadium adjacent to Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Both sides fought neck and neck as Pakistan were just one goal up in the first half with the score at 16-15.

Azhar Khan was the highest scorer with 10 goals while Nadeem and Naseer Ahmed scored seven goals each for the champions while Praseed was the most successful Indian scorer with eight goals.

# Ancelotti backs Terry

AFP, London



Carlo Ancelotti believes Chelsea can shrug off the controversy surrounding captain John Terry by delivering a knock-out blow to title rivals Arsenal on Sunday.

Terry was sacked as England skipper by Fabio Capello on Friday as the Italian reacted quickly to quell any threat of dressing room unrest following allegations that the Chelsea defender had been having an affair with the ex-girlfriend of international team-mate Wayne Bridge.

Capello's decision reportedly left Terry in a state of shock and it would be understandable if he wasn't in the right frame of mind to feature at Stamford Bridge this weekend.

But Ancelotti has been impressed with Terry's ability to block out the controversy since his alleged liaison with Vanessa Perroncel, an underwear model who is now estranged from former Chelsea left-back Bridge, first came to light last week.

The Italian made it clear the centre-back has been able to cope admirably with everything thrown at him and he expects more of the same against the Gunners.

"John is able to leave his problems outside the training ground. He has done this well because he is a very strong character. Every coach would

like to train a player with John Terry's behaviour," Ancelotti said.

"I have a very good relationship with John. I am not interested in the private life of anybody. I want to support John because it is not an easy moment for him.

"If the private life of a player doesn't affect his professional life I don't have a problem. If John is unable to train because he is tired or nervous I can be interested, but not if he is always ready to train and always focused.

"He didn't kill anybody. I train a club and Capello trains a national team. To keep Terry as Chelsea captain is my decision. I think this can be a good motivation for us to do better."

The eyes of the football world will be on Terry's every move if he does lead Chelsea out for a crucial London derby that has significant implications for both teams.

Ancelotti's side will have lost first place by kick-off on Sunday if Manchester United defeat Portsmouth 24 hours earlier, but a win would regain pole position and leave Arsenal languishing nine points behind the leaders.

The Blues boss knows a repeat of Chelsea's 3-0 demolition of the Gunners at the Emirates Stadium in November would all but end Arsenal's challenge and he plans to use the same tactics which inspired that win.



PHOTO: STAR

The members of the victorious Pakistan men's handball team celebrate on the podium after winning the gold defeating India by 37-31 goals in the final of the 11th South Asian Games at the newly-built Handball Stadium yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

India's Abdul Najeer Qureshi crosses the finish line ahead of the pack during the men's 200m dash of the 11th South Asian Games at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Qureshi won the gold with a timing of 21.16 seconds.

# Kuyt sinks Everton

AFP, Liverpool



Dirk Kuyt's 50th goal for Liverpool gave Rafa Benitez's 10 men a 1-0

victory over Everton after Sotirios Kyrgiakos's first Merseyside derby ended with the Greek defender being sent off at Anfield on Saturday.

In a hotly contested match, Kyrgiakos became the 18th player to be red-carded in 24 matches between these two rivals before South Africa's Steven Pienaar was sent off for Everton in the dying moments.

Referee Martin Atkinson had his work cut out as Everton's Marouane Fellaini was also fortunate not to be sent off.

Pienaar was also lucky to last as long as he did, yet Liverpool overcame the loss of Kyrgiakos to secure all three points that saw them move above Tottenham, who face Aston Villa later on Saturday, into fourth spot.

There have been a flurry of red cards in Merseyside derbies in recent years and the 213th meeting between the arch-rivals proved every bit as bruising.

The tone was set as early as the fourth minute when Steven Gerrard was man-handled in front of the Kop by Phil Neville, England's newly-appointed vice-captain picking himself up to deliver a set-piece which had Tim Howard scrambling to fist the ball away. Liverpool, who had Maxi Rodriguez, Lucas and Daniel Agger back in the side, carved out the better openings as they went in search of their fifth successive home win in the league.

Agger blazed over from 12 yards, while David Ngog lost control at the vital moment after Kuyt's defence-splitting pass.

Then came the first of many poorly-timed challenges, Kuyt handed a 20th minute caution for bringing down United States international Landon Donovan just outside the area.

That allowed Everton to

test Jose Reina for the first time, the Liverpool keeper tipping Leighton Baines's free-kick over for a corner.

Atkinson had not shown a red card in his last 22 games yet he had his work cut out as tempers threatened to boil over.

Pienaar has been in excellent form during Everton's revival but the South African was fortunate not to receive his marching orders for an x-rated 29th minute challenge on Javier Mascherano that left the Argentine screaming in agony.

Seconds later Pienaar was left on the ground clutching his leg after a challenge by Jamie Carragher, who was shown a yellow card after Everton players had surrounded the referee.

It was Liverpool who were reduced to 10 men 11 minutes before half-time.

Kyrgiakos can have few complaints about being shown a straight red for his two-footed lunge on Fellaini which forced the midfielder off with an injury.

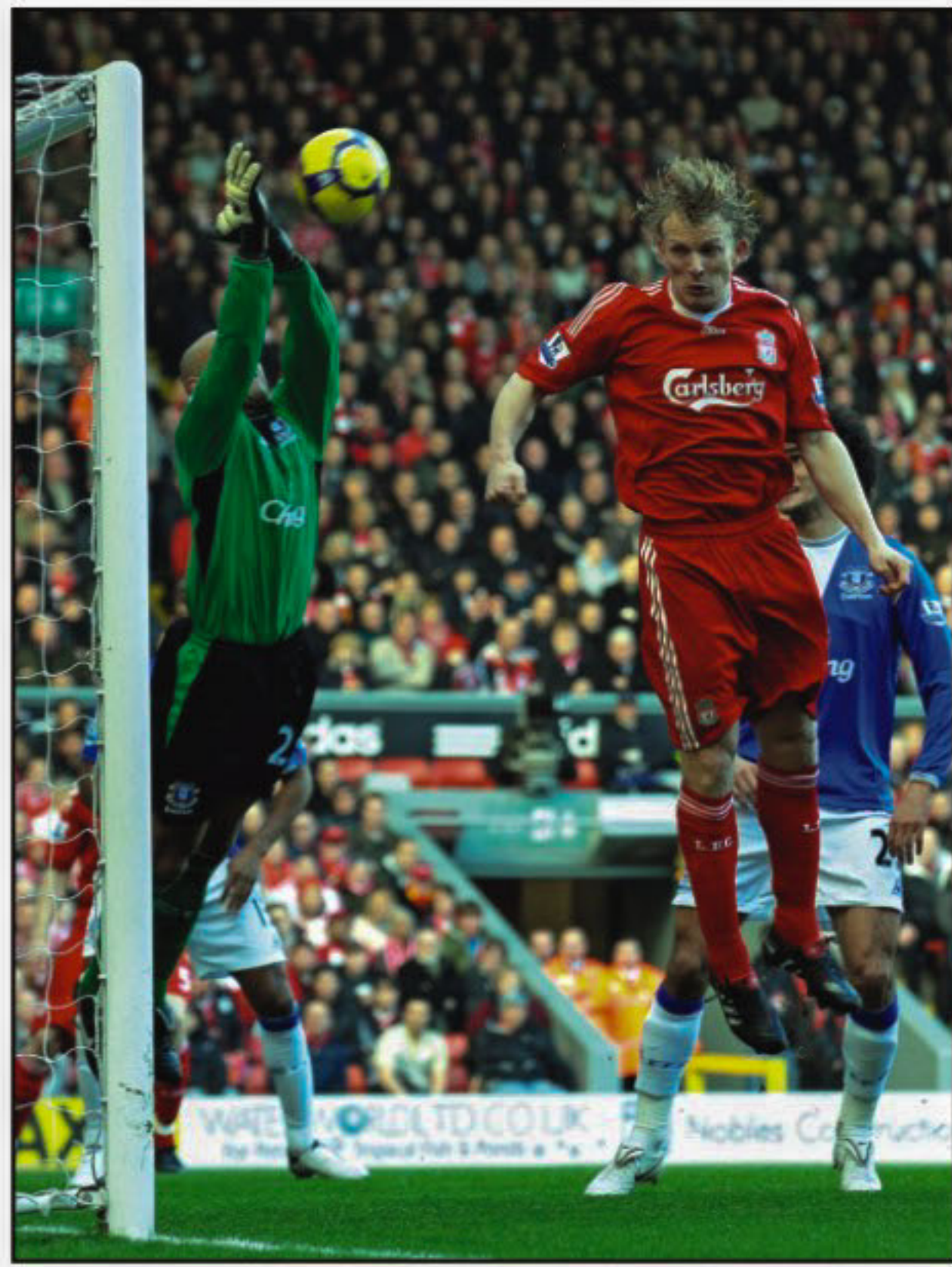


PHOTO: AFP

Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard (L) saves a header from Liverpool forward Dirk Kuyt during their Premier League encounter at Anfield on Saturday.



## Neo Cricket & SuperSport2

India v South Africa  
First Test, Day Two  
Live from 10:00am

ESPN

English Premier League  
Birmingham v Wolves  
Live from 7:30pm  
Chelsea v Arsenal  
Live from 9:55pm

## STAR Cricket

Australia v West Indies  
First ODI  
Live from 9:25am

BTV

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES  
(Men's Football)  
India v Maldives  
Bronze Decider  
Live from 6:00pm

## ATN Bangla

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES  
(Cricket)  
Pakistan v Nepal  
Bronze Decider  
Live from 1:30pm

## Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

Gold Decider  
Live from 5:30pm

# DFB wants Loew to stay

Football

AFP, Berlin

Germany football boss Theo Zwanziger insisted Saturday he wants Joachim Loew to remain as coach of the national side, despite contract negotiations being delayed until after the World Cup in South Africa.

The extending of Loew's contract, which is set to expire after June's World Cup, had been declared a formality by both parties late last year before last Thursday's surprise announcement that negotiations had been postponed.

But Zwanziger, the president of the German Football Federation (DFB), has made it clear he wants to keep Loew in charge after the World Cup and into the qualifiers for Euro 2012, the draw for which will be made in Warsaw on Sunday.

"I want to keep him on," Zwanziger told the Sueddeutschen Zeitung.

"I will speak to Loew whether we have a successful World Cup campaign or not, he would always be my first point of contact."

Loew is set to discover on Sunday who his side will need to beat to qualify for Euro 2012, which will be held in Poland and the Ukraine, but his main concern is on the World Cup finals in South Africa.

Loew's coaching team, which includes team manager Oliver Bierhoff, are all chasing contract extensions, but Zwanziger says the fact the matter will be unresolved before Germany bid to win their fourth world title is irrelevant.

"The nation's World Cup fate does not depend on whether the coach of the national team's contract is running out going into the tournament," said Zwanziger.