

NATIONAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP

Two titles each for Elena, Rais

SPORTS REPORTER

It was double delight for Elena and Rais in the Citycell 30th National Badminton Championship as both clinched the singles and doubles titles at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Elena defeated her Narayanganj teammate Shapla 20-22, 24-22, 21-14 to lift the women's singles crown and then paired with Shapla to win the doubles, defeating Biman's Konika and Dola 21-16, 21-14.

Rais of Biman won the men's singles title with a competitive 22-24, 21-12, 25-23 win over Narayanganj's Javed and then he paired up with Parash to win the doubles in an all-Biman final as they handed a 21-17, 19-21, 21-16 defeat to Enam and Dulal.

In the mixed doubles, the

crown went to Biman as the Dulali-Enam pair defeated teammates Konika and Parash 22-20, 21-8.

Elena and Rais were also adjudged the best men's and women's players among a record 300 players from 77 teams in the meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker witnessed the finals and distributed trophies as well as the prize money among the winners while Bangladesh Olympic Association president and Army Chief General M Abdul Mubeen, ATN Bangla advisor Nawajish Ali Khan, Citycell chief marketing officer Kafil HS Mueed, Bangladesh Badminton Federation president Rubaba Dowla and general secretary Mahbubur Rob were present among others.



Biman's Rais (L) and Elena of Narayanganj show off their medals after both picked up the singles and doubles titles in the Citycell 30th National Badminton Championship at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Cricket can wait at St George's Park

AFP, Port Elizabeth



Elizabeth.

Gone are the crease and wickets, stumps and scoreboard, and in their place an array of beer tents and the World Cup's largest 'big' screen, a 75 square metre monster.

Up to 25,000 World Cup revellers are expected on a daily basis as Port Elizabeth and the other 2010 host cities seek to emulate the success of fan fests at the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

St George's Park is steeped in sporting folklore. It was the venue for the first Test ever to be played in South Africa, the last Test before South Africa's expulsion from international cricket, the first ever Test series win over Australia and the first Test with the resumption of 'normal' cricket after the end of apartheid.

It was also host to the first rugby test played in South Africa, and home to the country's first bowls club in 1882.

For cricket anoraks the first Test ever staged was South Africa v England on March 12-13, 1889 with an eight-wicket win for the visitors after South Africa had won the toss and

elected to bat.

The sixth oldest cricket ground in the world was being readied Tuesday for the latest chapter in its history.

On Friday and then every day until the July 11 final the venue in the heart of Port Elizabeth will open its doors to football fans from all corners of the globe.

"This is a perfect location for a World Cup fan fest," Jason Stone, deputy Fan Fest director, told AFP on Tuesday.

"Much of the infrastructure is here already, like the 17,000 seater stands.

"We've installed four beer tents [one at the quaint 'Duckpond End of the ground], we've got the giant screen, and we've got some star acts lined up to keep the fans entertained before and between matches.

"It's a mammoth operation, including security personnel we have a workforce of around 500 people to handle a maximum crowd of 25,000.

"As entry is free it's hard to predict precisely how many we're expecting but with teams like England who have a huge following playing in Port Elizabeth it should be fun."

With the emphasis on enjoyment Stone said there would be a zero tolerance policy put in place for anyone trying to bring in a firearm gun possession being legal in South Africa.

"If anyone is found with a firearm at the entrance they will be asked to leave it at home before entering the enclosure."

SL stroll to title



AFP, Harare

A dominant Sri Lanka came to within a freak run-out of whitewashing Zimbabwe in the final of the tri-nations tournament at Harare Sports Club here on Wednesday.

The Sri Lankans scored a leisurely 203-1 in 34.4 overs to win with ease in reply to Zimbabwe's effort of 199 all out in 49 overs.

The run-out stood between Sri Lanka bowling out the entire Zimbabwe team and then overtaking their target score without the loss of a single wicket.

Although Zimbabwe's Brendan Taylor was named man of the series afterwards it was Tillikeratne Dilshan who stole the day.

He was named man of the match after amassing 108 not out, both for his score and for his captaincy, with his 100 coming up in 97 balls and including 13 boundaries.

It was Dilshan's seventh one-day international century and his first against Zimbabwe.

The run-out came with the score on 160 Sri Lanka's highest opening partnership against Zimbabwe in internationals.

Dilshan went for a quick single to Graeme Cremer at point, but when his wicket was about to be broken he kept going and fellow opener Upul Tharanga moved forward from the other end to sacrifice his wicket.

Tharanga produced another of his speciality supporting roles with 72 runs.

The match was killed as a potential spectacle after just a few overs of the Zimbabwe innings.

The home team prodded their way to 15-1 in seven overs and to 40-2 in 15. By comparison, Sri Lanka were 46-0 in seven and 88-0 in 15.

Tatenda Taibu was initially a culprit with only four runs from his first 22 balls faced, but he redeemed himself by

becoming easily Zimbabwe's top scorer with 71.

Their meagre 199 runs was soon overwhelmed by Dilshan and Tharanga, who gobbled up the Zimbabwe bowling with ease, if not quite disdain.

India, the other team in the Tri-nation series, will play Zimbabwe in two Twenty20 matches this weekend and on Thursday a game has been arranged for them against Zimbabwe A.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: 199 all out in 49 overs (Taylor 19, Taibu 71, Lamb 37, Coventry 18; Fernando 3-36, A Mendis 2-44, J Mendis 2-36)

SRI LANKA: 203 for one in 34.4 overs (Tharanga 72, Dilshan 108 not out, Chandimal 16 not out)

Result: Sri Lanka won by nine wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Tillikeratne Dilshan.

Man-of-the-series: Brendan Taylor.



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka batsman Tillikeratne Dilshan attempts a hook during his match-winning knock of 108 not out against Zimbabwe in the final of the tri-nation one-day tournament in Harare yesterday.

Usha-Police opener on Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Usha Krira Chaktra will take on newcomers Police AC on the opening day of the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium on Friday.

Last year's runners-up Abahani will play against Sadharan Bima while Mohammedan take on Wari Club the next day.

The perennial foes Abahani and Mohammedan will square off on July 10.

Top five teams among the participating eleven teams will qualify for the Super Five League.

Tigers arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team will return home today after taking part in the Twenty20 World Cup followed by the Test series in England.

The team is scheduled to reach Dhaka at 8:40am.

Shakib Al Hasan's men made an early exit from the Twenty20 World Cup in West Indies and then lost both the Test matches in England.

After an impressive performance in the first Test at Lord's thanks to Shahadat Hossain's five-wicket haul and Tamim Iqbal's blitzkrieg hundred, the Tigers surrendered inside three days in the second Test at Old Trafford.

However it was a memorable tour for dashing left-hander Tamim as the Chittagonian smashed back-to-back hundreds, first by a Bangladeshi batsman.

The Tigers will only get a day's break at home as they are scheduled to fly for Colombo on June 12 to take part in the Asia Cup which will kick off from June 15 in Dambulla.

Tough talking

FROM PAGE 17

minister Rama Yade for staying in such an expensive hotel during an economic crisis. Domenech did not react to Yade's comments.

Spain has it all

FROM PAGE 17

the World Cup after a 12-year absence.

Coached by enigmatic Argentine Marcelo Bielsa, Chile qualified behind Brazil in the South American zone and boast an exciting young generation of stars headed by Udinese forward Alexis Sanchez, Boca Juniors defender Gary Medel and Sporting Lisbon playmaker Matias Fernandez.

But they are sweating on the fitness of striker Humberto Suazo, who is likely to miss the opening two games through injury.

Making up Group H are Switzerland, who reached the last 16 in 2006 before falling on penalties to Ukraine.

They overcame a shock 2-1 defeat to minnows Luxembourg to top their pool in European qualification.

The team, now coached by former Bayern Munich boss Ottmar Hitzfeld, features a healthy blend of youth and experience, combining talented youngsters Eren Derdiyok, Tranquillo Barnetta and goalkeeper Diego Benaglio with seasoned campaigners like skipper Alexander Frei and Congo-born striker Blaise N'Kufo.

Ashraful returns

FROM PAGE 17

because he was not performing well and most importantly he was supposed to play a few matches for the A team but he didn't appear and we don't know the reason behind it," said Rafiqul.

The selectors picked up four pacers including spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for the regional championship but still Rafiqul believed that it was a spin-based side.

"Considering the conditions, we picked a spin-based team. On the other hand we took four pace bowlers as you know there are problems with injuries," said the former national cricketer.

Bangladesh will fly for Colombo on June 12 and launch their campaign against India on June 16. The Tigers take on hosts Sri Lanka on June 18 and face off with Pakistan on June 21.

All matches will be day-night and take place at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium.

SQUAD

Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Mushfiquur Rahim (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Jahurul Islam, Junaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraful, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Naeem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel, Rubel Hossain, Shafiul Islam, Sohravordi Shuvo.

And Mandela is coming too

FROM PAGE 17

Mandela broke his doctor's orders again the next month to be in Zurich for the announcement of the winning World Cup bid.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has called Mandela "the person who got the World Cup for South Africa".

"Madiba became a critical symbolic presence when crunch time came," said Verne Harris, a historian with the Mandela Foundation, using the clan name by which Mandela is affectionately known.

"It wasn't a foregone conclusion before he went (to Zurich). It went down to that final vote."

But Mandela's larger role has been in using sport to unite a nation that still feels

the wounds of apartheid 16 years after the end of white-minority rule.

A year after taking office as South Africa's first black president, Mandela famously threw his support behind the national rugby team, the Springboks, as the country hosted the 1995 rugby World Cup.

His embrace of the traditionally white sport helped bring the country together in the tense early days of democracy, a theme explored recently in the Clint Eastwood film "Invictus".

"I think he's identified the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa as another moment that could be really useful for South Africa in terms of nation-building," said Harris.

G is Group

FROM PAGE 17

done a meticulous job," said the coach.

Fate has dealt Ivory Coast a cruel World Cup hand twice after getting the Netherlands and Argentina in Germany four years ago, and the late choice of former England supremo Sven Goran Eriksson as coach hardly boosts continuity.

The Ivorians are desperate for Chelsea star Drogba to recover in time, but brothers Yaya and Kolo Toure and Salomon Kalou will want to show they are than just a support cast.

Uzbek ref

FROM PAGE 17

"These kinds of pressure-packed games are the pinnacle of a referee's career," he added. "Every referee dreams of being at the World Cup. Those that don't have that dream are not professional referees."

"And every referee wishes to officiate at the opening game and final of the World Cup. I didn't expect it, but I accept this with great joy."

Japan's Yuichi Nishimura will make it a double delight for Asian referees by taking charge of the second match between former champions France and Uruguay, also in Group A, in Cape Town.

"A sports tournament is a sports tournament, but does that feed into people's commitment to addressing social challenges?"

Mandela's personal assistant, Zelda la Grange, said Madiba is a "great strategist" who always understood the political value of sport.

"Sport is a medium that speaks to people across racial and religious divides," she told AFP.

"It was a very shrewd political move of him to grasp the opportunity that comes with sport to talk to people and convince them of reconciliation through rugby," she said.

"I think we'll see a re-occurrence of that attempt at reconciliation during the World Cup."

BNS to host WC opener

SPORTS REPORTER

The football fans of the capital will be able to enjoy the opening ceremony as well as the inaugural match of the FIFA World Cup on a giant screen at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.

All gates at the BNS will remain open for spectators as the opening ceremony of the greatest show on earth gets underway at 4:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time) on June 11.

The 'Mass Literacy Campaign' has taken this initiative in collaboration with Bangladesh Football Federation to mark the 10th anniversary of Dakar declaration of 'Education for All'.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 One vow taker ...
- 6 ... and another
- 11 Temp agency employee
- 12 Tire type
- 14 Denny Crane, e.g.
- 15 To-do list
- 16 Exist
- 17 Early periods
- 19 Texas politico — Bailey Hutchison
- 20 Joie de vivre
- 22 Skedad-dle
- 23 "... plus c'est la — chose"
- 24 Up and about
- 26 Less extroverted
- 28 Pinch
- 30 Corn spike
- 31 Dejected
- 35 Bold

DOWN

- 1 Trumpet noises
- 2 Least civilized
- 3 Gelid
- 4 Consider
- 5 Slip-up
- 6 Baby-sitter, often
- 7 Alger's "before"
- 8 Rhyming tribute
- 9 Made pig sounds
- 10 Butterfly title
- 11 Hotel where Eloise lives
- 13 Tier

18 Trench

- 21 Slight shade
- 23 Overwhelmed (in)
- 25 Disen-cumber
- 27 Chap
- 29 Staring, perhaps
- 31 Lends a hand
- 32 Noah's landing site
- 33 Fine point
- 34 "Gosh!"
- 36 Traffic circle
- 37 Church-ill's gestures
- 38 Toadies' replies
- 41 Ad for an upcoming show
- 44 Expose
- 45 No neatnik
- 48 "Great Expectations" lad
- 50 About to arrive

Solution time: 27 mins.



	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		
11								12				13	
14								15					
16					17		18				19		
20				21		22				23			
24					25		26		27				
				28		29		30					
31	32	33					34		35		36	37	38
39						40		41		42			
43					44				45		46		
47				48				49		50			
51									52				
	53							54					

CRYPTOQUIP

Y N S E H W V S B Y X H U X H W N W

S N U F N M A X N M T E U K Z H K

S K D ? V W H K T T F E N S ' U Z S N Y .

U X H W H A U V A M D U N F N M .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I REALLY BELIEVE THOSE GUYS TRIED TO CLIMB ONTO THE HORSES. I HAVE MOUNTING EVIDENCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals Y