

## Shooters fail to gain quota places

SPORTS REPORTER

The country's hopes of getting quota places in the 2012 London Olympics were dashed when the women shooters failed to reach the finals of the women's 10m air rifles event of the 50th ISSF Shooting Championship in Munich yesterday.

Sharmin Akhter Ratna, Sharmin Akhter and Sabrina Sultana had to be content with participation in the qualification of the 10m air rifle event, the same event from where Asif Hossain Khan, Abdullah Hel Baki and Toufiq Shahriar Chandan quit on Friday.

After the departure of the men, the focus was on South Asian Games double gold medallist Ratna because of her practice performance where she once made 399 out of 400 to eclipse her previous best of 398 set in the SA Games.

The promising shooter, Ratna, could not make her best in the meet, but she comparatively did better with a score of 394 (98, 98, 99, 99 in four shots) that helped her finish 38th out of 134 participants in the qualification.

Veteran Sabrina made 389 to take the 97th place while soul-searching shooter Sharmin Akhter also made 389 to finish 99th position.

The trio, however, crossed the minimum qualification scores of 375 that meant they will be able to take part in London Olympics through wild cards provided by the International Olympic Council. Meanwhile, the top six shooters of the event got direct entries into the 2012 Games.

Without the wild cards, the Bangladeshi shooters can get direct entries into the Olympics if they get the quota places in the upcoming World Cup and Shooting Championship, subject to their participations.

Chinese Yi Siling won gold with a score of 505.6 (400 qualification+105.6 final-shots), her compatriot Wu Liuxi finished second with a score of 501.4 (398 qualification+103.4 final-shots) and Italian Nandelli Elania won bronze with a score of 501 (398 qualification+103 final-shots).

## Cahill slams

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Newcastle, promoted to the Premier League, drew 2-2 draw with PSV Eindhoven at St James' Park.

Ola Toivanen and Balazs Dzsudzsak gave PSV a 2-0 lead by half-time before Ryan Taylor and Leon Best ensured the match ended on level terms.

There was a minute's applause before the game to mark the first anniversary since the death of Sir Bobby Robson, who managed both clubs.

Carlton Cole scored the only goal as West Ham claimed a 1-0 victory over second-tier Ipswich.

## Jimmy swings

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Pakistan were dismissed for 182 in reply and only managed to save the follow-on thanks to tailender Gul's Test-best 65 notout.

England, 172 runs ahead, strengthened their grip with a second innings total of 262 for nine declared built upon Matt Prior's unbeaten 102, after the wicketkeeper had come in with the side struggling at 72 for five.

That enabled England to set Pakistan a target in excess of the world record fourth innings victory total of 418 for seven scored by the West Indies against Australia in Antigua in 2003.

Victory, achieved with more than a day to spare, put England 1-0 up in the four-match series and left Pakistan with little time to turn things around before the second Test starts at Edgbaston on Friday.

However, Pakistan did bounce back from their 150-run first Test defeat by Australia at Lord's to square a two-match series 1-1 after a three-wicket win at Headingley last week.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**ENGLAND:** First innings 354 (Morgan 130, Collingwood 82; Asif 5-77, Aamer 3-41)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 182 (Gul 65 n o; Anderson 5-54, Finn 3-50)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings 262-9 decl (Prior 102 n o; Gul 3-41)

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings 80 all out (Farhat 15, Kaneria 16 not out; Anderson 6-17, Broad 2-23, Finn 2-28)

**Result:** England won by 354 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** James Anderson.



PHOTO: AFP

Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts after missing a shot against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the semifinals of the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford University on Saturday.

## Maria-Victoria finale

**Tennis**

AP, Stanford

Maria Sharapova finds herself just playing tennis these days, a nice feeling after dealing with a return from major surgery a year ago.

Sharapova shook off a first-set loss to beat Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska 1-6, 6-2, 6-2 on Saturday in the Bank of the West Classic to set up a championship match against Victoria Azarenka.

Azarenka, from Belarus, celebrated her 21st birthday with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over top-seeded Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-3.

Sharapova said she had to deal with doubts following her return to the tour in May 2009 after a 10-month absence due to shoulder surgery.

Her shoulder has held up and the doubts have evaporated.

"It's been a long road," she said. "I'm just so happy to come out and not worry about too many things. I'm happy to just play tennis."

Fifth-seeded and 15th-ranked, Sharapova is undefeated in four semifinal matches this season and will be looking for her third title.

The Russian star and the third-seeded Radwanska are both expected to move up in the rankings when they are

released Monday. Radwanska, 0-3 in semifinals, is projected to nudge into the top 10.

"She wins a lot of her matches by wearing down her opponents," Sharapova said. "You always have to be ready for your shot to come back."

Sharapova committed eight double faults, but none in the third set. She recorded four aces with a serve that reached 114 mph.

Sharapova has won 17 of her last 20 matches and hopes to crash Azarenka's celebration.

Azarenka has won 10 of her last 12 matches and is unbeaten in four career meetings against Stosur, who was playing her first tournament since reaching her career-high ranking at No. 5.

"I was pretty good on the return," Azarenka said. "I think I just have long arms and that's the key. If I can react fast enough I can usually get there."

The 26-year-old Stosur lost to eventual champion Marion Bartoli in last year's semifinal at Stanford.

"She played well today and it wasn't my best day," Stosur said. "She punished me when I was being too conservative."

Azarenka took advantage of Stosur's difficulty on first serves and played a solid return game. She kept the Australian on her heels with strong forehands.

"I'm finally injury free and enjoying my time on the

court," Azarenka said. "I'm starting to move a little bit better and my defense has improved. That's helped my offense. I've also been working hard on my serve and it's getting consistent."

Stosur is projected to remain No. 5 next week while Azarenka can move up to No. 12 if she wins the title.

## A sponsor's

**FROM PAGE 17**  
and is a potential winner and Siddiqui certainly was that person," he said.

The leading mobile phone operator of the country has been sponsoring Siddiqui since 2007 after his first win at the national-level.

"We had already agreed to renew his contract even before he left for the Brunei Open," said Tahmeed, who added that they always respected the contract, which is worth 8 to 9 lakh taka per year approximately.

"He gives some of our employees golfing lessons and is a really nice person whenever he works with us," he said.

Siddiqui had previously mentioned that the Grameenphone's sponsorship has helped him develop his skills and turn professional.

## Dibaba regains pride

**Athletics**

AFP, Nairobi

Double Olympic champion Tirunesh Dibaba restored Ethiopia's track pride when she won the women's 10,000m at the African athletics championships here on Saturday.

The 24-year-old proved she has overcome the injuries that decimated her entire 2009 season when she lead compatriot Meselech Melkamu to gold and silver - the two precious medals that have eluded Ethiopia in this competition.



PHOTO: AFP

Ethiopia's Olympic champion Dibaba Keneni celebrates after finishing first in the women's 10,000m race in the African Senior Athletics Championship at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi on Saturday. Dibaba won the race in 31:51.39.

Changeiywo and Pauline Korikwang fell way behind after the trio made their move halfway through the race.

The Ethiopian success, coming days after their men lost the 10,000m race to the Kenyans, silenced the capacity home crowd rooting for a Masai victory to keep the pressure on defending champions South Africa in the medals hunt.

But the South Africans, buoyed by three field medals and a track bronze in the men's 110 metres hurdles, took their total tally to 16 to top the standings, going into the final day of competition on Sunday.

South Africa cemented their domination in the women's javelin with defending champion Sunette Viljoen taking gold ahead of compatriot Justine Robbeson.

Viljoen threw of 63.33 metres, while Robbeson achieved 60.24 and Egypt's Ramada Hassan taking bronze with 55.14.

Nigeria's Oke Tosin won the men's triple jump to take his team's gold medal tally to five for a total of 11 medals, to put them joint second with Kenya.

## Chamakh's

**FROM PAGE 20**  
It took a fine stop from Abbiati to stop Tomas Rosicky increasing Arsenal's lead just before half-time as the veteran keeper used his legs to keep out the Arsenal midfielder's snap-shot.

Chamakh threatened again in the second half with a burst down the left and a powerful shot that Abbiati blocked at the near-post.

# India seek coin favour

## Third & final Test against Sri Lanka tomorrow

**Cricket**

AFP, Colombo

Top-ranked India will pray the coin drops in their favour as they attempt a series-levelling win in the third and final Test against Sri Lanka starting at the P Sara Oval on Tuesday.

India, who trail 1-0 in the series, were forced to bowl first in batting-friendly conditions in the previous two matches after skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni lost the toss both times.

It meant a punishing struggle for an attack shorn of injured pace spearhead Zaheer Khan, as Sri Lanka ran up 520-8 in the first Test in Galle and 642-4 on a feathered wicket at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in Colombo.

Dhoni, who has now lost seven tosses in a row, refused to blame his bowlers even though they claimed just 15 wickets in the first two Tests.

"We have bowled first both times where there was nothing in the wicket for the bowlers," he said. "In such conditions, it is difficult to either take wickets or contain the runs."

Dhoni defended leading off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who has managed only two wickets in the series so far at an

unflattering average of 152, saying flat pitches rarely helped slow bowlers.

"There was no turn or bounce for him in both games," the Indian captain said. "But he is a match-winner and if he gets favourable conditions, he will be a different bowler."

Harbhajan, whose 357 wickets make him the world's leading Test bowler now that Muttiah Muralidaran has retired, may find solace in an Oval pitch regarded as the most bowler-friendly in Sri Lanka.

Conditions are expected to be different from the drawn match at the SSC last week where 1,478 runs were scored for the loss of just 17 wickets on a pitch that offered no assistance to the bowlers.

Sri Lanka Cricket curator Anurudda Polonowita was confident the Oval wicket would yield a better contest between bat and ball.

"There will be more life in this pitch for both fast bowlers and spinners," he said. "That's the natural character of the pitch. There will also be enough runs to be had for the batsmen."

Of the 14 Tests played at this ground, 10 have produced results with the hosts winning seven, including the last five in a row.

Sri Lanka, whose new-look attack in the second Test was hammered for 707

runs by the Indians, will be bolstered by the expected return of sling-arm fast bowler Lasith Malinga from a knee injury.

Malinga and Muralidaran claimed 15 of the 20 scalps during the 10-wicket win in Galle, before the off-spinner bowed out of Test cricket with an unprecedented haul of 800 wickets.

"Malinga's knee was stiff and sore after Galle, but he is much better now," said Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara. "His return will be a real bonus for us."

India faced a tricky selection issue after Suresh Raina, a last-minute inclusion in place of the indisposed Yuvraj Singh, hammered 120 on debut in the second Test.

The two left-handers will contest the number six spot, while opener Gautam Gambhir is likely to replace Murali Vijay at the top of the order after recovering from a knee injury.

India go into the match buoyant by their batting form at the SSC. Veteran Sachin Tendulkar hammered his fifth double-century, and opener Virender Sehwag hit 99 after making 109 at Galle.

The only batting concern for the tourists remains the seasoned Rahul Dravid, who has managed just 65 runs so far in three innings.

### ASIAN GAMES

## Women's kabaddi team confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER

The women's kabaddi squad have finally been included to the Bangladesh contingent for the upcoming Asian Games to be held in Guangzhou in November.

The women's team was initially dropped from the 128-member contingent which included football, cricket (men's and women's), shooting, hockey, swimming, kabaddi (men's) athletics, weightlifting, ushu, taekwondo, golf, archery and boxing.

In the absence of top nations Japan and Iran, there is a chance for Bangladesh to clinch a medal, but the Bangladesh Olympic Association dropped the women's team citing shortage of funds.

But the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation had wished to send its women team in the competition with own cost and the BOA told them they would consider the matter.

"The thought about sending the women's kabaddi team in Asia was in our mind though we had a shortage of fund initially. Now the government has allocated extra fund for the women team and a 15-member squad will be touring with the contingent," said BOA training committee chairman Mizanur Rahman Manu yesterday.

## Siddiqui

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Pagusanan claimed his second successive top-10 finish on the Asian Tour and credited his hot putter after sinking seven birdies and making only 25 putts.

"I think I could have gone lower. My putting was very good. I have always performed well on this golf course and I hope that my next Asian Tour victory will come soon," said Pagusanan.

### CHAMPIONS TROPHY

## Aussie annihilation

**Hockey**

AFP, Moenchengladbach

Australia rescued national pride with a 9-1 Champions Trophy mauling of New Zealand, just hours after the All Blacks had crushed the Wallabies 49-28 in a rugby union Test match.

Australia captain Jamie Dwyer scored an early goal and then the floodgates opened in the last nine minutes of the first half.

Luke Doerner converted his first penalty corner followed by field goals for Jason Wilson, Simon Orchard and Glenn Turner, punctuated by New Zealand's only goal by Nicholas Wilson.

New Zealand pressured Australia's midfield through the first 15 minutes of the second half without either team scoring.

Australia, bidding for a third successive Champions Trophy title, soaked up the pressure and Wilson scored a spectacular goal from the left backline.

Doerner converted a second penalty corner and Russell Ford put away a rebound off Doerner's penalty corner flick and a second field goal to complete the 9-1 rout.

Australia coach Richard Charlesworth praised New Zealand.

"New Zealand's effort in the second half was very credible - they were very competitive and they made the second half a much more even game," Charlesworth said.

"We understand how difficult New Zealand can be to beat and I think we understand that better than some other countries."

Blacksticks coach Shane McLeod conceded Australia's

superiority. "Australia played very, very well and they outclassed us in most aspects of the game," McLeod said.

"They are a side that can destroy a team far more than any other team. They were very clinical in their finishing and generally better in the circle than us."

In other opening day matches, Germany cruised past England 4-2 while Netherlands saw off Spain 5-2.

Germany striker Oskar Decker set the pattern for England's demise, finishing a pass from Benjamin Wess from outside the circle, deflected around England's defence by Florian Fuchs for Decker to score the easiest unchallenged goal at the left post.

Jan-Marco Montag, Martin Haner, and Benjamin Wess converted penalty corners in the first half to give Germany a commanding 4-0 lead at the break.

Germany failed to maintain the pressure on England in the second half, conceding two converted penalty corners to Ashley Jackson.

England coach Jason Lee blasted his team.

Netherlands' winning scoreline belied the skill and closeness of the match as well as the quality of the fight by Spain in the second half in front of a large Dutch crowd from across the border.

Jeroen Hertzberger set the tone with a brilliant individual goal, receiving a long overhead in the left pocket to beat four defenders in the circle and push under experienced goalkeeper Francisco Cortes.

Spain immediately replied through Pau Quemada's field goal.

Netherlands found holes in Spain's defence for

Hertzberger to score again, Mink van der Weerden converted a penalty corner and veteran Teun de Nooijer deflected in a pass from outside the circle, giving Netherlands a commanding 4-1 lead at the break.

David Alegre scored for Spain immediately after the break and Rogier Hofman added a field goal for Netherlands in the middle of the second half.

New Netherlands coach Paul van Ass believes he has the right formula for his team.

## Murray moves into final

AFP, Los Angeles

British top seed Andy Murray advanced to the final of the ATP Los Angeles Open on Saturday by outlasting Spanish fourth seed Feliciano Lopez 6-0, 1-6, 6-4.

The Scotsman will face second-seeded defending champion Sam Querrey of the United States in the first championship match at Los Angeles between the top seeds since Pete Sampras defeated Andre Agassi for the 1999 crown.

Querrey saved a match point in outlasting Serbian sixth seed Janko Tipsarevic 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/5), 6-4.

Hometown favorite Querrey has won three titles on three different surfaces this season and could become the first back-to-back champion at the 700,000-dollar hardcourt event since Andre Agassi defended his crown in 2002.

But Murray has a 4-0 life time record against Querrey, having won all nine sets they have played, including a straight-set triumph in the fourth round at Wimbledon.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Space	1 Jewel
4 Do	2 Past
laps in the pool	3 Skunks
8 Four-star review	4 Charlie
12 Swelled head	Brown's creator
13 2003 Derby-winning horse, Funny —	5 Xbox 360 competitor
14 Eastern potentate	6 Without doing anything
15 Potential mountain?	7 Big brawl
17 "So be it"	8 One with a lot to sell?
18 End of a school's URL	9 BBs et al.
19 Becomes jaundiced	10 Panorama
21 Bogart's love	11 Sea flock
24 Dine	16 Author
25 Eggs	LeShan
26 Menagerie	
28 Coffee plus chocolate	
32 Gives permission	

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

OLD	BEAK	AMMO
MAO	OLIO	SOAR
ISM	XYLOPHONE	
THEFT	PAC	
	LOCK	MAYBE
XENOPHON	NOEL	
EVE	SELES	YAK
NEAR	XANTHOS	
ANTES	SERA	
	MOW	EDUCE
XENOPHILE	POD	
IGOT	EDIT	ODD
SORE	WOES	NAY

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59					60				61	

### CRYPTOQUIP

S Q X H Y M H E M S X V D O M K B H

F N U C U B R H - H Q - U - L S E K S E U

F H L M D O U Y M , R H V N K C H V

X U C S B ' X F U S D F D M X X V D M ?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** SONG ABOUT A MARRIED COUPLE WHO LIKE TO WORK TOGETHER DOING CARPENTRY: "SAND BY YOUR MAN."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals Y