Hattrick beckons Europe

Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

It will be a battle between Europe and the Rest of the World when the two-day Rover Cup, Bangladesh's annual equivalent of the Ryder Cup, kicks off at the Kurmitola

Golf Club today. Steve Wilson, head of Chevron Bangladesh, will captain the European team that will be on the verge of completing a hattrick against the Rest of the World that will be led by Prem Chand, chief executive officer of Nokia Bangladesh.

The opening day will feature team matches of Greensomes and Foursomes while the singles will be held on Saturday.

Wilson, however, was looking forward to completing a treble with his strong middle-order.

"The Rest of the World team clearly have some of the lower handicappers, but Europe has a solid middle order, and morale is high in the camp",

saidWilson.

"However, win, lose or draw, it's the taking part that is important, along with the spirit of the game and the caliber of the people. I'm sure that this year,

like previous tournaments, will

be a cracker. We've just all got to hope that the weather doesn't conspire against us," concluded awittyWilson.

Dhaka Oddball Golf Society holds the tournament every year.



European captain Steve Wilson (R) is looking to put a stranglehold on Rest of World captain Prem Chand.

DELHI DIARY

Before the confirmation of the government order, the media reported that more officials than athletes were going to the games and later the wives of the sports minister and his assistant had been axed by the government though BOA claimed all of them were invited by the host nation.

It was seen at the dinner party of the press minister of Delhi's Bangladesh Mission that BOA CEO Colonel (retd) Wali Ullah had been accompanied with his wife, who wore an official accreditation card and the official confirmed to one of the dozen reporters that he had brought his wife with him.

When asked about the official's wife, BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed said it had better to ask the concerned person. However, he later stated that the CEO had taken his wife with him at his own cost.

NOVISA HASSLE FOR PAK

Pakistani athletes and officials can visit Agra to see the Taj Mahal as their accreditation cards will work as a visa. The visitors from Pakistan were given only Delhi-specific visas. But officials said they would not have any problem if they wish to go to Agra in the daily special trains run by the OC. The CWG delegates keen to visit the Taj can leave in the morning and return by evening. A PIECE OF AUSTRALIA

There was almost no chance for India to win a medal from swimming and that meant a small turnout from the hosts. Only Australian spectators occupied the stands of the re-structured Dr SP Mukherjee Swimming Complex yesterday.

Approximately hundred Australian spectators wearing the yellow jerseys kept on inspiring their swimmers in the heat, semifinals and finals of the afternoon session.

QUEUE FOR BOXING TICKETS

While the organizers have been struggling to bring the spectators to the venue of the Commonwealth Games, the scenario was totally different at the Talkatora Indoor

Stadium yesterday.

It was seen the spectators were buying tickets in queue to see the fight of Akhil Kumar who became national hero after wining gold medal in the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

A spectator informed that Akhil was not at his best at the moment but he loved his game.

Akhil was also awarded with prestigious Arjuna Award by the Indian Government for his glorious achievements in boxing at the international level. Arjuna Award is the highest recognition given by Indian Government to sportsmen for their astonishing performance in that sport category.

BANGALI SHINE

After the tame exit of two Bangladeshi SA Games gold medallists Abdur Rahim and Jewel Ahmed Jonny, Suruz Bangali shone in the ring at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium.

Bangali outplayed Sri Lankan Suranga Mudannayaka 9-1 to qualify for the prequarterfinals and he will face Nigerian Patrick Gallagher on Friday.

MONORANJAN ON THE RISE

Monoranjan Roy improved his performance after finishing seventh in the 77kg category in the Commonwealth Games at JR Nehru Sports Complex yesterday.

Monoranjan, who finished behind SA Games gold medallist Hamidul Islam, this time lifted nineteen kg more than what he did at the SA Games. He lifted a total of 273 kg -- 125 in snatch and 148 in clean and jerk. He lifted 119kg in snatch and 135kg in clean and jerk in the SAGames.

SHOOTING

The Bangladesh shooters continued to show their dismal performance in the Commonwealth Games as Sabrina Sultana and Sharmin Silpa finished near the bottom of the women's 50m three position event a Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range yesterday Sabrina with a score of 558 finished 15th while Silpa with a score of 552 became 17th out of 17 shooters.

Tigers raring to pounce

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan on Thursday left out former captain Shoaib Malik from their 15-man squad and also delayed naming a captain for their neutral venue series against South Africa starting later this month.

Malik dropped

for SA series

Wicketkeeper batsman to improve performance from Kamran Akmal, who suffered the last game. We would hope abdominal problems before that we will not make the same being hospitalised on mistakes that we did in the last Wednesday, will have to pass a game where we threw away fitness test to get into the team. wickets after settling in," said Pakistan will play two Shakib. Twenty20, five one-day and two

by Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

have to find a replacement for

Test captain Salman Butt who

is suspended over charges of

violating ICC (International

Cricket Council) code of con-

Butt, along with bowlers

Mohammad Asif and

Mohammad Aamer were

alleged to have taken money

to deliberately bowl no-balls

during Pakistan's Lord's Test

against England in August. All

three were not included in the

Haq makes a return to the

Veteran batsman Misbahul

Allrounder Shahid Afridi

led Pakistan team in the one-

day series against England

which ended in team's 2-3

Veteran former captain

Intikhab Alam will be the

manager after Yawar Saeed

stepped down following the

tour of England marred by

Former captain Younis Khan's

name was also not considered.

Imran Farhat, Mohammad

Hafeez, Mohammad Yousuf,

Misbahul Haq, Umar Akmal,

Asad Shafiq, Fawad Alam,

Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq,

Shoaib Akhtar, Umar Gul, Saeed

Ajmal, Abdul Rehman, Tanveer

Ahmed, Zulqarnain Haider.

spot-fixing allegations.

SQUAD

defeat last month.

And he believes it would be Tests in the series to be hosted a great achievement if they can win the series and said A Test squad will be that the starting would be announced later. Pakistan will important for any game.

FROM PAGE 17

a game like this?

explained.

one game for the weather," he

"If the match takes place," was

the common pre-fix to every

question regarding the match

and Shakib was presented

with that question when asked

what their target would be for

"Our main target would be

"I believe it's possible to make it 2-0. If we could win the first match then what's wrong with the second game," said Shakib adding that Shafiul Islam and Rubel Hossain will operate the new ball in the absence of the injured

Mashrafe and Nazmu Hossain.

Shakib however issued a warning that New Zealand would come hard after the defeat in the first match.

"They will try their best to bounce back in the series. They will be more serious and careful in the next matches, opined Shakib.

But he said that their main strength is that they have so many match winners in the team now, which is a most positive sign for the team.

"We said it earlier that we are not depending on one or two players rather we have number of match winners in the team like Naeem (Naeem Islam), Riyad (Mahmudullah) and Raj (Abdur Razzak) who can all win matches for us. It's something positive that we won the first game without three senior players (Mashrafe, Mohammad Ashraful and Tamim Igbal), said an excited Shakib.

Transfers window

number five, but we have the

quality to fight the top."

No foreign players were registered by Mohammedan as yet as they are still assessing their probable foreign recruits.

name who have always been threatening the established powers, also expressed their grievances against clubs for allegedly 'poaching' players who took transfer money from them.

Shahabuddin Tipu, general secretary of the club said, they would fight against the players and the clubs as well for poaching away their players.

"The two players [Asrhaf Mahmud Linkon and Mamun Mia] have not acted like sportsmen. We paid them money but they have joined other clubs illegally. We will follow the legal course to fight this injustice," exclaimed

Tipu.

However the club officials were optimistic about their prospect with a young crop of players they have at their disposal.

Other teams completing registration of local players on the last day were Chittagong Sheikh Russel, another big Mohammedan, Farashganj Sporting Club, Chittagong Abahani, Rahmatganj MFS and Arambagh Krira Sangha.

Shakib wants

FROM PAGE 17

decision also about the vicecaptain.'

According to sources, there has been a strong sentiment that the time has come for the board after Mashrafe's latest injury to take a firm decision

about the captaincy. Many believe that it's risky for the team to give Mashrafe some additional burden when he is uncertain about his career.

ASIAD FOOTBALL

Bangladesh in Group E

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have been pitted along with Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong in Group E in the football event of the 16th Asian Games which will be held from November 7 to 25 in the Guangzhou province of China.

A total of 24 teams will be vying for football supremacy in the Games. The Bangladesh squad had a month-long training camp in BKSP which consisted of 25 players which will be ultimately trimmed down to 16. Teams in the Games comprise of under-23 players with three players over that age limit allowed.

NCL put off

SPORTS REPORTER

The tournament committee yesterday postponed the ongoing 12th National Cricket League due to inclement weather and unfavourable forecast across the country for the next few days.

"As the venues won't be in playable condition and considering the importance of the next round of matches, we have no other option but to postpone the league for the time being," said committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain.

The committee will soon release a revised schedule for the remaining rounds.

Int'l kabaddi underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Japan beat Bangladesh Police 23-8 with two creditable 'lonas' in the opening match of the Meizan International Club Cup Kabaddi that began yesterday at the Kabaddi Stadium in Paltan.

Earlier, Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation president Khandakar Hasan Mahmud formally inaugurated the three-day meet as chief guest.

Credits go to Gary

PTI, Bangalore

Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar, who on Wednesday won the ICC Cricketer-of-the-Year award, credited his and the cricket team's recent success to the efforts put in by coach Gary Kirsten

"Gary has been instrumental in making our batters play a plenty of deliveries in the practice session. During net practice, he himself bowls thousands and thousands of balls," Tendulkar said after accepting the award at a glittering function

"Gary has been an important member of the Indian squad and along with the other support staff. I have enjoyed my game under him. He is really putting a lot of

efforts," he added. The master batsman said he is hopeful of India winning the next year's World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by India, Sri Lanka

and Bangladesh. It is a trophy that Tendulkar has not been able to win in his more than twodecade career and he is desperate to guide the team to

the title triumph this time. "It is a big tournament. It is not only my dream but of the entire country. We are working really hard for it. We still have five months to go, we will focus on tournaments before the World Cup and would like to carry the good form to the World Cup."

A Padma Vibhushan awardee, Tendulkar, declined to compare the first ICC award of his career and India's second highest civilian award saying, "I don't want to compare any award which I won.

However, he maintained that to be honoured with Padma Vibhushan was "really special."



Bangladesh v New Zealand Second ODI Live from 9:30am

ESPN

Sportscentre India Sports News Live at 8:30pm

Caroline dethrones Serena

Tennis

AFP, Beijing

Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki claimed the world number one ranking on Thursday when she breezed into the quarterfinals of the China Open, dethroning American tennis superstar Serena Williams. The 20-year-old Wozniacki

defeated the Czech Republic's

Petra Kvitova 6-3, 6-2 in a

third-round clash under the floodlights at the Olympic Green Tennis Centre in Beijing. Wozniacki -- the first from her country to reign supreme in the tennis world -- will replace Williams, a 13-time Grand Slam winner, atop the

WTA rankings when a new list

is issued on Monday. She came

into the tournament ranked second. Williams was forced to withdraw from the China Open due to a nagging foot injury suffered shortly after she won her fourth Wimbledon crown in July.

The blonde Dane showed some early jitters, trading two breaks with Kvitova -- who beat her in the round of 16 at

Wimbledon this year -- before finally taking the first set when the Czech dumped a forehand into the net.



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark kisses the world number one trophy after winning her China Open third round match against Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic at the National Tennis Centre in Beijing yesterday.

In the second set, Wozniacki -- the top seed here -- hit her stride, running the left-handed Kvitova from side to side and battering her with

heavy topspin groundstrokes off both wings. She raised her arms in triumph after serving out the match, as Tina Turner's "Simply the Best" thundered out of

the stadium sound system. Wozniacki is the 20th player in WTA history to earn the top spot -- and the 10th to

do so before her 21st birthday. Of the women in that elite group, half are still active. Wozniacki earlier this week cited two members of the number one club -- Steffi Graf and Martina Hingis -- as her

"idols" growing up.

Williams, 29, has held the top spot for a total of 123 weeks over her career. Like Wozniacki, she first reached the top spot when she was 20.

Wozniacki, who joined the tour five years ago, was ranked just 64th in 2007. The following year, she won her first WTA title and has not looked back since.

Clarke, Pearson sprint's best

AFP, New Delhi



Jamaica's Lerone Clarke made the most of Usain Bolt's absence to claim the Commonwealth

Games 100m gold on Thursday while Australia's Sally Pearson controversially powered to the women's crown. Clarke, the only man in the

final to have broken 10 seconds in the past two years, dipped over the line in 10.12 to capitalise on world record holder Bolt and fellow Jamaican, defending champion Asafa Powell, choosing not to compete. It was a powerful run in hot and humid conditions but,

way off Ato Boldon's Commonwealth record of 9.88 and even further behind Bolt's 9.58 world record. English hope Mark Lewis-Francis followed up his recent European championship silver with another one here, clock-

ultimately, very slow and a long

ing 10.20 at a half-empty Jawaharlal Nehru stadium. Trinidad and Tobago's Aaron Amstrong grabbed bronze in 10.24, but there was huge disappointment for promising young Jamaican Oshane Bailey who pulled up injured after the semi-finals and didn't race the final.

"This means the world to me. I wanted these championships and I got it," said Clarke.

"I know I am fast, even if Usain Bolt is not here. I am still here and I am part of the Jamaican team.' Lewis-Francis said he

should have won, but his block slipped. "My block slipped, that's why it looks like I'm so far

behind. I had to run deep within just to get a medal. There's a lot more there," he said. Pearson became Australia's first Commonwealth Games 100m champion in 36 years

when she crushed the field in

11.28 seconds, although

England lodged a protest that could yet see her demoted. No medal ceremony was





Australia's Sally Pearson (L) and Jamaica's Lerone Clarke celebrate winning the women's and men's 100m gold respectively in the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi yesterday. held and Australian team

officials at the track said England had protested after Pearson was apparently not penalised for a false start. Instead, England's Laura

line she ran the race under appeal, only to finish last. She held off Nigeria's Osayemi Oludamola (11.32) and Natasha Mayers of St (11.37) for the title. Canada's Sultana Frizell,

meanwhile, threw a new Games record of 68.57 metres to win the women's hammer gold while Canada's Dylan Turner was held responsible, Armstrong won the men's shot put with a Games record although after some animated words with judges on the start throw of 21.02.

In other events, Botswana's Amantale Montsho was fastest into the women's 400m final on Friday in 50.80, almost a second ahead of Guyana's Tabitha Pompey. Vincent and The Grenadines



PHOTO: STAR FILI Bangladesh swimmer Shahjahan Ali Rony, who reached the men's 50-metre breaststroke semifinals of the Commonwealth Games with a timing of 31.36 seconds at the Dr SP Mukherjee Swimming Complex in New Delhi yesterday. He finished 16th among 27 competitors in the preliminary round to qualify for the 16 men semifinals.

Football **FROM PAGE 17**

A logo unveiling ceremony for

the tournament was held at the BFF House yesterday where its president Kazi Salauddin said, "This Federation Cup sees the beginning of a partnership between Grameenphone and BFF which we hope will be a long-lasting one." He also said: "We are looking forward to a long-term

deal but the details are yet to be chalked out. We feel that Grameenphone will not only be involved in tournaments but also in total development of the game." The telecom giant's chief communications officer Kazi

Monirul Kabir echoed similar sentiment. "Grameenphone has been associated with sports of the country for long. We feel happy to be associated with football and are proud to sponsor the football federation," said Kabir. A total of 18 clubs are taking

part in the curtain raising tournament with 14 clubs vying for four second round berths where the top four finishers of last season's Bangladesh League --Abahani, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Sheikh Russel and Feni Soccer Club -- have an automatic berth.

Wheelchair

FROM PAGE 17

Kollayan Shomiti sponsored their trip to Japan, where every year the Aged Centre for Independent Living, an NGO based in Japan, stages the annual event.

Rony

FROM PAGE 17

who won gold medal in both 100m and 200m breaststroke event in SA Games held in Bangladesh earlier this year.

Meanwhile Bangladesh's Dolly Akhter clocked 30.46 seconds in women's 50m freestyle to finish 35th out of 47 in heats.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 43 Chic, in 2 Yoko of 22 401(k) alternative

music

tion

assimila-

3 Effortless 24 "- the

ramparts

the '60s 1 Morri-44 Mine son's band entrance 6 "Caught 45 Costume ball

47 Car's **9** — -o' -shanter frame-12 Beginning work 13 Sister **49** Big 14 In vitro name at

15 One 52 Andershowing son's "High --" promise 16 First 53 Perforbook mance

Indy

54 — a

Bugs

cells

18 Pizza

topping, dozen 55 Gelid at times 56 Petrol 20 Nitty-gritty 57 "— 21 Insult Buddies" 23 Crony

24 Admits DOWN 1 Elmer, to customers 25 Domingo offering **27** Tag

29 Fight 31 O. Henryesque 35 Mythical lecher 37 Bigfoot's cousin

Pointer

staffers

38 West

41 Mag.

LEARUNT FATIMAVISAGE EROS DEPENDED M I L E D O E R R S P E C T R U M P R E Y A H A A W L CINEMANEIGHS R O D E N O D E R I E E W E R E V E R I D E

WARSTEP

4 Film **26** Not liabilities holder 28 Hitchcock 5 Denude 6 Bassett menacers 30 Long. Lansbury crosser 7 Colors 32 Foe 8 Raggedy 33 "Who one? am — 9 "— a judge?" fine lady 34 Literary Spanish upon a white hero horse" 36 Fermen-**10** Re tation 28-Down fungi 11 Spars 38 They often **17** Use break Wile 19 Parking Coyote's

attendant 21 Lah-di- — 39 For this purpose Solution time: 25 mins. 40 Blog, COS PSST OWL AQUA so to speak 42 Small

pigeon 45 Isinglass 46 Wreck 48 Succumb to gravity 50 Comic Philips 51 Sleep

phenom

ULLFB, JLNVF GLN BQG Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR NEW SITCOM

OMJQNBM XCMBM YWFB QSM

MEEWJWMRX QX WJWRU OQYMF

ABOUT A PAIR OF ROOMMATES WHO OFTEN GET FLABBERGASTED: "THE AWED COUPLE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

CRYPTOQUIP

XCMG'SM ESLBXMS JCWVFSMR?