

Jnr wrestling concludes

SPORTS REPORTER
Dhaka District Sports Association emerged champions in the men's event of the Walton Mobile 21st National Junior Wrestling Championship which concluded at the National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka earned five gold, two silver and one bronze medal to clinch the top spot. Shamim, Dipu, Nirob, Oli Ahmed and Aminul Islam clinched gold for Dhaka in the 50, 60, 66, 74 and 84 kg categories respectively.

Madaripur came out second with two gold medals.

Meanwhile in the girls' event, Rajshahi District Sports Association became champions with five gold and one silver medal. Nishi, Rupali, Rezia Sultana, Marufa Khatun and Rita Parvin won gold for Rajshahi. Madaripur district finished second with one gold.

Vessey warned, win forfeited

AFP, Colorado Springs

Maggie Vessey, an American 800-metre runner hoping to qualify for her third trip to the World Athletics Championships, was given a doping warning Friday by the US Anti-Doping Agency.

USADA announced that Vessey, who turns 31 on Sunday, tested positive for the prohibited substance Canrenone during a urine test conducted at the IAAF World Challenge in Zagreb, Croatia, last September.

Vessey won the 800m title at the event in 1min 59.61 sec but the victory was forfeited because of the positive doping test.

The banned drug was discovered in a prescribed medication that Vessey was taking in a therapeutic dose under a doctor's care.

Pak tour

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us that the tour is confirmed. They have also got approval from their board members and we are in touch for the schedule," PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf told AFP.

Foreign teams have shunned playing in Pakistan since gunmen opened fire on a convoy in Lahore, killing eight people and leaving seven Sri Lankan players and their assistant coach injured.

The attack pushed Pakistan into cricketing exile as the national team was forced to play their home series at neutral venues.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) postponed the national team's tour of Pakistan in April this year following a High Court stay order on the tour for four months.

Mohammedan

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the 65th minute for Feni. Brothers Union striker Kingsley Chigozie reduced the margin in the 85th minute, but that was not quite good enough to avert the Oranges from slumping to their fourth defeat in four matches.

Away at the Gopalganj District Stadium, Team BJMC held visitors Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC to a goalless draw. The draw took Muktiyoddha's points tally to 7 from 5 matches while Team BJMC had 5 points from the same number of matches.



PHOTO: STAR

A Mohammedan-Arambagh Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium here in Dhaka attracted only a couple of hundred spectators yesterday. But at the Sheikh Moni Stadium in Gopalganj the stands were packed to the rafters even when BJMC hosted Muktiyoddha in another Premier League fixture of the day.

Siddle says no problem

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

Paceman Peter Siddle has backed Australia's attack to shrug off a glut of injuries that have hit the team's fast bowling stocks ahead of the second Test against Sri Lanka starting on Wednesday.

Australia, who have won just one of their past four Tests, have enjoyed precious little continuity in their pace attack due to injuries and fatigue, and are set for another reshuffle with Ben Hilfenhaus ruled out of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

Left-armers Mitchell Starc and Mitchell Johnston, and the uncapped Jackson Bird are vying to join Siddle in a three-man pace attack at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, with selectors likely to retain spinner Nathan Lyon.

Siddle, player-of-the-match with nine wickets in Australia's last-gasp defeat of Sri Lanka in Hobart on Monday, said the hosts' reserves were strong enough to step up to the challenge.

"That's probably been the big thing that we've done well in especially the past 18 months," Siddle told reporters in Melbourne on Saturday.

"Whoever's come into the squad they've known what they had to do.

"The guys that have come in have shown that they can execute their skills and work with the rest of the players in the

squad to maintain that pressure.

"That's what the success that we've had in that time has come down to.

"The squad has changed a lot with the bowlers, but we've stuck together, we've worked well as a team."

Australia have lost young pacemen Pat Cummins and James Pattinson for the home series, and selectors have stoked controversy by adopting a rotation policy to preserve the fitness of the remaining bowlers.

Both Hilfenhaus and Siddle were rested for Australia's loss against South Africa in the third Test in Perth, which cost them the series 1-0, while local media have speculated 22-year-old Starc could be dropped for the Melbourne Test despite taking a five-wicket haul in the second innings in Hobart.

Siddle backed the rotation policy, however, and said would-be debutant Bird would be well suited to the MCG, where he has taken 14 wickets at an average of 12.07 in two Sheffield Shield games.

"It's a very patient ground," 28-year-old Siddle said.

"I guess I've had my success a similar way to [Bird] -- you bowl nagging lengths and be patient, you bowl tight lines -- that's sort of been the go-to here for us.

"He's a very similar type to those sort of styles."

The third and final Test starts in Sydney on January 3.

Army win V-Day kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army emerged champions in the Victory Day Kabaddi League which concluded at the Kabaddi Stadium in the capital yesterday.

Army defeated Border Guard Bangladesh by 13-7 points with one lona in the final. Bangladesh Police became third defeating Bangladesh Prison 22-17 in the place-deciding match. State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain A B Tajul Islam distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest in the concluding ceremony.

Taekwondo meet from Wednesday

SPORTS REPORTER

The Trust Bank 12th National Senior and Junior Taekwondo Championship will begin at the National Sports Council gymnasium on Wednesday.

A total of 350 players -- 200 men and 150 women -- from 15 districts, services and other organisations are expected to take part in 32 weight categories of the meet, sponsored by Trust Bank Limited.

Herath upbeat about his spin

AFP, Sydney

Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath Saturday said that because Australian batsmen have faced so little quality spin bowling recently he is in a good position to take wickets in the upcoming Boxing Day Test.

Australia struggled against the fast bowling attack of South Africa earlier this summer, losing the three Test series 1-0. "I know that the Australians, playing even in domestic cricket, they are 80-90 percent playing against fast bowlers," the Sri Lankan orthodox left-armers told reporters on Saturday.

"So with that, I have chances to get wickets bowling spin."

Herath, who took five for 95 in the second innings of the first Test against Australia in Hobart, which the tourists lost, said as the MCG pitch wears it could help his spin.

The Sri Lankan said his team would not be daunted by playing in the Boxing Day Test but acknowledged it was a "remarkable occasion" for the tourists.

"In South Africa, [it was] the same scenario," he said of his team's showing a year ago in Durban.

The Matrix at MCG!

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popularised by the Wachowski brothers' movie 13 years ago when it earned the industry name 'bullet time'.

Channel Nine believes it can also make a significant impact on cricket, in which it has never been used.

"Basically it sticks together all our separate camera angles into a virtual world but with real pictures," the Sydney Morning Herald quoted Brad McNamara, the network's executive producer of cricket, assaying.

"Say you wanted a shot of Dave Warner switch-hitting from down the pitch, and then you wanted it side on. In years gone by, we could do a split screen, or we could roll the replay from down the pitch

and then roll the replay from the side," he added.

"Now we can stitch them together, so if you want to get that replay from halfway down the pitch, you can go round the side whenever you want and freeze it. Rather than having to look at it from five different camera angles and five separate bits of tape, we can basically circle him," he said.

McNamara added: "It's the same sort of thing as The Matrix. We can look at it in one continuous sequence. We can freeze it if we want to, we can move it on, we can stop it if we want, telestrate [put graphics on] it, we can make him disappear, we can make him come up again, we can move him."

5 franchisees sign deals

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dollars. Apart from the Kings and the Gladiators, the three other franchisees who signed the agreement were Rangpur Riders, Khulna Royal Bengals and Duronto Rajshahi. Barisal Burners and Sylhet Royals were the two franchisees that did not sign.

The board however remains in its previous stance with regard to the players' payment. The franchisees have been asked to submit a bank guarantee -- for the foreign players' payment in this deal," informed Sameer Quader Chowdhury.

the local players -- to the council by next week. The failure to do so, according to chairman Afzalur Rahman Sinha, would lead to the board taking 'strong action' against the team.

While the agreement does bring most of the franchisees within the 'official circle', it however reportedly hadn't addressed the players' payment issue. "There were no agreements regarding the players' payment in this deal," informed Sameer Quader Chowdhury.

Eoin blitz levels series

Cricket

AGENCIES, Mumbai

A typically inventive 26-ball 49 from Eoin Morgan, including a last-ball six to seal the match, powered England to a six-wicket victory in the second and final T20I against India in Mumbai yesterday. England needed to win the match to take a share of the two-match series, with India having won the first match in Pune on Thursday.

The left-handed Morgan came in with England on 94 for two, needing 84 runs in the last nine overs after openers Matthew Lumb and Alex Hales had given England a good start by putting on 80 in 8.2 overs.

After Hales dismissal with the score on 123 for three, England needed 51 from the last five overs. Samit Patel could not make much headway as Morgan kept picking the singles and hitting the odd boundary. Patel's dismissal in the eighteenth over was fol-

lowed immediately by a six by Morgan off Ashok Dinda.

Needing 23 from the last two overs, Morgan found an able ally in Jos Butler, who hit a four and a six off Parvinder Awana to bring the equation down to nine from the last over bowled by Dinda. Feverishly scurried singles and twos saw England needing three off the final ball, which Morgan smote for a huge straight six to win the match.

Earlier, England fielded brilliantly but could not prevent India from posting a challenging score. They were impressive early on, struck again after a counterattack from Virat Kohli but slipped up at the death as Suresh Raina and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni turned the tables in a brief, but potentially decisive, phase of clean hitting. The final five overs fetched 63 runs for the loss of just one wicket, propelling the hosts to 177 for eight in their 20 overs.

Jade Dernbach had dismissed Ajinkya Rahane

early, but was punished when India were looking to step up, with Dhoni dispatching him for two sixes in the 18th over.

That surge was preceded by an exhibition of some wonderful wristwork from Virat Kohli, who pulled off some of his trademark whips from middle and off and drove elegantly through the covers not long after the early fall of Rahane. While Gautam Gambhir found it difficult to get a move on at one end, Kohli kept the runs flowing with ease at the other, targeting Luke Wright for 20 in the last over of the Powerplay.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 177 for eight (Dhoni 38, Kohli 38, Raina 35 not out; Dernbach 2-37, Wright 2-38).

ENGLAND: 181 for four in 20 overs (Lumb 50, Morgan 49 not out, Hales 42; Yuvraj 3-17)

Result: England won by six wickets and share series 1-1.

Man of the match: Eoin Morgan
Man of the series: Yuvraj Singh

NZ blown away by SA

Cricket

AFP, Durban

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum was unapologetic for his team's approach after South Africa trounced them by eight wickets with 47 balls to spare in the first Twenty20 international on Friday.

Fast bowler Rory Kleinveldt took two early wickets to start a slide from which New Zealand never recovered.

Kleinveldt took the key wickets of Rob Nicol and McCullum before he finished with three for 18 to capture the man of the match award.

South Africa romped home in 12.1 overs with new captain Faf du Plessis making 38 not out, while Quinton de Kock, making his debut four days after his 20th birthday, slammed a quick 28 not out.

"We played some aggressive cricket and missed a couple of fundamentals on the way," McCullum said of his team's collapse to 86 all out after winning the toss, with several of the batsmen falling to over-ambitious strokes.

"That is the way we are going to be, that is the way we are going to put them under pressure. We were probably a bit too keen, we were outplayed," added the captain, who said he expected a better performance in the second match of the three-game series in East London on Sunday.

Du Plessis hailed a "fantastic" performance by the home side.

"The bowling was fantastic, the energy on the field was awesome," he said.

It was a disappointing start for New Zealand, who arrived as underdogs but were expected to put up a reasonable fight

in the Twenty20 internationals.

They were missing several key players, including former captain Ross Taylor, who was unavailable for the tour, and they suffered another blow when experienced batsman Martin Guptill could not play at Kingsmead because of a stomach ailment.

Fast bowler Trent Boult was also unavailable because of a similar problem.

On a Kingsmead pitch with pace and bounce, the tourists lost three wickets inside the first five overs.

Nicol charged Kleinveldt and was caught behind, while McCullum topped edged a hook and was caught at fine leg. In between Peter Fulton drove Dale Steyn to mid-on.

It did not get much better for the Black Caps although left-handed newcomer Colin Munro, who was born in Durban and did his early schooling in the city before his family moved to New Zealand, made 23. Doug Bracewell hit 21 not out.

Steyn, newcomer Chris Morris and left-arm spinner Robin Peterson all took two wickets.

New Zealand new cap Mitchell McClenaghan had Richard Levi caught at slip for a duck, bowling a wicket maiden at the start of the South African innings.

But Henry Davids and Du Plessis put on 45 before the captain and De Kock finished the match.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 86 all out in 18.2 overs (Munro 23, Bracewell 21 not out, Neesham 10; Kleinveldt 3-18, Peterson 2-8, Steyn 2-13, Morris 2-19)

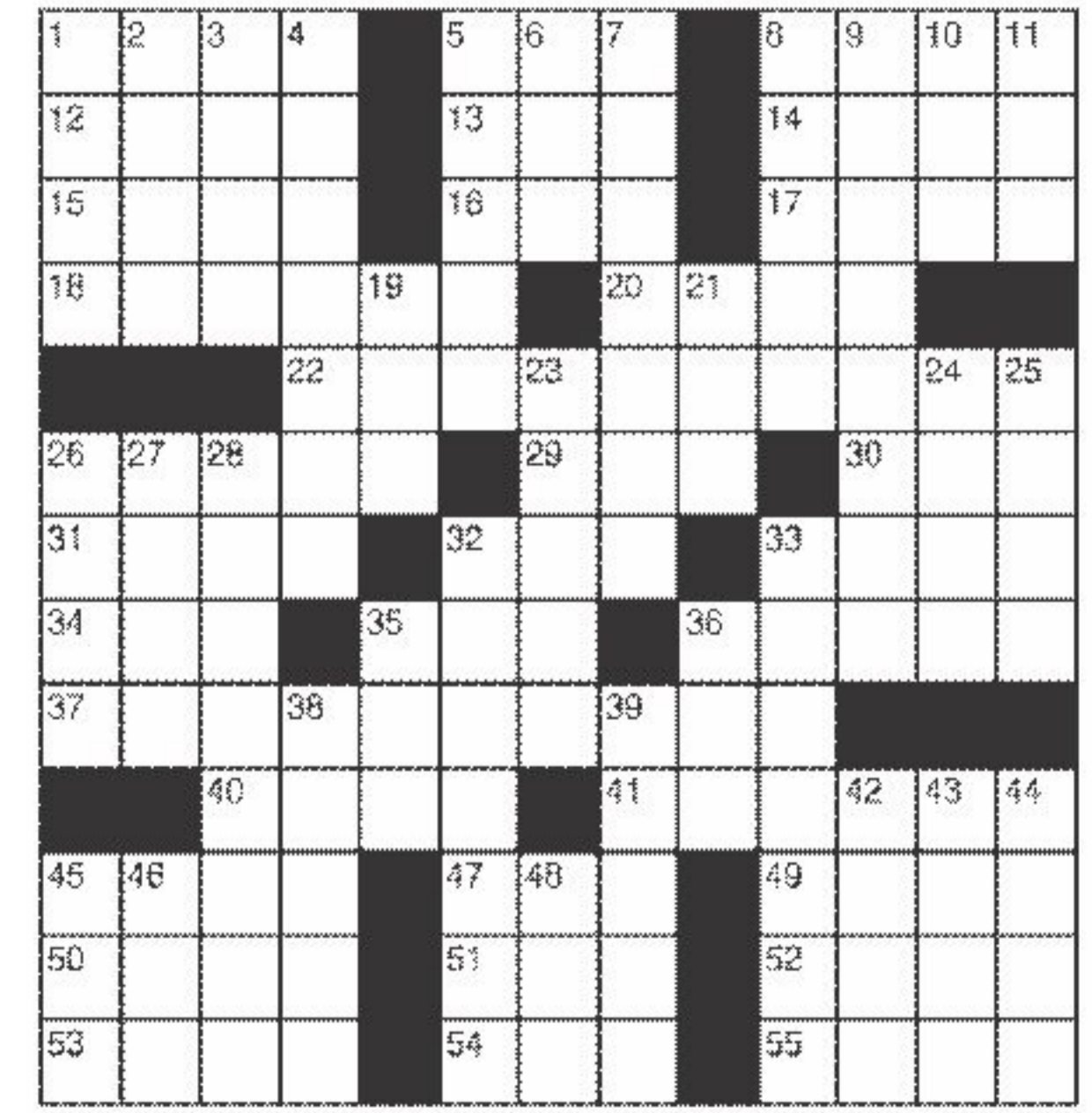
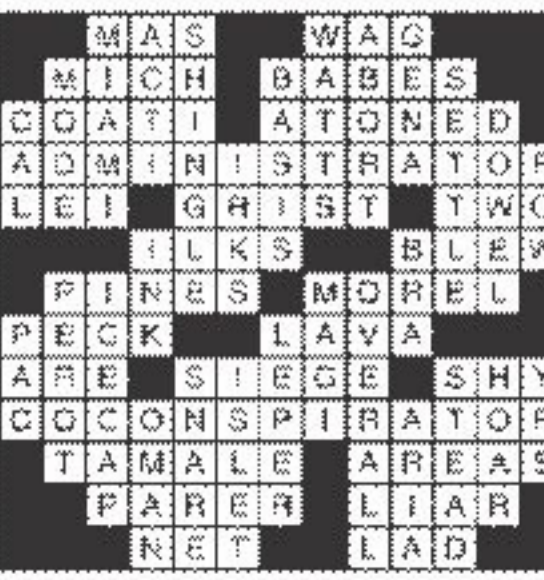
SOUTH AFRICA: 87 for 2 in 12.1 overs (Du Plessis 38 not out, De Kock 28 not out, Davids 20; Hira 1-15, McClenaghan 1-20)

Result: South Africa won by 8 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Rory Kleinveldt.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Final
 - 5 Recipe meas.
 - 8 Foolproof
 - 12 Eastern potentate (Var.)
 - 13 Carnival city
 - 14 Slaughter of baseball
 - 15 Parks at a bus stop?
 - 16 Japanese sash
 - 17 Gallon fraction
 - 18 Hands-on-hips
 - 20 Small combo
 - 22 Women's wear
 - 26 Wander off
 - 29 Height of fashion?
 - 30 Bother
 - 31 Addict
 - 32 Supporting
 - 33 Cruising
 - 34 Aries
 - 35 Despondent
 - 36 Square dance
 - 37 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
- DOWN**
- 1 Zhivago's love
 - 2 Out of control
 - 3 Emphatic assent in Acapulco
 - 4 It gets a load from a lode
 - 5 Scout group
 - 6 Bro or sis
 - 7 "Lilies of the Field" actor
 - 8 Brown tone
 - 9 Norma Rae, for one
 - 10 Paul of politics
 - 11 Superlative ending
 - 19 Chesapeake, e.g.
 - 21 Spinning stat
 - 23 "Mary Tyler Moore Show" spinoff
 - 24 Genealogy chart
 - 25 Old card game
 - 26 Look for a website
 - 27 Despot
 - 28 Digitize an old LP, e.g.
 - 32 Bit of trivia
 - 33 College life
 - 35 Tackle moguls
 - 36 4-Down contents
 - 38 Eccentric
 - 39 Pleased with oneself
 - 42 "American ----"
 - 43 City in India
 - 44 Loretta of country music
 - 45 Periodical, for short
 - 46 Lawyers' org.
 - 48 Thanks-giving mo.

Solution time: 25 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

OV MBUOCR KBEW CD CMBEWY
RDZWPKWMW UN AYBTW, O
OZBFOTW GKWN POYY KDA
VYOFKCR BC KBMW-ADMC.R.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING THAT MY POOCH DESERVES A VERY SPECIAL MEATY TREAT, I THINK I'LL GIVE HIM A DOG BRISKET.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals Y