



New world record holder Liu Xiang of China poses against the electronic scoreboard at the IAAF Super Grand Prix in Lausanne on Tuesday.

National youth kabadi starts today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The regional phase of Banglalink IGP Cup National Youth Kabadi Championship, organised by Bangladesh Kabadi Federation, begins today simultaneously at different venues across the country.

A total of 35 districts, split into seven venues, will take part in the championship. The regional venues are Dhaka, Khulna, Faridpur, Rangamati, Meherpur, Naogaon and Dinajpur.

After the completion of the regional matches, the 13-team final round will be held at the Outer Stadium kabadi court in Dhaka.

Leonine Chess from July 20

SPORTS REPORTER

The Leonine Open Women International Rating Chess tournament will begin from July 20 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) hall-room.

Interested players can enrol their name on or before July 18 at BCF office without any entry fees.

The competition will be held in a Swiss-League system.



The 2002 World Cup marked the last time the reigning champions qualified automatically for the next tournament. Current holders Italy must now compete for a berth at the 2010 competition in South Africa.





"I'm not bothered about ratings or rankings from ICC. I don't even look



ESPN England v Pakistan First Test, Day One Live at 4:00 pm

with 431 runs at an average of over The 'odd couple' of Inzamam and coach Bob Woolmer, the former England batsman, have created an unusually united side by recent Pakistan standards without losing the natural flair for which the country's players are renowned.

Liu sets hurdles record

Athletics

China's Liu Xiang set a new 110 metres hurdles world record Tuesday on a stunning night in

Liu scorched to the finishing line in a time of 12.88sec, beating the old mark of 12.91 that he shared with Britain's Colin Jackson and which had stood since 1993.

And on a night of brilliant performances, American Xavier Carter ran the second fastest 200m of all time in 19.63sec in a race in which four men finished in under

Comeback queen Marion Jones streaked to 100m victory in 10.94sec while there were world

leading marks for America's Michelle Perry in the 100m-hurdles (12.43), Kenya's Janeth Jepkosgei in the 800m (1min 56.66sec) and pole vault world record-holder Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia who cleared 4.90m before failing at a new world record height of 5.02m.

But the night was mostly about 22-year-old Liu, the Olympic champion, twice world medallist and now new world record holder. "I felt good but you can't beat the

record on cue. I have always known since the Olympic final (in Athens in 2004 when he equalled Jackson's time) that I could do better," he said.

"Ít's a dream: I had already beaten the world junior record (13.12) in 2002 in Lausanne.

"I can't believe it. It's historic. In Athens, in the Olympic Games, I was the only yellow athlete to beat

Liu's run overshadowed a magnificent performance from American Dominique Arnold, who set a new American record with

the Americans and Europeans.'

announced their arrival on the world scene in stunning fashion. Carter, 20, won in a time bettered only by the astonishing

In the 200m, the new breed

Michael Johnson, who ran 19.32 in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. But behind him came Tyson Gay of USA in 19.70 and teenagers Usain Bolt of Jamaica (19.88) and

USA's Wallace Spearmon (19.90). In other notable performances that were almost missed among the euphoria, Sweden's Christian Olsson leapt 17.62m to win the triple jump with Russia's Tatyana Lebedeva claiming the women's

event with 15.19m.

Tour braces pure climb

won the same stage in 2002 after

escaping early and crossing the line

de Marie Blanque, regarded as one

of the steepest ascents in the area

with an 11 percent gradient over the

After the Soudet comes the Col

Cycling

REUTERS, Dax, France

The Tour de France starts riders face the first mountain stage from Cambo-les-Bains to Pau as the race headed into the Pyrenees on

category col d'Osquich, 50 km into the 190.5-km stage, the Col du Soudet will mark the first contact

with the Pyrenees high passes. The long ascent with a 10 percent gradient over the last kilometer will test the form of the climbers.

"Usually, a rider knows from the first climb of a big stage race if he is going to perform well," said Frenchman Patrice Halgand, who

of action during the best part of the

last five months after undergoing a

twin knee surgery in Australia in

February. He was named in a provi-

sional Pakistan squad for England

earlier this summer but was left out

of the 16-man touring party after it

was revealed that an earlier ankle

tional cricket for quite some time and

cannot just walk back in the squad",

Shaharyar added. "Such a step

could be counter-productive so we

would take our time before recalling

Pakistan too have their fair share of

fitness problems. Spearhead quick

Shoaib Akhtar is definitely out with

an ankle problem and fellow

pacemen Mohammad Asif (elbow)

and Mohammad Sami (knee) are

conditions for Sussex earlier in the

season, has left the tour because of a

groin injury with uncapped left-arm

seamer Samiullah Niazi summoned

"Asif is in pain but he is being

In leg-spinner Danish Kaneria

as cover after an impressive domes

treated by experts and might get fit

for the first Test," said Pakistan tour

Pakistan have one of the best slow

bowlers in the world game. And

during last year's 2-0 series win over

England late last year, captain Inzamam-ul-Haq led from the front

manager Zaheer Abbas.

And Rana Naved, a star in English

"Shoaib has been out of interna-

No Shoaib

fracture had not healed.

Missing

both battling injuries.

FROM PAGE 24

Every time the Tour has visited it, the Marie Blanque has undone the favorites, although the climb has

rarely proved decisive.

well ahead of the peloton.

The stage should suit longrange attackers more than the pure Discovery Channel team man-

ager Johan Bruyneel said his riders, including George Hincapie who failed to impress in last Saturday's time trial, would have no choice but to attack.

'There is only one way to make

up for lost time -- attack and ignite the race so that no team should be able to be in control," he said.

"There will be attacks from the first stage in the Pyrenees. Even if the stage does not end at a summit, there will be a lot of possibilities."

Davitamon director Hendrik Redant recalled that his team leader Australian Cadel Evans, seventh overall, "was brilliant last year in the Pyrenees.'

"Cadel attacked in the Col de Marie Blanque and finished fourth on the stage only because he was running for the general classification and didn't want to spend all his energy," he said.

Ukraine's Serhiy Honchar wears the overall leader's yellow jersey, one minute ahead of American Floyd Landis in the standings.

French 'blacks and Islamists'



AFP. Rome

The far-right vice-president of the Italian Senate stoked anti-French feeling in the country Tuesday, branding Italy's World Cup final opponents "blacks, Islamists and communists"

Roberto Calderoli, head of the right-wing popular Northern League party, refused to retract earlier comments in which he hailed Italy's defeat of France in Sunday's World Cup final as "a victory for Italian identitv". "When I say that France's team is

composed of blacks, Islamists and communists, I am saying an objective and evident thing," Calderoli was quoted on Tuesday as saying by the ANSA news agency. His comment, in response to a

complaint to the Senate by France's ambassador to Italy, reiterated remarks made on Sunday in the aftermath of Italy's World Cup victory. Italy's all-white team, from a

largely devout Catholic populace, had won against "a France team which sacrificed its own identity by lining up blacks. Islamists and communists to get results," Calderoli had said on Sunday.

Members of France's national team, composed largely of non-white players, returned to a heroes' wel-

come on Monday despite their defeat by Italy in Berlin on Sunday. France captain Zinedine Zidane gave an unexpected twist to the match when he was sent off for

headbutting Marco Materazzi, after

the Italian player allegedly made racist insults. But Zidane -- the son of Algerians -

 was backed by his country's politicians. "France admires you and loves you," President Jacques Chirac told him on his team's return from the tournament. France's ambassador to Italy,

Yves Aubin de Messuziere. denounced Calderoli's earlier comments as "an unacceptable and contemptible declaration, meant to foment hatred" But Calderoli refused to apolo-

"France is a multiethnic nation, given its colonial past, of which I would not be proud," he said.

"It's not my fault if certain people were puzzled to see a team which lined up seven blacks out of 11 players... and if certain players prefer Mecca to Bethlehem.' Calderoli, former institutional reform minister in the government of

ex-president Silvio Berlusconi, has made a reputation for inflammatory comments and gestures. He resigned as minister in February after he was criticised for wearing a T-shirt lampooning the Prophet Mohammed, sparking

deadly anti-Italian riots in Libya. Loew looks

film is "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest", starring his favourite actor Jack Nicholson.

Loew was born on Feb. 3, 1960 in Schoenau in the south-western German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg near the borders with France and Switzerland

BD finally go down in fourth match

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A team's winning run came to a halt when they conceded a six-wicket defeat to Zimbabwe A in the fourth one-day match at the Kwekwe Sports Club ground yesterday.

The second string Bangladesh side, who have already secured the five-match series by winning the first three games, were shot out for 179 in 42.1 overs with Mohammad Sharif scoring team highest 52 off 66 balls.

Captain Tushar Imran added 37

Right-arm pacemen Peter Rinke and Gregory Strydom shattered the Bangladesh innings sharing six wickets equally. Rinke took three for 15 and Strydom claimed three conceding 23 runs.

Kasteni's unbeaten 73 off 115 balls to reach 182-4. All-rounder Rinke was the other notable scorer with a 51-ball 39

while Hamilton Masakadza added

Zimbabwe A rode on Friday

BTF selects four for Davis Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

36 off 73 balls.

Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) has selected four players to take part in the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group-3 competition which will be held in Philippine from July 17 to July 24.

Three selected players Amol Roy, Henry Prithul Mondal and Mohammad Tajmul Islam will leave Dhaka tonight while Shibu Lal will join them from USA.

Apart from hosts Philippine, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Saudi Arab, Singapore, Iran and Vietnam are the other teams in the competition.

Carew calls it quits

AFP, St John's

West Indies' Convenor of Selectors Joey Carew revealed on Wednesday he will not stand for re-election for the forthcoming two-year term.

Carew had been nominated by the Trinidad Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB) but has sent a letter to TTCB president Deryck Murray asking not to be considered when the selectors for the next period are chosen at a special meeting in Barbados on

A series of recent disagree ments with West Indies captain Brian Lara may have played a part in his decision.

Lara had repeatedly asked for different bowlers to be added to his squad for the recent Test series defeat at home to India, but was not granted his wish.

Carew has been involved with cricket in the Caribbean for the past 25 years, having previously represented the West Indies as a player and served as a selector for Trinidad Tobago and the West

and was vice captain of the West Indies team in 1971-72. Former West Indies fast

He played 19 Test matches

bowler Andy Roberts may return to the selection panel.

Current selectors Gordon Greenidge and Clyde Butts are likely to stand again, while Derrick Parry of Nevis and Dominican Sebastien Lockhart are new

Lippi signs off

World Cup in 1982.

FROM PAGE 17 won a trophy since they lifted the

Lippi's resignation had been expected and media speculation have said that among those in the running to take over from him are former players like Roberto Donadoni or Gianluca Vialli as well as the coach Alberto Zaccheroni.

Klinsmann FROM PAGE 17

The 46-year-old Loew is a low profile choice as national coach never having played for his country at the top level.

Like Klinsmann he started off his career at Stuttgart before playing with several modest German clubs. His first coaching position was

with Stuttgart in 1996 and he went on to take charge of clubs in Turkey and in Austria before joining Klinsmann as assistant national coach in August 2004. "I am delighted to continue with these players," he said of his

appointment. "We have to make sure they do not fall into a hole, we want to help and hold them. We want to become the European champions.'

Prince set to make history

Cricket

THE GUARDIAN

South Africa will be captained for the first time in their history by a non-white player in the two-Test series against Sri Lanka which begins in Colombo on July 27. Ashwell Prince will lead the Proteas 14 years and three months after South Africa's sporting isolation ended with a one-off Test against West Indies in Barbados in

The Cape Coloured left-hander has been made captain because Graeme Smith tore ligaments in his right ankle on Saturday while jogging on holiday and his vicecaptain Jacques Kallis had already been ruled out of the tour after surgery to correct a chronic tenniselbow condition.

The 29-year-old batsman is from Port Elizabeth but has been based in Cape Town for the past decade. He has scored 1,089 runs in 21 Tests at an average of 37.55. Of his three centuries, the 119 in the New Year Test against Australia in Sydney was comfortably the most impressive and finally cemented his place in the team after making his debut, also against Australia, in Johannesburg five years ago.

"The enormity and significance of his appointment, albeit through

forced circumstances, will not be missed and should be celebrated by South Africa and the rest of the world," said the national selection convener Haroon Lorgat.

"As the first black man to captain South Africa he will command an important place in history, but with that comes extra responsibility.

"For the team, however, it will be a non-event. From personal conversations I know how much respect the players have for



Ashwell and they are all very comfortable with him leading. His ability to assess match situations and remain calm and level-headed is not questioned." Prince was recruited by

Western Province as a 19-year-old when South African sport was just

starting to try to redress the injustices of the apartheid era, and initially he was regarded, unjustly, by some white cricketers as being a

token appointment. Two years ago he captained South Africa A to a commanding victory against England in a threeday match immediately before the five-Test series which England won

Last year he spoke out against the quota system routinely employed at school and age-group level in South Africa. Prince said: "Nobody knows where they stand. Is the black kid included because he's black, and is the white kid not selected because of the quota? We have to give disadvantaged people

the chance, but I don't like quotas." He is under no illusions about the tour ahead. "[Sri Lanka] hammered England 5-0 in the onedayers after doing well to come back from one-nil down to draw the Test series," he added. "On home ground they will be much more formidable, so it's going to be a tough tour.

"The most important thing is to get the best out of the guys, and to get them to perform in those conditions. The conditions will be very different to what we're used to, with the humidity and the heat. I am inexperienced when it comes to captaincy, but I'm delighted that I've been given the chance.'

England to wait on Hoggard

Cricket

Matthew Hoggard is set to be given until the morning of the match to prove his fitness for the first Test against Pakistan here at Lord's and bolster what will otherwise be an inexperienced attack.

The swing specialist, everpresent in England's last 32 Tests. sustained a bizarre injury to his right, bowling, hand when it was trodden on by Yorkshire colleague Tim Bresnan while the pair were warming-up on Saturday during the A team's draw against Pakistan at Canterbury.

Hoggard, who had stitches inserted into his hand, bowled with a cricket ball during practice at Lord's on Wednesday, where the first Test of but afterwards England stand-in captain Andrew Strauss said it was too early to say if the 29-year-old

seamer would be fit in time. "He did some useful work in the nets today and every hour the hand is getting better. But we are going to give him as long as possible to prove his fitness," Strauss told reporters after practice

And Strauss, leading a side without Ashes-winning pacemen Andrew Flintoff (ankle) and Simon Jones (knee), as well as reserve quick James Anderson (back), said Hoggard would have to do more than prove his bowling fitness.

"Fielding is important. I don't think you can go into a game with a guy who is unable to field." Opening batsman Strauss, who

will captain England in a Test for the

first time when the Middlesex left-

hander leads the side out at his Lord's home ground, was in no doubt about Hoggard's value to an attack which, in the Yorkshireman's absence, will be led by Stephen Harmison -England's quickest bowler but not always its most reliable. "We all know Hoggy's done a

very good job for the England team over the last 24 months and, certainly since the Ashes, he's probably been the pick of our bowlers. "It's very important we do get him

on the pitch but if he doesn't make it through it gives an opportunity to someone else," added Strauss of a squad where Jon Lewis and Saiid Mahmood would appear to be vying for a spot alongside Harmison, Liam Plunkett and left-arm spinner Monty Panesar in a four-man attack Strauss is captaining the team

because Flintoff - the man England want to lead them in Australia for the defence of the Ashes later this year after Michael Vaughan was ruled out with a knee injury - has still to regain full fitness although the selectors hope to have him back in time for the July 27 second Test at the all-rounder's Old Trafford home around.

England haven't won a Test series since the Ashes - losing 2-0 in Pakistan before drawing away to India and at home to Sri Lanka.

Under Strauss's leadership an injury-hit side then went down to a 5-0 one-day series thrashing by Sri Lanka concluded earlier this month.

had not host cost him a chance of captaining England on a full-time basis. "The selectors have shown a lot of consistency. Fred (Flintoff) obviously captained the side very well in

But he was adamant that defeat

India and did a good job against Sri "I've said all long I'm very happy to do the job if other people feel I'm the right man to do it. At this stage they feel Fred is the man to do it and fully support him. He's going to need and deserve the support of the senior players around him. There's

no leadership contest or anything Panesar, who perfored well in India, could be targeted by a Pakistan batting line-up aiming to ensure he

does not give the guicks a rest But Strauss said: "If he (Panesar) can go at two an over in India against their batsmen, it proves he's pretty tricky to get away. So if people do go after him, he's got more chance of taking wickets."

Not that Strauss was underestimating the threat posed by Pakistan. "The thing about the winter was their unpredictability. They can turn a game round in one session and you can't afford to relax against them."

Zizou may

sent off in the second period of

extra time for head-butting an

3 on penalties after the game in Berlin's Olympic Stadium was tied

Italy went on to defeat France 5-

FIFA has since launched an

investigation into the sending off

incident involving Zidane and Italian defender Marco Materazzi.

insults aimed at him by Materazzi

and is scheduled to give his version

on Wednesday evening.

Blatter said that before taking

any decision on whether to strip

Zidane of the best player award, he

wanted to see the results of the

wins this award but an international

committee of journalists," he told La

"It's not FIFA that decides who

FIFA investigation.

events live on French television

Zidane claims he was reacting to

lose

Italian opponent.

Greek Federation approves new law

Football

REUTERS, Athens

The Greek Football Federation (EPO) has given its approval to a revised sports bill that was passed late on Tuesday night by the Greek government

The head of EPO, Vassilis Gagatsis, said that the amended law could pave the way for soccer's world governing body FIFA to lift a suspension it imposed on July 3 on all international contact by European champions Greece. Gagatsis said an amendment

giving EPO sole responsibility for the running of football in Greece had been accepted by his federation. FIFA imposed the ban because the original sports law gave the

government too much say in running Greek football issues, notably the setting up of the new Super League and the election of EPO "The amendment of article 29, paragraph 12 of the bill regarding professional sports is a result of an

agreement reached with the Sports Ministry and accepted by the Greek Football Federation." Gagatsis announced in a statement on the EPO's official web site.

Sports Minister Georgos Orphanos said that he would inform

FIFA, who have already seen a draft of the revised bill, as soon as possible, adding that he expected a swift decision about the lifting of the

One Greek club, Larissa, is due to play in the Intertoto Cup on Saturday.

Kaneria wants

FROM PAGE 24

all I can say is I will try my best and if it is my day and if the ball comes out well. I know I can cause problems. "We know England will be a

tough challenge on home soil. "Kevin Pietersen is playing very well and I noticed he played Muralitharan the best of the England batsmen by being aggressive and

he will be a dangerous player to us." Both sides have been affected by injuries but Kaneria insisted no matter who played for England, they would want to make up for December's defeat.

"England will want to take revenge," Kaneria, who claimed four-wicket hauls in the second innings of both victories, said. "They have not been performing as well as they can since winning the Ashes so I think they will be very keen to put things right against us. "Even with their injuries they will

Repubblica newspaper. "All the same, the FIFA executive committee has the responsibility of intervening when it is a matter of conduct which goes against the ethics of the sport "That is why I gave the orders to our disciplinary commission to investigate what happened."

to better concentrate on their work during what is the busy climax to the Blatter also said that Zidane's headbutt had shocked him person-

Voting by journalists covering

the World Cup for the best player

award is by a deadline of midnight

on the day of the final, but most

journalists submit their votes earlier

ally.
"I've known Zidane for several come at us hard but I have every confidence in my team-mates to years, his tremendous personality stand up to whatever they throw at the way he lives his life, his modesty and his love of his family.

