

## Enamul's different debut

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national cricketer Enamul Haque Moni will start his second innings in international cricket as he is set to make his debut as an umpire in the ODI arena.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday disclosed the names of the match referees and umpires including the former Bangladesh spinner for the one-day series between hosts Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

The left-arm spinner, who took over umpiring two seasons ago, will officiate in the second and third one-day internationals on December 3 and 5. He will also stand in the only Twenty20 International alongside veteran Nadir Shah, who is slated to stand in the first, fourth and fifth games.

Sri Lankan Ranjan Madugalle, also the chief ICC referee, will be the match referee for the entire series, including the first-ever Twenty20 match at Khulna on November 28.

Indian umpire Suresh Shastri and Pakistani Nadeem Ghauri will accompany the two local men in the middle in the five-match one-day series that begins on November 30.

## BHF revises

FROM PAGE 17

against India on December 4, followed by matches against South Korea, China and Oman (December 5, 7 and 10).

The 20-member squad including 16 players will leave Dhaka for the Qatar capital on November 29.

Kamran and his compatriot Ershad Haider, the trainer, however, are not part of the official contingent as they had not been enlisted in the preliminary list. Their trip to Qatar to be beside the team still looked uncertain as the Bangladesh Olympic Association turned down BHF's proposal of taking the Pakistani duo on their own cost. The BHF has been trying to solve the issue before the departure.

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Russell Khan Bappi, Zahid Hossain; **defenders:** Issa Miah, Hedayatul Islam Rajib, Yamin Hossain, Mashruur Rahman Biplab, Shamsuddin Tuhin, Khondoker Hasan Ahmed, Shahidullah Titu; **midfielders:** Musa Miah, Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Mahbub Ehsan Rana, Zahidul Islam Rajan; **forwards:** Russell Mahmud Jimmy, Maksud Alam Habul and Mazharul Islam Mokshed. **Officials:** Abdur Rashid Shikder (manager), Khwaja Rahmatullah (technical manager), Mahbub Harun (coach) and Abdullah Piru (assistant coach).

## Bremen test

FROM PAGE 20

phase this season but Barcelona came along and we went on a run," said Frings. "We need to do the same again now starting with Chelsea."

Bremen had their moments in the first match at Stamford Bridge but lost 2-0 - a similar result could put Barcelona in the box seat for second.

German clubs have not fared well against Chelsea in this competition with the Londoners defeating VfB Stuttgart at the last 16 stage in 2004 and then Bayern in the quarter-finals the following season.

With Russian billionaire oil magnate Roman Abramovich ploughing cash into Chelsea the pressure is on Mourinho to lift the trophy - as he did with FC Porto in 2004 - and Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba is already dreaming of the final.

"I would love a Champions League final with Chelsea and Lyon this season," Drogba said. "Lyon play some great football and it would be a fantastic final."

Drogba is joint top scorer, along with AC Milan's Kaka, in the Champions League with five goals to his name.

## Argentina

FROM PAGE 20

Although there has been plenty of speculation on the futures of the South Americans, the decision is set to lie solely in the hands of manager Alan Pardew.

"He (Magnusson) has made it clear that it is a matter for the manager," said Lee, who struck up a relationship with Magnusson during his previous role as Uefa's director of communications.

"He is not going to interfere in playing matters.

"We have been able to have a further meeting with Alan Pardew today. There is already a good rapport between Eggert Magnusson and Alan Pardew and Mr Magnusson has made it clear any decisions about the playing squad and players moving in or moving out is with the manager.

"He (Pardew) controls that part of the club, there is no two ways about that.

"We are planning for the future and hopefully that will be a bright one."

## 4 bowlers enough: Gilly



AFP, Brisbane

Vice-captain Adam Gilchrist is confident Australia's balance of four bowlers will be successful again following Shane Watson's injury withdrawal from Thursday's first Ashes Test against England at the Gabba.

Fifth-bowler Watson late Tuesday conceded defeat and pulled out of the Australian team for the opening match of the series after tweaking his hamstring while bowling in a domestic one-day last Friday.

Specialist batsman Michael Clarke has replaced the all-rounder at No.6, and Gilchrist sees no problems with Australia reverting to the bowling formula which has kept the team on top of world cricket for 15 years.

Gilchrist said he felt confident going into the Gabba Test with three

pace bowlers and a spinner.

"We've had that balance for many years and I guess why there is a focus on that is because we now have another option with Shane Watson, it creates another bowling option," Gilchrist told reporters Tuesday.

"It doesn't necessarily mean that any captain has to use that bowling option, but having captained a few teams it's nice you can look around the field and know you've got other guys you can draw on if you want to use them.

"We shouldn't forget that Shane Watson averages 50 in first class cricket and is starting to forge his way as a top-four batsman so he's really justifying his selection in the squad.

"But if we do go with four bowlers, three quicks and a spinner, that's been very successful for us for a long time, particularly in Australian conditions."

Gilchrist said that, from his first observation, the Gabba wicket is not as green as usual.

The wicket has the reputation of

favouring fast bowlers with pace and bounce, but Gilchrist said the toss may not be so important in the opening game.

"I haven't been out to the middle yet, but looking at it from a long way away, the thing that jumped out is that it doesn't look as green as what it might normally be two days out from a Test," he said.

"Often you can come to the Gabba and try and pick which wicket you're going to play on and then on game day it looks in pristine condition.

"But my first observation is that it doesn't look quite as green as normal, but I reckon the wicket is going to be a beauty and from my experience it's just a fantastic consistent cricket wicket.

"The toss isn't of vital importance, whatever you do first you've got to try and do it well, but if that means you bat first on a bit of a green wicket then you just have to try and ride it out and get as many as you can."

## Glenn doesn't need help



AFP, Brisbane

An indignant Glenn McGrath says Australia doesn't need an all-rounder to ease the workload on his 36-year-old body in Thursday's Ashes Test opener with England at the Gabba.

There have been suggestions that the selection of all-rounder Shane Watson, now in doubt with a hamstring injury, was made to reduce the bowling burden on McGrath and 37-year-old leg-spinner Shane Warne.

McGrath has not played a first-class match since early January and his preparation has been limited to two overseas one-day tournaments followed by a modified three-day match against England a week ago, in which he bowled just 18 overs in two days.

But McGrath insists Australia is capable of replicating its success with just four bowlers led by him and Warne, who have taken a total of 1,227 Test wickets between them.

"If you look at the last 10 years we

haven't required that," McGrath was reported in Tuesday's press.

"Four bowlers have been perfect. To me, that's probably the way I prefer to work. Having someone like Warne in the team, we've got away with that and bowled well."

"If you need that fifth bowler to bowl quite a few overs, it probably means our form is not where it should be.

"If they're doing that (selecting Watson) just because of the age we are, then I think that's ridiculous.

"I know a lot of people who are fitter at 40 and 45 from what they were at 20 or 25.

"I don't think fitness or amount of overs we have to bowl is an issue. If it is an issue, we shouldn't be in the team in the first place."

McGrath said his comments were in no way a slight on Watson, but rather a response to queries regarding his age.

Watson remains an outside chance to play in the first Test, with 25-year-old Michael Clarke on standby should Watson fail to prove his fitness.

McGrath, who spent eight months out of cricket to tend to his wife, Jane, who was diagnosed with

secondary cancer, said Jane was making a strong recovery and would fly to Brisbane Tuesday for the Test.

"If I had any doubts about how things were travelling at home, I wouldn't be here now," he said.

"So when I go out on the field, (it's as) simple as that. I won't be thinking about anything but what's going on out there. I try to deal with what is, than what ifs. And then if something happens you deal with it then.

McGrath, who wants to play in next year's World Cup, turns 37 in February. Only one significant Australian fast bowler, Ray Lindwall, played beyond that age. He was 38.

"It's been like that for the last three or four years. It's nothing new, this sort of hype at the start of a season," McGrath said.

"When I walk away from the game, I don't want to have any more regrets.

"At the moment, I'm not ready to go. It's not about the money.

"I'd like to think I'd know the right time to go. To me the team comes before the individual and, if I'm affecting the team's performance, I shouldn't be there."

## Sharif blows Ctg away

FROM PAGE 17

to Sharif, facing his third delivery. Back from a career-threatening groin injury that sidelined him for a long spell, Sharif has so far shown superb early-season form in both the Corporate League as well as the four-day edition. He had impressive figures of 4-66 in 22 overs.

Elias Sunny offered some resistance with a rearguard 34 but Mohammad Ashraf trapped him leg-before to clip the tail at close of play.

### BARISAL v KHULNA

In contrast to Chittagong's start, Barisal were four wickets down for only eight runs. Barisal's top four openers Imran Ahmed and Hannan Sarkar, Ali Arman and Mehdi Hasan - fell within four overs of the start as Khulna's young seamer Dollar Mahmud and veteran left-arm Manjirul Islam ran havoc.

Number six Abul Bashar then resurrected their innings along with Humayun Kabir, who arrived with his team at a precarious 3-5.

Humayun dominated the 108-run stand with ten boundaries in a 121-ball knock of 65. Bashar scored 30 but when he edged to wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain off Mahmud, Humayun found another ally in Arafat Salahuddin.

Fresh from his 61 against Dhaka in the previous match, Arafat was combative and struck 12 fours in his 62. Humayun and Arafat shared 137 runs for the

seventh wicket.

For Khulna, Dollar completed his five-for with Lablu Rahman's scalp to end with 5-40.

### RAJSHAHI v SYLHET

Opener Intiaz Hossain was the only man who survived the opening salvo of the Rajshahi seamers who took care of the Sylhet batting.

Only Golam Mabud helped Intiaz in the middle with some resistance contributing 31. It was Intiaz who displayed good temperament but missed his ton by three runs. He smashed 14 fours and a six in his 206-minute knock.

For Rajshahi, Arif Hossain took the other wicket of national discard Alok Kapali who was among Sylhet's failures of the day. They were finally bowled out for 181 when Alamgir got rid of Nazmul Hossain for a duck.

Seamer Manjirul gave away only 12 runs in his 16-over spell to take two wickets. Rajshahi replied in earnest but last match hero Junaid Imrose retired hurt early in the first innings. His partner Farhad Hossain struck his first fifty of the season and he was unbeaten with Naem Islam when stumps were drawn with Rajshahi comfortably placed on 114 for one.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**CHITTAGONG:** First Innings: 238 all out in 88 overs (Iqbal 84, Masum 57, Salahuddin 6, Nazimuddin 7, Ehsanul 0, Faisal 24, Dhiman 0, Elias 34, Raihan 12, Tareq 0, extras 13; Sharif 4-66, Talha 2-52, Rubel 2-

75, Ashraf 1-22).

**BARISAL:** First Innings: 245-7 in 90 overs (Imran 1, Hannan 1, Arman 1, Hasan 1, Kabir 65, Bashar 30, Arafat 62, Lablu 49, Tapash 4, extras 31; Dollar 5-40, Islam 1-12, Manzarul 1-30).

**SYLHET:** First Innings: 181 all out in 57.4 overs (Rahman 9, Intiaz 97, Rezaul 10, Kapali 12, Mowla 4, Mabud 31, Mithun 12, Baisya 0, Hasibul 0, Nazmul 0, Nabil 0, extras 6; Shahjada 3-69, Mushfiqur 3-29, Alamgir 3-45, Arif 1-33).

**RAJSHAHI:** First Innings: 114-1 in 32 overs (Imrose 5 RH, Farhad 50, Anisur 8, Naeem 48; Hasibul 1-30).

## Levski vow

FROM PAGE 20  
fans during the team's run to the UEFA Cup quarter-finals.

"Bulgaria will join the European Union (next year) while we make claims that Levski are already part of Europe's elite," said Batkov. "We'll have to show European behaviour," he said two days before Levski's home match against champions Barcelona in group A of Europe's premier competition.

Batkov, a respected lawyer, said Levski would not tolerate any hooliganism during matches.

"Our name is always on the blacklists...and no one has an interest in paying fines," added Batkov.

## Vaughan goes down under

AFP, Brisbane

Michael Vaughan arrived here unannounced Monday and laughed at suggestions he will play for England in Thursday's first Ashes Test against Australia at the Gabba.

The sidelined England captain told reporters at the airport he was in Brisbane only to receive treatment from England's medical staff on his knee, three days ahead of the Ashes opener, reports said Tuesday.

Vaughan, 32, who was previously announced as joining England's academy squad in Perth, was reluctant to speak to reporters.

But when asked if he was any chance of playing at the Gabba, Vaughan said: "The first Test? I only just got here. I'm just continuing my rehab."

Vaughan was forced out of England's tour in India in March after a recurrence of knee trouble and underwent surgery in July.

After the surgery Vaughan stated that he would target this Australian summer's triangular one-day series for a comeback attempt.

But since then, that comeback target date has been wound back from the fifth, to the fourth and, most recently, to the third Test in Perth.

Vaughan discounted that notion: "I never said I wanted to play the third Test," he said.

Australian coach John Buchanan believes his English counterpart Duncan Fletcher has not revealed his full hand ahead of the Ashes series.

## Thorpe signs

FROM PAGE 17

opportunities with what direction I'm going to go. I haven't picked up the newspaper to look for a job. But if any of our good ones for an ex-Olympic swimmer..." he joked.

Thorpe, who earns a reported 3.5 million dollars (2.6 million US) from sponsorships each year, said money was not his driving force.

"I'm not driven by finance, it's not my thing. I'm lucky that I'm pretty financially secure. I'm not completely secure - I have to work or I'm going to run out."

Thorpe, who was uncomfortable with the intense media focus he was subjected to in Australia and around the world, expressed his appreciation for the support he had received.

He paid special tribute to supporters in Japan, where fans, many of them young women, would welcome him at airports, hotels and swimming pools with shrieks usually reserved for Hollywood stars.

"I've reached all of the dizzying heights of this profession. I've had all of the success that I never thought would happen for myself, and for all of that I'm extremely appreciative."

He added: "I'm happy with what I've done. I'm happier now than I've ever been."

## Premiership

FROM PAGE 20

"Believe me, I've seen some dire games in England. You keep giving yourselves too many pats on the back, saying you have the best league in the world, said Strachan.

"I know our league is not the same as the Premiership, but there is not that much difference."

Were Celtic ever to grace The Premiership, Strachan is adamant his side would hold their own.

"And if this Celtic side was in the Premiership we would be competitive in the top half of the table," added the Scot.

## Here comes

FROM PAGE 20

Matthew Hoggard.

Warne had a dig at the choice of Jones pointing to his suspect wicketkeeping record after spilling seven catches in the last series and looking fallible again on tour with a couple of missed opportunities.

"It's surprising that they'd go back to (Jones). He'll be under enormous pressure. I think it's a known fact that Jones is in the side more for his batting than his 'keeping, which is steady at best," chirped Warne.

Kevin Pietersen has an important role to play in England's batting line-up with his unique brand of audacious shot-making and his battles with the short-pitched quicks and close-friend Warne will be series' highlights.

Australia lost injured all-rounder Shane Watson Tuesday and he has been replaced by batsman Michael Clarke, while England batsman Ian Bell is in doubt with a heavily-bruised left hand after he was struck batting in nets practice.

Ed Joyce, who was called in to replace Trescothick, is on standby after only arriving in Australia last week.

Many of the days' play in the Tests are sell-outs and more than 40,000 British fans are expected to flood the grounds, making for some boisterous banter from the Barmy Army.

There is an air of anticipation about in Brisbane as Ashes cricket returns to the lofty pedestal it once commanded.

## The Thorpedo trail



AFP, Sydney

In eight giddy years Ian Thorpe dominated world swimming, smashing records and accumulating an astonishing tally of Olympic and world titles.

"Thorpedo", who called it quits Tuesday at the age of 24, became one of world sport's most identifiable stars, making him far more than just a phenomenally-talented Australian swimmer.

Thorpe lifted the sport's profile and constantly raised the bar through his sublime swimming technique and awesome power which earned him an astonishing portfolio of achievement.

The self-effacing Sydney native suffered from a chlorine allergy as a youngster, yet became the greatest swimmer of his time. Some have even hailed him the "swimmer of the century".

He possessed an imposing physique for a swimmer. He was an exceptionally large baby, weighing 4.1kg and measuring 57.5cm in length at birth and in his prime was a strapping 1.90 metres and weighed in around 90kgs.

But it was his huge "flipper-like" feet which gained attention and which propelled his famed dolphin "kick" in the final lap of his races, to blow away his opposition in a matter of a few mighty beats.

Before the 2000 Sydney Olympics German captain Chris-Carol Bremer made the startling claim that (Thorpe's) "hands and feet are unusually big" due to the use of human growth hormone.

The claim was ridiculed as Thorpe was among the most drug-tested competitor in world swimming.

Thorpe is Australia's most decorated Olympian with five gold medals at the Sydney and 2004 Athens Games.

He is the only person to win six gold medals in one World Championships at the 2001 World Championships in Fukuoka, among his overall 11 Championship golds -- the most won by any swimmer.

Thorpe picked up 10 Commonwealth Games gold medals, six of them in Manchester in 2002.

Since 1998 he dominated the

400m freestyle, winning the event at every Olympic, World, Commonwealth and Pan Pacific Championships until taking a post-2004 break. He has also broken 13 individual long-course world records.

Thorpe won three gold medals in his home city Olympics in 2000, beating Italy's Massimiliano Rosolino with his finishing kick to win the 200m freestyle by three body-lengths in a world record, and then later that night anchored the 4x100m freestyle relay, an event in which the Americans had never been beaten.

Thorpe claimed the 200m freestyle Olympic record in the heats the following morning, but could not reel in his Dutch rival Pieter van den Hoogenband in the final with the Dutchman going on to equal his world record.

Thorpe switched coaches after the 2002 Pan Pacific Championships in Yokohama where he won five golds, leaving Doug Frost, his mentor from his early school days, to link up with Tracey Menzies.

In his switch-over he said he wanted to improve his sprinting performance in the 100m freestyle and drop the 800m freestyle from his schedule despite being the reigning world champion and record holder.

He claimed three golds at the 2003 Barcelona World Championships, but only a bronze in the 100m freestyle.

Thorpe then began a period of introspection where he battled illness and controversy.

His over-balanced and fell off the starting blocks in the heats of the 400m freestyle at the trials for the 2004 Athens Olympics, earning disqualification, and public debate raged over the rigidity of the team selection policy.

His close friend Craig Stevens, who finished second in the 400m trials, then stepped aside to make it possible for Thorpe to successfully defend his Olympic 400m crown in Athens later that year.

In the "race of the century" Thorpe overhauled Van den Hoogenband to win the 200m gold in a new Olympic record.

Thorpe had climbed the mountain again, but it was beginning to take its toll and after Athens, he took 17 months off from competitive swimming, skipping the 2005 World Championships.

## THE HUMAN FISH AT A GLANCE

FROM PAGE 17

scooped up 13 world championship medals.

\* He holds three world records: the 200m with a time of 1:44.06, the 400m free long course - an event which he has dominated since the start of his career - at 3:40.08 and the 200m free short course at 1:41.10.

\* He has broken a total of 13 individual long course world records.

\* Thorpe has claimed 11 gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the world championships, and 10 gold and a silver at the Commonwealth Games.

\* The strapping athlete is 1.95 meters (6 foot 5 inches) tall and is famed for his massive size 17 feet that help propel him through the water.

\* In 1997, he became the youngest male swimmer to ever represent Australia when he competed in the Pan Pacific Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, coming second in the 400m.

\* In 1998 he won the 400m freestyle at his first world championship in Perth and was also a member of the 4x200m freestyle relay team that won the event.

\* Later that year he claimed four gold medals at the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games.

\* In 2000, he smashed the world 200m freestyle record with a timing of 1:41.10 at the World Cup, Berlin

\* In the 2000 Olympics in his home town of Sydney, he won three gold and two silver medals.

\* In 2001, he claimed the 200m freestyle world record with a time of 1:44.06 at the world championships in Fukuoka, where he snatched six gold medals. He also won the 400m, 800m, 4x100m, 4x200m freestyle and the 4x100m medley.

\* In 2002, he smashed the 400m freestyle world record at 3:40.08 at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and took home six gold medals, including for the 400m, 200m and 100m freestyle.

\* In 2002, he launched his own line of jewellery through Autore Pearls

\* In 2003 he won the 200m and 400m freestyle events at