



SWIM AWAY THE JET LAG! Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar (L), who joined the Tigers camp on Tuesday after returning from the USA the day before, takes to the pool at the Sonargaon Hotel where the cricketers had a swimming session. PHOTO: STAR



## Did U Know?

In the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia became the only man to win gold medals in the 5000 metres, the 10,000 metres, and the marathon in the same Olympiad.



**Muttiah Muralitharan** (Sri Lankan master spin bowler)  
"Shane is a great bowler and he is bowling beautifully at the moment. Frankly, I do not think of the record when I go out there to bowl. My job is to bowl well and help Sri Lanka win."

**DAY'S EVENT**

Premier Football League  
Mohammedan vs Dhaka Wanderers  
(5:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## Now an Indo-Pak bridge series

In the latest sporting tie to be renewed between rivals India and Pakistan, the two countries are poised to play a historic bridge series next month, an official said Tuesday.  
"It will be a historic inaugural series between Pakistan and India and would definitely further the thriving Indo-Pak sporting relations," Pakistan Bridge Federation honorary secretary Asfaq Toula told AFP.  
Two Pakistan teams will compete for the Indo-Pakistan peace trophy in New Delhi from August 7 to 10 and return the invitation to Indian teams in November, said Toula.  
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## Dhaka grapplers grab nat'l title

UNB, Dhaka  
Dhaka DSA emerged champions securing four gold, one silver and two bronze medals in the S Ahmed Foundation 18th National Junior Wrestling Championship that concluded at the NSC gymnasium yesterday.  
Jessore DSA became runners-up with two gold and one silver while Jessore Education Board finished third collecting two silver and two bronze.  
Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Liberation War Affairs and president of the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation Alhaj Salahuddin Ahmed MP distributed prizes as the chief guest at the closing function.  
A total of 90 grapplers from 15 district teams took part in seven weight categories in the two-day meet.

## Beamer lands Best big fine

REUTERS, London  
West Indies paceman Tino Best has been fined 50 per cent of his match fee for bowling "beamer" during the second Test defeat by Sri Lanka.  
Best was suspended from bowling  
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## BD A lose early initiative

Cricket  
SPORTS REPORTER  
A perfect morning turned into a bitter evening for Bangladesh A after Mike Powell hit a brilliant century for Glamorgan on the opening day of their three-day match at the Pen-y-Pound ground in Abergavenny yesterday.  
Playing their second three-day game of the tour, the second-string Bangladesh side were all smiling when they reduced the home side to 148-5. But a 139-run stand between Powell and England one-day player Alex Wharf changed the face of the game.  
The 28-year-old Powell led the home side recovery with a dazzling 111 off 145 balls. His fluent innings contained 11 fours and four sixes. He was eventually out after tea, caught by Shahadat Hossain off paceman Talha Zubair, but not before Glamorgan reached 287-6.  
Wharf struck an equally impressive 77 with nine fours and two sixes before becoming the seventh batsmen out at 336.

The home side were 340-7 with England off-spinner Robert Croft batting on 38 till filing of this report.  
Although the three pacers left-armed Syed Russel, Shahadat Hossain and Talha Jubair did their part in the game -- claiming two wickets each, the spinners especially slow left-armed Enamul Haque continued to struggle with the ball. He took one wicket but the talented Enamul, who had a wonderful home series against Zimbabwe, once again found English conditions difficult to cope with after an unimpressive brief stint with the national team in June.  
Bangladesh A lost their first three-day to Gloucestershire by 130 runs.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Russel	17	0	77	2
Shahadat	12	1	61	1
Talha	9	0	41	1
Enamul	17	2	70	1
Mehrab Jr	7	0	21	0

**BANGLADESH A:** Shahriar Nafees, Nafees Iqbal, Tushar Imran, Nazimuddin, Alok Kapali, Shahin Hossain, Mehrab Hossain Jr, Syed Russel, Shahadat Hossain, Talha Jubair, Enamul Haque Jr.  
Toss: Glamorgan.

Scoreboard	51	4	13	13	107
GLAMORGAN: First innings	51	4	13	13	107
Wallace c Shahin b Talha					
Cherry lbw b Shahadat					
Watkins c Shahin b Russel					
Hughes lbw b Russel					
Powell not out					

## Ganguly learns fate Thursday?

BBC ONLINE, undated  
India are set to hear the results of their second appeal into captain Sourav Ganguly's six-match ban on Thursday.  
Ganguly, whose ban covers one-day internationals, was penalised for slow over-rates during April's one-day series against Pakistan.  
He lost an initial appeal, but the Board of Control for Cricket in India then applied to the International Cricket Council's code of conduct process dispute.  
Ganguly is trying to take part in a one-day tournament in Sri Lanka.  
He has been named in the squad for that tour, in which Sri Lanka, India and West Indies lord horns from Saturday.  
But Rahul Dravid has already been named captain.  
Ganguly has had some form behind him at least -- he has been playing for Glamorgan in Division One of the county championship.

## U-17 cricketers' camp July 29

SPORTS REPORTER  
The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 25-member Under-17 preliminary squad to take part in the training camp for the Under-17 International Golden

## BCB yet to name bowling coach

SPORTS REPORTER  
The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) rejected claims made by president Ali Asghar that former West Indies fast bowler Andy Roberts was set to be appointed as bowling coach for the national team's preparations for the tour of Sri Lanka in August-September.  
Asghar made the assertion a few days back in some national dailies. But yesterday the Board, in a press release, tried to clear the confusion over the BCB president's statement.  
It said that the Board was "in the process of identifying possible candidates for a short-term position of bowling coach for the Bangladesh national team. The BCB is defining the role and required dates for engagement. The BCB has not made a decision on a particular candidate."  
"The Board had agreed to approach certain identified bowling coaches to assist the national team bowlers in preparation for the Sri Lanka tour, if available at short notice," said the statement

## SCHOOL KABADDI Ansars, Dolaipar in last four

SPORTS REPORTER  
Ansar and VDP High qualified for the semifinals of the school kabaddi competition when they emerged champions in Group A yesterday.  
Ansars beat Natun Kudi High 59-18 at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court while Dolaipar High, who finished Group B winners to also make it to the last four, defeated Khilgaon Government Staff Quarters High 75-31.  
In the other match, Shaheed Nabi High beat Rebat Mohun Pilot High 76-35.  
In the mini kabaddi competition for primary schools, Bagbari School edged Demra School 71-66, Sabuj Bidyaniketan beat Kafri School 59-28 and HM Ershad School beat Manda School 56-33.

## Russel move to fifth

SPORTS REPORTER  
Majid Burjuga's spectacular second half goal gave Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra a solitary goal win over Farashganj Sporting Club in the Premier Football League on Tuesday.  
The Moroccan striker separated the two sides with a glancing header in the 72nd minute as the last year's runners-up took revenge for their 1-0 loss to Farashganj in the first leg. It also helped them climb to the fifth spot. Russel increased their tally to 15 points, one more than Farashganj.  
Farashganj, who had finished the first phase in fifth, did not live up to their billing in the absence of Guinean defender Scylla currently on leave -- and Nigerian midfielder Adafa who is serving a suspension for picking up three bookings.  
Russel were also without regular goalkeeper Biplab and Moroccan skipper Egr Mohammed who have been sent off during their 2-2 draw against holders Brothers in the previous match.  
Second custodian Apel had stormed out of the club following a disagreement with the team management but was coaxed back to lead the side before the game. However, he was not required to make a single save throughout the 90 minutes.  
It was Russel who enjoyed superior ball possession and created openings one after another. First fullback Aminul's powerful shot from the edge of the penalty area was fisted out by Farashganj custodian Zia before an unmarked Burjuga failed to nod a cross from Tanvir in front of an open goal on the stroke of the break.  
The second half also belonged to the Russel midfielders who fed their strikers regularly.  
Russel's pressure paid off when a quickly taken freekick came to Nayan on the right and he floated a perfect centre for Burjuga who rose high above the rival defence to head and the ball went in taking a deflection off the underside of the crossbar. It was the lanky forward's fourth goal in the league.  
Russel could have extended the margin but substitute Yusuf, who has spent more time on the bench despite scoring four goals in their record breaking 10-0 victory against Youngmen's, wasted two chances in  
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Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra captain and goalkeeper Apel grips the ball before Farashganj's Nigerian striker Felix (C) can get to it at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## England pay hype price

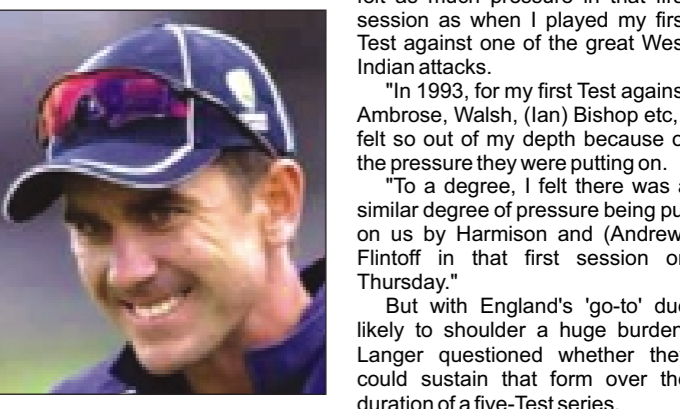
Cricket  
AFP, London  
Shane Warne insisted here Tuesday that England had paid the price for getting caught up in the hype surrounding the Ashes after Australia's crushing 239-run first Test win at Lord's.  
"I think what certain players said in the build-up was important. It was surprising to hear some of them come out with such strong opinions," Warne wrote in his column in The Times.  
"I just don't think it is in the personality of everybody to make big statements such as 'so-and-so is over the top' and I think they suffered during the game by trying to live up to something that was not true to their character," the legendary leg-spinner added.  
"You are positive with actions, not words. If they were told to do it then the tactic backfired."  
In the build-up to the game, England pace bowler Matthew Hoggard, not renowned for his outspokenness, suggested to BBC Radio that Warne was "not the force he was".  
He also called into question the stamina and form of the master slow bowler's fellow 35-year-old Glenn McGrath.  
As it turned out, fast bowler McGrath took nine for 82 on his way to being named man-of-the-match and becoming one of only four bowlers, including Warne, to take 500 Test wickets.

## AFRO-ASIAN CUP Pak players will not be pressed to participate

Cricket  
CRICINFO, undated  
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has said that it will not force its players to play in the Afro-Asia Cup to be held in South Africa in August.  
The PCB has said that the cricketers could decide whether they wished to play in the series comprising three one-day internationals between Asia XI and Africa XI.  
"No player would be pressed to play the matches which have been given official status by the International Cricket Council (ICC). We'll ask them (players) if they want to make themselves available, but if any player wants to skip the event it's all right with us," said a senior PCB official quoted in The News.  
Apart from Shoaib Akhtar, Younis Khan and Danish Kaneria, who are playing for English counties, none of the other Pakistan cricketers have any cricket commitments until October when England is scheduled to tour Pakistan.  
Saleem Altaf, PCB's director of cricket operations, said that the Asia XI selection committee would meet in Dubai on August 1 to select the squad.  
"Majid Khan (Pakistan), Ravi Shastri (India) Graeme Labrooy (Sri Lanka) and Shafiqul Haque Hira (Bangladesh) will meet to finalise the Asian XI squad," said Altaf.  
"But before that we've to inform them about the number of players  
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## 'McGrath, Warne the keys'

Cricket  
AFP, London  
Australia opening batsman Justin Langer believes the stranglehold established by bowling greats Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne during the first Ashes Test will be too strong for England's batsmen to break in the remainder of the series.  
During the course of Australia's crushing 239-run victory, which preserved their 71-year-old unbeaten Test record at Lord's, man-of-the-match McGrath returned overall figures of nine for 82 and in the process the paceman joined Warne as one of only four bowlers with 500 Test wickets.  
A key component in the success of both McGrath and leg-spinner Warne -- who himself took six wickets at Lord's -- has been their ability to frustrate batsmen by denying them run-scoring opportunities.  
And it was this aspect of the 35-year-old duo's game, as much as their wicket-taking ability, that Langer said would hamper England's bid to end a run of eight straight Ashes series defeats.  
"I look at the times when I've faced Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh in tandem or Muttiah Muralitharan and Wasim Akram in tandem. There is immense pressure -- and the immense pressure comes from not being able to score runs."  
"This might sound strange but when you are in one of those MRI (scanning) machines, it feels like you are in a coffin and you can get claustrophobic and that's what I think happens when you face the best bowlers in the world."  
"It's like you are in a coffin because you get claustrophobic because you can't score runs," the 34-year-old West Australian explained.  
"It's like they've got a fishing net around you and the great pressure as a batsman in international cricket is when you can't score runs."  
"It's not the pace of the bowlers innings at Lord's -- their pace attack commands Australian respect.  
Fast bowler Stephen Harmison in particular enhanced his reputation with five for 43 in Australia's first innings 190.  
Harmison's aggression saw Langer hit on the elbow by second ball of the match. The Durham quick also hit Matthew Hayden flush on the helmet and Australia captain Ricky Ponting on the cheek.  
An admiring Langer admitted: "I felt as much pressure in that first session as when I played my first Test against one of the great West Indian attacks."  
"In 1993, for my first Test against Ambrose, Walsh, (Ian) Bishop etc, I felt so out of my depth because of the pressure they were putting on."  
"To a degree, I felt there was a similar degree of pressure being put on us by Harmison and (Andrew) Flintoff in that first session on Thursday."  
But with England's 'go-to' duo likely to shoulder a huge burden, Langer questioned whether they could sustain that form over the duration of a five-Test series.  
"We have shown over a long time that we can sustain pressure because we have got a lot of great players who know how to do that," Langer, who has scored 6,653 runs in 89 Tests at an average of over 46 with 21 hundreds, added.  
"We have a lot of experience. England have relatively less experience so our players have the ability  
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JUSTIN LANGER  
you are facing or the physical side of things. Glenn McGrath is not particularly fast and Shane Warne is not going to physically hurt you but you just can't score runs off them and that puts any batsman under huge pressure."  
The frustration for England ahead of next month's second Test at Edgbaston is that while their batsmen are struggling -- they were bowled out for under 200 in both