



## Did U Know?

During the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, 50,000 meals were prepared daily at the Olympic Village, utilizing 100 tons of food.



### Virender Sehwag

(Indian star batsman)

"Ganguly has been the most successful skipper for India, this speaks for itself."

After Sourav Ganguly was handed back the captaincy.



#### ESPN

New Zealand vs Zimbabwe

Second Test, Day One

Live at 2:00 pm

Sportscentre

Live at 2:00 pm

#### STAR Sports

England v Australia

Third Test, Day Five

Live at 3.30pm

## BD A restrict Antigua to 180

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A restricted Antigua to 180 in their limited-overs game at the Whitgift School, Croydon yesterday.

Antigua, also touring England, won the toss and decided to bat first, according to a message received here. Left-arm spinners Abdur Razzak Raj and Mehrab Hossain claimed two wickets each in the additional one-day match included in Bangladesh A's fixture in an attempt to compensate for rain-interrupted matches.

The second-string national side will play a three-day match against Kent from August 16 at Canterbury before returning home on August 21.

## Latest

STAR SPORT MONITOR

England were 241 for four, an overall lead of 383, in their second innings with 23 overs' play for the fourth day remaining in the third Ashes Test against Australia at Old Trafford on Sunday.

The hosts' total was built around a superb 106 by opener Andrew Strauss.

Ian Bell was batting on 59 while Andrew Flintoff was at the other end with 5.

## Helal confident of hosting Asian U-17 finals in 2008

SPORTS REPORTER

Iran will be the only country to contest Bangladesh's bid to host the AFC Youth Football Championship (Under-17) in 2008.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal, who returned home yesterday from Kuala Lumpur after attending a meeting of the AFC Youth Competitions Committee, said that one of the three host aspirants have already withdrawn.

"It has brightened our chances to stage the final round in 2008," Helal said.

Helal also informed that he has received positive response from representatives of Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Iran to send teams to next year's Prime Minister Gold Cup international club tournament to be held in the country.

"They have agreed to participate in the tournament and asked me to send official invitation," he added.

# League resumes Aug 17

## BFF promises to fix fixed matches



SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Division Football League will resume on August 17 after the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) high-ups promised the aggrieved clubs of sincerely looking into match fixing allegations.

Four top clubs of the country had threatened to boycott the competition but agreed to return to action after the BFF president SA Sultan assured them of finding an acceptable solution to the crisis in tomorrow's executive committee meeting at an emergency sitting with representatives of all the ten clubs involved in the Premier League at the BFF Bhaban on Sunday.

Mohammedan, Abahani, Muktioddha and Sheikh Russel have demanded punitive measures against the rest of the pack including defending champions and league leaders Brothers Union for playing fixed games. The situation boiled to the point where the BFF had to abruptly halt the league for three days.

"We will find a way to solve the

situation in Tuesday's meeting. Even if we have to form a committee, we will do that. But they should be given at least 10 to 12 days to organise things," said Sultan after yesterday's meeting.

"We have agreed to return to the field after the BFF assured us of bringing an end to this problem. They said that they would investigate the allegations and punish the culprits. It could take eight to 10 days but if the findings and the penalties are not acceptable to us, then we will boycott the league," said Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

Meanwhile, some unidentified people tried to create chaos at the field after the BFF assured us of bringing an end to this problem. They said that they would investigate the allegations and punish the culprits. It could take eight to 10 days but if the findings and the penalties are not acceptable to us, then we will boycott the league," said Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

Meanwhile, some unidentified people tried to create chaos at the field after the BFF assured us of bringing an end to this problem. They said that they would investigate the allegations and punish the culprits. It could take eight to 10 days but if the findings and the penalties are not acceptable to us, then we will boycott the league," said Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

A procession of Black and

Whites supporters forcibly entered the BFF Bhaban premises and also wanted to go inside the main building but the BFF's security staff managed to hold them off. Representatives of the fans were later allowed to meet the BFF general secretary.

The memorandum also claimed that Brothers Union influenced certain referees and assistant referees to take results in their favour.

Helal, who returned home yesterday after attending an Asian Football Confederation meeting in Kuala Lumpur, however felt that the BFF alone could not fight against the evil of match fixing.

"Influential club officials should join the BFF and the league committee to act against match fixing. If the club officials decide to stop match fixing and work together with us, I believe it would be possible to at least reduce the number of fixed matches if not eradicate them totally," said Helal.

"It is very difficult to identify fixed matches. The club officials should also change their mentality because it has been in practised here for long," he added.

# New Zealand unchanged

## Second Test against Zimbabwe starts today



AFP, Bulawayo

New Zealand have retained the side which beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 294 in the first Test at Harare for the second and final Test which starts at the Queens Sports Club here on Monday.

The Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming said the aim was to achieve consistency for the long term and he noted there was a high expectation on the players to pull off another decisive victory.

"When we came here it was straight out of the New Zealand winter and there was a lot of tension" he said.

Fleming was referring to the intensive political and moral debate

about sending a team into Robert Mugabe territory.

"But we have to rid ourselves of any possibility of dangerous complacency after defeating Zimbabwe by such a margin.

"The team is not being changed because we need to build on the excellent and consistency achieved here so far. Our batting was not top order, but we have another chance here to show our skills."

Despite the wicket being expected to take spin in the later stages this means no place for Paul Wiseman.

Craig Cumming with Kyle Mills will also have to sit out once again. Wiseman returns home ahead of the one-day international series against India and Zimbabwe here.

The Zimbabwe team for the second Test has not yet been cho-

sen. Coach Phil Simmonds said this will be announced later. "I don't like players knowing too soon whether they are in or out," he said.

Simmonds said that all 14 in the squad were fit, which might mean a place for Andy Blignaut in place of Blessing Mahwire.

Asked whether he felt personally pressured over his job after the home side was dismissed twice on one day earlier in the week, he replied: "Zimbabwe Cricket have not said anything to me. The only pressure I feel is from the players."

The captain Tatenda Taibu said he had looked carefully at constructive criticism "and ignored the garbage."

The Queens Sports Club wicket should be on the slow side, favouring batsmen except in the early

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## AFRO-ASIAN CUP

### Ashraful, Mashrafe SA-bound

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh star cricketers Mohammad Ashraful and Mashrafe-bin Mortuza left Dhaka yesterday to represent an Asian XI team in the three-match one-day series of the Afro-Asian Cup to be held in South Africa.

The first match of the newly introduced international fixture will be take place at Centurion on August 17 while the second and third games are billed for August 20, 21 respectively at Durban.

Both players have a bright chance to play in the series as some key players like India's Rahul Dravid and Sri Lankan master-blaster Sanath Jayasuriya expressed their unavailability at the last moment.

Both Ashraful and Mashrafe saw the tournament as a good opportunity to take some inspiration ahead of the forthcoming Sri Lanka tour in August-September.

"We're going to represent Bangladesh in the competition that's why our main target will be to perform if selected for the final team. But in general it gave us a opportunity to boost our morale before going to Sri Lanka," said Ashraful.

Mashrafe, who has been included in the squad after Pakistani pacer Rana Naved-ul-Hasan pulled out, also echoed his teammate's sentiments.

PANEL FINALISED

## No surprises for BCB polls

SPORTS REPORTER

After all the hype surrounding the candidature of some key posts in the ensuing Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) polls, it seems the script is going according to plan.

Although it was rumoured that the August 27 election was unlikely to see a single pro-government panel, however, that was the case when the panel was finalised after a successful meeting on Saturday night.

There was a conflict between two former advisors Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen and Mahbubul Anam but ultimately their dispute ended amicably after Shaheen was assured of getting his desired senior vice-president post.

Most of the influential officials of the including general secretary candidate Anam collected their nomination papers on Sunday.

Two vice-president candidates Shafiqur Rahman Munna and Khondokar Jamil Uddin, joint-secretary candidate Rafiqul Islam Babu and treasurer candidate Afzalur Rahman Sinha were also present.

Member candidates Mizanur Rahman, Aziz Al Kaiser, Shamim Kabir, ASM Faruque, Mizanur Rahman, Lutfur Rahman Badal, Sailab Hossain Tutul, Farhad Hossain and Mirza Salman Ispahani also collected nomination papers.

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PREMIERSHIP

## Gunners leave it late

AFP, London

Thierry Henry and Robin Van Persie broke Newcastle hearts, and their incredible resistance, with a brace of goals in the last nine minutes as Arsenal won 2-0 at Highbury on Sunday.

Newcastle were forced to play two thirds of the match with 10-men after Jermaine Jenas was dismissed in the first half.

But after battling doggedly to keep out a rampant Arsenal attack for 50 minutes, the Toon army finally succumbed when young substitute Charles N'Zogbia was harshly penalised for a trip on Freddie Ljungberg inside the penalty area.

The bustling midfielder had broken into the box and was about to shoot as he came under pressure from the French under-21 star.

Ljungberg missed his kick completely before N'Zogbia made contact and bundled him to the ground but referee Steve Bennett pointed to the spot and Henry squeezed ball low past Shay Given's despairing dive after 81 minutes.

Van Persie then rounded off a sweeping attacking move with three minutes left to put a final nail in Newcastle's coffin.

Jenas was sent off in the 32nd minute for a wild tackle on Brazil midfielder Gilberto Silva, although many in the ground felt the straight red was harsh, not least Jean-Alain Bounsomg who was booked over his protestations.

Jenas slid in from behind Gilberto and won the ball with his

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# Strauss stands up



AFP, Manchester

Andrew Strauss' Test best-score against Australia of 57 not out helped England consolidate their advantage in the third Ashes Test at Old Trafford here Sunday.

At tea, on the fourth day, England, in their second innings, were 128 for two, a lead of 170. Ian Bell was unbeaten on eight.

No side had ever made more to win in the fourth innings of an Old

Trafford Test than the 231 for three England achieved against West Indies last year.

Strauss, who completed his fifty in the last over before tea when he swept Shane Warne for four, had faced 93 balls with one six and six fours.

Earlier Sunday, England bowled out Australia for 302, a first innings lead of 142.

Glamorgan quick Simon Jones took Test-best figures of six for 53 as Warne fell 10 runs short of a maiden Test hundred.

England, looking to build on their two-run win at Edgbaston, the

closest victory in Ashes history which levelled the five-match series at 1-1, started the second session on 26 without loss.

Marcus Trescothick was 12 not out and fellow left-hander Strauss 10 not out.

Boundaries then came quickly from both batsmen. Trescothick punched fast bowler Brett Lee through the offside for four and then pulled him through square leg.

Strauss, batting with a bandaged left ear after being hit on the head for the second time in the match by Lee, before lunch, cut Australia's quickest bowler for four while Trescothick clipped Glenn McGrath through mid-wicket.

But Australia had a break when Trescothick played-on to McGrath for 41.

England captain Michael Vaughan, who made 166 in his side's first innings 444, came to the crease with his side 64 for one in the 16th over.

Warne almost had him out for seven when Vaughan's chipped drive just fell short of substitute Brad Hodge, on for Michael Clarke who was still receiving treatment for the back injury that had kept him off the field since the second over of the game, at mid-off.

Australia, who'd dropped four catches in England's first innings, saw the shoddy fielding that had been a feature of their performance this Test continue when out-of-form paceman Jason Gillespie gave away four off a Vaughan edge to third man when the ball went through his hands.

But Hodge, running round at fine leg, took a well-judged catch following a scooped hook off Lee to get rid of Vaughan for 14.

Strauss, who before lunch on one saw an edge off Lee go between motionless slips Warne and Australia captain Ricky Ponting, countered by pulling the paceman for six.

Following a rain-marred third day, Warne resumed on 78 not out and Gillespie seven not out.

But leg-spinner Warne, who on Thursday became the first bowler to take 600 Test wickets, had twice been given reprieves on 55 and 68 by wicketkeeper Geraint Jones, who missed a stumping and dropped a routine catch.

Warne's luck though ran out on 90 when, having cut Jones's first ball

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# Aussies getting older



AFP, Sydney

Impatient batting, sloppy fielding and Ricky Ponting's inferior captaincy have Australia on the brink of coming home from England without cricket's Ashes, Australian media said Sunday.

As the Australians struggled to avoid defeat in the third Old Trafford Test and fall behind 2-1 in the series with two Tests to play, local media are focusing on what has gone wrong with the one-time dominators of world cricket.

The Sunday Telegraph summed up the prevailing mood, when it said: "The cricket world officially turned upside down last night (Saturday) when Australia prayed for rain to save themselves from defeat against England."

All the cockiness and arrogance of a predicted 5-0 series drubbing has been replaced by anxiety that the Ashes are slipping away.

Australia's top-order batsmen

have been targeted as the weak link with statistics revealing that no Australian batsman has batted for longer than 154 balls in an innings in the two-and-a-half Tests so far.

"Most of blame for Australia's Ashes crisis lies squarely at the feet of the batsmen. They have had the series from hell," The Sunday Telegraph's Robert Craddock wrote.

"England have four batsmen with 190 or more runs in the series. Australia have none. Enough said. Australia's impatient batsmen have lost the knack of playing the long innings required."

"The batsmen have become conditioned to playing feeble Test attacks and they have had trouble absorbing constant pressure from both ends by England's high-class five-man attack."

Australia's deteriorating fielding has also been highlighted as a glaring weakness with England doing their homework on the each individual Australian batsman's favoured shots.

"They have tried to plug Matt Hayden's off-drive, Adam Gilchrist's

cut, Justin Langer's nudge off the hip and his square drive. They have tried to challenge Australia's ego and so far it has worked," the Sunday Telegraph said.

The Sun Herald praised England's fielding while describing Australia's outfielding as "leaden."

"The ageing Australians have been timid between the wickets and sluggish in the field, while England have been alert," the Sun Herald's analyst Peter Roebuck said.

"Australia have dropped umpire catches, behind the wickets and close to the bat. The outfielding has been leaden."

While there has been praise for bowlers Shane Warne, Brett Lee and Glenn McGrath, badly out-of-form paceman Jason Gillespie has been written off by the Australian press.

And there has been strong criticism of Ponting's leadership in comparison to England's captain Michael Vaughan.

"The series might well have been effectively over if captain Ricky

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# Clarke could be back-ed down



AFP, Manchester

Michael Clarke is set to have to cope with a debilitating back injury for the rest of his career as the Australia camp continue to search for clues to the cause of his condition.

While the middle-order batsman was battling to recover from disc irritation in his lower back in time for Australia's second innings at Old Trafford, team physiotherapist Errol Alcott revealed the problem could not be cured.

Clarke, who has suffered from back problems for three years, aggravated the injury in the field during the second over on the first day of this third Ashes Test against England when he twisted his back while throwing the ball back to wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist.

Ordered to rest in bed, Clarke was rushed to the ground from the team hotel on Friday as Australia's top order collapsed.

Batting with obvious pain and



MICHAEL CLARKE

against England quick Simon Jones. "We can't cure him, we can only treat him and make him functional again," Alcott said after Saturday's rain-interrupted third day. "I think it's

a case of back care management with him.

"Long term, I guess it's got to be of some concern to him. We're still trying to work out what's bringing on this problem."

Asked whether the 24-year-old would be ready to bat in Australia's second innings, Alcott said: "That's what we're aiming for, for him to be unencumbered with his back pain so he can actually play shots because yesterday he was experiencing some difficulty with his shots.

"I think he is coming along really well. He didn't appear to upset his condition too much from his contribution yesterday (Friday), which was fortunate for us. He is moving a lot more freely today.

"He's still got a few little signs of not being 100 percent yet but I am hopeful tomorrow he should be nearly right," he said.

As for fielding, the right-hander's situation will continue to be reviewed, while Alcott conceded Clarke's role as a part-time wrist-spin bowler was now in jeopardy for

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PHOTO: AFP

GOLDEN GIRL: Ethiopian distant-runner Tirunesh Dibaba goes on victory lap after winning the women's 5000m gold at the World Athletics Championships in Helsinki on Saturday.