



## Did U Know?

By hitting 18 sixes, Matthew Hayden of Australia was the highest six-hitter in the 2007 Cricket World Cup.



**Allan Donald**  
(England's bowling adviser)  
*"He's the best player I've ever had the pleasure of playing against. He's something special, very freakish. I think not only what he's done for the game but what he's done for his country has been absolutely phenomenal. He's just a credit to cricket."*  
**After Sachin Tendulkar crossed the landmark of scoring 11,000 Test runs.**



**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm



**B.League**  
Rahmatganj v Khulna Abahani  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Time: 4:15 pm

## Wrestling given ad-hoc committee

UNB, Dhaka

National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday announced a 21-member ad-hoc committee of Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation (BAWF) with Ashfaq Hamid as president and Advocate Mahbubul Amin as the general secretary.

The apex body of the sport in the country formed the makeshift committee under powers conferred in clause 20 A (b) of the amended NSC Act of 1974 cancelling the expired executive committee of the federation.

The members are: president Ashfaq Hamid, vice-presidents - Dr Aslam Bhuiyan, Kamrul Alam Khan and Monirul Haque, general secretary Mahbubul Alam, joint secretaries Nazrul Islam and Syed Ali Anwar, treasurer Wahiduzzaman Bhuiyan Alamgir.

Members also include Sakawat Hossain, Mohammad Alauddin, Abdul Mannan, Amjad Hossain, Swapnan Khan, Nur-e-Alam Mustafa, Rafiqul Islam Sheikh, Kazi Selina, Motiur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman and one representative each from Bangladesh Rifles, Police and Ansars.

The new committee will assume charge immediately and take necessary steps to form a full-fledged executive committee of BAWF.

## Harmy itching for action

BBC ONLINE, undated

England fast bowler Steve Harmison hopes to return to action in time to play in Durham's first appearance in a major Lord's final on 18 August.

Harmison, who had a hernia operation on 17 July, is desperate to face Hampshire in the Friends Provident Trophy final.

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# Selectors' time extended



SPORTS REPORTER

An emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will be held tomorrow, but in a quick move yesterday the new board president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali has taken the decision to extend the two selectors' tenure by a month.

The term of chief selector Faruque Ahmed and selector Athar Ali Khan has been extended till August 31 with an eye on the deadlines for naming the national squad for the ICC Twenty20 World Championship and the National Academy squad for the next month's tour of Australia.

Chief of General Staff of Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Jamali took the decision when BCB's chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman met him to inform about the current situation.

"I met the president this morning to inform him about the situation and he asked me to call an emergency board meeting on August 1 (Wednesday). There are a number

of pressing issues right now and there is a need for a quick decision about the two selectors," said Rahman yesterday.

"Our president has agreed to extend the two selectors' tenure because we have hardly any time to make a new committee ahead of the International Cricket Council's deadline (August 11) for the final squad for the Twenty20 meet. The most important thing is that now the new committee will not get enough time to think about the new selection panel," he added.

"I think it's a good decision and now the new board will get enough time for taking decision about the selection panel," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, a former Bangladesh captain and one of the members on this ad-hoc committee.

The issue of appointing a new coach for the national team is a matter that must be solved quickly by the new board. There is also a need for a new physiotherapist.

"President showed his interest about the national team and the upcoming tournament. There would be two major issues mainly discussed in the emergency meeting.

One is the appointment of a new coach and physio and the other is about the fate of the standing committees," informed Rahman.

The CEO said that he hardly knew anything about the latest development of the coach's appointment as former general secretary Mahbubul Anam looked after everything in this regard.

"Everything is not clear to me about the coach selection process. We all know there is a shortlist and the board was supposed to invite the coaches for their presentations from the last week of this month but everything has now changed," he said.

He added that there is no clear guideline in the constitution on whether the standing committees would automatically be abolished once the board was dissolved.

He also added, "Now the committee will decide whether they will form new sub-committees or continue with the existing ones. The president however wanted to know about the large number of sub-committees. As per the constitution, there should be a maximum of 17 committees."

# Vaughan keeps vigil



AFP, Nottingham

England captain Michael Vaughan was in sight of a century in the second Test but India captured the prize wicket of Kevin Pietersen as they moved closer to going 1-0 up in the three-match series at Trent Bridge here Monday.

England, at tea on the fourth day, were 221 for three in their second innings -- still 62 runs of avoiding an innings defeat.

Vaughan was 91 not out and closing in on what would be his 17th Test hundred and fourth against India. Paul Collingwood was unbeaten on 13. India struck just eight balls after lunch.

Andrew Strauss had added just one to his interval score when he was out for 55. The left-hander, trying to force a Zaheer Khan outswinger off the backfoot through the offside, edged through to wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and England were 130 for two after a second-wicket stand of 81.

Vaughan, 36 not out at lunch, was lucky when a miscued hook against left-arm quick Khan just cleared Dhoni. But a square drive off Khan saw Vaughan complete a

hundred-ball fifty with nine fours.

Pietersen dismissively pulled the first ball back from fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth through mid-on for four.

Sreesanth subsequently let loose an inswinging 'beamer' which just missed Pietersen's head. South African umpire Ian Howell signalled 'no-ball' as such deliveries are illegal under the Laws of Cricket.

The bowler raised his hand in apology and at the end of the over India captain Rahul Dravid, in a move to calm tempers, spoke to the batsmen.

It was the start of a dramatic four ball sequence for the South Africa born Pietersen. Next over left-arm quick Rudra Pratap Singh -- who ran down past the batsman during an impassioned appeal -- was convinced he had Pietersen caught behind, driving outside off-stump.

Dravid though spoke to his bowler and next ball Singh, from around the wicket and wide on the crease got a curving delivery to cut back sharply off the pitch and Pietersen, padding up, was lbw for 19 with Australian umpire Simon Taufel quickly raising his finger.

England were now 175 for three with their star batsman out cheaply before Sreesanth angered

Vaughan with a full toss that the umpires did not deem worthy of censure this time.

Monday's first session was marred by the latest of several unpleasant incidents this series when Sreesanth brushed shoulders with Vaughan and was spoken to by Howell.

By then England had lost opener Alastair Cook, lbw for the fourth successive time this series, Khan removing him for 17.

Vaughan, on 16, appeared fortunate to survive Anil Kumble's lbw appeal off the leg-spinner's first ball Monday before Strauss completed a 120-ball fifty.

India's first innings total of 481 saw five members of their top six score fifties, Sachin Tendulkar leading the way with 91. During his innings, Tendulkar became only the third batsman in history to score 11,000 Test runs.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Test between England and India at Trent Bridge on Monday:  
**ENGLAND:** First innings 198 (Zaheer Khan 4-59, Kumble 3-32)  
**INDIA:** First innings 481 (Tendulkar 91, Ganguly 79, Karthik 77, Jaffer 62, Laxman 54; Panesar 4-101, Tremlett 3-80)

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PHOTO: AFP

India wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (L) holds on to an Andrew Strauss edge as the England slip cordon begins celebration during the fourth day's play of the second Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Monday.

# Zaheer episode calmed



AFP, Nottingham

Players on both sides tried to diffuse the incident that saw the umpires intervene after India's Zaheer Khan brandished his bat at the England slip cordon at Trent Bridge on Sunday.

Khan, a ball after streakily edging through the slips for four on the third day of the second Test, appeared to take offence at a comment made to him by one of England's close fielders and waved his bat in their general direction.

South African umpire Ian Howell moved in to nip any potential trouble in the bud and, at the end of the over, both he and Australian colleague Simon Taufel spoke to

Andrew Strauss, captaining England with Michael Vaughan temporarily off the field.

When Vaughan returned, the officials spoke to him as well.

"Test cricket is a hard game," said England wicketkeeper Matt Prior. "We all want to win. You are going to have banter but nobody overstepped the mark."

Players are bound by the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct that is designed to keep on-field behaviour within acceptable bounds.

Those found to have broken the code face punishments ranging from a fine, for a minor offence, to match suspensions for more serious offences.

However, after play on Sunday, an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spokesman said he

was unaware of match referee Ranjan Madugalle calling a disciplinary hearing.

"I don't know what was said between any of the players and umpires," Prior said.

"If I'm honest with you, if I did hear anything, I'm not going to tell anyone either because what happens on the pitch stays on the pitch."

This incident was not the first time in this series that 'sledding' threatened to go beyond acceptable bounds.

During the drawn first Test at Lord's, India's Dinesh Karthik, while batting, was subjected to a stream of disparaging comments from Prior which led to a heated exchange between Vaughan and Sourav Ganguly.

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PHOTO: STAR

THE BLUES: Abahani booters (L to R, back row) Abul, Nazrul, Biplab, Pradip, Joy, Ibrahim and (front row) Abdullah Parvez, Emily, Ujjal, Siraji and Mintu pose for photograph before their last match of the B.League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Third Division Football League for the 2005-06 season is set to begin on August 16. A decision in this regard was reached during a meeting of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football League Committee at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Three grounds -- Bir Srestha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostofa Stadium at Kamalapur, Outer Stadium in Paltan and Bangladesh Army Stadium -- were selected for the matches of this competition.

**AGE-LEVEL BADMINTON**

The Rajshahi trio of Almas, Arafat and Abir won their respective matches yesterday in the junior and sub-junior badminton championship at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium.

Almas beat Asif, Arafat defeated Abid while Abir trounced Pappu in the boys' under-14 group. In the other match, Rabbi beat Ayman of Panchagarh.

In the girls' under-18 group, Nabila and Shapla won their respective matches against Elina and Rozina.

**WOMEN'S BADMINTON**

Rozina from Pabna clinched the inter-district women's competition when they beat Chittagong's Sima 5-11, 11-4 and 11-8 in the final at the Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

In the knockout competition, the two players powered their way through as they won most of their matches on straight-sets.

Rozina beat Dola of Dhaka while Sima beat Liza, also from the capital, in the semifinals.

**AGE-LEVEL SWIMMING**

Keya Cosmetics 23rd National Age Group Swimming Championship will be held at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur from August 2.

607 swimmers and 88 officials from 26 affiliated districts and 33 swimming clubs have registered to participate in the meet. 446 swimmers participated in last year's meet that featured 23 national records.

Swimming Federation general secretary Syed Aminul Haque Dewan disclosed the details of the meet at a press conference in the NSC conference room yesterday.

Of the total budget of Tk 10.73 lakh, sponsors Keya Cosmetics will provide Tk 3.5 lakh.

## Freddie works back mildly

AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff returned to action following a third ankle operation with a 40-ball innings of 25 for Lancashire in a one-day friendly win against Sri Lanka A at Liverpool on Sunday.

"He survived an early lbw shout that could have spoiled his day. He will be happy to have got his 20 odd runs because in the context of the game it wasn't a bad result for him," said Lancashire cricket boss Mike Watkinson.

Flintoff also managed to bowl a few balls in the match that the English side won by 35 runs.

# Champs Abahani sign off in style



SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's championship party turned festive as they celebrated their B. League title with a 1-0 win over Muktiyoddha in a heavyweight Dhaka derby yesterday.

Blue was the colour of the day and although the Abahani gallery only was half-full, there was no shortage of lively dancing amidst drumbeats after substitute Zahed Parvez separated the two sides in the 73rd minute.

As soon as both sides' last match of the competition finished, fans began to spray colours on each other and the officials and staff were no exception as they

garlanded the players, coach and manager at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The sky-blues, who had ensured the trophy of the inaugural professional football league in their 19th and penultimate round beating Sheikh Russel 2-0, finished on 47 points, eight points ahead of runners-up Mohammedan who have a match in hand to try and trim the

## POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Abahani	20	14	5	1	36	8	47
MSC	19	11	6	1	39	12	39
Muktiyoddha	20	9	6	5	29	19	33
Russel	19	8	8	3	22	12	32
Brothers	20	8	5	7	32	19	29
Arambagh	19	8	2	9	21	22	26
Ctg MSC	19	7	4	8	19	25	25
Farashganj	20	5	7	8	17	22	22
Ctg Abahani	20	4	3	13	18	39	15
Kin Abahani	19	3	4	12	18	43	13
Rahmatganj	19	3	4	12	15	45	13

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# Ponting hits at ICL



CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting has hit out at the proposed Indian Cricket League (ICL), saying the million-dollar series threatens to tempt ageing cricketers into early retirement while luring youngsters away from national duty.

"It's only a concern if there is huge money involved in it," Ponting said. "If this sort of stuff gets off the ground, these guys won't even be playing with their mates, they'll be

thrown into made-up teams. You'll be out there by yourself and trying to win some money," he was quoted as saying by the Herald Sun.

"The other thing being talked about is this [Allen] Stanford guy in the West Indies. The \$23 million he's said to be offering is a concern because the way I look at it is people getting towards the end of their international career will think, 'If I'm guaranteed that, this kind of money might be a good thing.'"

Ponting felt such a league suits only the likes of Brian Lara, for whom money can be a motivation to carry on for a bit longer after giving up his

international career. "I think it will only be people towards the end of their careers like Lara [who was last week signed by the ICL]. Look, it might work out really well for them -- play a bit more cricket for money on top -- but it's not something I've looked at."

Concerned about the impact that the ICL could have on youngsters, Ponting said it would hardly be of any benefit for young cricketers to play in the series, which was more of a moneymaking exercise. "I'm not sure what these 18 or 19-year-olds who

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PHOTO: STAR

Abahani fans with painted face and flags celebrate their final B.League match victory against Muktiyoddha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.