



B. League manager Abu Nayeem Sohag (R) shakes hands with Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu after receiving the registration forms in presence of the club's players for the 2008 season at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

Dhaka in Nat'l cricket final

Dhaka secured an 18-run victory against Barisal to reach the final of the 28th National Cricket Championship yesterday. Fazle made a hat-trick while man-of-the-match Saroz was the highest scorer with a 49-ball 48...

Pioneer League

Kakrabi Jubo Sangha trounced Nasirabad Udayan Sangsad 4-0 in a central zone match of the Pioneer Football League at the Basabo Tarun Sangha Club ground yesterday.

Sadhinata KS secured a solitary goal victory over Khilgaon Progati Sangsad in the zone's other match at the same venue. In south zone, GBHB defeated Dragon KC 3-1 while Tangail Football Club beat Mukta Jibon Football Club 1-0...

T20 will destroy Pakistan, says Miandad

As the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ponders on holding its own version of the Indian Premier League (IPL), former Pakistan skipper Javed Miandad denounced the idea saying such a move would destroy the game in the country. Miandad said the IPL is nothing but entertainment and lacks quality.

A Jankovic warning

World number three Jelena Jankovic warned Monday that she is ready to fill the gap left by retired queen of clay Justine Henin. Jankovic, who reached the semifinals here 12 months ago, enjoyed a 7-6, 6-2 first round victory over Romanian lucky loser Monica Niculescu.

Bilic eyes tactical tweak

Croatia manager Slaven Bilic will be tempted to adjust the team's formation for the Euro 2008 finals after their unimpressive 1-0 friendly win over Moldova. The Croatians lacked firepower up front on Saturday and were forced to hang on in the closing stages of their penultimate warm-up for the June 7-29 tournament in Switzerland and Austria...

W Indies stare at defeat

FROM PAGE 17 But Australia could not complete the demolition job before lunch, since Sammy joined Ramdin at the crease, and they batted through the last hour before the interval to stem the fall of wickets. Wicketkeeper Brad Haddin dropped Ramdin on one off Lee, and short leg fielder Phil Jaques dropped Darren Sammy on four off leg-spin bowler Stuart MacGill...

me a lot. I really feel the improvement. Jankovic admitted that her confidence had taken a battering following a series of poor results which had led her to consider quitting. 'Many of us go into some kind of a bad period. All of a sudden I got sick and I started losing so many times. I couldn't accept that, and I wanted to stop playing tennis. I wanted to hang my racket on the wall and say goodbye to the sport. I was depressed. I didn't know how to get out of it. At that time, it's very important to have a good supportive system. My family was very close to me, and they always believed in me and always gave me some kind of hope and belief that I can come back, and then I become even better player than I am now.'

Rajasthan take

FROM PAGE 17 attack for his much-anticipated showdown with Tendulkar. Warner varied his flight well but was competently handled by Tendulkar, who kept tucking him away to the leg side. SCORES IN BRIEF MUMBAI INDIANS: 145 for 7 in 20 overs (Jayasuriya 38, Tendulkar 30, Nayar 25, Takawale 24 not out, extras 13; Navin 4-14, Trivedi 2-31, Warner 1-30) RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 146 for 5 in 20 overs (Patel 40 not out, Jadeja 23 not out, Akmal 18, Watson 18, Asnodkar 17, Kaif 12, extras 16; Fernando 2-27, Raju 1-37) Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 5 wickets. Man-of-the-match: Sohail Tanvir. Toss: Rajasthan Royals. Umpires: Billy Bowden and Krishna Bhartharan.

Pakistan safe for Asia Cup

FROM PAGE 17 Security has been top of the agenda for international teams touring Pakistan in recent years. Australia put off their March-April 2008 tour to the country over security fears amid a series of suicide bombings. However security has improved since national elections held on February 18, prompting Australia to reschedule their tour in two phases. They will tour Pakistan for a one-day series in 2009 and then for Tests the following year. Huq announced that an awards ceremony will also be held during the Asia Cup to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ACC's formation. 'Awards will be given to top Asian cricketers and administrators of the past and present to mark the occasion and for this a four-member committee has also been formed,' said Huq.

Bangladesh runners-up

Bangladesh finished runners-up in the 3rd South Asian Women's Handball Championship when they lost the final to hosts India in Lucknow on Sunday. On way to clinch their third consecutive title, India secured a 29-15 victory against Bangladesh in the final after leading the first half 14-6. Sheela scored five goals and Maina added four for Bangladesh, who became runners-up for third successive occasions. Pakistan finished third in the four-nation meet beating Nepal in a play-off. Champions India received 25,000 Indian Rupees while runners-up Bangladesh got 20,000 Rupees as prize money. Meanwhile, during the competition the executive committee meeting of the South Asian Handball Federation was held in Lucknow. It decided to hold the South Asian Men's Beach Handball Championship in Faisalabad in Pakistan from June 27 to June 29 and the 3rd Men's Handball Championship in the Indian town of Ludhiana in the last week of December this year. Vice-president of Bangladesh Handball Federation and team leader Principal Hamida Ali and federation assistant general secretary Nurul Islam represented Bangladesh in the meeting.

Alam creates a piece of history

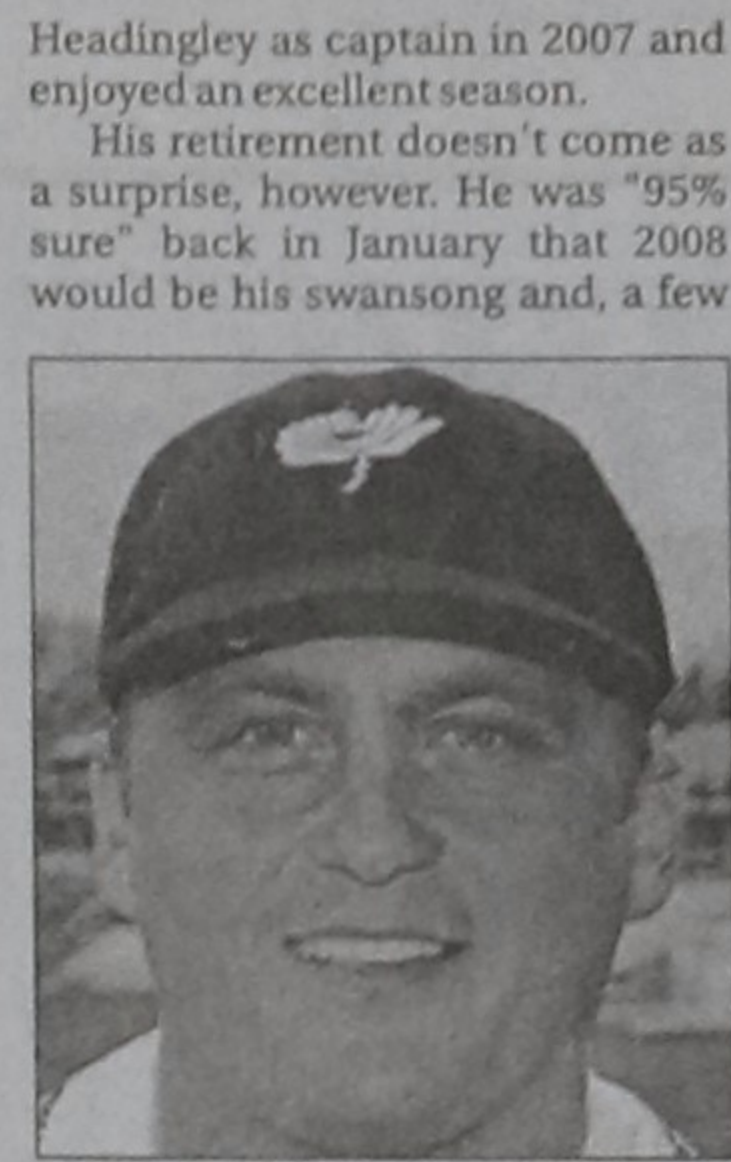
Nepal's Mahaboo Alam made cricket history as he took all 10 Mozambique wickets for just 12 runs in their WCL Division Five game in Jersey on Sunday. Alam's performance was the best bowling in a limited-overs international at any level and the first all-10 in any International Cricket Council Affiliates or Associates competition. African side Mozambique were bowled out for 19 in 14.5 overs at Grainville as Nepal won by 219 runs. He told the tournament website: 'I never thought I would get 10 wickets.' The 26-year-old continued: 'I managed to get the ball to swing for me and then I thought I was in with a chance of getting wickets. Once I got my eighth wicket, I thought I could get all 10 in the match. I did think the bowler at the end may get one or two wickets as he was getting the ball to skid on but fortunately for me he couldn't get a wicket. I am very happy.' There were nine ducks in the Mozambique innings, with only Syed Shah (nine) and Shoaib Younus (two not out) getting off the mark. This record overtakes the previous best of nine for 16 set by Debu Eliaba of the Cook Islands against New Caledonia in 2002.

C'paul feared of being paralysed

Veteran West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul on Sunday said the fear of being completely paralysed passed through his mind after he was struck on the helmet by a deadly Brett Lee delivery in the first Test against Australia in Kingston. The accident instantly floored Chanderpaul, batting on 86 during West Indies' first innings on Saturday, and the left-hander had no feeling in his limbs. 'I did not know where I was, my entire body went numb,' Chanderpaul said. 'I could not move my hands and I could not move my feet. However, I told myself if I left the field I would have been in a bad state,' Chanderpaul was quoted as saying in 'The Australian'. While his wife was in tears in the grandstands, a brave Chanderpaul, after getting medical care, recovered from the severe blow to score a much-needed century (118) at the Sabina Park to keep his side in contention in the match. Banking on his innings, the hosts made a good recovery and challenged the mighty Australians in the series opener. Paying tributes to Chanderpaul's heroics, Lee compared the innings to that of Steve Waugh at the same venue in 1995, when the ex-Australian skipper was completely bruised and battered after getting his double hundred. 'When I went down to Shiv he was looking straight up and said he couldn't feel his arms or his feet,' Leesaid. 'You have to think about when the great Steve Waugh, when he got his 200, the stuff that he went through when he copped a massive blow, but he gused it out and batted on. Full credit to Shiv and I'm actually really glad that there's a lot more protection for batsmen,' he said.

Gough goes at year end

Headingley as captain in 2007 and enjoyed an excellent season. His retirement doesn't come as a surprise, however. He was '95% sure' back in January that 2008 would be his swansong and, a few weeks ago, he told The York Press that he was keen to bow out on his own terms. 'I had a great year last year. I got 70-odd wickets and did pretty well - very well because I was the top wicket-taker,' he said. 'I've never been one for a big fanfare. When I quit Test cricket, I made my decision. I didn't tell anyone that I was retiring after the next Test, I didn't go around waving my bat in the air. I went home and I rang David Graveney, then chairman of selectors, and said: 'Thanks mate, that's it. There was no send off. That's the way that I want to be.' 'It would be nice to finish the last game with a five-for and a century with the bat, but it doesn't always work that way.' When he first arrived in international cricket, there was genuine hope he might turn into a promising all-rounder with 65 on debut against New Zealand, and a crowd-pleasing 51 in Sydney during the 1994-95 Ashes. He may not have had the fleetest of footwork at the crease, but his twinkle toes were good enough for him to win the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing competition in 2005, and again in 2007.



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Capello wants glory

England coach Fabio Capello has said he believes he can take England to the World Cup final for the first time since they became world champions under Alf Ramsey in 1966. 'I think I can take England further than Bobby Robson in 1990, why not? We need to be ambitious,' Capello said in an FA statement. 'I have always wanted to arrive at the top. I have been with Roma, Juventus, Milan, Real Madrid and always wanted to go to the very top. I don't understand why people feel differently.' Capello, who took over the England team in January after they were eliminated from next month's Euro 2008 finals, has been in charge for two matches. He made his statement to the English FA's Web site (www.thefa.com) before friendlies against the United States and Trinidad & Tobago over the next week. Since England won the World Cup almost 42 years ago the nearest they have been to the final was 18 years ago when Bobby Robson's side lost to West Germany on penalties in the 1990 semi-finals in Italy. Capello won his first match in charge of England when they beat Switzerland 2-1 at Wembley before losing 1-0 to France in Paris. He has three more friendlies, including a game against the Czech Republic in August, before the start of England's World Cup qualifying campaign. 'We have good material here and have been competitive against every team. My ambition is to arrive at the top. You have to work to change the mentality. I believe we can do that but the players must also believe. By September I will have the full picture.' He also said he was keen for the national side to start doing as well as club teams in Europe after Manchester United and Chelsea played out the first all-English Champions League final last week. 'You have to transmit the same ambitions to the England team,' he said. 'When a player puts on the England shirt you have to play with a certain kind of spirit and that is very important.' England meet the U.S. at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday before flying to Trinidad & Tobago for next Sunday's friendly.

Strauss steers England

FROM PAGE 17 his second century in three Tests when he was caught by Ross Taylor, driving low to his left at first slip, off O'Brien to leave England 235 for three. England resumed in blustery conditions Monday on 76 for one, Strauss 27 not out and Vaughan unbeaten on 12. It looked as if they might get through the morning without losing a wicket until Vaughan was caught behind for 48 after a second-wicket stand of 90. Left-arm spinner Vettori, who had taken five wickets in the first innings, remained a threat. But Strauss and Vaughan, unlike England's batsmen in the first innings, were run hard to take singles and turn ones into twos. There was a sense of momentum shifting and McCullum, in an echo of England's poor outfielding, saw a wild shy at the stumps go for four overthrows. All-rounder Jacob Oram, whose eight first-innings overs cost five runs, was brought into the attack with England 119 for one. He hadn't bowled at all Sunday after landing awkwardly on his shoulder during fielding practice and injuring his neck. But the medium-pacer twice beat Vaughan outside off-stump in his first over Monday. However, it was the introduction of pace bowler Chris Martin that led to a wicket when Vaughan, driving loosely, was caught behind to leave England 150 for two. England had been in a struggling position after conceding a lead of 179 on first innings. This was the 11th straight Test where they failed to reach the first innings benchmark total of 400. But Panesar, 25 of whose 101 Test wickets have come at Old Trafford, gave the batsmen a chance to make amends after Taylor had set-up New Zealand's strong early position with a career-best 154 not out. The third Test starts at Trent Bridge on June 5. SCOREBOARD Final scorecard on the fourth day of the second Test between England and New Zealand at Old Trafford in Manchester on Monday: NEW ZEALAND: First innings 381 (Taylor 154 not out, How 64, Mills 57; Anderson 4-118) ENGLAND: First innings 202 (Strauss 60; Vettori 5-66, O'Brien 3-49) NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 114 (Panesar 6-37) ENGLAND: Second innings (over-night 76-1)

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like Cook, Marshall, Vettori, Panesar, Oram, etc.

Do-or-die for Chennai

Kings' chances of making the last four after Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men narrowly lost the match against the Rajasthan Royals on Saturday. The Chennai team has 14 points from seven wins and six defeats in the tournament so far. The visitors start favourites against the Adam Gilchrist-led hosts, who are no longer in the race for the title after losing 11 of their 13 matches and finishing last. The hosts, however, will play for pride as they aim to post their maiden win at home.

The England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) board of directors will meet on Thursday to discuss radical changes to the English domestic structure, in response to the hype surrounding the Indian Premier League and the huge global success of Twenty20. Among the ideas being mooted are, according to today's Guardian, a 21-team Twenty20 league and a revamped Pro40 competition of two 20-over innings per side, as well as a return to the three-day Championship. Perhaps most notable is the plan to divide the Championship into three conferences, with southern, midland and northern divisions.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes clues for Across and Down words like 'Fleet', 'Land', 'Satan's purchase', etc.

CRYPTOQUIP. Includes a grid of letters and a clue: 'Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T'.