



The victorious Australian cricket team pose with the Frank Worrell Trophy after they clinched the series 2-0 against West Indies at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Monday.

V'ball camp concludes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A volleyball training program concluded at the Moukhara High School playground in Baraigram upazila of Natore on Tuesday.

Italy into last 8

FROM PAGE 17 minutes and with over an hour's play left here Domenech decided to shore up his defence, taking off Nasri for Jean-Alain Boumsong.

Coupet then performed wonders to tip out with his fingers Fabio Grosso's 25m freekick.

Dutch make

FROM PAGE 17 predatory instincts by getting in front of his marker to prod past Lobont for his eighth goal in what was only his 13th international appearance.

Sreesanth out

FROM PAGE 17 the loss against Chennai Super Kings. He featured in all 15 of Punjab's matches during the IPL, and finished with 19 wickets in the tournament, making him the joint-second highest wicket-taker with Shane Warne, and three behind Sohail Tanvir's 22.

'Winning matters'

AFP, Bridgetown

Ricky Ponting admits that Australia are clearly in transition, but he emphasises that they continue to win Test matches and Test series which is very important.

Australia completed an 87-run victory in the third and final Test against West Indies on Monday at Kensington Oval.

Pawar still BCCI chief

CRICINFO, undated

Sharad Pawar, the BCCI president and ICC vice-president, can continue as the Indian board's president till his term ends in September as it has emerged that an ICC rule barring dual roles does not apply to a president-elect.

However, the ICC has clarified that the freeze on holding dual posts currently applies only to the post of president, and does not include the vice-president or president-elect.

The second Test at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in the Antigua village of North Sound was drawn.

something about which I am pretty happy." Ponting noted that his side learned quite a lot from the series, particularly ahead of their next Test tour to India.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will play their third group match today against hosts Singapore in the 3rd Men's AHP Cup Hockey Championship.

Bangladesh has maintained an unbeaten record in the tournament by beating Brunei 6-1 and Chinese Taipei 3-2 in their first two encounters. They will meet Uzbekistan in the last group match tomorrow.

Four top finishers of the nine-team competition will qualify for the 10-team Asia Cup along with India, Pakistan, South Korea, China, Malaysia and Japan, six seeded nations.

Tongi Kirita Chakra rode on Jamal's first-half strike to beat Gazipur XI 1-0 in a North Zone match of the Pioneer Football League at the Mohakhali T/T ground.

Jamal scored the match-winner in the 30th minute. At the same venue, Kalachandpur XI meet Maghbaraz Sabuj Sangha and Khelaghar KS take on Modhubagh Friends Club today.

In the West Zone play-off match, Lalbagh Tarun Sangha will face Manik Smriti Sangha.

WOMEN'S HANDBALL The final round of the Exim Bank 19th National Women's Handball Championship has been deferred by 13 days.

The four-day final round was scheduled to start yesterday but now it will kick off on June 30 at the Mirpur Indoor.

A total of 12 teams, including defending champions B/MC, Ansar VDP and Dhaka will play in the final round along with Rajshahi, Joypurhat, Tangail, Narail, Faridpur, Jessore, Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Chittagong, the nine qualifiers.

BASKETBALL COURSE The Olympic Solidarity Basketball Coaches Course concluded at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium on Tuesday.

Marzan Novobich conducted the 15-day course.

FIRST DIV KABADDI The First Division Kabaddi League get underway tomorrow at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Ten teams, split into two groups, will compete on a single league and later two group champions will play the final.

The champions will be elevated to the Premier League while the bottom side demoted to the Second Division.

Dhaka Wanderers, Sreezoni Sangsad, Ali Sporting Club, Maniknagar Kabaddi and Dhalpur Krija Chakra are in Group A while Matuail Milan Smriti Sangsad, Diamond Sporting Club, Dhalpur Satadal Sangsad, Maniknagar Unnyan Samity and Signa Sangha are pitted in group B.

Camp for young athletes soon UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF) will soon arrange a training camp with the potential athletes for higher intensive training.

BAAF general secretary Mosharraf Hossain Shamim said that they would pick some potential athletes from the recently concluded senior and junior meets and would conduct a two-month training program.

He also informed that they have already received donation of Tk 2.5 lakh from National Sports Council (NSC) to meet the cost of the camp.

The date and venue of the camp are yet to be finalised, but the training camp is supposed to be held in BKSP, he added.

Yusuf wants FROM PAGE 17 August and October this year under a local expert but a foreign coach could take over in early 2009 for preparation for next year's South Asian Games in Dhaka and the sixth SAFF Championship in India.

Teammates fret FROM PAGE 17 spearheaded the Pakistani attack in Asif's absence, Lawson said the two needed more time before rising to Asif's stature.

"They are good but I would still love to see Asif back in the side," he stated. Asif's case is being heard by the Dubai Attorney General and is expected to take another 10 to 12 days before it is decided if the pacer would be charged or released.

Lawson said Pakistan's defeat to India in the tri-series group match was due to the fact that in the last few months Shaheeb Malik's men had been playing weak oppositions in Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.

"I think switching from the twenty20 format to one-dayers took some time for the players and that led to our big defeat," he said.

C'Ron closer to MU exit

AFP, London

Cristiano Ronaldo appears to be edging closer to joining Real Madrid after reports in England on Tuesday claimed the Manchester United winger is ready to demand a transfer after Euro 2008.

Ronaldo has made it clear he would like to sign for the Spanish champions if they meet his wage demands, but United are determined to keep the Portugal winger.

United reportedly Real to UEFA for trying to unsettle their prize asset but Bernd Schuster's club are still ready to make Ronaldo the highest paid player in the world if he can persuade United to bow to his wishes.

That has led to a stand-off between the two clubs that Ronaldo appears set to resolve himself.

KP a freak: Shah

AFP, Chester-le-Street

Owais Shah has no plans to copy the switch-hitting exploits of Kevin Pietersen despite seeing his 'freak' of an England teammate strike two sixes batting 'left-handed'.

Pietersen, who twice turned round to middle the stunning blows off medium-pace Scott Styris during a superb innings of 110 not out in the first one-day international against New Zealand here Sunday, may not have many more chances for such improvisation.

The legitimacy of Pietersen's 'reverse slog sweep' is to be debated at a meeting of MCC, cricket's lawmakers, at Lord's on Tuesday.

He could be set to hand in a transfer request or even refuse to report for pre-season training according to the Times, who report that Ronaldo told a source he "would do everything in his power to persuade United to sell".

The former Sporting Lisbon star is expected to issue a further statement, outlining his intentions as soon as he finishes with Portugal's Euro campaign.

Ronaldo only signed his current 120,000 pounds a week contract with United 16 months ago but he could expect to at least double that sum if he switched to the Bernabey.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson claimed earlier this month that he would let Ronaldo rot in the reserves rather than be bullied into selling him. He is unlikely to be tempted to

change his mind by reports that Real are ready to offer Brazil winger Robinho as part of the deal.

With Ronaldo apparently determined to quit, the saga could turn ugly.

The Daily Mirror reports that a close friend said: "Ronaldo has made his mind up now and feels it is just time to wait before he announces what he will do - which is to go to Madrid."

"The announcement about Cristiano's future will be the next step, but it won't happen until the end of Euro 2008 for him and Portugal.

"He is determined to be the best of his own future. The decision has been made and now it's a case of everybody getting in position for the future - even if United aren't yet ready to sit down and talk to Real."

Cratics such as former England captain Michael Atherton say the shot gives batsmen an unfair advantage over bowlers, who must tell the umpire with which hand they will be delivering the ball or risk being penalised.

But Shah, whose rapid 49 off 25 balls with three sixes and four fours, helped power England to a total of 307 for five, is unconcerned by issues of cricketing legality.

The talented Middlesex batsman just doesn't fancy his chances of copying Pietersen, who also struck his fair share of conventional boundaries during his first one-day international century in England.

"It was a wonderful innings by Kevin to get the right balance between orthodox and very unorthodox," said Shah, who helped Pietersen add 73 in just 35 balls in a match England went on to win by a huge margin of 114 runs.

"There were some unbelievable shots, but he's just a freak," said Shah, who on Sunday's evidence has no need to play anyone else's game.

"I'll leave that all to him because I don't know if I could do that -- I just try to play with a straight bat."

Pietersen also won support from an unlikely source in New Zealand batsman Daniel Flynn.

"I don't see why he should be restricted in playing it so fair play to him," said the left-hander. "I've tried hitting right-handed shots myself but I can't hit them as well as that."

He added: "I'm left-handed in nearly everything I do -- golf, cricket everything except kicking a ball -- so I appreciate how good a shot that was."

Police imposed a security lockdown as the Olympic torch Tuesday started its run through China's mainly Muslim region of Xinjiang, seen as one of the most sensitive legs on its nationwide journey.

The centre of the regional capital Urumqi was largely shut down and police checkpoints restricted movement throughout the normally bustling city.

Police imposed particularly heavy security at the central People's Square, where Tuesday's relay kicked off, and anyone entering had to go through metal detectors and bag searches.

The flame's passage through Xinjiang and the Tibetan regions of China are considered the most sensitive of the three-month journey to the Beijing Games in August because of simmering discontent among local ethnic groups.

The three-day, four-city Xinjiang leg began with a 12-kilometre (7.5-mile) relay through Urumqi from People's Square, regarded as a symbol of Communist religion in the city.

The crowd, numbering about 3,000, chanted "Go, China" and "Go, Olympics" as the relay got underway under sunny skies. Many had stickers of the Chinese flag on their cheeks.

They were overwhelmingly Han Chinese, with only a tiny number of Uighurs, the largest ethnic group in the region.

Leading away from the square, the crowds lining the route were also mostly Chinese, many of them young people given a break from their studies, as well as government employees.



Uighur students perform during Olympic torch relay festivities at the People's Square in Urumqi, capital of China's northwestern Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword grid with clues: ACROSS 39 Energy, 1 Take to the pool, 5 Sprite, 8 Carrots' males, 12 Stash, 13 Wire measure, 14 Carry on, 15 Vicinity, 16 She's not fair, 18 Scroll, 20 No liability, 21 "Town", 22 Addams cousin, 23 Offspring, 26 Meditated, 30 Glooming need, 31 Author, 32 Hostel, 33 Porter's place, 36 Bamboo eater, 38 Clay alias.

Cryptokuip grid with clues: LE O XOWGVOKK APNHFNGN, BHZKR WANLVGX HZA OKK APG, XOAAGNW, FHZKR APOA, COVG PLC TLABPGN-TGNEGBA?

Yesterday's Cryptokuip: THE MATHEMATICIAN HAD A REALLY UNREALISTIC HOPE. I RECKON YOU COULD CALL IT "PI IN THE SKY". Today's Cryptokuip Clue: K equals L