



Players and officials of Usha Krira Chakra receive a trophy from BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed (2nd from L), BSJA president Monjurul Haq (far left) and Bangladesh Hockey Federation vice-president Khondokar Jamiluddin (l) at a reception in the NSC Tower yesterday.

BSJA honours Usha, players

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) accorded a reception to the Premier Hockey League champions Usha Krira Chakra and top performers of the meet at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room yesterday.

Usha midfielder Zahidul Islam Rajan was selected best player while runners-up Abahani's Mamunur Rahman Chayan received the award for the highest scorer.

Mohammedan's Mehrab Hossain Kiran and Syed Al Masum and Krishna Kumar of Sonali Bank were adjudged best promising players.

Recently retired national player and Usha's Rafiqul Islam Kamal, Shamsuddin Tuhin, BSJA president Monjurul Haq, general secretary of the organisation Syed Mohammad Mamun, Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) general secretary Sajid A Adel, and Usha's general secretary Rashid Sikdar.

Apart from current and former hockey players, secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Kutubuddin Ahmed was present as chief guest while BHF vice-president Khondokar Jamiluddin also attended the function.

CA for Test C'ship

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Cricket Australia chief executive officer James Sutherland has pushed for the introduction of the Test Championship after the end of the current Future Tours Programme (FTP). In his address to the International Cricket Council (ICC) Members' Forum, he also stressed the need to ensure that the Twenty20 format "complements, and not compromises" international cricket.

"Let's face it, generally speaking, the FTP is currently a hot-potch of bilateral tour arrangements that, given the current volume of international cricket, produces matches that no longer linger in the memory or have lasting meaning," he said.

Cricket Australia stated that the championship, leading to semi-finals and a final, and a world champion in each four-year cycle, would provide the context which Test cricket currently lacked.

While Twenty20 is proving to be immensely popular and lucrative, Sutherland emphasised the importance of international cricket. "It is not

Essex take on Kent in FP Trophy final

AFP, London

England opener Alastair Cook warmed-up for next week's first Test against South Africa by making 95 for Essex as they beat Yorkshire by 87 runs to reach the Friends Provident (FP) Trophy final.

Not known for his ability as a one-day batsman, Cook's innings was the centrepiece of Essex's 285 for eight in 50 overs with the left-hander striking 10 fours in his 127-ball stay.

Graham Napier, who last month struck a Twenty20 world record 16 sixes in an innings of 152 not out, added late impetus with 61 off just 34 balls.

Yorkshire captain Darren Gough, who had a brief spell with Essex before the former England fast bowler returned to his native county, saw his hopes of a Lord's final in his last season retirement dashed by a batting collapse.

The visitors were bowled out for 198 with Yorkshire losing their nine wickets for 58 runs in 13 overs.

Essex will now play southern neighbours Kent in the final at Lord's on August 16.

Some good

FROM PAGE 17 have enough time to practice before the tough tour. We have to work hard and without that we cannot improve our performances. It is really nice that some of our players get the opportunity to play few matches in England with the A team," he said.

Tamim, Nazimuddin, Rokibul, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mosharraf Hossain and Dollar Mahmud will fly to England on July 9 along with all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who did not play the tri-series and Asia Cup due to HSC examination, and Sajidul Islam to join the A team.

The rest of the Tigers get back to business on July 14.

ACC awards

FROM PAGE 17 The three Lankans who walked away with top awards were wicketkeeper-batsman Kumar Sangakkara (Best Asian Test batsman), spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan and Farveez Maharoof who were named the best Asian Test and ODI bowlers respectively.

The ACC also gave away a special award of 'best administrator' to Colonel (ret'd) Nur Khan, former president of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), who played a significant role in forming the ACC.

The septuagenarian Nur Khan who took his award from former Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga got a standing ovation from the gathering at the ceremony.

Khan, who had also remained president of Pakistan Hockey and Squash Federations, is credited of playing a big role in promoting Pakistan and Indian cricket at the world level and also producing a lineage of great sportsmen.

ACC CEO Syed Ashraful Huq, who was also the former general secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), was awarded for lifetime achievement in cricket administration.

PCB chairman Nasim Ashraf, who took over as ACC president, said the awards were meant to honour and recognise the outstanding performers of the continent.

"Our sportsmen need to be recognised and rewarded for their achievements specially when Asia has now become a powerhouse in world cricket," he said.

Rafael furious

FROM PAGE 17 was strange," Nadal wrote in his official website blog.

"It's too much. I am a person that always works with media, does interviews with them, works closely with them, but I don't find it fair that when I have a few hours free, with my family, simply going for dinner, they persecute me and get those pictures that they sell."

"I am a public figure, I understand, but I don't live off publicity. I live off what I do on court. I work there. I am not complaining since it is not my style, and I am not going to hide and not go out because there might be paparazzi but I just find it unfair."

"But as I say this is the way it is and hopefully society will one day go against this kind of people."



Did U Know?

Miss C Dod of Great Britain is the youngest women's singles title winner at the Wimbledon Championships. She earned this feat at the age of 15 years, 285 days in 1887.

NZ's Zim tour on as yet

Cricket

REUTERS, Wellington

New Zealand's cricket team will tour Zimbabwe next year unless they are expressly instructed not to do so, New Zealand Cricket's (NZC) chief executive has said.

The New Zealand government, which is a vocal critic of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's regime, has said they were opposed to the tour of the southern African state next year but would not intervene.

All teams are bound by the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Future Tours Programme, which has the power to fine a country's cricketing body a minimum of 2 million dollars (1 million pounds) if they do not fulfil their touring obligations.

Only government intervention, concerns for security and safety or an ICC directive can excuse the team's obligations.

Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the main opposition, withdrew from the election following attacks on his sup-

porters. The England and Wales Cricket Board cancelled Zimbabwe's 2009 tour of England and severed all cricketing ties with the country in June on instruction from the British government.

Zimbabwe said this week it would skip next year's Twenty20 World Cup in Britain, because the players were unlikely to be granted visas.

Vaughan admitted there was still at least a year to go until the Black Caps were scheduled to tour Zimbabwe and NZC would wait and see if the situation changed.

"The tour to Zimbabwe is a year away," he said. "There'll be another ICC conference before then; undoubtedly, a lot will change in Zimbabwe in the next year, and by that time the ICC sub-committee appointed to investigate ZC will have reported back, and we'll have a clearer idea of the situation."

"You never know, we might not have to make a decision. Time is on our side at the moment."

A Vaughan vow

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Michael Vaughan has insisted his longstanding knee problem won't prevent him from getting through all four Tests of the upcoming series with South Africa after undergoing a fresh course of injections on Saturday.

The team head to Lord's for next week's opener with Vaughan's right knee again a talking point.

There were danger signs for England when their captain was visibly in pain during Yorkshire's County Championship defeat against Durham where he had to have ice treatment on his troublesome joint and sat out the final afternoon.

But Vaughan, who has played 15 consecutive Test since returning in the last English season after an 18-month injury-induced exile, said Saturday: "It is nothing new, nothing different."

"When you have a chronic knee, there are going to be odd days when it doesn't feel as good as others and the good thing about it is I know how to manage that situation."

"I have no doubt whatsoever I will play a full part in the series and move like I did against New Zealand, which was very, very well."

The 33-year-old added: "I have

no fear I won't be able to do the same, starting on Thursday, and then all the Test matches against South Africa."

Vaughan's knee once more proved cause for concern on the eve of the third Test against New Zealand.

Although he played in that match, he then missed a couple of Twenty20 games for Yorkshire and then opted out of the county's Friends Provident Trophy semi-final defeat against Essex on Saturday for his latest set of injections.

"I have courses of injections in the knee, which aren't cortisone injections, it is just a fluid called Ostinol which lubricates the joint and makes it a bit easier to move around," Vaughan explained.

"The best way to describe it is it's like oiling your limbs; you have a course of three over six months and you feel fine. It is something I have had over the year."

He added: "It was felt this was a period in which I was going to need one of these injections and also to put myself back into the four and five-day mode."

"I have to manage the knee, which means missing the odd game for Yorkshire, for what is the bigger picture, and that is Test match cricket for me."

England are on the verge of creating Test history by fielding the

same side for the sixth successive match with all-rounder Andrew Flintoff not yet deemed fit enough for the rigours of a five-day encounter following a side strain.

However, there is every chance the star of England's victorious 2005 Ashes campaign, could return for his first Test in over a year when the second match of this series starts at Headingley in under a fortnight.

And Vaughan is adamant Flintoff's looming presence will not inhibit the likes of under-pressure middle-order batsmen Ian Bell and Paul Collingwood.

"Everyone will be playing next week with the knowledge that Andrew Flintoff will have to be fitted into this England team when he's available, fit and ready to play."

"That should drive you on, to make sure you're not that one person who misses out."

England, who have won four of their last five Tests, all against the Kiwis, are expecting a tougher challenge from Graeme Smith's men and Vaughan believes it is just what the team need ahead of next year's home Ashes series.

"I think it has come at the right time for us to be tested against probably one of the top two teams in the world as we speak," Vaughan said.

"Australia is just a year away and this is just the kind of side we want to be playing."

Nestor, Zimonjic win Wimbledon doubles crown

AFP, London

Canada's Daniel Nestor and Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia won the Wimbledon men's doubles title on Saturday with a 7-6 (14/12), 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-3 win over Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and Kevin Ullyett of Zimbabwe.

It was the first Grand Slam title as a pair for Nestor and Zimonjic and denied Bjorkman, who will retire at the end of the year, a fairytale finish to his Wimbledon career.

Nadal finally

FROM PAGE 17

while Federer fought off two in the 11th and three more in the 15th but cracked to give the Spaniard an 8-7 lead.

Nadal went to a third match point which was saved with a inch-perfect backhand.

An unreturned serve gave him a fourth match which he converted to victory when Federer netted a backhand.

Four confirm Fed Cup participation

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Victoria Sporting Club confirmed their participation in the Federation Cup Football that will begin at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on July 31.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedi confirmed the four teams' participation while talking with the reporters at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

Eleven B. League clubs will take part in the Federation Cup and besides BFF also invited six senior division clubs and four services teams to take part in the meet.

Beijing Olympics stamps released

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Postal Department yesterday issued a set of four commemorative stamps and the first day cover marking the 29th Olympic Games to be held in Beijing from August 8 this year.

Chief Adviser's Special Assistant for Posts and Telecommunication Ministry Brig Gen (ret'd) MA Malek formally released the commemorative stamps at a simple function at the conference room of Postal Bhaban.

Chaired by Director General of Postal Department Mobasher Rahman, the function was addressed by Posts and Telecommunication secretary Iqbal Mahmud, CEO of Bangladesh Olympic Association Col (ret'd) M Wali Ullah and philatelist AKM Anwarul Qadir.

Speaking on the occasion, CA's special assistant Malek announced that from this year, the Postal Department would observe the 'National Stamp Day' marking the historic occasion when the first postage stamp of independent Bangladesh was released on July 29, 1971.

The four commemorative stamps of Tk 10, 15, 20 and 25 denominations along with the first day cover (Tk 8) went on sale from Sunday at the four GPOs in the country.

Later, these stamps will go on sale in all the post offices.

Zim pullout

FROM PAGE 17

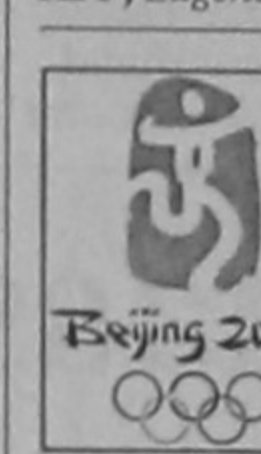
Chingoka's role in effecting a resolution, and said politics must be kept out of cricket. "We cannot as a sports governing body be mixing the issues of politics with sport," Lorgat told the Gulf News. "I was very encouraged by the robustness of the debate around the executive board table but at the end of the day the issues of politics and sport should be kept separate."

"The Zimbabwe Cricket Board president Peter Chingoka helped broker the solution. It would have been extremely difficult if Chingoka was not in favour of the recommendation," he said. "I'm now confident that with the goodwill that has come through in the process of our deliberations, everybody will look at the big picture."

Zimbabwe Cricket will have to ratify the decision made by their delegation. An ICC sub-committee will oversee Zimbabwe's reintegration into mainstream cricket, and possibly the Future Tours Programme. The committee will be headed by Julian Hunte, the president of the West Indies Cricket Board, and will include Arjuna Ranatunga, the president of Sri Lanka Cricket, and an ICC official yet to be confirmed.

Gay out of 200m

AFP, Eugene



World champion Tyson Gay fell in the curve of his 200-metre quarterfinal heat Saturday at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials, ending his bid for a 100-200 double at the Beijing Olympics.

Gay, who last weekend ran the fastest 100 under any conditions in a wind-aided 9.68 seconds to win the final, tumbled to the track with a possible hamstring injury that could mean he would miss out on the Olympics altogether.

Gay, who won the 100 and 200 at last year's worlds, was in lane seven in the first heat of the 200 quarterfinal. He sped out of the blocks but within a few steps went down to the amazement of more than 20,000 at Hayward Field.

He was helped off the track but it was not immediately known how severe the injury that sent him tumbling to the track had been.

At the very least, it doomed Gay's dream of a golden sprint double next month at Beijing. Only the three top finishers in Sunday's 200 final will run in the event for the American team at the Olympics.

An Olympic dream also died for

1996 Olympic 110 hurdles champion Allen Johnson, who at 37 was bidding for a fourth Olympics but pulled up after the fourth hurdle of his 110 hurdles qualifying heat.

Johnson said he injured a tendon in his left leg six weeks ago.

"I knew this was a possibility," Johnson said. "I hoped that it wouldn't happen, but it just didn't hold up. After the first hurdle, as I kept going, the pain just got progressively worse. This is really disappointing for me."

Reigning Olympic 200 champion Shawn Crawford led semi-finalists in the event in 20.33 seconds with Walter Dix, a 100 Olympian, second in 20.56.

Wallace Spearmon, Xavier Carter and John Capel were also among 16 to advance after Gay's stunning collapse.

Two-time women's world 200 champion Allyson Felix eased up 40 meters from the finish and settled for second in her 200 quarter-final heat in 23.09, matching 100m Olympian Torri Edwards for eighth-fastest of 16 to advance.

Felix finished with the 100 final and will not going for a 100-200 sweep at Beijing either, although Edwards, 100 winner Muna Lee and 100 qualifier Lauryn Williams all remain in 200 contention.

Shalonda Solomon led semi-

finalists in 22.68 with Marshevet Hooker next in 22.74.

David Oliver, a May winner at Doha in 12.95, won his heat in 13.24 seconds to lead all 110 hurdles qualifiers.

Two-time Olympic runner-up and 2007 world runner-up Terrence Trammell was second in his heat in 13.50 while David Payne, third at last year's worlds, was second in his heat in 13.39.

Women's world indoor 60m hurdles champion Lolo Jones had the fastest time in 100 hurdles qualifying, winning her heat in 12.68 with 2004 Olympic champion Joanna Hayes second in the heat and overall in 12.74.

Danu Cherry, who missed the 2004 trials while on a two-year doping ban, won her heat in 12.92. The 30-year-old has this year's fastest time in the world this year, a 12.47 run in May.

Two-time world champion Michelle Perry, who resumed training six weeks ago after a hamstring injury, advanced in 13.17. Only three runners were eliminated in the round.

Quarterfinals in the hurdles and 200 semi-finals were to be staged later Saturday with finals in both set for Sunday. Finals later Saturday include the high jump, where 2004 Olympic champion Dwight Phillips bids for a Beijing trip.



World champion Tyson Gay is helped off the track by medical staff after falling in pain during the men's 200-metre quarterfinals at the US Track and Field Olympic Trials at Hayward Field in Eugene on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Arrived 40 Energy 41 Acting company 42 Sailor's sepiel 43 Pub order 44 Summary D.C. 45 record-keeping org. 47 Standard Window 49 In a roof 51 Trip rallo 52 Chroni-cles 53 Rite with marsh plants 54 Where- withal

Cryptogram puzzle with a grid and clues. The grid is a 10x10 grid with some cells filled with letters. Clues include: RO P O V W D R S G D W B V X D K, R G C V P B R C T P G M R K P Y Y Q T, U R X K D Y O, X R S U C U D Q D, B P Y Y D M C U D Y V G D K C W P F G S D W?, SOMETHING THAT REALLY PEEVES A LITTLE KID, YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S TOT-PROVOKING. Today's Cryptogram Clue: D equals E