

# Phelps eyes history

AFP, Los Angeles

Four years on from Athens, Michael Phelps will arrive in Beijing poised to make Olympic history - and join the select few whose feats see them transcend their sports.

Mark Spitz, who set the Olympic gold standard with seven swimming triumphs in Munich in 1972, predicted Phelps not only will break the record, but do it in spectacular style.

"I would expect that a month from now you're going to see him win by margins and set times that have never been done before," Spitz said. "He'll be unbelievable."

The reason, Spitz said, is that Phelps is "as experienced, and, in some ways, more experienced than I was going into doing this."

He won six gold medals (in 2004), and I only won two the Olympics before I won seven."

Already grouped with such swimming icons as Australian Ian Thorpe and Spitz, Phelps has lately been drawing comparisons to Tiger Woods - winner of 14 major golf championships - and Roger Federer, winner of 12 tennis Grand Slam titles.

Phelps will swim the same events in Beijing that he tackled in Athens: the 200m and 400m individual medleys, the 100m and 200m butterfly, the 200m freestyle, and likely the three relays.

In Athens, he won all his individual events except the 200 free, in which he took bronze behind Thorpe and Dutch star Pieter van den Hoogenband.

Phelps has since set the world record and won a world title in that event, and Spitz pointed to that progress as an indicator of Phelps's greatness.

"When I think about Michael not only swimming events that he holds the world record in, but also

challenging himself in events that he is the second-fastest or third-fastest in the world and putting them into his programme, that is more than I did," Spitz said.

"I think one of his greatest races to date was getting third in the 200 freestyle in Athens, because that is why he is the world record holder in that event now, and that is why he will win that event in Beijing," added Spitz, who believes Phelps has shown "a different kind of courage" than he displayed in 1972.

While Speedo's million-dollar offer for a record-equalling seven golds still stands, and Phelps reached the magic number of seven triumphs at last year's World Championships, the swimmer still rarely speaks of the goal as a whole-and-never-without-promising.

"You guys talk about it," he says. "I don't talk about it, I just get in the water and compete."

That singled-outness of purpose makes Phelps a fearsome rival in the pool.

Mentor Bob Bowman, who has coached Phelps since the swimmer was 11 years old, recalls realizing even then that "it was just apparent he was going to do whatever it took."

Going into his third Olympic Games, Phelps now has not only a fierce competitiveness, but also a solid understanding of how best to harness it.

"In 2004, every race, I would go for it," Phelps said. "I have been able to learn over the past two years to conserve and try to save up a little bit, because my event programme is so long."

US national team head coach Mark Schubert is impressed by how Phelps is able to do precisely what he has to do in each heat, semifinal or final - as well as in his warm-up and in the warm-down process crucial for recovery.

"He does such a good job of measuring his effort," Schubert said. "When you see how many



American ace swimmer Michael Phelps hangs on the wall after winning his last event, the 100m butterfly, during the US swimming Olympic trials at the West Center in Omaha, Nebraska on Saturday.

events he has to swim and how he swims well in the prelims but not outstanding, he swims a little bit better in the semis - usually always good enough to get one of the center lanes - and then it's showtime.

"He's just an exquisite, consistent performer."

Phelps says he is "more relaxed" heading into Beijing, feeling more prepared for the frenzy that will attend him than he was in Athens.

But he admitted that less than a year before the Games he thought he had ruined his 2008 chances when he broke his wrist.

"Having the ups and downs I have had this year, it has been a rocky year, but I am very satisfied with where I am now," said Phelps, who was hurt when he slipped getting into a car in November.

"I remember when I found out my wrist was broken, I was just devastated. I had no idea what would happen," said Phelps, adding he felt he "just gave everything away."

Phelps's performance at the US trials, with five victories in five

events and two world records, showed he had recovered from that setback.

But he and Bowman know how difficult winning seven, let alone eight, gold medals in Beijing will be.

"The odds are very much against it," Bowman admits. "Any number of things can happen. We are going into China and our goal is to have him sit and as prepared as he can be, then put him out there and see how he goes."

US teammate Ryan Lochte challenged Phelps in both medleys at the trials. Ian Crocker is the world record-holder in the 100m butterfly.

And France boast a strong sprint relay squad led by 100m free world record-holder Alain Bernard that could deny the Americans in the 4x100m free.

"At the Olympics, it's going to be harder than it was here," Phelps said, but then, that is what makes the arduous preparation worthwhile.

"This is the thing I love the most," Phelps said. "I love to race."

## JUNIOR ASIA CUP Bangladesh play Korea today

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh begin their 6th Junior Asia Cup hockey campaign today when they take on South Korea in the inaugural match in Hyderabad.

The Under-21 hockey team reached Hyderabad on Wednesday hoping to clinch the fifth place in the eight-team tournament although they only had five days of preparation. In the last meet in Pakistan in 2004, Bangladesh finished sixth.

The Bangladesh senior team, however, have a poor record against South Korea as they conceded defeats on all previous occasions except a draw. The defeats included a 0-14 drubbing in the Bangkok Asian Games in 1998.

Assistant manager of Bangladesh team Yousof Ali informed the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) over telephone that all the players of Bangladesh team except skipper Russell Mahmud Jimmy are in sound condition. Jimmy vomited several times, but the striker expects to play today if his condition does not deteriorate.

Bangladesh, placed in Group B with South Korea, Pakistan and Oman, will play their second group match against Oman on July 13 and the third match against Pakistan on July 14.

Group A comprises hosts India, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore.

## Private varsity soccer in Oct

SPORTS REPORTER

The Mentor's 3rd Inter-Private University football tournament will begin in the second week of October at the Army Stadium in Banani.

A maximum of 12 universities will be entitled to participate in the third version of the meet, organised by event management firm Auritro in co-operation with Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Players of B. League and Senior Division League will not be allowed to play. But a maximum of two booters of second division league will be eligible if they are genuine students of the university.

Interested universities have been asked to send their entries (fee Tk 8,000) on August 30-31 between 3 to 8 pm at the BFF Bhaban in Motijheel.

The registration formalities will be held on September 20-21 from 3pm-8pm at the same place.

## Aussies name

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touted as world field hockey's premier marksman.

Dwyer, a two-time International Player of the Year and a 190-Test campaigner, was also named player of the Champions Trophy tournament.

But midfielder Brent Livermore, bidding for his third Olympics, was left out despite being the most experienced member of the national squad with 289 internationals and second only to Jay Stacy (319) in all-time leading Australian appearances.

"It was a big shock. I'm really devastated to miss out on a chance to go to my third Olympics," Livermore, 32, said.

"That was the big disappointment for me. The fact I wasn't able to show what I could do.

"In an Olympic year I have played three-and-a-half matches when you normally play 20 to 30 -- that's the only opportunity I have had to push for selection."

Other hard-luck selection stories were gold medal-winning goalkeeper Stephen Mowlam, who has a knee injury, and 162-Test defender Aaron Hopkins.

## SIC happy about

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and we have told them that with improvement of football, it will also become attractive," said Nabil.

"We are also considering to start a youth training programme in the name of Aga Khan from its profits. They have agreed on the total of the budget but have suggested some revisions."

## Bangladesh A's

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Earlier on Tuesday, the rain-affected first three-day match between the visitors and England Under-19 team ended in a draw at the Hazelgrave Ground in Loughborough.

Bangladesh A will play their third match against Leicestershire from July 16, the fourth against Derbyshire from July 21 and the fifth three-day match against South Africa on July 25.

They are expected to return home on August 4 after playing three one-day matches.

# Tait recalled

CRICINFO, undated

Australia have announced their preliminary 30-man squad for the Champions Trophy in Pakistan in September, with Shaun Tait being recalled as he continues to work his way back into international cricket after taking a self-imposed break due to exhaustion. The squad also includes five newcomers in Xavier Doherty, Ryan Harris, Brett Geaves, George Bailey and Tim Paine.

"The squad recognises the continued success of the one-day side and its outstanding efforts in the West Indies, together with the strong performance of our young emerging talent in the Ford Ranger Cup," Andrew Hilditch, the chairman of Australia's national selection panel, said.

Offspinners Nathan Hauritz and

Dan Cullen and legspinner Cameron White will stake their claim for the spinners' spot in the final squad. "Closer to final selection a decision will be made on the make-up of the squad and whether a specialist spinner needs to be added to the final 15," Hilditch said. Beau Casson, he said, missed out as he needed "more exposure" to the one-day format.

Tasmania's Ford Rangers Cup success last season means that they have provided four of the newcomers to the squad. Doherty, the left-arm spinner, and seamer Geaves were the among four bowlers who finished joint-highest on the wicket-takers' list with 15 scalps. Paine, the wicketkeeper who has turned into a specialist batsman, contributed 261 runs at 37.38, while Bailey, despite his limited success - 258 runs at 25.80 - is marked as one for the future. Harris, the bowling allrounder who

moved to Queensland from South Australia, has taken 49 wickets at 35.51 in his List A career.

Hilditch added that Ben Hilfenhaus was not considered as he was recovering from an injury. The squad will be whittled down to a final 15 on or before the August 11 deadline.

## PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Ricky Ponting (capt), Michael Clarke (vice-captain), George Bailey, Doug Bollinger, Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark, Dan Cullen, Xavier Doherty, Brett Geaves, Ryan Harris, Brad Haddin, Nathan Hauritz, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hodge, James Hopes, David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Phil Jacques, Mitchell Johnson, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, Shaun Marsh, Ashley Nofke, Tim Paine, Luke Ronchi, Andrew Symonds, Shaun Tait, Adam Voges, Shane Watson, Cameron White

# 'Change tour dates'

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's cricketers want next year's hastily arranged Test tour of England to be rescheduled as the dates clash with the lucrative Indian Premier League, sources close to the team said Thursday.

"The players met Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse and urged him to get the tour postponed or played after the IPL," one source told AFP.

"The president was very sympathetic towards the players and agreed to look into their request."

The tour, arranged earlier this month after England suspended bilateral cricket relations with Zimbabwe, includes two Tests, three one-dayers and four warm-up games and runs from April 21 to May 30.

The IPL, which features at least 13 top Sri Lankans including captain Mahela Jayawardene and star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, is due to be played between April 10 and May 25.

However, one of the problems of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) would face in re-scheduling Sri

Lanka's tour is that the 2009 Twenty20 World Cup, which England are hosting, is due to start on June 5.

That leaves little room in the English calendar for altering the dates of Sri Lanka's visit especially as England face Australia in a show-piece Ashes later in their season.

One top Sri Lankan player, who declined to be named, told AFP the cricketers had handed the president a letter when they met him on Wednesday to celebrate their victory in the recent Asia Cup in Pakistan.

"We wrote a letter, signed by all of us, appealing to the president to either call off the tour or push back the dates," he said.

Rajapakse's spokesman said the president had instructed Sri Lanka's sports minister Gamini Lokuge to raise this issue when Sri Lanka Cricket's interim committee meets later on Thursday.

The president promised to look into the players' grievances and instructed the sports minister to ask the interim committee to draw up alternative proposals," spokesman Lucien Rajakurunayake told AFP.

The tour was formalised between the ECB and Sri Lanka Cricket chief Arjuna Ranatunga on the sidelines of the International Cricket Council meetings in Dubai earlier this

month.

This is not the first time Sri Lankan players have demanded an international series be scrapped so they could play in the IPL.

Sri Lanka's limited-overs tour of Pakistan was cancelled in April-May this year because the dates clashed with the IPL's inaugural tournament.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

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held in four events -- men's singles & doubles, and women's singles & doubles. Intending participants have been asked to submit their entries at the Federation office by July 16.

## JHALKATHI SCOOPER

UNB adds: Uddobhand Secondary School earned a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Kirtipasha Prasanna Kumar Secondary School in the opening match of the Kishore Football League at the local stadium. Zakaria scored the all-important goal for the winners in the 70th minute.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner of Jhalokathi Hari Prasad Pal inaugurated the league as chief guest. The District Sports Association organised the 12-team tournament.

# Bad news for vice industry

AFP, Beijing

Like countless other Beijing prostitutes, "Kelly" had viewed the Olympic rings as akin to dollar signs, expecting a big payday as the city shifts into party mode for next month's Games.

But those dreams are in doubt now thanks to a police offensive aimed at preventing the city's rollicking sex industry from tarnishing the Games.

"The police are suddenly much more formidable now. We have to be very careful," the wait-like 23-year-old said, stirring a watered-down drink in a dim bar frequented by sex workers but notably empty on a recent Saturday night.

The crackdown has closed up many of the most notorious bars and other prostitution centres.

Kelly, who hails from nearby Hebei province and declined to give her Chinese name, said many of her fellow sex workers had recently been thrown in jail before being sent back to their home provinces.

"We have to be careful. If I get thrown out of Beijing, I won't be able to get back in because police are putting up roadblocks into Beijing," said Kelly, who formerly prowled hotel lobbies but was chased out by

management.

The crackdown is part of a hurried makeover aimed at sweeping the city's less savoury elements under the rug, at least until the August 8-24 Games conclude, and which has seen campaigns against drug offenders and even spitting and queue-jumping by the general public.

Tighter controls and more frequent checks on the visas of foreigners -- apparently aimed at preventing security threats to the Games -- have also cleared out the many prostitutes from neighbouring Mongolia and Russia, Kelly said.

"We are closed for fire inspection. Come back after the Olympics," said a man who answered the phone at Maggie's, a bar in the city's embassy district normally filled nightly with freelancing Mongolian hookers.

Its front door has been padlocked for about three months for the "fire inspection".

Basically stamped out during the puritanical Mao Zedong era, prostitution flourishes in today's more open China, with estimates of the country's sex workers ranging as high as 10 million or more.

Sex workers ply their trade with virtual impunity in bars, massage spas, karaoke parlours and the "barber shops" that are found in many Beijing back alleys and which have nothing to do with haircuts.

Male travellers typically receive

phone calls shortly after checking into Chinese hotel rooms, asking whether they want a girl sent up.

Periodic anti-prostitution campaigns have been launched but nothing like the capital's current operation, say observers.

"The city is in big clean-up mode," said a posting last month on the website International Sexguide.info, which bills itself as "The Internet's Largest Sex Travel forum" and features graphic, member-submitted updates on where to buy sex.

"All the known (prostitution) spots are being targeted and raided constantly. Many have closed," it said.

The raids seem to have targeted the more obvious prostitution centres, and it remains to be seen whether the Games will be sex-free.

Hotels, for example, typically offer discreet sexual services in the guise of in-room "massages".

But such campaigns only shift the problem, said Dr. Bernhard Schwartzlander, China country representative for the Joint United Nations on HIV/AIDS.

"If you drive it underground everything gets much more out of control. The likelihood of promoting condom use is reduced or there may be violence against women, which makes them more vulnerable," he said.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNFPA Bangladesh invites applications from the eligible candidates for the following position:

**Position:** National Finance Associate  
**Job Type:** Service Contract  
**Duty station:** Project Office (Department of Women Affairs (DWA), Dhaka  
**Duration:** Initially One Year

**Duties:**

- Maintain records of all expenditures of the project under the supervision of NPPP and Project Director.
- Prepare periodical reports keep liaison with other project staff of UNFPA and GOB staff.
- Prepare correspondence related to financial activities of the project
- Any other administrative and accounting activities as and when required.

**Qualification and Competencies:**  
Graduate in Accounting/Economics/Business Administration. At least 3-5 years of professional experience in the field of Population and Development. Experience of working with Government and NGO is desired. Experience in the United Nations system will be an asset  
**Languages:** Excellent command of oral and written English in essential

**Computer skills:** Has good computer skills and proficiency in current office software applications.

**Remuneration:** 47,459 BDT

Interested candidates are requested to apply with one page justification of suitability for the post along with a detailed CV and P11 form and a passport size photograph on or before 24 July 2008 to The Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, IDB Bhaban (15<sup>th</sup> Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Details TOR and P-11 Form can be obtained from UNFPA Website <http://www.unfpa-bangladesh.org/php/vacancy.php>. Please mention the name of the position on the top of the envelop. Qualified women candidates are encouraged to apply.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted"

## Triple hit peg

FROM PAGE 17  
South Africa at Lord's in London on Thursday:  
ENGLAND: Firstinnings  
Strauss lbw b Morkel 44  
Cooke de Villiers b Morkel 60  
Vaughan b Steyn 2  
Pietersen not out 13  
Bell not out 33  
Extras: (b-4, nb-7) 11  
Total: (For 3 wkts in 54 overs) 163  
Fall of wickets: 1-114, 2-117, 3-117  
To bat: Collingwood, Ambrose, Broad, Anderson, Sidebottom, Panesar

**Bowler** O M R W  
Steyn 14 4 43 1  
Ntini 13 2 41 0  
Morkel 13 1 41 2  
Kallis 10 2 31 0  
Harris 4 2 3 0

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Smith, McKenzie, Amla, Kallis, Prince, De Villiers, Boucher, Harris, Morkel, Ntini, Steyn  
**Toss:** South Africa.  
**Umpires:** Daryl Harper and Billy Bowden.

## Waiting for

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took charge, the situation was same. Whether we can change this is important."

Meanwhile, the BFF -- which announced seven full sub-committees on Wednesday, has selected heads of three more sub-committees.

Kazi Nabil Ahmed, who is also a member of the finance committee, has been named chairman of the development committee.

Originally, BFF's first choice for this post -- which demands more attention and time -- was a senior business tycoon who finally showed his reluctance due to lack of time.

Ex-general secretary Harunur Rashid has been named chairman of competitions committee while Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir has been selected head of the National Football League committee.

## Yellow card

FROM PAGE 17  
Gilchrist, the Australia wicketkeeper who retired in March, is but one cricketer whose approach Bowden has logged down the years. If he is not familiar with any player - as he was not with Morkel, the South Africa fast bowler, before this Test - he makes certain he attends net practice to familiarise himself with their action, whether they have a tendency to no-ball and what exactly they bowl. If he is unaware of the length of a fast bowler's run-up, he glances at the giant screen.

"There are certain tricks of the trade; umpires may appear as if they are scratching their necks or picking up something from the ground when in fact they are looking at the screen," Bowden said. "But the crowd will generally let you know if you have made a wrong decision."

All that will irk him on Thursday is if an MCC member has a go at him when he walks back through the Long Room. "The only time I want to be deaf is when I am criticised in that situation," he said. "There is no point being obnoxious back, but there are times when I want to put counters in their hands."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Steep, rugged cliff  
5 A number-1  
9 Lanka precursor  
12 Hawaiian melody  
14 Tease  
15 Autumnal flag  
17 Altar, affirmative  
18 Spanish pre-euro money  
19 Oust  
21 Mother  
22 Singer  
24 Slays, soprano-style  
27 Karaoke need, for short  
28 Uses a ray gun  
31 Have a bug  
32 Bonfire residue  
33 Upper limit  
34 "Animal House" group  
36 Pigeon

**DOWN**  
1 Fellow  
2 Ready  
3 Heidi's range  
4 Automaton prop  
5 California  
6 Mound  
7 Resort  
8 Moment, for short  
9 Bracketted word  
10 Recipient  
11 Variety of tuna  
12 Carnival attraction  
13 "American" Greek  
16 Castle protection  
17 Senate staffer  
18 On the rocks  
19 Supplements, with "out"  
20 "Smoking or —?"  
21 Wall St. debut

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

SPAR OAS BAWL  
WALD RIT ECHO  
AGANULGO AGE  
YEMENT PETITE  
NIL SEND  
BOA TEN RINGE  
GIVE GOT LIVSH  
WORS REW TOE  
ICGN AIR  
INMATE RIALTO  
LOGB POTTIVISH  
LONE PLE ERAS  
SKYE SAN EARL

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51									52	
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## CRYPTOQUIP

ODOQPLF VHMDSN LCDQM L  
ZLNHPX DZ -ZLVBHDW  
SPDMBHWK GUVHKWUFV:  
"URUFXCDCGX PDRUV FLNUWM."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GIRL STUDIES THINGS UNDER A MICROSCOPE, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL HER A MAGNIFYING GLASS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P