

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The zonal round matches of National Women's Kabaddi will begin on July 22.

Dhaka, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Jhenidah and Jessore will play host to these matches.

Some 22 District Sports Associations have so far confirmed their participation in the meet, Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) general secretary Nazrul Islam informed yesterday.

The final round of the competition will begin on July 26 in Dhaka with the participation of seven teams -- top two teams from Dhaka, other four zonal champions and defending champions Bangladesh Ansar.

NATIONAL JUNIOR BOXING

93 bouts were held on the second day of the Southeast Bank 20th National Junior Boxing competition at the Mohammad Ali Boxing Stadium.

The tournament is taking place with seven weight sections -- 25, 29, 35, 42, 48 and 51 kg.

As many as 193 boxers from 40 different organisations are taking part in the meet.

FED CUP BASKETBALL

BKSP beat Hornets Sporting Club 45-43 in one of four matches on the opening day of the Federation Cup basketball tournament at the Dhakamond Gymnasium.

Shohag and Shoaib scored 10 points each for the winners while Hornets' Aminur smashed 16 points.

Bangladesh Police defeated Flame Boys 59-49, with Munna and Rustam of both sides caging 32 times each.

MUNSHIGANJ FOOTBALL

Our Correspondent adds: Islambagh Lucky Seven lifted the Louhajang Football tournament after their 1-0 win over East Baligaon at the College ground.

Al Amin scored the all-important winner in the 46th minute.

Eight teams took part in the competition, which was part of Louhajang Friends Society's monthlong football festival.

GAIBANDHA CRICKET

Our Correspondent adds: Club Infinity overpowered CYMA by 128 runs in the second division cricket league at the local stadium.

Infinity scored 149 in 20 overs and then bowled out CYMA for just 21 runs. In the other match, Anwar Smriti Sangsad defeated DCP Club by 31 runs.

MANIKGANJ CRICKET

Our Correspondent adds: Sir Shahadat Ali Memorial Club defeated Pouli Bulbul Club by 81 runs in the second division cricket league at the local stadium.

Memorial Club scored 132 in 24.5 overs and then bowled out Bulbul for just 51 runs. Rashid contributed 26 with the bat while Memorial Club and later, Shujon took three wickets.

Bell after

FROM PAGE 17

He gave just one chance, on 133, when Kallis failed to hold a sharp caught and bowled off a powerful drive.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first Test between England and South Africa at Lord's in London on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings (over-night: 309-3)

Strauss lbw b Morkel	44
Cook c De Villiers b Morkel	60
Vaughan b Steyn	2
Pietersen c Boucher b Morkel	152
Bell not out	171
Collingwood c Amla b Harris	7
Ambrose c Smith b Morkel	4
Broad not out	54
Extras: (b-14, lb-5, w-7, nb-15)	41
Total: (For 6 wickets in 138 overs)	535
Fall of wickets: 1-114, 2-117, 3-117, 4-403, 5-413, 6-422	

To bat: Anderson, Sidebottom, Panesar

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Steyn	32	6	116	1
Ntini	27	2	125	0
Morkel	30	3	102	4
Kallis	20	3	70	0
Harris	29	7	103	1

SOUTH AFRICA: Smith, McKenzie, Amla, Kallis, Prince, De Villiers, Boucher, Harris, Morkel, Ntini, Steyn

Akram not

FROM PAGE 17

Inzamam, Imran (Khan), (Javed) Miandad, we all did that but we always had our XIs. Maybe in the 14-15 you can have a compromise.

Akram picked out Aamer, the promising Pakistan Under-19 and Rawalpindi bowler, for special mention -- "he is quite talented" -- and said that he would have drafted him into the national set-up right away. He had earmarked Aamer as a future talent during a fast bowlers' camp in May 2007.

While changing focus to the fast bowling scene in world cricket, Akram rated Brett Lee as the best and had some words of advice for Ishant Sharma. "He (Ishant) has to learn quickly. He has been very average in the Asia Cup," he said. "His length has to change in one-day cricket. He is a wicket-taking bowler, and he has to get the new ball. You can't have your third seamer bowling with the new ball."



Mohona (R) from Kolkata makes a move against compatriot Shathi during their fourth round match in the 10th Standard Chartered School Chess tournament at the federation hallroom yesterday.

# Fosbury's money on Holm

AFP, Rome



It was 40 years ago this summer that Dick Fosbury revolutionised the high jump to win gold at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City with his 'Flop' style pushing him to an Olympic record of 2.24 metres.

With the Beijing Olympics now less than a month away, the 60-year-old's gold, or least a podium place, could be emulated by one of the three US jumpers in the top 10 -- Dusty Jones, Andra Manson and Scott Sellers -- but Fosbury feels that the reigning champion Stefan Holm is still the man to look out for, whilst in the women's competition he believes the field is wide open.

"I think it will be interesting as we have three high Americans in the top 10 for height this year, but the guy I have my eye on is Stefan Holm. He is still competitive and we know that he can win. He's the guy I'm really watching," Fosbury said.

"In the ladies competition I know that they are starting to push the Olympic record and I know it will be very interesting to watch."

Mexico City's Olympics were notable for the heightened political situation during their build up.

In April civil rights leader Martin Luther King had been assassinated, in May Parisian student protestors occupied the Sorbonne, whilst in

June democratic presidential hopeful Robert Kennedy was shot dead in Los Angeles.

Worse was to follow in late August when Warsaw Pact troops invaded Prague to put down the reformist government led by Alexander Dubcek, whilst only weeks before the flame was lit in Mexico City over 100 students were slaughtered in the city during the Tlatelolco massacre.

USA athletes Tommy Smith and John Carlos made the Mexico Olympics famous by their civil rights protest on the podium following their gold and bronze in the 200m and Fosbury feels that any athlete who wishes to make a protest in Beijing should follow Smith and Carlos and concentrate on their events before making their stand.

"As an old Olympian the advice I would give is after your competition you have a lifetime to make a protest. Don't pass up the opportunity in your competition, then you can make your protest."

The 1968 Games were also remarkable for being the first to feature an athlete failing a drug test.

Swedish pentathlete Han-Gunnar Liljenwall was caught for alcohol, despite claiming he only "had a couple of beers" to steady his nerves before the pistol shoot and it resulted in the Swedish team having to hand back their bronze medals.

With the spectre of drug cheating hanging like a cloud over athletics, notably 2004 100m champion

Justin Gatlin, Fosbury sees no excuse in trying to circumnavigate the rules.

"It does not help when athletes are prepared to cheat. It is unfair to themselves and other competitors. They have no honour in winning and no honour in competing. Sport is only at its best if athletes follow the rules and are fair to other competitors."

"As for the style of jumping that he introduced, Fosbury says he was just trying to improve his performance and had no thought of changing forever the way people made it over the bar, whilst still playing down his part in altering athletics history."

"I wasn't trying to change the high jump, but to remain competitive, play the game and be the best high jumper that I could be. Fortunately I found out how to change for the best. I changed one of the oldest techniques, the scissors, and I made it more efficient."

"It took a while. It took 20 years for it to become universal."

"I was surprised that other jumpers seemed to catch on and in my observation it wasn't the elite jumpers, rather it was the jumpers at the second level who really had nothing to risk by changing over and trying other techniques and they found that they had success that came fairly rapidly."

"So it was really the young people that created the revolution of the style."

# ICL issue on the mend



CRICINFO, undated

The ICC has taken the first significant step towards resolving the contentious issue of unauthorised cricket -- including the status of the Indian Cricket League (ICL) -- by setting up a high-powered committee to study its legal aspects. It has also discussed the issue of global agreements to prevent cricketers from appearing in such games, Crinfo has learnt.

The committee, which was formalised during the ICC's annual meeting in Dubai last week, includes Giles Clarke, the ECB chairman, Norman Amdese, the Cricket South Africa president, Shashank Manohar, the BCCI's president-elect, Lalit Modi, a vice-president of the BCCI (and the IPL's chairman and commissioner) and David Becker, the ICC's senior counsel -- business and commercial.

The committee was set up after officials were made aware the ICL may explore the possibility of coming under the governing body's umbrella as "a kind of authorised unofficial cricket" under a specific rule that deals with exhibition matches and other

games of a similar nature. It is understood that preliminary discussions took place in Bangalore during a meeting of key ICC board members on April 18, before the inaugural IPL game.

When asked about the committee and its objectives, an ICC spokesman said, "The purpose of the group is to ensure that whatever conclusion is reached is in the best interests of the game."

The issue of the ICL and its status came into focus on the sidelines of the ICC annual meeting last week when officials from India, England, Australia and South Africa met for a discussion on the proposed Twenty20 Champions League.

While India, Australia and South Africa are clear that players associated with the ICL cannot take part in the league, England will have to take a tough call on the issue as around 25 ICL players are currently playing for 15 English counties. Officially, the ECB does not support any involvement with unofficial cricket but, in this situation, has to operate within the stringent trade laws in England.

The ICC, meanwhile, has also sent a letter to the ICL seeking details of its correspondence with the BCCI on the issue of their status in the game. An ICL official told Crinfo the letter was received last

week and added the league is yet to send its response. Himanshu Mody, the ICL's business head, confirmed the development to Crinfo but declined to comment on it. When asked about the letter, the ICC spokesperson said, "Dialogue and correspondence on the subject is ongoing."

According to ICL officials, they had first written to the BCCI in April 2007 informing them about their plans to hold a city-based Twenty20 league. "But they reacted harshly to the issue," an official said.

The BCCI is very clear it would not budge on the ICL. "We had received two or three letters from the ICL, but we made our position very clear early that they cannot be recognised," a BCCI official said. The BCCI has barred all official contact with players associated with ICL and expects all other members of the ICC to align with them on the issue.

The ICL has already organised three Twenty20 tournaments and a 50-over competition but its status was placed on the international cricket stage this April by Malcolm Speed, the former ICC CEO, who said the governing body had received a letter from the league seeking clarity on their existence. Speed, who was since told to go on "paid leave" by the ICC before his successor Haroon Lorgat took charge last week, had also said that the issue was being handled by the ICC's lawyers.

Later, Dave Richardson, who took over from Speed on an interim basis, said the ICC would go by the BCCI's policy towards ICL. "The ICL is a domestic event that takes place in India so our rules prescribe that any decision as to whether an event be regarded as official or not must be made by the country that event is played in," Richardson had said.

## Paula fighting

FROM PAGE 17

World record holder will not compete in China if she is not in condition to win the August 17 marathon. Masterson believes Radcliffe is on course to meet that goal but admitted no decision is likely until just before the Games.

"Paula will include more cross-training than usual to compliment the running in her programme but, as ever, she will not give any more specific details of what she is doing training-wise," Masterson said.

"My gut feel is that she will not decide in the next couple of weeks about whether to go to Beijing as she needs to give herself as much time as possible."

## School Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Five players continued their winning run to share the lead after end of the fourth round of the 10th Standard Chartered School Chess tournament yesterday.

The winners are Rezaul Islam Babu of Rajbari, Mosabbir Khan Shiblu of Motijheel Government School and Abhropratim Manna, Asim Roy and Nikesh Duwal of India.

In the Class VI to X group, Babu beat Shubam Das of India, Abhropratim beat Rana, Ashim beat Aurnob, Shiblu beat Zia and Nikesh beat Zoar.

Mohammad Fahim of Titas School, Aditya Chakraborty and Sayan Majumder of India are sharing the lead in the group KG to V.

Aditya beat Al-Amin, Fahim beat Mtirobha of India and Sayan beat Swargiyoti.

## Poor start for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh continued their dismal show against South Korea as they suffered a massive 0-8 defeat in their opening encounter of the 6th Men's Junior Asia Cup Hockey in Hyderabad yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 4-0.

Bangladesh face Oman tomorrow in their second Group B match and their last group match is scheduled for July 14 against Pakistan.

In the other Group B match, Pakistan secured a 5-1 victory against Oman while the Group A match between Singapore and Malaysia ended in a 2-2 draw.

## Sohail asks for presidential intervention

AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan cricket captain Amir Sohail Friday asked President Pervez Musharraf to convince Australia, New Zealand and England not to pull out of the Champions Trophy over security fears.

Players from the three countries have expressed concern over playing in Pakistan after a deadly suicide blast in Rawalpindi, one of three venues for the tournament to be played between September 11-28.

Pakistan successfully hosted the six-nation Asia Cup, which finished in southern city of Karachi Sunday.

Sohail said Musharraf -- a patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) -- must play a "lead" role and speak to his counterparts in the competing countries.

"I feel it is the duty of the president to speak to individual countries and convince them to come over and play in Pakistan where there are no safety problems," Sohail told AFP.

The International Cricket Council earlier this week said it is awaiting a security report on the Asia Cup and is following a process during which they would not compromise the safety of players.

Sri Lanka has been designated as the alternative venue should the tournament be moved.

Australian allrounder Andrew Symonds said Thursday he had yet to be convinced Pakistan would be a safe venue for the Champions Trophy.

"My feelings haven't changed a great deal," said Symonds, who first raised objections about Australia's scheduled Test tour of Pakistan in April, which was eventually cancelled following a wave of suicide bombings.

"I don't mind the odd game of cricket for Australia, but it is only a game at the end of the day, and putting yourself in a position where you're not safe, to me is ridiculous," he said.

Sohail said, "Pakistan is paying the price of being at the forefront of the war against terrorism."

"What is happening in our country is basically the result of Pakistan leading this war against terror," said Sohail, who played 47 Tests and 156 one-day matches for Pakistan.

"Countries such as Australia and England are our allies in the war on terror, yet they are not supporting us here," he added. Sohail said if the tournament is not held in Pakistan it would be a great loss for cricket in the country.

## Beijing

FROM PAGE 17

include a tribute to victims of the May 12 earthquake in southwest China.

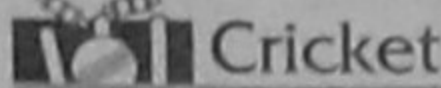
The 8.0-magnitude quake in Sichuan province left nearly 88,000 people dead or missing, and up to five million others homeless.

Wang and other ceremony officials expressed concern about just one major potential obstacle to the ceremony -- bad weather.

"It is the one thing beyond human control. Rain would cause delays in the progress of the event, as it would dampen performers' costumes and props," he was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency.

At a press conference in March, Zhang said that if it rained, parts of the show, including aerial displays, would have to be cancelled in the interests of safety.

# KP soaks up his moment



INTERNET, undated

For Kevin Pietersen, a century against South Africa at Lord's resembled the Summer of Love. "Just a shame about the summer," a South African grumbled. But Pietersen's joy was so unbounded that he might have been wearing flowers in his hair. He revelled so much in the crowd's affection that it might have been a glimpse of heaven.

England player gets hundred, crowd claps. So what? But this did feel different. The ovation was striking, not just because it was so prolonged, but because it possessed a sense of happiness, reviving memories of the celebratory atmosphere during the 2005 Ashes.

It also told Pietersen, in his first Test against his native South Africa, that Lord's, the spiritual home of English cricket, has now entirely accepted him as one of their own. And Lord's did this not in the for-

mal, buttoned-up manner of yesterday, but with cheers and perhaps the odd whoop, a very modern display of pleasure towards a very modern man.

Pietersen is English cricket's luvvie, an emotional man who seeks warmth and companionship and who on Thursday spoke of his innings as if he was collecting an Oscar. To him, the applause for his hundred was more than a polite ritual, it told him that he belonged. "That makes me feel so, so loved," he sighed.

This link with the English public could sustain him throughout the summer. It will rankle with the South Africans. It could bring an avalanche of runs, a social contract measured in boundaries. This was his fourth Lord's Test hundred in 11 innings. He states his Englishness by repeatedly punishing the South African attack: an average of 114.25 in eight one-day innings, and now a hundred in his first Test outing against them.

"The way the spectators appreciated my hundred and supported me

from the moment I walked out to bat was brilliant," he said. "I got my hundred and I tried to go back to the crease after my first celebration and the crowd were still celebrating. That is one of the most emotional two minutes of my career."

"Before there was a lot of speculation about me being originally from South Africa and for the crowd to be like they were was magnificent. I cannot thank anyone enough for that appreciation."

"I definitely knew that at the start of my career I would have to play well and do things to get everybody on my side. There was a lot of nonsense which was to be expected. But right now I feel as English as anybody."

He said that he was out to enjoy himself, learning from his World Cup failure against South Africa in Barbados last year when he had been "stupidly nervous", but he still might have been run out second ball for nought. He was hit on the head by a bouncer from Dale Steyn. "It woke me up a bit -- I thought I had to be on my guard," he said.

# ICC to meet at Lord's



CRICINFO, undated

The ICC's annual conference in 2009 will be held at Lord's, David Morgan, the ICC president, has confirmed. Lord's had held the yearly conference since the first in 1909, but the meeting this year was hosted in Dubai, the first time it had been moved from the body's former London headquarters.

The shift to Dubai, where the ICC headquarters is located, came after it emerged that officials from Zimbabwe may not be granted visas by the British government due to the prevailing political situation in that country. But it's believed the conference will be held at Lord's next year even if visas are not granted to Zimbabwe officials, as the decision to host the meeting in England was unanimously endorsed by the ICC board, which includes Peter Chingoka, the president of Zimbabwe Cricket.

"It is perfect timing as it will allow Lord's, the ICC's home for the first 96 years of its existence, to play

a central role in our organisation's centenary celebrations, as 2009 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the ICC," Morgan said. "That central role will involve not only the hosting of our biggest ever annual conference week, with all 60 Affiliate Members invited for the first time alongside the Associate and Full Members, but also the staging of matches in the ICC World Twenty20 2009, including the finals of both the men's and women's events on 21 June."

"The ICC's centenary will be a time to look back at the legends who have shaped the game over the previous 100 years," he said. "It will also provide an opportunity to look forward and celebrate the thousands of volunteers who sustain the game's grassroots and, at the same time, the ICC will use the year to highlight the special spirit of cricket on and off the field of play."

Looking ahead to his two years as ICC president, Morgan said he would spend much of the next year meeting the ICC's members -- their officials and their stakeholders. "We are a members' organisation and so we need to know what type

of ICC our members want."

"Do they want a toothless tiger that is only useful to blame for any failings when things go wrong? Or do they want a strong governing body invested with the power to run, and make decisions based on the best interests of the game, and a body they can trust to do just that?"

Haroon Lorgat (the ICC's new chief executive officer) and I will travel to Full Members, Associates and Affiliates over the next 12 months to seek some answers," he said. "But we also want it to be a two-way street. We want to meet boards and key stakeholders including players, ex-players, media, sponsors, even governments."

"We want those stakeholders to know what the ICC does and to ask if we can do anything differently or better. And, at the same time, we will ask what they can do for the ICC."

"By this time next year, when I report back to the ICC's annual conference, we should have a better idea of how we can help our members -- and how our members can help the ICC to ensure cricket remains a strong sport, growing stronger."

# PCB delays squad announcement



REUTERS, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has postponed the announcement of its preliminary squad for the Champions Trophy after a dispute with fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar over the payment of a fine.

Shoaib and Mohammad Asif were included by the national selectors in the preliminary squad and the list was due to be released by the PCB on Friday, the deadline set by the International Cricket Council.

"The squad will be announced by July 15 now as the board has sent a notice to Shoaib Akhtar asking him to pay the fine by July 14," a PCB spokesman told Reuters.

Shoaib was banned for five years by the board in March for various acts of indiscipline.

He appealed against the ban to an appellate tribunal which reduced it to 18 months but imposed a fine of seven million rupees (\$247,600) on him.

The bowler then filed a petition to the Lahore High Court against the ban and fine last month.

The court suspended the ban but refused to clear the fine until the case is taken up for regular hearing in September.

"We have got clearance from the ICC for delaying announcement of

the squad until the 15th. Shoaib's name would only be considered for selection if he clears the fine first," the spokesman said.

Abid Hasan Minto, Shoaib's legal counsel, said the board had never asked the bowler to pay the fine until now.

"Unless they tell him to pay the fine how can he move forward because the case is still under consideration of the court," he said.

Minto also said the court had not said if Shoaib did not pay the fine he cannot be considered for Pakistan duty.

A senior board official said there was no problem with the selection of Asif although he was the subject of a probe over his 19-day detention in Dubai last month for alleged possession of a banned substance.

"As far as Asif is concerned the committee will start its work once it gets the official report about the case from authorities in Dubai."

"If he is found guilty he will not be considered for the final squad," Shafqat Naghmi, the PCB's chief operating officer, told Reuters.

Asif was detained in Dubai after airport authorities found a banned substance on him. The public prosecutor of Dubai later released Asif without pressing any charges against him but has not so far disclosed the nature of the substance.

Pakistan host the Champions Trophy in September.



NOW THAT'S GOTTA HURT! Imron (L) of Victoria lays out the treatment on Biplob during their bout in the Southeast Bank 20th National Junior Boxing competition at the Mohammad Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday.