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## Hackett hits new mark

AFP, Melbourne

Australian Grant Hackett broke his own shortcourse 800 metres freestyle world record in seven minutes 23.42 seconds here on Sunday.

Hackett, 28, preparing for a record third 1500m freestyle gold medal at next month's Beijing Olympics, shaved 1.86 seconds off his 2001 world mark of 7:25.28.

He also holds the world shortcourse records in the 400m and 1500m freestyle along with the 800m and 1500m freestyle longcourse world records.

Hackett used the weekend's shortcourse event as a final hit-out at home before he flew out to Singapore with his coach Ian Pope late Sunday to continue his preparations for the Games.

The Australian swim team captain will link up with the rest of the national team next weekend in Kuala Lumpur ahead of the Beijing Games.



## Did U Know?

The youngest ever Olympian is Greek gymnast Dimitrios Loundras, who competed in the 1896 Athens Olympics. He was 10 years old.



## STAR Cricket

England v South Africa  
Second Test, Day Four  
Live from 4:00pm



## Deco

(Chelsea's new midfielder)  
"Didier Drogba is one of the best centre-forwards in the world and all the big clubs want players like him. I don't know whether he will stay but I want him to stay and I would love to play with him because he is a fantastic player."

## 2009 SA GAMES BOA to include golf, wrestling

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has decided to include wrestling and golf as the two new disciplines of Bangladesh's choice as hosts of the 2009 SA Games.

The meeting was held at the Kurmitola Golf Club with its president and army chief General Moeen U Ahmed as chair.

BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed requested the president to include few more disciplines -- judo, basketball, volleyball and badminton -- in the next SA Games and General Moeen, in response, gave direction to present a recommendation on the matter in the next meeting.

The meeting also finalized the 13-member team that will participate in the Beijing Olympics games next month. The Bangladesh

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# Anik grabs glory

## Swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP's Anik Islam hogged the spotlight on the opening day when the Keya 24th National Age Group Swimming Championships got underway at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

The inaugural day was marked by four new national records and Anik made one in the 400m individual medley in the 18-20 age group competition as he clocked 5min 09.16sec to eclipse the previous best of 5min 10sec.

Besides, the sports institute boy became champion in the 200m butterfly with a timing of 2min 23.41sec and in the 200m freestyle with a timing of 2min 08.50sec while finished second in the 100m breaststroke (1min 16.36sec) where Mehedi Hasan from Nikli Swimming Club was much better with the timing of 1min 15.69sec.

Anik managed third place in the 200m breaststroke (3min 12.14sec) where his teammate Asif Reza clinched the first place with a timing of 2min 59.18sec.

His efforts helped BKSP to

dominate the table by securing 11 gold, 11 silver and 3 bronze medals while Bangladesh Ansar followed them closely with 10 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze.

Josna Khatun was the star for Ansar as she finished first in the 100m breaststroke and 200m freestyle and 200m butterfly in the 18-20 age group.

Nikli Swimming Club of Kishoreganj was a distant third with two gold, one silver and three bronze and Chandpur Swimming Club bagged one gold and one silver medal to secure the fourth spot.

Jewel Ahmed of Bangladesh Ansar made the day's first new national record in the 200m individual medley in the 15-17 years boys' group competition when he achieved the timing of 2 min 30.34sec to eclipse the previous 2 min 30.59sec.

In the same age group, Mohammad Sagar Ali from Chandpur Swimming Club rewrote the 400m freestyle record as he clocked 4min 54.51sec to erase the previous best timing of 4min 54.66sec. Sagar also became champion in the 400m freestyle.

The other new record was created by BKSP's Naima Akhter who

clocked 1min 32.90sec in the 100m breaststroke in the 11-12 age group.

A total of 34 events were decided on the opening day of the three-day meet where 517 swimmers including 132 girls are taking part.

The champions in the other events are Nazma Khatun of Ansar in the 100m freestyle and 100m butterfly of 11-12 age group, Titu Miah of Nikli Swimming Club in the 100m freestyle of 11-12 age group, Rozina Khatun of Ansar in the 100m freestyle of 15-17 age group, Ariful Islam of BKSP in the 100m freestyle of 15-17 age group, Shanta Haider of BKSP in the 100m backstroke of 13-14 age group, Palash Chowdhury of BKSP in the 100m backstroke and 200m freestyle of 13-14 age group, Alauddin Titus of BKSP in the 100m butterfly of the 11-12 age group, Babita Khatun of Ansar in the 200m individual medley of the 15-17 age group, Laki Khatun of Ansar in the 200m breaststroke of the 13-14 age group, Shikha Khatun of BKSP in the 400m freestyle of the 15-17 age group and Arifa Khatun of Ansar in the 200m freestyle of the 13-14 age group.



PHOTO: STAR

Anik Islam of BKSP strokes his way to winning the 200m butterfly event at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

# AB follows Ashwell suit

## Cricket

AFP, Leeds

AB de Villiers continued to defy England's attack with an unbeaten century as South Africa all but battered Michael Vaughan's men out of the second Test here at Headingley on Sunday.

South Africa, at tea on the third day, were 480 for seven in reply to England's first innings 203 -- a lead of 277.

De Villiers was 158 not out and Paul Harris 11 not out after vice-captain Ashwell Prince had made a Test-best 149, his second hundred in as many matches.

South Africa wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, dropped twice on eight, helped de Villiers add 67 for the

raised in Australia, who took the only wicket to fall on Saturday, removing the stubborn left-hander.

In his second over of the day, the 29-year-old seamer -- appearing in

just his 12th first-class match -- was bowling from around the wicket when Prince edged a full length delivery to wicket-keeper Tim Ambrose.

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PHOTO: INTERNET

SECOND MAN RUNNING: South Africa batsman AB de Villiers is ecstatic after reaching his century during the third day of the second Test against England at Headingley yesterday.

## SA 522 all out

AFP, Leeds

South Africa were bowled out for 522 to gain a first innings lead of 319 on the third day of the second Test against England at Headingley here on Sunday.

Dale Steyn was 10 not out after Proteas vice-captain Ashwell Prince made 149 and AB de Villiers 174.

sixth wicket.

But he rarely looked comfortable and was out for 34 when, attempting a rare aggressive shot, he played on after trying to pull James Anderson.

Soon, 422 for six became 427 for seven when Monty Panesar took his first wicket for 82 overs when he bowled Morne Morkel through a big gap between bat and pad for nought.

Anderson's first delivery with the new ball, a long hop, was confidently put away by de Villiers for his 150.

Before lunch, England had finally seen the back of Prince with controversial debutant Darren Pattinson, born in Grimsby but

## Bangladesh A to face Derbyshire

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A face Derbyshire in the fourth three-day match today at the County Ground, Derbyshire.

The second string Bangladesh side's first three matches against England Under-19s, Warwickshire and Leicestershire all ended in draws.

The visitors will play the fifth and final three-day match against a South African selection on July 25-27.

Bangladesh A will also play three one-day matches against Lancashire on July 30, Marylebone Cricket Club on August 1 and Durham on August 3.

## Women's kabaddi begins tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The zonal round of the Spectra Group National Women's Kabaddi Competition will begin tomorrow at different venues across the country.

Twenty-three DSAs along with Bangladesh Ansar will take part in the competition at five different venues in Jessore, Faridpur, Jamalpur, Jhenidah and Dhaka.

The zonal round phase matches will be held on knockout basis. Each venue champion team will qualify for the final round to be held on July 27-30 at two venues -- Kabaddi Stadium and Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. After the zonal phase, the group league final phase will also be held on knockout basis.

Of the total budget of Tk 350,000 for the competition, sponsor Spectra Group will provide Tk 200,000.

Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation general secretary Nazrul Islam disclosed the details yesterday at a press conference at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room.

Spectra Group director Maj (ret'd) SM Reza Rashid was present.

# Harmison hurt

## Cricket

AFP, London

Stephen Harmison has said England's decision to select Darren Pattinson for the ongoing second Test against South Africa at Headingley betrayed a lack of confidence in the country's up-and-coming quicks.

Ashes winning fast bowler Harmison, currently out of the England side after being dropped following the first Test in New Zealand earlier this year, was one of several seasoned bowlers overlooked when Ryan Sidebottom became doubtful with a back strain.

Instead the selectors opted to hand a debut to Australia-raised but Grimsby-born Pattinson, 29, a Nottinghamshire colleague of left-arm seamer Sidebottom, who only began his Trent Bridge career at the start of the season.

Harmison's fellow 2005 Ashes-winning quicks Matthew Hoggard

and Simon Jones also had reason to feel hard done by as did long-standing reserve Chris Tremlett not to mention a crop of promising pace bowlers.

"The amount of money the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) have pushed into young bowlers, taking them to Chennai and the Academy -- are we saying the young bowlers aren't good enough?", Harmison told Sky Sports.



STEPHEN HARMISON

"I haven't seen him (Pattinson) bowl -- I was asleep when we played them. But good luck to him, he has taken his chance. If he deserves it I'm not sure, but good luck to him."

Pattinson was plucked from obscurity having only played 11 first-class matches in his career and taken 29 wickets in six matches for Nottinghamshire this season.

He did however go some way to answering his critics by taking the only wicket to fall, before bad light and rain stopped play, on the second day at Headingley on Saturday.

Harmison's Durham teammate Paul Collingwood was dropped from the England side at Yorkshire's headquarters after a run of low scores but Harmison was confident the all-rounder would not be in the Test match wilderness for long.

"The best thing for 'Colly' now is to come down here and score some runs, that's the best way to answer somebody."

"If he scores some runs he is back in the spotlight and the next man back in if the batters are struggling for form."

# Tame draw at Colombo

## Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

India's only chance to acclimatise before the Test series ended in a tame draw with less than three days' play at the Nondescripts Cricket Club in Colombo on Sunday.

Having declared at an overnight 196 for 8, the tourists turned in an ordinary day in the field -- Anil Kumble did not bowl a ball -- as the Sri Lanka Board XI batted to 247 before handing the final session over. In that time, extended by nearly an hour, Gautam Gambhir helped himself to a fifty after Virender Sehwag fell cheaply again.

As Munaf Patel searched for

what length to bowl, Chamara Kapugedera pulled him ferociously out of the ground. Having honed his radar, Munaf picked up Kapugedera in the 21st over, perhaps with some assistance: the ball looked to have been carrying on just over the stumps when Kapugedera was adjudged lbw for 22. Thilina Kandamby looked to score off Harbhajan -- a few hard cuts scurried past the infield and one straight drive, albeit uppish, stood out -- but on the stroke of lunch, Harbhajan had his man chipping loosely to Sachin Tendulkar at cover for a brisk 27.

A brief but heavy shower during the interval delayed the resumption of play for just under 50 minutes. Chamara Silva, like Kandamby, was aggressive against Harbhajan -- his feet constantly moved and his bat quick to come down on anything errant. A slip mid-pitch resulted in Kaushal Silva being run out and with the second session extended, Chamara ticked along to his second fifty of the match. His cutting remained his strongest suite, and a couple of lusty blows raised the landmark. The Indians' fielding slipped dramatically in the second session, with wayward throws not always backed up correctly. Kumble refrained from bowling and Gambhir's unassuming spin was employed as support to Sehwag's offbreaks.

Dammika Prasad scored a useful 53-ball 43 and the two put on 74 for the seventh wicket. A declaration at 247 for 6 gave India the final session to test out their batting.

With Sehwag falling for 14, caught at deep square-leg, Gambhir and Rahul Dravid kept the ball on the ground. Gambhir slowed down in the process and Dravid took a while to open up, but soon sweet drives and cuts peppered the ground. The helmets came off at the arrival of spin as both batsmen tried to dominate. Gambhir succeeded with some aerial drives but Dravid was late on

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# City begins shutdown

AP, Beijing



Beijing's Olympic shutdown begins Sunday, a drastic plan to lift the Chinese capital's gray shroud of pollution just three weeks ahead of the games.

Half of Beijing's 3.3 million vehicles will be pulled off the roads and many polluting factories will be shuttered. Chemical plants, power stations and foundries left open have to cut emissions by 30 percent and dust-spewing construction in the capital will be halted.

In a highly stage-managed Olympics aimed at showing off the rising power of the 21st century, no challenge is greater than producing crystalline air for 10,500 of the world's greatest athletes.

"Pea-soup air at the opening ceremony would be their worst nightmare," said Victor Cha, direc-

tor of Asian Studies at Georgetown University.

Striking venues and \$40 billion spent to improve infrastructure cannot mask Beijing's dirty air. A World Bank study found China is home to 16 of the 20 worst cities for air quality. Three-quarters of the water flowing through urban areas is unsuitable for drinking or fishing.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge has repeatedly warned that outdoor endurance events lasting more than an hour will be postponed if the air quality is poor.

Under the two-month plan, vehicles will be allowed on the roads every other day depending on even-odd registration numbers. In addition, 300,000 heavy polluting vehicles, including industrial trucks, many of which operate only at night, were banned beginning July 1.

Five days after Sunday's traffic ban goes into effect, special Olympic traffic lanes will begin operating until Sept. 25, a plan that has been used in previous games. Beijing is setting aside 165 miles of

roadway on which certified Olympic vehicles will be allowed to move from hotels, Olympic venues and Athletes Village.

To further ease congestion, employers are being asked to stagger work schedules. Public institutions will open an hour later than normal and two new subway lines scheduled to open Sunday should also bring relief.

The plan to clean the gray air seems to match the high-security tone of the games, which will be policed by 100,000 officials.

Razor-wire barriers and soldiers standing at attention guard the outskirts of the Olympic Green area and the Chinese have even installed ground-to-air missiles near one Olympic venue to protect it from possible attacks.

Security, tight visa rules and inflated hotel prices seem to be keeping foreigners away. Many nightspots near Olympic venue are being closed by security officials, who say the games are under threat

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PHOTO: AFP

A Chinese student sits in the shade of decorated Olympic statues on a hot summer day in front of the National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, in Beijing yesterday.