

## What's in a name?

"The fortune teller told me, 'If you change your name you will win the gold. Some people believe in fortunetellers and I am one of them, so I followed her advice,'" Prapawadee Jaroenrattanakorn on how her name from the more demure Champim Kantatant bought her a gold medal. (Details on Page 19)



## Rubel last among 45

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi swimmer Rubel Rana finished last among 45 competitors in the heats of the men's 100m backstroke at the Beijing Olympics 2008 yesterday.

The Bangladeshi ace swimmer, a silver medalist in the regional South Asian Games, competed with opponents from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Marshall Island and Syria in Heat 1 and came last in 1:04.82s.

In six heats at the National Aquatics Centre in Beijing, world record holder Aaron Peirsol of the US took third place.

Peirsol's 53.45s Olympic record, however, was shattered by his teammate Matt Grevers who took pole position in 53.41s.

Although Bangladesh's competition at the Games began yesterday, the Bangladesh Olympic

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## One match per day!

SPORTS REPORTER

The timing of the ongoing Citycell Federation Cup second-phase has deprived fans from not only watching their favourite teams in action but also the readers from getting reports of the late night matches.

After considerable delayed starts, the 7pm matches end about 9pm, which is beyond the deadline of most national dailies.

As a result, defending champions Brothers Union who played on Saturday night, got only a few words of coverage in yesterday's newspapers. Most of the reports even did not include the scorers' names.

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## Did U Know?

The National Stadium, 'Bird's Nest', in Beijing that hosted the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics 2008 on Friday has a capacity of 100,000 and it is believed that it is the world's largest enclosed space.



## Katerina Emmons

(Czech Republic's shooter)  
"Thank God it's over because I was so nervous. I had a headache this morning. I felt so terrible that I didn't know how I would shoot. So to win the first gold medal of this Olympics is pretty amazing."  
After triumphing in the women's 10-metre air rifle on Saturday,



## TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v India  
Third Test, Day Four  
Live from 10:45am  
STAR Cricket

England v South Africa  
Fourth Test, Day Five  
Live from 4:00pm



## DAY'S EVENT

Citycell Federation Cup  
Arambagh v Sunnise (5pm)  
Mohammedan v Rahmatganj (7pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



PHOTO: AFP

SPLIT DID THE TRICK? Aussie darling in the pool Stephanie Rice weds in glory after a daring smash and grab raid to claim the Olympic 400 metres individual medley gold in world record time at Beijing's magnificent 'Water Cube' yesterday.

## Rice rips WR apart

AP, Beijing

Stephanie Rice has already received plenty of attention for her high-profile relationship with fellow swimmer Eamon Sullivan. Now the Australian is in the spotlight for a different reason: she's an Olympic champion.

Rice took the world record back from Katie Hoff of the United States and won the 400-meter individual medley Sunday in her Olympic debut.

"What happens outside the pool is no one else's business," Rice said. "This is something I've really been looking forward to since I was a young girl."

Rice touched in 4:29.45, slicing nearly two seconds off the record Hoff set at the U.S. trials in June. Swimming in lane 1, Kirsty

Coventry of Zimbabwe also went under the old mark and took silver in 4:29.89, while Hoff had to settle for third in 4:31.71. "I didn't really see Kirsty on the other side of the pool, but I gave everything I possibly had at the end," Rice said. "It wasn't about getting the world record back. It's about the Olympics and an opportunity that you don't get very often."

The victory was also Australia's 400th medal at the Summer Games.

"Someone had told me at the beginning of the meet that whoever gets the first (medal) is Australia's 400th and I thought, 'Wow, that's an amazing honor,'" Rice said.

"I thought I had a pretty good chance of getting in contention with that, but seeing Hackett and his race before, I thought he may have had a shot, and I didn't know about the other sports. So it was something I didn't really think about until after the race."

Immediately before Rice's race, Australian veteran Grant Hackett finished a disappointing sixth in the 400 freestyle, which was won by Park Tae-hwan of South Korea.

The now-retired Ian Thorpe won the 400 at the past two Olympics, and Hackett was under pressure to extend the Australian tradition.

"It wasn't what I was looking for. I just didn't have the speed," said Hackett, who will go for an unprecedented third straight victory in the 1,500 free later on at these games.

Rice also won Australia's first gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, where she met Sullivan, the current 50-meter freestyle world record holder.

The couple posed in a widely publicized underwear shoot earlier this year, then announced last month that they were separating by changing their relationship entries on the social Web site Facebook.

"We both mutually agreed that

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## Mohsin to join BFF as paid executive

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is all set to engage yet another footballer for one of its projects as it will soon announce Mohammed Mohsin as a paid executive.

A former international, Mohsin's career was shortened after being hit by a firecracker during a match in Khulna and the fearsome striker got himself involved in coaching in the recent past.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday informed The Daily Star that he has talked with Mohsin who would be head of BFF's programme to find six venues outside the capital.

"We are trying to go outside Dhaka for stadiums, which will be alternative for the capital," said Salahuddin, who will be in control of the whole project.

"The decision to appoint Mohsin is final and his job would be to shortlist 12 venues to five for the BFF."

"We have yet to pinpoint the venues but working on it. We need these venues on permanent basis for football to share the load of the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Not only the local leagues or FA-run tournaments will be held there but we are planning to continuously hold big matches too."

"This will attract the local crowd and local competitions will be benefited," told Salahuddin adding that Mohsin would receive assistance from the federation members and if needed, the federation will appoint more executives.

"It would take two months to finalise the six five stadiums we are looking for and matches will start at those places from this year," the BFF chief sounded confident.

The Gazipur Stadium has already come under BFF's notice while the football's governing body also has its eyes on venues in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Faridpur and other places like Noakhali and Comilla in a bid to spread the game countrywide.

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## AFC CHALLENGE CUP Delhi to host final on Wednesday

THE-AFC.COM, Kuala Lumpur

The AFC Challenge Cup final and third-place playoff matches, scheduled for yesterday, will be played at the Ambedkar Stadium in Delhi on Wednesday.

After inspecting the stadium in the Indian capital on Sunday, AFC decided to shift both the matches to Ambedkar Stadium.

Now, the final between hosts India and defending champions Tajikistan will be played at 7.30pm (Bangladesh time), preceded by the third-place playoff between North Korea and Myanmar at 4pm.

The shift in the venue was necessitated after incessant rains in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad turned the ground unplayable.

## Shakib back for Tigers

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahim was left out from the 15-member squad for the upcoming tour of Australia after the wicketkeeper became the only player out of four to have failed a fitness test for the three-match series.

Vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, batsman Alok Kapali and paceman Nazmul Hossain were all declared fit to be drafted in the squad which will fly for Australia in the early hours of August 14 to play five practice games before playing the three-match series against the world's number one team in Darwin.

Chief selector Rafiqul Alam declared the team yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur bringing in three changes from the last squad that played the Asia Cup in Pakistan in June-July.

## SQUAD

Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (vice-captain), Shahriar Nafees, Tamim Iqbal, Rokibul Hasan, Shakib Al Hasan, Alok Kapali, Dhiman Ghosh (wicketkeeper), Mahmudullah Riyad, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Forhad Reza, Mehrib Hossain, Nazmul Hossain and Dollar Mahmud.

"We took some more time to declare the team because of injury problems. All of them recovered from the injuries except Mushfiq who hardly had any problem while keeping and batting but was uncomfortable when throwing the ball," said Rafiq.

"We can't take any risk when we have to carry one wicketkeeper. Dhiman (Ghosh) was recalled as



SHAKIB AL HASAN

his performance in the five-match one-day series in Pakistan in April was not too good or too bad but his performance in England with the A team was quite impressive," he explained the reason behind inclusion of Dhiman, who scored 94 runs in 11 ODIs.

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan

returned, as expected, to the fold after opting out in the last two tournaments due to his academic commitments. Left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain was dropped to pave the way for the left-handed middle order batsman who doubles as a handy left-arm spinner.

The axe also fell on opener Nazimuddin who got the chance to play all the matches in the Asia Cup but failed to deliver and in his place the selectors brought back Nazmul, considering the conditions in Darwin.

"We picked up five pace bowlers as the weather is always hot in Darwin although the humidity is not like here and we expect bouncy pitches there. On the other hand, we have five practice games and some practice sessions before the series."

"We are struggling with the opening pair. Nazimuddin got enough chance but he was not up to the mark and most importantly Mehrib (Hossain) looked impressive against the new ball and that's why we considered him as the third opener. Shahriar Nafees kept his place because of his good record and especially his previous performance against Australia has been good," said Rafiq.

The former national player said that their main target would be to close the gap against the world champions during the three-match series.

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## Lanka halfway there

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka tightened the screw on India with a superb all-round performance on the third day of the crucial third and final Test here on Sunday.

The hosts were indebted to debutant fast bowler Dammika Prasad and Kumar Sangakkara for boosting their hopes of clinching the series as India struggled to 161-5 in their second innings at stumps.

That meant India were just 14 runs ahead with five wickets in hand. Rahul Dravid was unbeaten on 46 and Venkatesai Laxman on 17

notout.

The series is tied at 1-1, with Sri Lanka winning the opening Test by an innings and 239 runs and India posting a 170-run victory in the second match.

Sri Lanka were bowled out for 396 in the afternoon in reply to India's modest first-innings total of 249, with left-handed Sangakkara making a solid 144 for his 17th Test century.

Unorthodox Sri Lankan spinner Ajantha Mendis (2-39) broke Englishman Alec Bedser's record of 24 wickets in a three-Test debut series. Mendis has bagged 25 wickets in the ongoing series.

Prasad ended India's early flourish when he dismissed stroke-happy openers Virender Sehwag

(34) and Gautam Gambhir (26) in successive overs.

Sehwag was caught by Thilan Samaraweera at gully, while Gambhir inside-edged a delivery on to his stumps while attempting to pull. The pair added 62 off just 10.4 overs.

India were without Ishant Sharma in the morning as the fast bowler was unfit to bowl after falling on his follow-through in Saturday's last session.

The injuries to Sachin Tendulkar and Laxman forced under-pressure India to change their batting order.

Tendulkar batted down the order after suffering an elbow injury on Saturday and Laxman made his appearance with a runner

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PHOTO: AFP

THE ROOKIE: Sri Lankan paceman Dammika Prasad (C), playing in his debut Test, celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of India's Gautam Gambhir (unseen) on the third day of the third and final Test at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on Sunday.

## AB defies England

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

A defiant fifty from AB de Villiers gave South Africa a fighting chance on the fourth day against England at The Oval. South Africa were reduced to 168 for 5 at lunch, leading by 46, but lost only two more wickets by tea to extend their lead to 143.

England's disciplined bowlers took the initiative in the morning, however. Unlike yesterday, the conditions were dry and humid - ideal for swing bowling. And also unlike the third morning, Steve Harmison immediately found a probing line outside the off stump. Hashim Amla's first shot of the morning was a loose flap to Broad's final delivery of his overnight over, and though the batsman laughed at his frantic stroke, it represented his waning focus on what was a crucial first session for both teams.

In the third over of the day, Harmison went wider of the crease and angled in another scorching short delivery that Amla could only fend behind. It was snuffed one-handed with a wobble by Tim Ambrose who lay flat on his back with relief. Outstanding though the catch was, especially considering he has a broken finger, it seems unlikely to be a career-saving one.

It has defied belief to watch Kallis struggle with such consistency this series, and his woes continued on the fourth morning. Harmison was relentlessly fast, forcing Kallis to fend him awkwardly out to point and keeping him well on the back foot. Anderson, meanwhile, initially struggled with his line but soon brought the prodigious swing under control. He couldn't quite perfect his booming inswinger to Kallis, however.

For someone so out of form, Kallis craved a slice of luck - and he got a fat tranche on 9 when he

drove Harmison low to Pietersen at mid-off. Yet the very next ball, England ended his series horrors on 104 runs when he fended a sharp and rising delivery from Harmison low to Paul Collingwood at third slip. South Africa were effectively 16 for 4.

Pietersen maintained an aggressive, slip-heavy field. And once Anderson had finished his spell, Broad - who has struggled with his bowling in this series - replaced him. He too found booming inswing to Prince, the left-hander, who has lost some confidence since his earlier centuries in the series. Rarely moving his feet, reaching out dangerously for balls wide of his off stump, he drove loosely at a big inswinger from Broad before loosely clattering one out through extra cover.

And all the while, England's best bowler was left relaxing in the slip cordon. After Harmison's superb eight-over spell of 2 for 12, Flintoff

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PHOTO: STAR

Abahani midfielder Abul (L) skips past Mostofa, the Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper, only to fail to score during their Citycell Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.