

## Unfair Games

"One of them clearly he missed. I don't think anyone there thought he hit it. If that had been for a gold I would have been protesting. The referees have to unison but there was a lot of doubt about a lot of shots out there. I'm glad it wasn't for a gold medal se that is all that this Games would have been mbered for unfortunately."

Australia's Russell Mark bemoans the judging at Shooting Double Trap event. (details on page 18)



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## Tigers off to Darwin

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraf's men are scheduled to leave for the Australian city of Darwin in the early hours of Thursday to play a three-match ODI series.

On their second tour to the country of cricket's world champions, Bangladesh will play five practice matches against Australian Institute of Sports and Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI before embarking on the one-day series.

The first four practice matches are against AIS on August 18, 20, 23 and 25 at the Gardens Oval in Darwin while the fifth game will be against the territory's Chief Minister's XI on August 27, at the same ground.

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## Pioneer League final today

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP will take on Rampura Club in the final of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League today.

The match, which only has academic interest following both teams' qualification for next year's third division, will kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4.30pm.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka will distribute trophies as chief guest at the concluding function of the 20th final of the competition.



## Did U Know?

There are five Olympic Mascots for Beijing Games 2008: Beibei (blue fish), Jingjing (black panda), Huanhuan (red flame), Yingying (yellow antelope) and Nini (green swallow). Their five names together - 'Bei Jing Huan Ying Ni' - translates as 'Welcome to Beijing'.

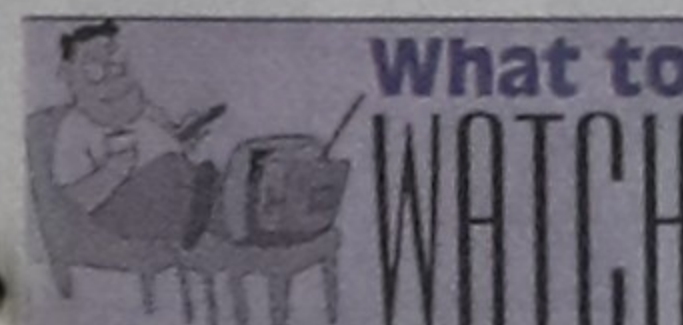


## Leisel Jones

(Australian world record-holder swimmer)

"I couldn't care less about the time. An Olympic gold is an Olympic gold. The time, the race, none of it matters - it's all about the gold."

After winning the women's 100m breaststroke gold in the Beijing Olympic Games on Tuesday.



**What to WATCH**

**BTV**

Beijing Olympic Games  
Aquatics Men's/Women's Finals  
Live from 8:30am  
Gymnastics Men's Individual  
All Round Final  
Live from 9:00am  
Cycling Men's/Women's Semifinals,  
Final  
Live from 2:30pm

## Vaughan afraid of Twenty20

AFP, London

Former England captain Michael Vaughan fears the lure of lucrative Twenty20 competitions could turn young players into sloggers who won't be interested in Test cricket.

Vaughan is convinced the riches on offer to players in the fledgling Twenty20 tournaments in

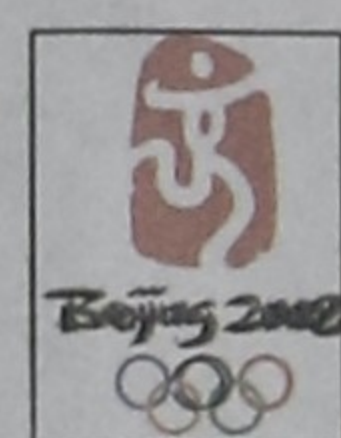
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FLYING LIKE A PIGEON: China's Deng Linlin performs on the floor during the women's team final of the artistic gymnastics event in the 2008 Beijing Olympics yesterday. China won the gold while United States won the silver and Romania, the winners in this event at Athens four years ago, took the bronze.

## China leads the pack

AFP, Beijing



China erupted Wednesday when its women won their first team Olympic gold medal, with further success in shooting, diving, and weightlifting adding to the elation.

Emotions also spilled over on the badminton courts with defending women's champion Zhang Ning breaking down in tears after coming through a mammoth quarterfinal against Chinese-born Pi Hongyan of France 21-8, 19-21, 21-19.

And Li Na became the first Chinese player to reach an Olympic tennis singles quarterfinal with a two sets to one win over Estonia's Kaia Kanepi.

China's gymnasts capitalised on a mistake-ridden US performance before an enthralled audience at Beijing's National Indoor Stadium who roared their approval when the medal was won.

The win avenged their narrow loss to the United States at last year's world championships and added to the team gold claimed by China's men on Tuesday.

Defending Olympic champion Romania won bronze.

"I feel very excited because we sacrificed a lot to win this gold medal and this is a direct competition between the Chinese team and the USA team and we are very proud that we won," said Chinese gymnastics coach Lu Shanzhen.

Chen Ying claimed China's third shooting gold of the Games when she won the women's 25m Pistol final, setting a new Games record in the process.

The hot favourite after winning the 2006 world championships, Chen came in with 793.4 points to surpass by two Bulgarian Maria Grozdeva's previous Olympic record set in Sydney.

In front of packed crowds of passionate fans, Wang Feng and Qin Kai clinched the men's synchronised 3m springboard title to continue China's diving domination with the hosts' fourth straight gold.

This was China's most comprehensive diving victory so far, winning by with a staggering 469.08 points compared to the 421.98 of Russian silver medallists Sautin Dmitry and Yuriy Kunakov.

"This gold is so important to my life," said Wang. "We performed very well today."

Liu Chunhong won the women's 69kg weightlifting gold medal, with the defending Olympic champion hoisting 128kg in the

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## India win Challenge Cup

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunil Chhetri was India's hero as the forward fired a hat-trick to help the hosts lift the AFC Challenge Cup with a crushing 4-1 victory over defending champions Tajikistan in the final at Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi yesterday.

Three goals in the opening 22 minutes swept Tajikistan, who won the inaugural Challenge Cup in Dhaka in 2006, away with Chhetri finding the back of the net either side of a Baichung Bhutia strike before the former completed his treble with 16 minutes remaining.

Fatkhullo Fatkhuloev reduced the arrears in the first-half for Pulod Kodirov's side but it proved merely a consolation effort.

The result also sees Bob Houghton's side book their place

in the 2011 Asian Cup as automatic qualifiers, their first appearance in the continent's showpiece tournament since 1984.

Captain Bhutia was adjudged the most valuable player of the eight-team finals. Apart from the final and the third-place play-off, all matches were played in Hyderabad but the venue was shifted to the capital due to incessant rain.

Earlier on the day, tournament top-scorer Pak Song-chol netted a first-half hat-trick to steer DPR Korea to an emphatic 4-0 victory over Myanmar as the East Asians claimed third place.

Pak took his individual tally to six goals with two early freekicks and a 43rd minute penalty, awarded after Han Win Aung felled So Kwang-chol in the area.

Han's poor tackle resulted in his second yellow card from UAE referee Khalid Jassim Al Senan and left Myanmar having to play out the

remainder of the match with ten men.

Myanmar had started brightly enough but their hopes quickly faded after Pak struck twice in the space of two minutes.

Pak claimed his first in the ninth minute when Pak Chol-min was brought down just outside the area and the forward curled a freekick around the wall and beyond Myanmar's second choice keeper Kyaw Zin Htet.

Two minutes later, Pak doubled the lead, this time with another neatly struck freekick from the right of the area that eluded a host of defenders before finding the back of the net.

The Koreans continued to threaten throughout the first period, Pak missing out on a third goal by a whisker when he shot just over from close range in the 21st minute.

Ri Kwang-hyok's angled header from So's cross also flew narrowly

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## Jin can now propose to his wife

CHINA DAILY

South Korean shooter Jin Jong Oh had planned to propose with a gold medal in 2004. However, at the Athens Games, he grabbed a silver instead in men's 50-meter pistol.

Two years later, he vowed to present his bride a gold medal from the Asian Games, but the shooter even failed to touch any medal in the trip.

This time, the 29-year-old finally fulfilled his pledge, with bonus of a silver.

The silver was seized on Saturday in men's 10-meter air pistol, while the gold medal he earned in 50-meter pistol after a difficult competition on Tuesday.

Although he said he was dissatisfied with his preliminary performance, he said he was lucky in the final.

"I am very happy to get this gold medal," he said. This was also the first Olympic gold medal South Korean shooters achieved since 1992.

To win the medal, the man with injury on his shoulders trained seven hours a day.

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## Academy play 2nd 4-dayer today

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting GP-BCB National Cricket Academy take on their South African counterparts in the second four-day match at Laudiam in Pretoria today.

On Tuesday, the tourists secured an exciting three-run win over their host Academy in the first four-day match at Tukies in Pretoria.

On completion of the second four-dayer, the three one-day matches between the two Academy sides are slated for August 20 at Dobsonville, August 22 at Tukies and August 24 at Lenasia.

The Academy team will return home on August 25.

## Spin camp from Aug 24

SPORTS REPORTER

A spin bowlers' camp will take place from August 24 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Bangladesh Cricket Board's game development committee has organised the three-day camp at the indoor facility of the Mirpur venue.

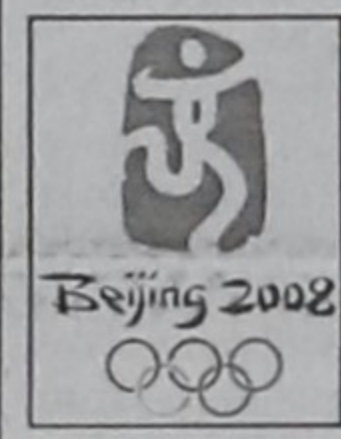
All Premier League and First Division clubs have been requested to nominate three players each while six Divisional Sports Associations were asked to nominate eight players each by August 19.

Former left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique will be the spin bowling consultant while former national coach Osman

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## Georgia beat Russia

AFP, Beijing



Wednesday.

The crisis in the disputed province of South Ossetia provided the backdrop to what, in sporting terms, was a memorable enough day in itself for Georgia as two competitors from the former Soviet republic won their country's first gold medals of these Games.

And the context wasn't lost on Georgia's Manuchar Kvirikelia, after his triumph in the 74

kilogramme Greco-Roman wrestling competition.

"I proved the existence of Georgia in the world with my gold. This is the biggest day for Georgia in this Olympics this far. It means a lot, especially in this difficult time."

There was glory for Georgia in another combat sport with Irakli Tsirekidze standing atop the podium in the men's -90kg judo tournament.

On his way to gold, Tsirekidze beat Russian opponent Ivan Pershin in the semifinals. But asked about his last four victory, Tsirekidze simply said of Pershin: "We are friends, we have known each other for a long time."

All those looking for a spat on the sand during a women's beach volleyball match between the warring nations earlier Wednesday

would have been disappointed by the way in which the Georgian duo crossed under the net to embrace their Russian opponents before the contest started.

But politics did intrude following Georgia's two sets to one victory, the situation complicated by the fact that both players in their pairing were born in the beach volleyball stronghold of Brazil.

"We were not actually playing against the Georgian team. We were playing against our Brazilian friends here," Russia's Natalia Uryadova snipped.

Asked whether the war back home had affected the two teams' performance, Uryadova, said: "If they were Georgian they certainly would be influenced but they are not (Georgian)."

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## ICC must sway players

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

As the ICC task force wrapped up its visit to Pakistan to assess security concerns ahead of September's Champions Trophy, its real work begins now. Members of the panel will head to Australia, New Zealand and England, where they will also meet with South Africa, in a bid to convince top players from the countries not to pull out over security concerns.

Haroon Lorgat, the ICC chief executive, admitted the next step in ensuring a top-quality tournament might not be so simple. "I think it's not easy to convince people that are feeling uncertain about something," Lorgat said in Karachi on the last leg of the task force's three-day

visit. "It is a difficult task but we have to do our best and, Insha Allah, we

## REVISED SCHEDULE

GROUP A: Australia, Pakistan, India and West Indies			
GROUP B: England, South Africa, Sri Lanka and New Zealand			
Sept 12	Pakistan v West Indies	Lahore	
Sept 13	Australia v India	Karachi	
Sept 14	Sri Lanka v England	Lahore	
Sept 14	South Africa v Sri Lanka	Karachi	
Sept 15	Pakistan v Australia	Karachi	
Sept 16	South Africa v Sri Lanka	Lahore	
Sept 17	England v New Zealand	Lahore	
Sept 18	India v West Indies	Karachi	
Sept 19	New Zealand v Sri Lanka	Lahore	
Sept 20	India v Pakistan	Karachi	
Sept 21	Australia v West Indies	Lahore	
Sept 21	England v South Africa	Karachi	
Sept 24	Semifinal A2 v B1	Karachi	
Sept 26	Semifinal A1 v B2	Lahore	
Sept 28	Final	Lahore	

will be able to convince them."

A group led by Lorgat will go to England early next week while David Richardson, the ICC's general manager of cricket, will head meetings in New Zealand on Thursday and Australia on Friday. Tim May, the chief executive of the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations, and Geoff Lawson, the Pakistan coach, will travel with Richardson.

David Morgan, the ICC president, will receive the results of the meetings on August 20 and make "a further assessment of the comfort levels of our participating members."

"We are committed to a safe and secure event in Pakistan," Morgan said. "We believe these visits and the feedback we get from them will play a major role in us achieving those ends."

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India one-day captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (R) shakes hands with his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahela Jayawardene in Colombo on Wednesday.

PHOTO AFP



Bangladesh players Tamim Iqbal (R) and Forhad Reza discuss packing techniques as Shakib Al Hasan (L), who is sporting a new hairdo, listens at their hotel room in Mirpur ahead of the flight to Darwin from Dhaka last night. The Tigers go to the northern Australian city to play three one-day internationals from August 30.

PHOTO STAR