

## Fan power for Du

"During the first event I did perform very bad and it was a big pity. I let many people down. I thought about giving up but ... during the past days fans give me a lot of support and my spirit resumed."

Chinese shooter Du Li reveals how fan support helped her gain redemption after a tearful exit just days beforehand. (details on page 18)



## Williams sisters, Federer crash out

AFP, Beijing

Top seed Roger Federer and Venus and Serena Williams all went crashing out of the Olympic Games quarterfinals on Thursday as the tournament was rocked by major upsets.

James Blake secured his first win over Federer 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) to increase the Swiss maestro's woes, while Serena Williams' campaign ended at the hands of Russia's Elena Dementieva 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Venus followed with a stunning reverse against China's Li Na, ranked 42, who raised the Centre Court roof with a 7-5, 7-5 win.

Federer, who hands over his number one crown to Rafael Nadal on Monday, was broken when serving for the first set and was crushed in the second-set tie-break.

Blake, 28, collapsed to his knees and roared with delight as he celebrated the win, which he described as a career highlight. He had taken only one set off Federer in nine attempts stretching back to 2003.

For Federer, it was his third defeat in six matches since losing his five-year Wimbledon crown to Nadal five weeks ago. The 12-time Grand Slam winner has spent a

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## Did U Know?

When Australian swimming legend Ian Thorpe said he did not think anyone could win eight races at a single Olympics, Michael Phelps memorised the quote to motivate himself for Beijing.



## Lu Shanzhen

(Chinese gymnastics coach)

"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."

After winning the first women's team gymnastics gold medal in the Beijing Olympic Games on Wednesday.



**BTV**  
Beijing Olympic Games  
Athletics  
Live from 7:30am  
Aquatics  
Live from 8:30am  
Gymnastics  
Live from 9:40am  
Boxing  
Live from 12:05pm  
Women's Football  
Live from 4:05pm

## Stage set for Jamil to be GS of BHF

SPORTS REPORTER

Khondokar Jamiluddin was the lone candidate to submit nomination for the post of general secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday.

Once his candidature is accepted, the former cricket board official and vice-president of the BHF ad-hoc committee will be elected general secretary unopposed.

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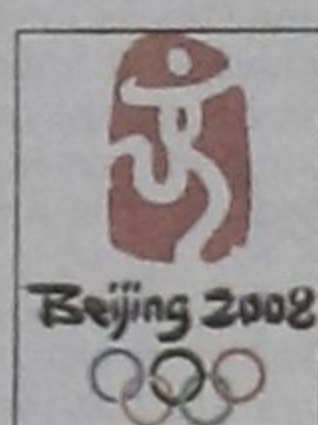


PHOTO: AFP

UNIQUE DOUBLE: Japan's Kosuke Kitajima powers his way to win the men's 200m breaststroke gold at the National Aquatics Centre in the 2008 Beijing Olympics yesterday. The victory also completed Kitajima's Olympic double for the second successive Games.

## The breaststroke king

XINHUA, Beijing



Stories of pool successes are always about strength and stamina, but with Kosuke Kitajima, it is only more true.

The Japanese swimmer has a disadvantageous height of 1.78 meters, while others usually go beyond 1.90. But for what he is lacking, he made up through tough training.

The 25-year-old has become the only swimmer who has won four Olympic breaststroke gold medals, two in Athens and two in Beijing.

On Monday, Kitajima went to the 100m breaststroke final much less favored than rival American Brendan Hansen, who held the event's world record at 59.13 seconds. Kitajima not only won, but also bettered Hansen's mark by 0.22 seconds, and became the only man in the world to swim within the 59-second mark.

"When I saw the screen, I could see the time as 59:90, I thought it was terribly slow, but I checked it again and it was 58," he said after the 100m race.

"My performance was perfect and ideal. I would have been baffled if you do not say that was perfect," the swimmer said.

After winning the 100m, Kitajima screamed like he had been freed from extremely heavy shackles.

Three days later, the Japanese again stood upon the deck for the 200m breaststroke, only more comfortable this time. Two months earlier, he set a new world record at 2:07.51.

Kitajima thrusted ahead with powerful strokes in the water. At some point, his strokes seemed to be not as frequent as others, but with his own pace, he started to distance himself away from those who trailed him.

"I'm so relieved. I'm glad that I won this race," he said after the four-lap event, "compared to the 100m race, I think I was more calm

today."

"I was going to improve my time a bit more, but I guess that to win this race is more important than to set a good time," he said.

Having repeated his Athens success, Kitajima raised his right arm to affirm his victory, but that was it. Still tight-lipped and barely smiling, he appeared more calm than others who easily went off to wild celebrations.

"I was so calm that I think I could have seen each face in this venue. I enjoyed my race," he said.

With the new titles, the Tokyo native, who started swimming at the age of five, has become one of the most successful athletes in Japan.

After his victory in the 100m breaststroke, people in his hometown in Arakawa Ward, Tokyo, rushed to his father's butcher's shop to celebrate the win.

His achievement has given him a niche in an arena dominated by swimmers from the United States and Australians.

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## May wants more action

CRICINFO, undated



Tim May, the chief executive of the global cricket players' union, believes

Pakistan must do more to ensure the safety of players at next month's Champions Trophy. May will form part of an International Cricket Council (ICC) task force that will attempt to allay the touring fears of New Zealand in meetings on Thursday before travelling to Australia on Friday.

In the Herald Sun May, who represents the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations, praised the Pakistan Cricket Board for its efforts, but said more had to be done. And he said it was not too late to make the changes.

"One of the concerns of the task force is that we haven't been able to

see enough of, let's say, the implementation of the security forces," May told the paper. "We need to speak to the players and governing bodies and see if they are in the same position too, if they want to see some more."

Geoff Lawson, the Pakistan coach and former Test bowler, will join May in the meetings in an effort to convince Australia and New Zealand to travel. Australia postponed Test and one-day series earlier in the year while New Zealand, along with England and South Africa, have concerns over participating in the tournament, which is due to start on September 12.

"I am coming at the ICC's request to give my personal experiences to the New Zealand and Australian players and officials," Lawson said in the Australian. "I will be telling them why I live in Lahore and why I think it is safe."

"I wouldn't be living there if I didn't think it was safe. I will be letting them know my straightforward and earnest views."

Australia point to the government's travel warnings when arguing against going to Pakistan. "We strongly advise you to reconsider your need to travel to Pakistan at this time due to the very high threat of terrorist attack, sectarian violence and the unpredictable security situation," the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website says. "If you do decide to travel to Pakistan, you should exercise extreme caution."

While one ICC group is in the southern hemisphere, another will be travelling to England, where it will talk with English and South African officials early next week. David Morgan, the ICC president, will receive the results of the meetings on August 20.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh batsmen Nazimuddin (L) and Mehrab Hossain (C) listen as skipper Mohammad Ashraful (2nd from L) jokes with manager Shafiqul Haq at the Zia International Airport on the early hours of Thursday, ahead of their departure to Darwin.

## Hosts off to solid start

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts South Africa Academy team made a solid start to the second four-day match against GP-BCB National Cricket Academy on the first day at the Laundiam Oval in Pretoria yesterday.

The hosts were comfortably placed at 200 for two at tea.

Stiaan Van Zyl (43) and Dane Vilas (20) were at the crease when the umpires called time.

Earlier, Richard Levi struck 68 while and Sammy-Joe Avontuur chipped in with 59.

One batsman fell run out while the other wicket went to off-spinner Nasir Hossain.

In the first four-day match, the tourists secured an exciting three-run victory over their South African counterparts at Tukkies in Pretoria.

## Pioneer League BKSP's

SPORTS REPORTER

Masud Rana's double strike ensured sports school BKSP became champions of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The champions won 3-0 against Rampura Krira Chakra but it could have been much worse after Masud's brilliant strikes that came within the first seven minutes.

The striker scored as early as the second minute and made it 2-0 for the Savar-based institution in the seventh minute.

After the lemon break, Saifuddin Ahmed completed the result with a thundering shot in the 82nd minute.

Mayor of Dhaka Sadeq Hossain Khoka was the chief guest on the occasion and distributed the prizes.

Both BKSP and Rampura had already qualified for next season's Third Division Football League.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police team crushed Bangladesh Prisons Directorate 41-15 in the National Kabaddi Competition of the Services Zone at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Navy secured a 14-9 win over Bangladesh Air Force team.

In today's matches, Bangladesh Army face Prisons while Police are up against Bangladesh Air Force in the later match.

**WOMEN'S CRICKET CAMP**  
UNB adds: A ten-day talent hunt camp for women cricketers began at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Thirty players from all six divisions as well as from BKSP and Ansar will undergo training in the camp, under the tutelage of Zafur Ehsan, the head coach.

Later, they will be selected for the women's national team and an A-team.

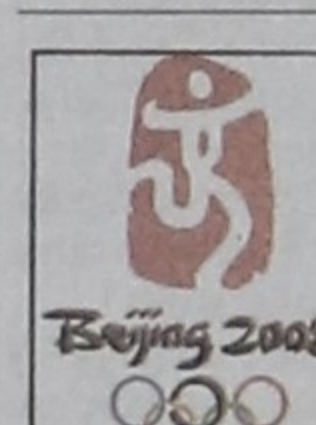
**UNDER-19 CAMP**  
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have selected 22 players for the under-19 preparation camp to begin on Monday.

The selected players have been

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## Golden girl Rice

INTERNET, undated



For someone who claims to know little about Australian swimming history, Stephanie Rice has done a stunning job of securing her place in it.

In swimming the leadoff leg for the first Aussie team to win an Olympic gold medal in the women's 4x200 free relay Thursday, the 20-year-old Rice became just the fifth Aussie to collect three golds in a single Olympics, joining Shane Gould, Ian Thorpe, Jodie Henry and Patria Thomas in the pantheon. As with Rice's 400 and 200 IM victories -- she was the first Aussie to double in the medleys -- the one today was in world record time.

The victory was a huge upset. The Americans had won all three Olympic titles and the last four world championship titles in the event and were such heavy favourites in Beijing that bookmakers Down Under set 16-1 odds against Australia winning it. Yet Rice's teammates, Bronte Barratt, Kylie Palmer and Linda MacKenzie, seemed to be just as oblivious to history as she is: Their time of 7:44.31 shattered the record the Americans set at the 2007 World Championships in Melbourne by more than five seconds.

The American team of Allison Schmitt, Natalie Coughlin, Caroline Burckle and Katie Hoff finished third in 7:46.33, four tenths of a second behind China's Yang Yu, Zhu Qianwei, Tan Miao, and Pang Jiajing. Hoff nearly overtook Pang for the silver, but she ran

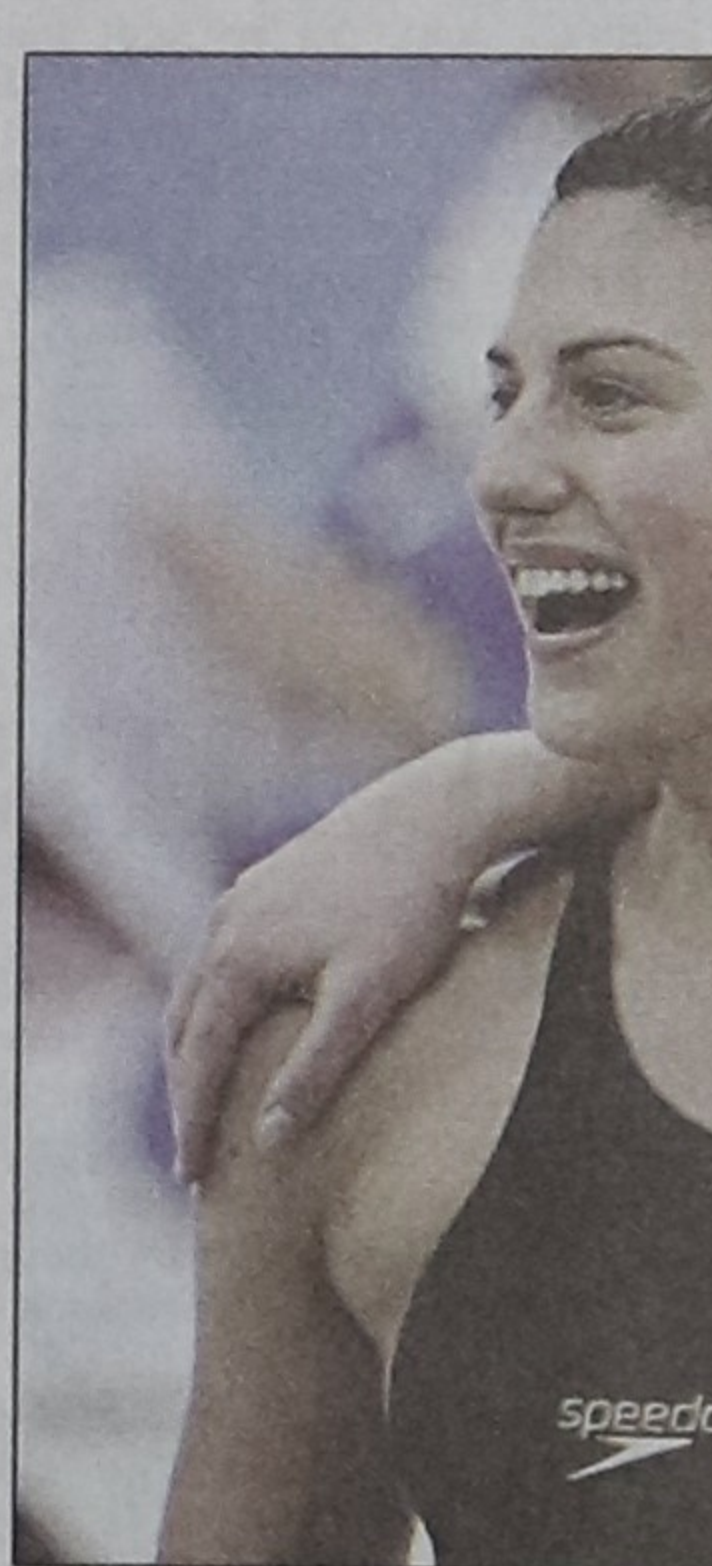
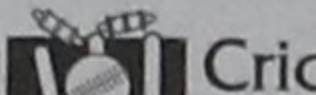


PHOTO: AFP

**SUPER RICE:** Australia's Stephanie Rice (L) celebrates the women's 4 x 200m freestyle relay gold triumph with teammates Bronte Barratt (C) and Kylie Palmer at the National Aquatics Centre in the 2008 Beijing Olympics yesterday. It was Rice's third gold in the magnificent Water Cube.

## Champs League from Dec 3



CRICINFO, undated

The inaugural Champions League Twenty20 will be played on those dates, allowing all players to participate. The tournament has been sandwiched between the India's seventh one-day against England and the first Test in Ahmedabad, which start a day before and after the tournament respectively.

"We are happy that we were able to find a window during the first week of December for the inaugural edition of the Champions League Twenty20," Lalit Modi, the Indian Premier League commissioner, said. "There was a gap in between the one-day internationals and Tests [in India] against the touring England squad, which will enable both the Rajasthan Royals and the Chennai Super Kings (the

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## Migration to Australia

If you have following attributes you can migrate to Australia with your family.

1. Honors or Masters Degree
  2. Below 45 years of Age
  3. At least one year of recent work experience
- For further information please come along with an updated CV.

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