

Sky is Yelena's limit

"Yes I will do it. I have just 12 more to go. boring without world records so I continue forever. Only the sky is my Russian pole-vault queen Yelena not short of self-confidence when can reach the legendary Sergei record of 35 world records. She has 24. (details on page 19)



Life would be want to limit." Isinbaeva in asked if she Bubka's world-currently

Academy's first 1-dayer today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first one-day match between GP-BCB National Cricket Academy and South Africa Academy takes place at Dobsonville in Johannesburg today.

Earlier the sides drew the two-match four-day series 1-1 as the home side bounced back strongly with an innings and 63-run victory in the second game after conceding a three-run defeat in the opening match.

The second one-day match will be held on August 22 at Tukkies in Pretoria and the third and final is scheduled for August 24 at Lenasia in Johannesburg.

The GP-BCB National Cricket Academy team will return home on August 25.

Eng-SA T20 called off

AFP, London

England's Twenty20 International against South Africa on Wednesday evening has been called off following heavy rain at the Chester-le-Street ground.

Authorities made the decision to call off England's only competitive Twenty20 game before their Stanford match in Antigua on November 1 after arriving at the ground on Tuesday to find the outfield saturated.

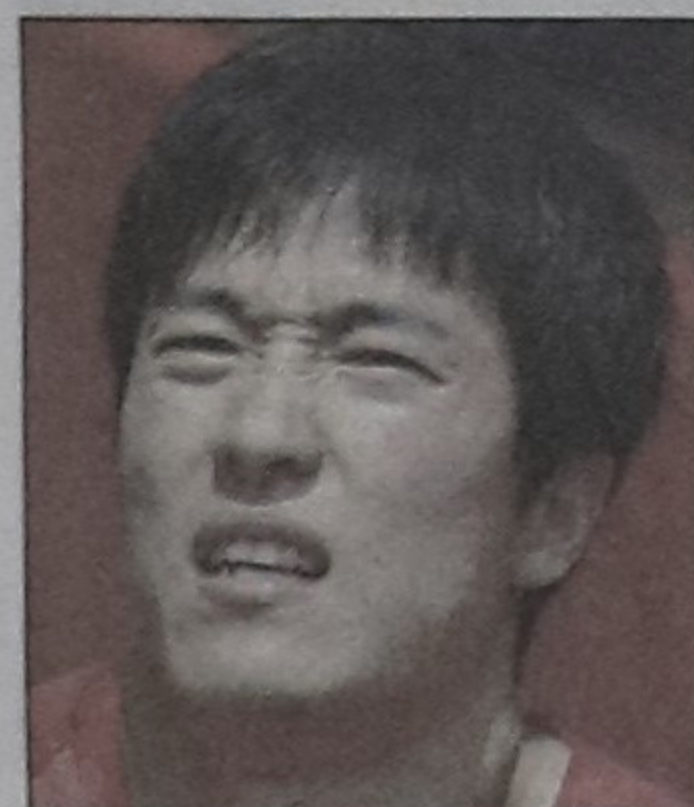
It means England will be without any practice in this format before they fly out to the West Indies to compete in the 10 million pound (£18.6 million dollar) game against a Stanford All Stars team.

The first of five one-day international matches against South African start at Headingley on Friday.



Did U Know?

Three countries - The Marshall Islands, Montenegro and Tuvalu - are taking part in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games for the first time.



Liu Xiang

(Star Chinese athlete)

"I just feel so sorry. Because there were so many people supporting me, I told myself I had to run, but I just couldn't do it."

On his withdrawal from the heats of 110m hurdles in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on Monday that devastated his legion of fans across China.



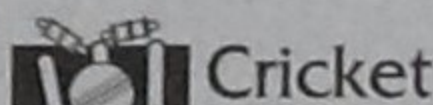
What to WATCH

BTV
Beijing Olympic Games
Women's Volleyball
Live from 8:00am
Men's Handball
Live from 11:30am
Gymnastic Gala
Live from 12:00pm
Men's Basketball
Live from 2:50pm
Taekwondo
Live from 4:30pm
Athletics
Live from 7:05pm
TEN Sports
India v Sri Lanka
Second ODI
Live from 10:30am



Argentina's young striker Sergio Aguero (front) celebrates after scoring the opening goal of his side's 3-0 thrashing of bitter South American rivals Brazil in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games semifinal at the Worker's Stadium yesterday. Holders Argentina face Nigeria, who thumped Belgium 4-1 in the other semi, in Saturday's final at the National Stadium or the Bird's Nest.

Mendis the menace Sri Lanka-India second ODI today



AFP, Dambulla

India one-day captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Monday conceded it was not easy to read Sri Lanka's unorthodox spinner Ajantha Mendis.

"When you are playing Mendis, you have to save wickets and get runs as well. It gets a bit tough. Even Murali (Muttiah Muralitharan) was difficult some time back, but Mendis is a bit more unusual than him," said Dhoni.

Mendis played a key role in his team's eight-wicket win over India in the first one-dayer of the five-

match series here, finishing with 3-21 off nine overs to restrict the tourists to 146.

Sri Lanka achieved the modest target with more than 15 overs to spare, with the man-of-the-match award going to Mendis.

"It's difficult to pick him (Mendis). He is a very different bowler. Even if you pick him, by the time you realise what ball it is, it gets really late to play a big shot," said Dhoni.

"In one-day cricket, it is not only about playing him but also rotating the strike because you don't want a bowler to end up with 10 overs for 20 runs. We need to find a way to rotate the strike."

"I have not seen any bowler like

him. He is an unusual bowler. The only option right now is to play more and more of him and that's the only way of getting better."

The Indian captain said losing early wickets affected his team's chances of posting a decent total.

"We misread the wicket a bit. There was a fair bit in the pitch for bowlers early in the match. The Sri Lankans bowled really well as they got early wickets. Credit goes to them," said Dhoni, who had elected to bat first.

"Later on, Mendis put the pressure. The only thing we were doing was to catch up and it gets really tough in one-day games if you lose too many wickets up front."

Sehwag out of ODI series

AFP, Dambulla

India's opener Virender Sehwag has been ruled out of the ongoing one-day series against Sri Lanka due to an ankle injury, a top official said here on Monday.

"He (Sehwag) is out of the series," said Indian manager Sanjay Desai.

Sehwag missed the opening one-dayer of the five-match series here on Monday after failing to recover from the injury, sustained during a practice session on Sunday evening.

India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said they would miss the in-form batsman, especially after the team's eight-wicket defeat in the first match.

"He was the batsman in top form. It (injury) was quite bad

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Chennai won't stand in Dhoni's way

CRICINFO, undated

Chennai Super Kings, the IPL team that has qualified for the Champions Twenty20 League in December, is likely to release captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the later stages of the tournament to help him prepare for India's Test series against England, a top franchise official has said.

The Champions League, jointly organised by the BCCI, Cricket Australia (CA) and Cricket South Africa (CSA), will be held from December 3-10, and will be sandwiched between the India-

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MSC, ARAMBAGH IN LAST 8

Mukti's first win



SPORTS REPORTER

A second half strike by Rokonzaman Kanchan gave Muktiyoddha Sangsad their first win in the Citycell Federation Cup with a 1-0 defeat of Khulna Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Kanchan settled the issue six minutes after the break in the Group A clash when the ungarded former national forward collected the ball after Nwakana, his fellow striker from Nigeria, failed to connect on a cross by Asif from the right. With the rival goalkeeper helplessly lying on the muddy ground, Kanchan made no mistake to slot the ball into the open net.

Muktijoddha, who drew 1-1 with Senior Division side Dhaka Wanderers, could have won by a bigger margin had Nwakana not missed a series of chances throughout the 90 minutes.

The match, like the previous day, was interrupted by power failure for about ten minutes in the fagend.

The Reds have four points with a match left against Farashganj -- who were 3-0 winners against Khulna Abahani.

Farashganj play Wanderers today at Gazipur and meet Muktijoddha in the final group game. Khulna Abahani, ousted after two losses, are pitted against Wanderers in their final game.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Arambagh Krira Sangha ensured quarterfinals from Group D after the latter's solitary goal victory against Sunrise Sporting Club away at Gazipur

Argentina bury Brazil

AFP, Beijing



Two quickfire goals from Sergio Aguero powered defending champions Argentina into the Olympic final as they put the sword to South American

rivals Brazil in a 3-0 win at the Workers' Stadium on Tuesday.

Argentina will face a repeat of their 1996 Atlanta final against Nigeria in the gold medal match at the National Stadium on Saturday.

Nigeria, who defeated Argentina 3-2 in Atlanta, qualified for the Beijing decider after hammering Belgium 4-1 in the earlier semifinal played in Shanghai.

It was a wretched night for Brazil who finished with nine men with Liverpool midfielder Lucas and substitute Thiago Neves both sent off for ugly fouls on Argentina's Javier Mascherano late in the second half.

Atletico Madrid's Aguero broke the deadlock seven minutes after the interval when Angel Di Maria's pass appeared to strike his upper arm and flew into the net.

Aguero scored his second goal five minutes later after Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi released defender Pablo Zabaleta on the right and his pass was slotted home from close range with the Brazilian

defence in a shambles.

Skipper and over-age midfielder Juan Riquelme killed off the Brazilians with a 76th minute penalty after Aguero was brought down by Bayern Munich defender Breno.

It went from bad to worse for Brazil with Lucas and Thiago Neves both losing their cool and given straight red cards for chopping down Mascherano inside the last nine minutes.

Brazil's hopes vanished when crowd favourite Ronaldinho's free kick slammed into the upright and a follow-up goal was disallowed for offside just after Aguero's second goal.

Yet again Brazil, five-time World Cup champions, leave the Olympics without a gold medal and pressure is expected to build on their coach Carlos Dunga, who has now lost five games out of 36 games at the helm of Selecao, considered unacceptable for Brazil's high expectations.

Argentina, brimming with young talent, ripped their great rivals apart in the second half to ensure they will defend the Olympic title they won against South Americans Paraguay in Athens four years ago.

It was cat and mouse early as both South American adversaries gave no quarter in fierce close-marking exchanges, especially on

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Muktijoddha's match winner Kanchan (R) heads the ball during a midfield battle in their Citycell Federation Cup match against Khulna Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

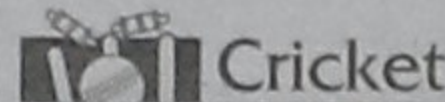
PHOTO: STAR



Dawn Harper (L) of the United States thrusts her way to win the women's 100m hurdles gold in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games at the Bird's Nest yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers aim to improve Second match against AIS today



TIGERCRIKET.COM, Darwin

After their narrow loss in the first warm-up game against the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS), the Bangladesh cricket team will want to give a much improved display, particularly in the bowling department when the sides meet again at the Gardens today.

Monday's defeat by 14 runs while chasing a massive 331 might have given the batsmen some comfort but coach Jamie Siddons reckoned it was the bowlers who needed to pull their socks up.

"I am happy with the way the batsmen are going and we have been making some big totals. Scoring 316 against any opposition anywhere in the world is creditable and theirs (the AIS's) is a decent attack," said Siddons.

"We could have won that match

after being in control until the middle overs. But it is our bowling that has not managed to restrict oppositions in recent times and unless you do that you don't give yourself a fair chance of creating winning situations," he added.

The Bangladesh team had an hour and a half's solid training at the Marrara Oval Tuesday morning. Today's game could see the return of pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and middle-order batsman Alok Kapali who were both rested in the first match. Dollar Mahmud, the fast medium bowler, might also get his first game.

The AIS side has already proved that they have a vast amount of talent and pedigree.

All 14 players who have been picked are Cricket Australia contracted cricketers of State teams and the majority of them have first-class experience.

There are five cricketers from New South Wales and three each

from Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland. The age-level is between 20-25 and they all have been exposed to the hard grind of Australian domestic cricket.

For the matches against Bangladesh the AIS team had prepared for four months.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH (from): Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Mehrab Hossain, Rokibul Hassan, Shakib Al Hasan, Alok Kapali, Dhiman Ghosh (wicketkeeper), Mahmudullah Riyad, Abdur Razzak, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Nazmul Hossain, Shahadat Hossain, Forhad Reza and Dollar Mahmud.

AIS (from): Matthew Wade, Greg Moller, Peter Forrest, Moises Henriques (captain), Michael Hill, Liam Davis, Stephen O'Keefe, Steven Smith, Ben Cutting, Jon Holland, Grant Sullivan, Usman Khawaja, Theo Doropoulos and Peter George.