

DBBL donates Tk 3 cr to BOA

SPORTS REPORTER

Dutch-Bangla Bank donated Tk three crore to Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) for constructing the six-storied Olympic building at the Bangladesh National Stadium complex. DBBL chairman AHM Rashidul Islam handed over the commitment letter to Chief of Army Staff and BOA president Gen Moeen U Ahmed at a simple ceremony held in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.



Chairman of Dutch-Bangla Bank Abul Hasnat Mohammed Rashidul Islam hands over a commitment letter to BOA president and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed at the Army Headquarters in the capital yesterday.

Media boycott BFF briefing

SPORTS REPORTER

Journalists yesterday boycotted Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) press conference arranged to announce the preliminary squad for next month's Merdeka Cup in Malaysia. As it so often happens at a BFF media conference, there was a delay in the afternoon conference but no official was available there to explain the reason behind the hold-up.

Jamil vows to take hockey up

SPORTS REPORTER

New Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) general secretary Khondoker Jamil Uddin has promised to change the scenario of the game in the country. The new executive committee sworn in yesterday and Jamil, one of the office bearers elected unopposed, said he wants to establish Bangladesh as the fifth best team in the continent.

Visa stops Akhtar

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's fast bowling ace Shoaib Akhtar was heading home Thursday after a visa glitch stymied his plans to launch a comeback with English county side Surrey, the player told AFP. Akhtar, who flew to London on Wednesday, said he was told by authorities at the airport that a working visa was needed for him to play in the English county side and his tourist visa was not sufficient.

Tough-talking Arthur

Cricket

AFP, Cardiff

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur hinted that some of the senior members of his team may have played their last one-day internationals following the 4-0 one-day series defeat by England. The home side completely dominated the one-day series after losing the Test series 2-1 in August.

lose his wicket on Wednesday, falling for just three to complete a disappointing series. Arthur conceded that it might be time for a change of direction in one-day cricket. He said: "I'm going to take a couple of weeks to go away and reflect and then come to those selection decisions."

Arthur admitted he had put too much emphasis on winning the Tests although he denied the one-day series had deflated his squad. He said: "We compartmentalised the two series which were played by slightly different sides."

Manik recalls

FROM PAGE 17

It seems that the former national fullback, who is expected to get just one tournament to impress his employers, would try to find a safe combination of youth and experience. The 46-year-old, who has chosen highest 11 players from the sky-blue part of the city, has eight from Mohammedan and seven from Brothers Union.

'Hayden in ODI frame'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Darwin

Matthew Hayden will not be pressured out of one-day cricket before he is ready despite Australia's coach Tim Nielsen tipping Shaun Marsh and Shane Watson as the openers most likely to lead Australia's next World Cup defence. Marsh and Watson grabbed their opportunities when they came together in the West Indies in June and an ongoing heel injury for Hayden, 36, has allowed them to continue their success against Bangladesh.

perfect opportunity to give his troublesome achilles tendon extra recovery time. Marsh has made two half-centuries in his two innings in Darwin and there is a chance he and Watson will still be opening at the World Cup in the subcontinent in two and a half years.

the moment," Nielsen said. "I'm a huge believer in the fact the only way to learn to play international cricket is by playing it." White will gain extra experience when he leads the Australia A one-day team in India later this month ahead of the senior squad's Test tour in October.

OPEN SECRETS

FROM PAGE 17 was overwhelmed by the deft touch and variety of Murray, who prevailed in the tournament he most wants to win. "I've said before that if I ever won Wimbledon, it would be one of the great sporting occasions in Britain," said Murray, a born-and-raised Scot. "But it wouldn't be as important to me as the U.S. Open. It's my favorite tournament. I love the night matches, just the entirely different atmosphere, something that suits my character a bit more."

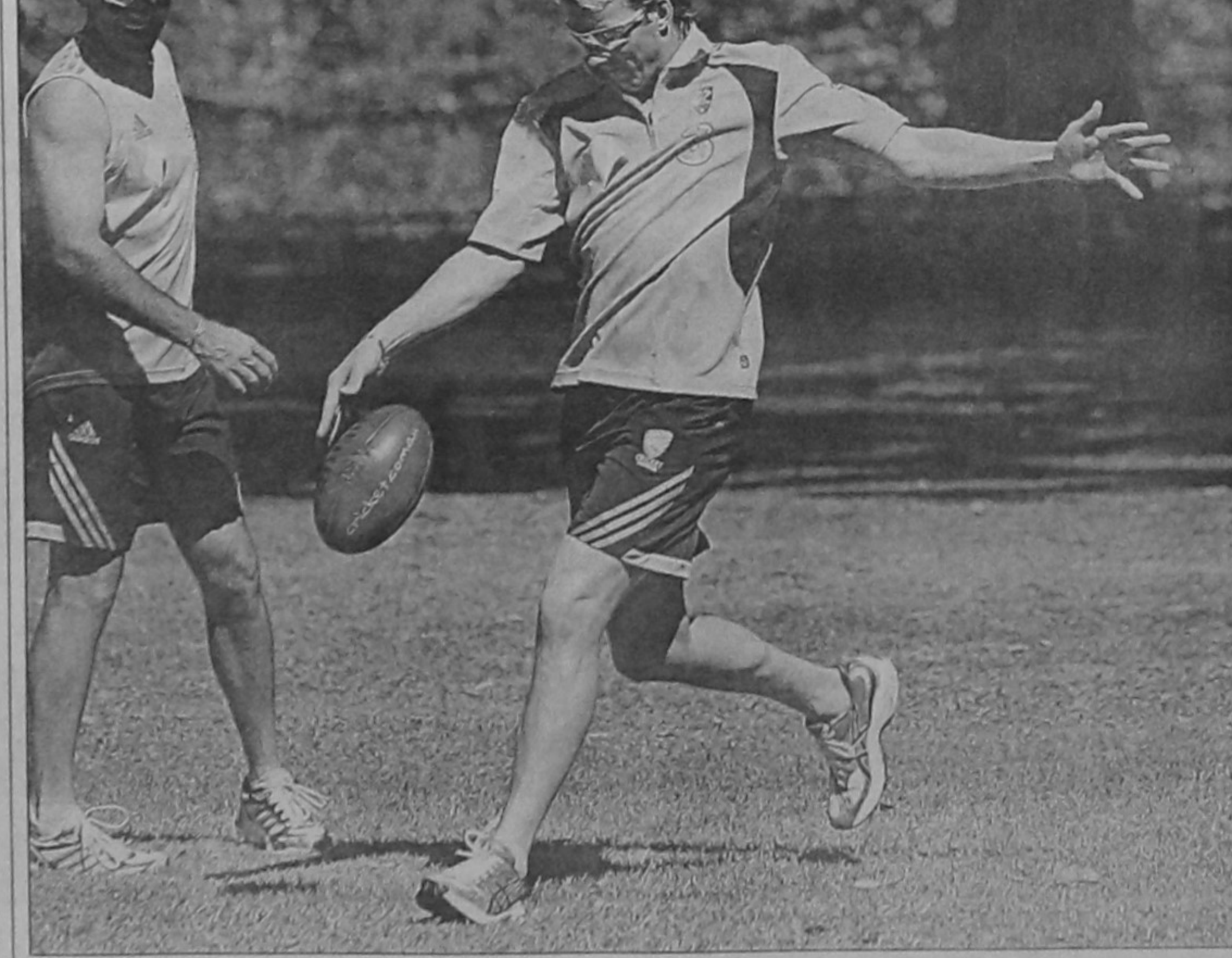
Academy off

FROM PAGE 17 ahead of Sahagir Hossain while Abahani's aggressive opener Mahubul Karim will also tour Sri Lanka. SQUAD Nayeem Islam (captain), Marshall Ayub (vice-captain), Shamsur Rahman, Imrul Kayes, Farhad Hossain, Mahubul Karim, Nasir Hossain, Suharwardi Shuvo, Arafat Sunny, Sajidul Islam, Delwar Hossain, Mahubul Alam, Rubel Hossain, Ziaur Rahman and Ashiquil Islam (wicketkeeper).

Futsal sans

FROM PAGE 17

have come forward but we don't know why we are not getting anything. The Bangladesh Football Federation, meanwhile, scratched Muktijodha from the tournament after they failed to turn up for their game against Brothers Union. In the day's opening match at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium, B. League champions Abahani crushed Rahmatganj 7-2 with hat-tricks from Tipu and Mamun. Siraji added the other goal for the sky-blues in the Group A game while Hirok and Zakir reduced the arrears for Rahmatganj. Komol struck twice while Bakhtiar and Faisal one each as Federation Cup winners Mohammedan won a thriller against Farshganj. Shahed netted all three goals in Federation Cup semifinalists Farshganj's 4-3 defeat.



Australia fast bowler Brett Lee joins his teammates for a spot of football on the Esplanade in Darwin on Thursday.

The root of Roy's evil

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

The seeds of Andrew Symonds' discontent were sown long before the Northern Territory fishing expedition. To understand the turbulent mindset of the all-rounder, venture back to January, to South Australia, to the furore that threatened to split the cricketing world. To this day, Symonds has not forgiven Cricket Australia for what transpired in an Adelaide federal courtroom eight months ago. It was there that Symonds and three teammates were convicted by CA to downgrade a charge of racial abuse against Harbhajan Singh to one of mere verbal abuse -- a ploy the Australian players were advised would help ensure a lengthy suspension after the Monkeygate scandal, but one which eventually resulted in Harbhajan escaping sanction altogether.

there is grave concern over the mindset in which he will return. Some fear that a bullish, unrepentant Symonds could erode harmony during this period of team transition, where the ever-dwindling list of senior players are being relied upon to set the standard for a new generation of Australian cricketers. Others are worried that Symonds' relationship with Michael Clarke -- his friend and Australia's captain elect -- could prove irreparable should the Queenslanders place the blame for his embarrassing expulsion solely at Clarke's feet. Ripples of discontent at Symonds' wavering commitment have surfaced on occasion this year, but it was not until Darwin that the issue came to a head. Australian players and officials were alarmed when Symonds arranged to have his fishing boat trucked from Queensland to Darwin before the three-match one-day series against Bangladesh. Hardly the sign of a man focused. It was against Bangladesh that Symonds endured his most infamous fall from grace when, after a late night drinking session in Cardiff, the limited-overs veteran reported for a game in an inebriated state. The public shaming that ensued prompted Symonds to reassess his attitude towards cricket and, after several months, he returned with a vengeance. Symonds retained that focus and drive through his Test recall in 2006, and the torrid World Cup and Indian one-day campaigns the following year. But since the Harbhajan hearing in Adelaide, teammates believe Symonds -- emotional, stubborn and a bearer of grudges -- has lacked much of the competitive edge that propelled him from Test periphery to international superstar. The disproportionate pay cheques offered by the Indian Premier League have supposedly fuelled the fires of discontent further with CA, who are not in a position to match the 1.4 million dollar contract he signed with the Deccan Chargers. Symonds has made no secret of his distaste for his ever-boasting celebrity status; another factor that has gnawed at his passion for the game. In a recent interview with the Herald, he spoke of a "trapezzi" scam during the 2007 World Cup, in which a man slapped him outside a nightclub while a hidden photographer waited to capture the ensuing outburst. "Sport is not necessarily just sport any more," he said. "People like to know what sportsmen are doing when they're not playing sport. People want to know what goes on behind the man, I suppose, which to me, I think, is probably slightly rude."

Smith bemoans Pollock miss

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Graeme Smith, the South African captain, blamed his inexperienced bowlers for the defeat in the ODI series against England, but was confident his team would regroup in time for the tour to Australia. Smith, who is back in South Africa, was ruled out of the final three ODIs against England with a tennis elbow. Jacques Kallis stepped in but South Africa failed to turn around their fortunes, and are staring at the possibility of a 5-0 whitewash. Smith asked fans not to forget the 2-1 win in the Tests -- South Africa's first in England since readmission -- but admitted the absence of Shaun Pollock had weakened the ODI side. "We obviously always want to perform well," he told News24.com. "Some people have pretty short-term memories and of course we'd like them to remember exactly what we did achieve in the Test series. Obviously what has happened subsequently is disappointing. "But in terms of the team itself, if anything it's a realisation that we've lost some major elements of our ODI set-up," he said. "Replacing a guy like Shaun who provided so much control in our one-day (game) was never going to happen quickly. His all-round abilities meant so much: his tight bowling, lengthening our batting, finishing off games. Some of the young guys in the one-day set-up are struggling with form; it's created a bit of pressure on the team."

Gary told to keep mum

INTERNET, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday warned coach Gary Kirsten for telling the media that Mahendra Singh Dhoni was ready for Test captaincy while the selectors were more than happy with Anil Kumble's leadership. "Kirsten should not have given that interview (about the captaincy) to the media because it is not his job. We have the selectors to do that job of picking the captain," BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah told cricketnext.com on Thursday. "His job is to coach the Indian team and not give interviews on the selection of the team or its captain. We have the right people (selectors) for that purpose and his comments have not gone down well with everyone concerned," Shah added.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

A crossword puzzle grid with clues for across and down words. The grid is partially filled with letters. Clues include: 1 Film fragment, 5 Purchase up, 8 Resorts up, 12 Verdi opera, 13 Work with, 14 Harvester's collection, 15 Offer, 17 Use a whetstone, 18 Dieters' entrees, 19 Drunk, 21 Realtor's parcel, 22 "Get lost!", 23 Fish, 26 Fish eggs, 28 Run-down areas, 31 After-dinner speech?, 33 Energy, 35 Break suddenly, 36 Unemotional, 38 Fond du --, Wis., 40 Prohibitionist, 41 Trudge, 43 "The 7 Faces of Dr. ---", 45 Come up, 47 Corsage favorite, 51 Shopping center, 52 Foretell, 54 Initial stake, 55 Squirrel's home, 56 --, 57 Base-ball's, "Say Hey Kid", 58 Erstwhile abbr., 59 Got up, 16 Bloodhound's clue, 1 Upper-case, 2 Old Italian money, 3 "American --", 4 Benedict XVI, 5 1956, 6 Part of N.A., 7 Scroams, 8 "College", 9 Offer for consideration, 10 Top-notch, 11 Raced, 20 Cries of surprise, 23 Courier's network, 24 Chic no more, 25 Stuff you own, 27 Moray, for one, 29 Ruin the owner, 30 Agent, 32 Modern exercise regimen, 34 Lou, 37 Private bed?, 39 Find fault, 42 Station, 44 Brownish yellow, 45 Mosque VIP, 46 Actress Delany, 48 Long sandwich, 49 Fertility goddess, 50 Unit of force, 53 Inexperienced, 46 Actress Delany, 48 Long sandwich, 49 Fertility goddess, 50 Unit of force, 53 Inexperienced.

ICC creates women's ratings

CRICINFO, undated

Women's cricket takes another step towards integrating with the game at large with the ICC introducing ODI Player rankings. The rankings will be launched in October, ahead of India's tour to Australia. The news comes ahead of a busy year for women's cricket, with two World Cups -- 50-over and Twenty20 -- to be played in the first half of next year. The rankings, expected to raise the profile of the game and bring the spotlight on top players, have been put together by the same statistical experts who have put together the ODI Player rankings for men. The ICC decided to consider one-dayers only since a majority of women's matches are played in that format. Since 1934, 131 women's Tests have been played by 10 teams, with only Australia, England, India and New Zealand featuring in more than three each. The same logic applies to Twenty20s, of which only 19 have been played since 2004.

CRYPTOQUIP

A Cryptoquip puzzle consisting of a grid of letters with some missing. The grid is:
JLVC SUA'QV ZJXAGGS OYQVW
UX EVOOYCE OVZBVW ZGG
OLV OYHV, UCV HYELO BZS
SUA ZQV ZO OJYO'B VCW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DURING RUSH HOUR, MIGHT A BUNCH OF GAS STATION ATTENDANTS BE IN PUMPER-TO-PUMPER TRAFFIC?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals L.