



## Did U Know?

May Sutton of the United States became the first non-European Wimbledon champion in 1905 when she captured the women's singles title.



## Jamie Siddons

(Bangladesh cricket coach)

"Bangladesh is a tough side to captain and coach as well. The captain does not have a [Shahid] Afridi to throw the ball to, doesn't have a [Sanath] Jayasuriya to go open the batting for him. No [Lasith] Malinga to bowl the last four overs."

Wishing he had a whole different team to choose from.



**STAR Sports**  
Wimbledon Championships Quarterfinals  
Live from 6:00pm  
**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India Sports News  
Live at 9:30pm

## Four share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Four players are sharing the lead with two points each after two rounds of the 35th Mercantile Bank National Chess Championship at the conference-room of National Sports Council.

They are reigning champions GM Ziaur Rahman and GM Reefat Bin Sattar, FM Taibur Rahman and Mohammad Hasan Emam.

Zia beat Debaraj Chatterjee after 78 moves playing with black pieces in the queen's gambit. Reefat beat Mohammad Javed also playing with black pieces to take French defense and the game continued in tarasch variation and won in the 40th move.

In today's matches Mostafa will play Ali, Jamal will meet Robin, Niaz faces Hasan and Reefat plays Taibur.

## Bangladeshi athletes disqualified

SPORTS REPORTER

Both Bangladeshi male and female athletes Mesbah Ahmed and Shirin Akhter were disqualified in the heats of their respective 100m sprint in the first Asian Youth Games in Singapore yesterday.

Shooters Sadia Sultana and Tripti Dutta will compete in the 10m air rifle today.

A 15-member contingent, led by President of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association Rafia Akhter Dolly, is representing Bangladesh in the first ever Asian Youth meet.

Out of the meet's nine disciplines of sports, Bangladesh is taking part in four disciplines -- athletics, swimming, shooting and basketball (3 on 3).

Some 1,400 youth athletes, aged 14-17 years, from 45 Asian countries are taking part in nine disciplines of sports for 90 gold medals at stake.

## Freddie could be dropped

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

England captain Andrew Strauss said here on Tuesday that Andrew Flintoff was not immune from being dropped for disciplinary reasons after the all-rounder's latest indiscretion.

Ex-England captain Flintoff missed the team bus for the squad's Saturday morning visit to the World War One trenches at Ypres.

Strauss, who made a big point about player responsibility when appointed captain in January, also revealed there had been several other incidents of players turning up late since he'd become skipper.

Opening batsman Strauss found himself having to comment on Flintoff's failure to turn up on time after it was reported in the British press Tuesday.

The incident, which happened the morning after a team dinner, took place during England's pre-Ashes 'bonding' weekend away in Belgium and just over a week before the first Test against Australia starts in Cardiff on July 8.

It was not the first time the 31-year-old Flintoff had courted controversy for his off-field behaviour.

During the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean he was briefly dropped from the England side and stripped of the vice-captaincy as punishment for an alcohol-fuelled night which ended with him capsizing a pedalo in the early hours of the morning in St Lucia.

Prior to that the Lancashire star, when captain of England, was sent away from training by then coach Duncan Fletcher after turning up to a practice session in Australia during an Ashes series his side lost 5-0.

Strauss, asked at a news conference at Edgbaston here on Tuesday, if he would be prepared to drop Flintoff - the star of England's 2005 Ashes series win - on disciplinary grounds, replied: "That has got to be an option with anyone who transgresses badly enough."

"But I am absolutely certain it's not going to come to that and it would be a very sad day for English cricket if we had to do that."

"But it's vitally important to a team functioning properly that everyone is treated the same."

Australia all-rounder Andrew Symonds was sent home before last month's World Twenty20 in England because of an alcohol

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American tennis superstar Venus Williams plays forehand against Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska in the Wimbledon quarterfinals at the All England Club in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 4-day Tests on cards?

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

David Morgan, the International Cricket Council (ICC) president, has hinted that Test cricket may be reduced to four days to protect and enrich the game's oldest format in the face of lucrative Twenty20 leagues like the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The suggestion comes in the wake of a few other changes that are being mooted, including a two-tier format and day-night Tests to attract more crowds.

"Another thought that many people have, that we are examining is whether Test match cricket can be played over four days rather than five," Morgan told the India Today magazine. "I would be very surprised if within a year you haven't seen some significant changes in Test match cricket."

Morgan felt it wouldn't be too difficult for players to make a mental shift from five days to four. He added that Test cricket needed many more adjustments, and that special cricket balls would have to be made to facilitate night Tests in white clothing.

"We need better over-rates, better pitches that give a good balance between bat and ball and we need to consider day-night Test cricket," Morgan said. "There is great support for it, the issue is the colour of the ball and the quality of the ball. It would be a pity if Test match cricket -- day-night -- had to be played with a white ball and therefore coloured clothing."

"We are looking very closely at ball manufacturing design that replicates a red ball, maybe an orange ball, a ball that could still allow us to play in white clothing and still at night."

The two-tier structure was recently mooted by Dave Richardson, the ICC general manager for cricket, to divide the stronger and weaker teams and make the format more competitive. The ICC has also given the go ahead for the Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS) from October following trials in specific series over the last year. Umpires will have greater scope to decide on bad-light interruptions and the penalties for slow over-rates have also been increased.

With so much emphasis on Twenty20 and the enrichment of Test cricket, Morgan was very confident of the survival of the 50-over game in its current form, now with batting

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PHOTO: STAR

Mohammad Javed (L) makes a move against Grand Master Reefat Bin Sattar during their 35th Mercantile Bank National Chess Championship game at the NSC conference room yesterday.

## Sanath's eyes on WC

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lankan batsman Sanath Jayasuriya, who turned 40 on Tuesday, has said he wants to carry on until the 2011 World Cup. "I would love to. I am taking each series at a time. Hopefully I will get there. Age is not a problem, it is how you stay mentally and physically fit to remain on top of the game, to try out new variations in the bat and ball," Jayasuriya told AFP.

The hard-hitting batsman, who also bowls left-arm spin, made his one-day debut against Australia in Melbourne in 1989 and was impressive as an all-rounder during Sri Lanka's victorious World Cup campaign in 1996. He is the second batsman after India's Sachin Tendulkar to pass 13,000 runs in ODIs and also holds the record for being the oldest batsman to score a one-day century, at 39 years and 212 days against India in Colombo.

"I don't really worry about records any more these days," Jayasuriya said. "I focus on putting runs on the board, to help the team win matches."

Jayasuriya retired from Tests in 2007, but continues to shine in the shorter versions of the game. He scored freely during the recent World Twenty20 in England where Sri Lanka finished runners-up, and ended as their joint second-highest run-getter with 177 at 25.28.

He said the emergence of talented young players meant he could never take his place for granted in the national team. "Playing with youngsters is extra hard these days," Jayasuriya said. "There is an abundance of raw talent constantly knocking at the door for a berth in the team. And that puts pressure on me. I have to perform to retain my place."

Jayasuriya, who captained Sri Lanka from 1999 to April 2003, knows that life is not easy for youngsters either. "They also need to live up to expectations, sometimes the pressure on them is much more than what it was when I was starting out."

Jayasuriya announced his retirement in 2006, but made a comeback during Sri Lanka's tour of England in the same year. His next outing will be the home series against world Twenty20 champions Pakistan, who will play five ODIs and a Twenty20 game after the three-Test series that begins on July 4.

## Grameen-Danone Nations' Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong, Narail, Khulna, Chapainawabganj, Lalmonirhat and Narayanganj have emerged as zonal champions to reach the final round of the 2nd Grameen-Danone Nations Cup Football Tournament on the third and last day yesterday.

The final match at Gazipur could not be held due to inclement weather.

A total of 44 district teams, split into seven groups took part in the preliminary phase of the meet.

The eight-team final round with seven zonal champions and Bangladesh Football Federation Development Squad will be held in Dhaka from July 4-6.

The champion team will represent Bangladesh in the Danone Nations Cup Football Finals to be held from October 9-11 at Sao Paulo in Brazil.

## Venus in last four

AFP, London



Defending champion Venus Williams closed in on a sixth Wimbledon title on Tuesday with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska whose quarterfinal challenge melted in the searing heat.

World number one Dinara Safina reached semifinals for the first time with a 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-1 win over unseeded German teenager Sabine Lisicki.

Despite losing the first set by double-faulting on a tie-break, the top-seeded Russian recovered to beat the world number 41 in two hours, 28 minutes on Centre Court.

Safina faces defending champion Venus Williams, the third seed, for a place in the final.

Fourth seed Elena Dementieva also eased into the last four for the second successive year after crushing unseeded Italian Francesca Schiavone 6-2, 6-2.

Dementieva made it at the All England Club for the first time last year before losing to eventual champion Venus Williams.

The Russian will hope to go one step further this time when she faces either Serena Williams, the second seed and two-time champion, or eighth seed Victoria Azarenka in the last four.

Since losing the finals of the French and US Opens in 2004, Dementieva has been unable to make it to the title match of a Grand Slam.

Venus, bidding to become the first woman to win a hat-trick of Wimbledon titles since Steffi

Graf's three-in-a-row from 1991 to 1993, next faces either top seed Dinara Safina or Germany's Sabine Lisicki for a place in the final.

The 29-year-old American, seeded three, has now won 32 consecutive sets at the All England Club since Japan's Akiko Morigami took the second set of their third round match in 2007.

She breezed through the first set in 27 minutes, serving up two love games on her way to a 5-0 lead before the 11th seeded Radwanska got on the board.

The Polish girl broke to love to lead 2-0 in the second set but that was as good as it got for the slender 20-year-old who had no answer to the American's brutal hitting power.

Venus ran away with the next six games to claim victory after 68 minutes.

"I really had to play well. It was close at the start of the second set. She's a good grasscourt player so I'm happy just to get through," said the American who has now reached her eighth semi-final in 10 years.

"If it was an all-Williams final that would be fantastic but we still have great players to meet and will have to bring our best tennis to the court."

Later Tuesday, two-time champion Serena Williams, the second seed, takes on Belarusian eighth seed Victoria Azarenka who is aiming to reach her first Grand Slam semi-final.

The last quarter-final features London-based Italian Francesca Schiavone, bidding to reach her first semi-final in a major, against Russian fourth seed Elena Dementieva who made the last four here last year.

## Vaughan says that's it

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Former England captain Michael Vaughan announced his retirement from all professional cricket with immediate effect here at Edgbaston on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old Yorkshire batsman said the time was right for him to step aside and allow a new generation of players their chance to shine.

"It's been a hard decision," Vaughan, who as captain led England to their 2005 Ashes series triumph, told a news conference at Edgbaston here on Tuesday.

"The decision came two weeks ago at Worcester when I realised there were younger players around the Yorkshire team, and certainly England, who need to be given a chance to move the game forward."

"I wanted to give it one last effort to get into the Ashes squad. I've given it that shot but haven't been playing well enough. I've had a great career."

Vaughan, England's most successful Test captain, has not played for his country since tearfully resigning the captaincy in August during the home series loss to South Africa.

His career has been blighted in recent years by a knee injury and speculation about Vaughan's future intensified after Vaughan failed to win a place in England's squad for the Ashes series against Australia which starts next week in Cardiff.

"It was always a long shot to get me back in [to the England team]," Vaughan added. "The last thing players like Ravi Bopara needed was for me to get a 100 [for Yorkshire] and for the media to build up my chances."

"Wherever I've played this year I felt that warmth and crowd

## CAREER STATS

BATTING												
Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St	
Tests	82	147	9	5719	197	41.44	18	18	742	22	44	0
ODIs	86	83	10	1982	90*	27.15	0	16	204	13	25	0
BOWLING												
Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR	4w	5w	
Tests	82	35	978	561	6	2/71	2/71	93.50	3.44	163.0	0	0
ODIs	86	28	796	649	16	4/22	4/22	40.56	4.89	49.7	1	0



PHOTO: AFP

Former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan announces his retirement decision at a press conference in Birmingham yesterday.

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