

## Obama to go to 2010 WC

AFP, L'Aquila

US President Barack Obama, speaking Friday on the sidelines of the G8 summit in Italy, said he expects to go to the 2010 World Cup football tournament in South Africa.

A reporter asked Obama ahead of a meeting with South African President Jacob Zuma if he intended to go to South Africa for the World Cup.

"That's my goal," Obama responded.

## Katarina to head Munich Olympics bid

AFP, Munich

Former double Olympic figure skating champion Katarina Witt will head Munich's bid to host the 2018 Winter Olympics, it was announced on Thursday.

"I will do everything I can so that the International Olympic Committee can only award the Games to Munich," said Witt, a gold medalist at the 1984 Sarajevo and 1988 Calgary Games.

The bid committee will also feature former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder as well as World Cup football legend Franz Beckenbauer.

Munich, which staged the 1972 Summer Olympics, will face competition for the 2018 Games from Pyeongchang in South Korea and the French town of Annecy.

The IOC will make its decision in July 2011.

## Aussies

FROM PAGE 17

In all, the left-hander faced 261 balls with 12 fours and put on 239 for the second wicket with Ponting.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the first Ashes Test between England and Australia at Sophia Gardens on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings 435 (Pietersen 69, Collingwood 64, Prior 56; Johnson 3-87, Hauritz 3-95)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 249-1)

Hughes c Prior b Flintoff 36

Katich lbw b Anderson 122

Ponting b Panesar 150

Hussey c Prior b Anderson 3

Clarke not out 70

North not out 50

Extras: (b-8, lb-12, w-2, nb-5) 27

Total: (For 4 wks in 130 overs) 458

To bat: Haddin, Johnson, Hauritz, Siddler, Hilfenhaus.

Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-299, 3-325, 4-331.

Bowler O M R W

Anderson 24 5 80 2

Broad 23 3 96 0

Swann 28 8 86 0

Flintoff 25 3 90 1

Panesar 27 4 78 1

Collingwood 3 0 8 0

## Brac, Beximco

FROM PAGE 17

notable saves.

But for some teams, hitting the back of the net seemed almost a formality.

Brac Bank managed it a dozen and one times, hammering the tech artists Flora by a 13-0; no mean feat in a twenty minute match.

Not to be outdone, Beximco did their reputations no harm rattling in goal after goal past Olympic Industries to finish with a 10-0 scoreline at the end of the game.

However, the best game of the day was Gemcon taking on mobile operators banglalink. The high-tempo game ended 5-3 for Gemcon as they edged out the never-say-die men from the telecom.

Other notable winners of the day included IUDFC who blanked BAT 5-0 while AKTEL bettered HRC 4-2.



Michael Phelps adjusts his suit before swimming in the men's 100 meter butterfly final of the Conoco Phillips Nationals Championships at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis on Thursday.

## Phelps breaks 100m butterfly WR

Swimming

AFP, Indianapolis

Michael Phelps broke the 100m butterfly world record Thursday, clocking 50.22sec to win the title at the USA Swimming World Championships trials.

Phelps broke the previous record of 50.40sec set by Ian Crocker on July 30, 2005 at the World Championships in Montreal.

The record takes Phelps's current tally of world marks to five, along with the 200m freestyle, 200m butterfly and 200m and 400m individual medley.

The American had won the 100m fly title at the past two Olympic Games, but hadn't been able to wrest the world record from Crocker.

Phelps had held the 100 fly world mark before - for a day. He broke it in the semi-finals at the 2003 World Championships, only to have Crocker lower the mark in winning the final the following day in Barcelona.

"I still remember the day at worlds when I broke it and the next day Crocker broke it, and Crocker's had it ever since," he said. "To finally be able to get it tonight means a lot."

Phelps, known for his strong finish, said he had been working on his early speed as he eyes

a new programme for the upcoming World Championships in Rome and beyond.

Held at the 50m mark with a split of 23.83, still outside Crocker's world record pace. He pulled away coming home, leaving Tyler McGill to finish second in 51.06 and Aaron Peirsol - better known as a dominant backstroke - third in 51.30.

"Crocker had a ton more first 50 speed than I did. That's something I've really been working on," Phelps said. "I've always been able to come home pretty strong. I finally got the front half a little bit faster. If I can get that even faster, I'll be in better shape."

Phelps said he chopped a stroke coming into the wall at the turn. His coach, Bob Bowman, said Phelps could have been under 50 seconds if not for that error.

"I think he could have done it tonight if he had hit the turn," Bowman said.

Phelps made it clear he was targeting the record after swimming 50.48sec at the Canada Cup in Montreal last month.

He said Crocker had sent him a text message after that performance, telling him the record was within his grasp.

Crocker hasn't competed since the Beijing Olympics, where he was never a factor in the 100m fly that Phelps won by a hair's breadth over Serbia's Milorad Cavic to claim one of his record eight gold medals of the Games.

## 'A chance for the unknowns'

Cricket

AFP, Kingstown

West Indies coach John Dyson believes his emergency Test squad, hastily-assembled following a first-team boycott, has a golden opportunity to make a name for itself.

The West Indies squad to face Bangladesh in the first Test at the Arnos Vale Sports Complex here is being led long-standing Barbadian left-handed batsman Floyd Reifer and even features a 16-year-old schoolboy player.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) was forced into assembling a new-look side after a contract dispute with its leading players.

"Life presents us with some unique opportunities, and that's what this is for a lot of the players," said Dyson on Thursday.

"It is a unique opportunity that if they are keen enough, and good enough to take with both hands, good luck to them."

"What we have said to the guys is, 'This is a Test match, and it is an opportunity for them to showcase their skills to the cricket public here in the Caribbean and to the world.'"

The Australian added: "All I am concerned about right now is getting the team ready, and making sure they have got the best preparation that we can give them - given the very short time we have had them - and just thinking about the match."

"I think the team, given the preparation we have had, is as good as we can get it. Ideally, we would have loved more time, but this is not the case."

Darren Sammy has been named vice-captain, and is the only player in the group that has commanded a regular place in the full-strength West Indies side over the last year.

It also features schoolboy opener Kraigg Brathwaite, who will become the youngest West Indies Test player at the age of 16 years, if he plays.

Fans didn't get a chance to see their new-look team in action as rain meant that not a ball was bowled before the scheduled lunch interval.

An early tea was then taken with a view to possibly starting after 1610 GMT.

The toss has yet to take place.

West Indies' 13 original players, including regular captain Chris Gayle, vice-captain Denesh Ramdin, top batsmen Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Ramnaresh Sarwan, as well as key fast bowler Jerome Taylor are protesting playing four consecutive tournaments without a contract, outstanding payments, and other issues.

But the WICB was successful in finding 15 players willing to don the maroon cap.

Alongside Reifer and Sammy, fast bowler Tino Best, who earns a recall after four years in the cricket wilderness, and all-rounder Dave Bernard Jr, who featured in the recent home one-day International series against India, are the only other players to have played a Test.

Fast bowler Kemar Roach, who has appeared in two ODIs and one Twenty20 International, is also in the squad, and left-arm spinner Nikita Miller, who has played 15 ODIs over the last year, are also part of the squad.

So too are fast bowler Nelson Pascal and opening batsman Dale Richards. They made the recent trip to England, but failed to break into either the Test or ODI teams.

## SL announce dates for NZ, India series

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket on Friday announced the dates and venues for New Zealand's Test tour and a one-day tri-series also featuring India in August-September.

New Zealand tour:

Aug 4: New Zealand arrive in Colombo

Aug 7-9: Three-day match, Colombo

Aug 12-14: Three-day match, Colombo

Aug 18-22: First Test, Galle

Aug 26-30: Second Test, Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo

Sept 2: Twenty20 international, Colombo

Sept 4: Twenty20 international, Colombo

Tri-series (IND, NZ, SL) at Premadasa Stadium, Colombo:

Sept 8: Sri Lanka v New Zealand

Sept 10: India v Sri Lanka

Sept 12: India v New Zealand

Sept 14: Final

### DC GOLD CUP

## Joypurhat win opener

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Joypurhat Zila defeated Kurigram Zila 2-0 in DC Gold Cup football tournament at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Pasbon and Babu of Joypurhat netted a goal each.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by Mahabb Ara Begun Gini, MP of Gaibandha-2.

Others present on the occasion were Abdur Rashid Sarker, Upazila chairman Sadar and Bikash Kishore Das, Deputy commissioner, Gaibandha.

In today's match, host Gaibandha Pourashava Dal will face Natore Zila Dal.

## Dzeko will stay at Wolfsburg

AFP, Berlin

The German league's star goal-scorer Edin Dzeko has been persuaded to abandon his dreams of quitting German champions Wolfsburg for AC Milan in Italy, sports magazine Kicker reported on Friday.

The 23-year-old Bosnia international who scored 26 goals last season has been very public recently about his desire to join the club owned by Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi - an ambition resisted by the German club with which he is under contract until 2011.

Wolfsburg manager Armin Veh now says he is confident the striker will remain following a team bonding session in the island of Sylt off the north German Baltic coast. During the island get-together, the player was joined by his agent Alen Augustincic.

"We told Dzeko we need him," Veh told Kicker. "We want to have success next season and in the end there was a consensus that he would stay."

Veh added: "Edin is a great young guy with a splendid character and I must thank him for his positive attitude."

## Zim ready

FROM PAGE 17

punch. That cannot be taught or practised. Guys have to be hungry. There is pressure on everyone to perform."

The four-ODI series will be played entirely in Bulawayo, a move aimed at stifling complaints that Zimbabwe cricket was centring all activities around Harare.

Chawaguta was reappointed as coach in January on a one-year contract after ZC readvertised the position.

## Media toast

FROM PAGE 17

Andrew Flintoff around the wicket to Phil Hughes." The Australian's Malcolm Conn said.

"Suddenly the electricity of 2005 came flooding back. Big, bad, fired up Freddie (Flintoff) roaring in to an Australian left-hander with the crowd in full voice behind him."

"There was no reverse swing yesterday but Flintoff's force of personality, and brute force still managed to stitch up Hughes and it could have been the psychological moment of the tour for the diminutive 20-year-old."

## 'Sachin, Rahul are T20 misfits'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

John Buchanan, the former Australia coach, has said India's 'Fab Four' batsmen - Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman - are not suited to Twenty20 cricket. Buchanan, who worked closely with several Indian players during his stint with the Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL, made these and other observations in his new book, *The Future of Cricket: The Rise of Twenty20*.

Buchanan was otherwise in praise of Tendulkar - who has opted out of Twenty20 internationals but not the IPL. "Tendulkar has been lauded, and rightly so, as one of the very top batsmen in the history of cricket," he wrote. "But is he an effective T20 player at this stage of his career?"

"In the position he plays - as an opener or No. 3 - the T20 game requires not only the finesse and skills he has, but also the power and domination, an ability to take the bowlers on while being creative. You have to be inventive and fearless. And I don't see those qualities as part of Sachin's makeup at this stage of his career. Sachin Tendulkar is still a great player but not in this arena of T20."

Buchanan had similar views on Tendulkar's contemporaries, none of whom featured in the ICC World Twenty20 in England.

"Homegrown heroes such as Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Harbhajan Singh and VVS Laxman, were expected to influence, and

on some occasions single-handedly win IPL matches," Buchanan said. "Yet their subdued performances highlight that Test match temperament does not necessarily ensure prolonged success in the T20 game."

"The same could be said about Rahul Dravid. Dravid is a great representative of Indian cricket, a team man, humble, a well-spoken gentleman. But unfortunately he could not score a single run in the early rounds of the IPL, and in my opinion, is not suited to this form of the game. I am certain Dravid's performances were also affected by the off-field drama created by his franchise owner Vijay Mallya."

His opinions weren't restricted to India's ageing stars. He went on to question Yuvraj Singh's attitude, though he later clarified that there was no malice involved in his comments.

"Yuvraj Singh in a sense tries to be a modern-day Sourav Ganguly, but I don't think he has the charisma or the dignity with which Ganguly carries himself," he said.

However, Buchanan was full of praise for Ganguly, though the pair didn't have the best of times with Kolkata during the IPL. Buchanan's multiple-captain theory didn't go down well with the team at the start of the tournament and a host of off-field and selection issues saw the team finish at the bottom. It also cost Buchanan his job as coach.

"Ganguly was the model for the new breed of confident and combative Indian cricketers. Ganguly showed that Indian cricket could stand up for itself. He is similar in that way to Ian Chappell who stood up for what he believed and was not afraid to take on the administration."

## Katich salutes Simpson

Cricket

AFP, Cardiff

Simon Katich paid tribute to Aussie great Bobby Simpson after his maiden Ashes century helped Australia frustrate England on the second day of the first Test at Sophia Gardens here Thursday.

The Ashes-holders were 249 for one at stumps, still a deficit of 186, but with left-handed opener Katich 104 not out and Australia captain Ricky Ponting 100 not out.

Their second-wicket stand was currently worth 189 and for Katich his first hundred against England in seven Tests was especially sweet after he'd struggled against the reverse-swinging ball during Australia's 2005 Ashes series loss.

The 33-year-old has had a stop-start Test career, due to the strength of Australia's batting since he made his debut in 2001 and his own lapses in form.

"I know last time around (2005) I wasn't playing very well," said Katich, who in that series appeared in four out of

the five Tests as a No6 and scored 248 runs at a modest average of 27.55.

"Coming into this series it was a huge series for me, you can't hide from the past, there's nowhere to hide in Test cricket."

Katich said working with Simpson, himself a former Australia opener, captain and coach, had made a huge difference to the fact he'd got back onto the Test side 12 months ago when he came in for the injured, but now retired, opener Matthew Hayden against the West Indies.

"I had work on my balance when I got dropped and I owe a huge amount to Bobby Simpson. He gave me the time of day when I did get dropped four years ago and was wondering if I could make it back."

Katich added: "His help technically has turned me into a more confident player. I probably look the same but I do feel a bit more confident at the crease in being able to hit the ball straighter."

Australia have seen several senior players retire from Test cricket during the course of the past couple of years with Hayden, fellow opener Justin Langer,

wicket-keeper batsman Adam Gilchrist, spin legend Shane Warne and pace great Glenn McGrath all bidding farewell to the international game.

Without those great names, Australia struggled before a new-look side won a series in South Africa this year.

And Katich said: "Even though it is a young team and the team is learning to play together, we're confident we can put up a good show and really get on top of England."

And he said the side were taking their cue from Ponting, who is desperate to win a first Ashes series in England as captain after tasting defeat in 2005.

"Those of us who have been through what happened four years ago it hurt and you can't forget that," Katich said. "There are a few of us who are keen to make amends for what happened on that tour so he's obviously one of them."

Earlier in the day England off-spinner Graeme Swann, who was convinced he had Katich out lbw for 56, starred with the bat by making an unbeaten 47 in a total of 435.

But he admitted England had let themselves down with the ball.

Swann and fellow spinner Monty Panesar were widely predicted to out-bowl Nathan Hauritz but, so far, they have combined figures of none for 80 from 31 overs while the Australia off-spinner took three for 95 in 23.5.

"A score of 249 for one doesn't speak very highly of the way we bowled, it probably sums up the way we bowled," Swann said.

"We didn't put the ball in the right place often enough. We can whinge and moan about the ball going soft, the wicket being flat and Katich not being given out lbw off me when it was plumb. But that's the way of the game."

"We've still got nigh on a 200-run lead."

Unlike Australia, none of England's batsmen made hundreds in an innings where there were three fifties.

"A couple of our guys realised they should have gone on and got hundreds. Our only hundred that was truly denied was mine because I ran out of partners," said a smiling Swann.

But with the new ball available on Friday morning, he added: "It's not all doom and gloom by any means."

"All the bowlers are looking forward to getting rid of this ball, throwing it in the river, and getting a new one in their hands."



Simon Katich of Australia raises the bat to celebrate his debut century on the second day of the first Ashes Test against England in Cardiff on Thursday.

## Tigers make good

FROM PAGE 17

one-day series against India, are the only other players to have previously played in a Test along with Reifer and Sammy.

Bangladesh handed Test debuts to Mahmudullah and fast bowler Rubel Hossain, both of whom have played ODIs for the Tigers.

Rubel has established himself as one of the fast bowlers in the attack, and off-spinner Mahmudullah should expect a fair bit of bowling on a typically low and slow pitch.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the rain-affected first Test between West Indies and Bangladesh at

the Arnos Vale Sports Complex on Thursday:

BANGLADESH: First innings

Tamim not out 14

Imrul not out 26

Extras: (w-1, nb-1) 2

Total: (For no loss in 18.5 overs) 42

To bat: Zunaid, Ashraf, Rokibul, Shakib, Mushfiqur, Mashrafe, Mahmudullah, Shahadat, Rubel.

Bowler O M R W

Best 6 2 14 0

Roach 5 1 18 0

Sammy 5.5 2 6 0

Bernard 2 0 4 0

WEST INDIES: Richards, Dowlin, Phillips, Reifer, Bernard, Walton, Sammy, Best, Miller, Austin, Roach.

Toss: Bangladesh

## Prague sign Ragued

AFP, Prague

Czech football champions Slavia Prague said Friday they had signed Tunisian midfielder Hocine Ragued from Belgian side Mons for four years.

Before Mons, the 26-year-old Tunisia international played for French sides Istres, Guegnon and Paris St Germain.

At Slavia, Ragued will join his Tunisian teammate, midfielder Tijani Belaid.

Slavia have also reclaimed 31-year-old Slovak defender Matej Krajcik, back after six months at Italian side Reggina who were relegated from Serie A last season.

## Tributes for Sunny's 60th