



Did U Know?

England pacer James Anderson took five wickets in an innings for the first time against Australia.



Talk Turkey



Fernando Torres

(Liverpool striker)
"I had a lot of offers from a lot of clubs but I was always attracted to Liverpool because of the reputation of the people from the city, the club's supporters and their history, and I wanted help make this one of the greatest clubs in the world again."



What to Watch

TEN Sports
Sri Lanka v Pakistan
Third ODI
Live from 11:30am
STAR Cricket
England v Australia
Third Ashes Test, Day 5
Live from 5:00pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm

Dolly fails in heats

SPORTS REPORTER

Swimmer Dolly Akhter was eliminated in the heats of the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome that concluded in Italy yesterday.

Dolly timed 36.62 seconds in the 50m breaststroke heat on Saturday and finished 76th out of a total of 106 participants.

She also went downhill to finish 139th in 169 swimmers in the 50m freestyle after taking 30.19 seconds in heats.

BOA President Election on August 20

SPORTS REPORTER

The new president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will be elected by the councillors on August 20.

BOA disclosed the election schedule yesterday.

The post became vacant following the resignation of former army chief General Moeen U Ahmed on July 7. He held post for more than six-and-a-half years after he got an extension when his four-year tenure expired.

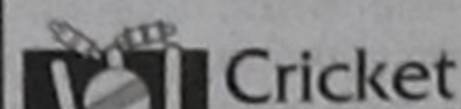
Traditionally the incumbent army chief holds the post, but there is a whisper that this time a civilian may take over.

As many as 74 councillors will cast their votes though previous experiences show that the president has always been elected unopposed.

As per the schedule, a draft list of councillors will be published on August 4. If anyone disputes the list, a hearing will be held on August 9. The nomination papers will be distributed the next day while the candidates should submit their papers on August 12.

The final voters list will be published on August 18 after the scrutiny and withdrawal of the nominations on August 16 and 18 respectively.

Razzak out of Zim tour



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh suffered a blow as left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak has been ruled out for this month's tour of Zimbabwe due to injury.

The experienced spinner, who has 118 scalps to his credit in 84 ODI matches, suffered a strained hamstring while batting during the third and final one-day international against West Indies at Warner Park, St Kitts on Friday and returns home to continue with his recovery.

Enamul Haque will replace Razzak on the tour of Zimbabwe where the Tigers will play five one-day matches at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo starting from August 9.

The absence of Razzak, who was Bangladesh's highest wicket-taker during the 3-0 ODI whitewash of West Indies by picking up seven wickets, will definitely reduce the strength of the Tigers bowling attack as leading paceman and Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza also returned home after suffering a knee injury.

The name of Razzak's replacement was a little bit surprising as Enamul has previously hardly been considered as a limited-over

bowler and played only three one-day matches against Zimbabwe at home in 2005.

The selectors and the team management however considered him based on an impressive showing in the second Test against West Indies at the National Stadium in Grenada where he took six wickets in two innings.

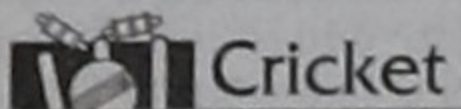
"Yes, usually we have considered him (Enamul) as a longer-version bowler but Enamul is in good touch and showed an impressive performance in the second Test and the team management also showed an interest in him," said selector Akram Khan, who will leave Dhaka on August 5 to join the team in Zimbabwe.

The 22-year old left-arm spinner Enamul, who returned home a few days back from the Caribbean after playing the Test series against a weakened West Indies, will also leave Dhaka on the same day to join the squad in Dubai on Wednesday and will fly to Zimbabwe thereafter.

It will be a huge challenge for Shakib Al Hasan's men to carry on their good showing in the Caribbean as they whitewashed the home team both in the three-match one-day and two-match Test series.

Bangladesh last played against Zimbabwe at home in January this year where they bounced back to win the series 2-1. They last toured Zimbabwe in 2007 and won the series 3-1.

BCCI stands by stars



AFP, Mumbai

India's cricket chiefs on Sunday backed the country's top stars who refused to sign an anti-doping code, raising fears of a stand-off with the sport's world governing body.

"We have no problem with the testing, but we have a problem with the system of testing players," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Shashank Manohar told reporters here.

"We have decided to write to the International Cricket Council about the concerns raised by the players. The BCCI agrees with the players that the system of testing is unreasonable."

The decision-making working committee of the BCCI met in an emergency session on Sunday to discuss the players' refusal to sign the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code because they said it infringed their privacy.

India's top players are the only ones in world cricket who had not signed the WADA documents by the August 1 deadline set by the ICC.

They were unhappy at a clause that required them to detail their whereabouts for an hour between 6:00 am and 11:00 pm every day for the next three months to allow random out-of-competition testing.

According to WADA rules, anyone missing

three doping tests over 18 months faces a ban of up to two years.

"I must stress that the BCCI wants cricket to be free of doping and we have no objection to players being tested during competitions," Manohar said.

"If at all WADA wants to test any Indian player, they can inform the BCCI and we will produce the player within 24 hours for testing."

"But the clause of providing details of their whereabouts is unreasonable for three reasons: "One, there is a security cover for some players and it is not right to disclose their whereabouts in advance."

"Two, the privacy of a player cannot be invaded."

"And three, the constitution of India gives a guarantee to an individual that his privacy cannot be invaded 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year."

There are nine Indian male and two female players who were registered for dope testing by the ICC, both during tournaments or random out-of-competition.

The male players in the list are world batting record holder Sachin Tendulkar, captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Gautam Gambhir, Irfan Pathan and Munaf Patel.

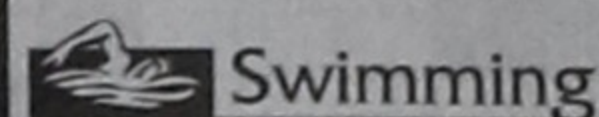
Jhulan Goswami and Mithali Raj are the two women players in the list.

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THE INDISPUTABLE NO. 1: The greatest swimmer of all time USA's Michael Phelps celebrates winning the men's 100m butterfly beating his bitter rival Serbia's Milorad Cavic by thirteen hundredths of a second at the World Swimming Championships in Rome on Saturday. Phelps set a new world record with 49.82.

Phelps silences Cavic



AFP, Rome

Michael Phelps beat Milorad Cavic to the punch again on Saturday, and this time he earned a clear decision by smashing the 50-second barrier in the 100m butterfly final at the World Championships.

The American superstar clocked a world record 49.82sec to beat his Beijing Olympic rival by 13-hundredths of a second.

Phelps had beaten Cavic by just one one-hundredth of a second in Beijing, and the Serbian turned this World Championships showdown into a grudge match.

Phelps's victory celebration was fierce. When he saw his time, he hoisted himself on the lane rope and yelled, smacking the water in triumph.

"You can tell after my celebration that it satisfied me a little bit," Phelps said.

Cavic had looked to have the upper hand heading into the final. He broke Phelps's world record in the semifinals with a time of 50.01.

The Serbian also ratcheted up the rhetoric when he offered to obtain one of his new-

generation polyurethane suits for the American, who has stuck to his older model.

"It doesn't matter about the suit, it's about how you train," Phelps said.

Cavic also broke 50 seconds, but his 49.95 was good enough only for silver.

"Michael Phelps is Michael Phelps, and he does what he does -- and he did," Cavic said of the swimmer who electrified the Beijing Games last year with an unprecedented eight gold medals.

Spain's Rafael Munoz was third in 50.41. Brazilian Cesar Cielo joined a select group with his triumph in the men's 50m freestyle.

His win in 21.08sec made him the third man to complete the 50-100m free sprint double at the World Championships.

Cielo, who had beaten French Olympic champion Alain Bernard in the 100m free final, beat French world record-holder Frederic Bousquet in the 50, Bousquet taking silver in 21.21.

France's Amaury Leveaux -- whose father died on Tuesday -- was third in 21.25.

Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry regained the 200m backstroke world title in a world record of 2:04.81.

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Australia's Ben Hilfenhaus (R) is delighted after dismissing England skipper Andrew Strauss on the fourth day of the third Ashes Test in Edgbaston yesterday.

Football Academy BFF asked to submit plan

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) was asked to submit its full plan on the proposed football academy at Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan in Sylhet.

The BFF high-ups led by president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday had a two-hour meeting with State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker at the NSC Tower.

"Today they officially proposed to allot the Sylhet BKSP for using it as a football academy and we have asked them to submit the detailed plan in a couple of days," said the minister after the meeting.

"After getting the BFF plan, we will look into the legal aspects on whether there is any difficulty and then will consider the proposal," said Sarker.

Meanwhile, the BFF had earlier submitted a letter to the NSC to get allocation of the Sylhet BKSP for using it as a football academy solely and a sponsor is ready to spend Tk 24 crore over eight years.

Later, the BFF president told reporters that they had also discussed to introduce two additional tournaments at district level and they would submit their whole plan in 10 days.

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GP-BCB Academy to leave for SA

SPORTS REPORTER

A 14-member GP-BCB National Cricket Academy team will leave Dhaka today on a three-week tour of South Africa.

Marshal Ayub will lead the team in the two four-dayers, three one-dayers and two T20 matches against their South African counterparts.

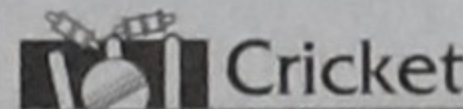
The team was announced at a press conference yesterday where selector Akram Khan, member of the BCB's development committee Shakil Kasem and team operations manager Jahangir Shah Badsha were present.

The first four-day match will be held at Tukkies1 in Pretoria on August 7-10 while the second match is scheduled for August 13-16 at Laudium in Pretoria.

The one-day matches are scheduled for August 19 (PHSOB, Pretoria), August 21 (Laudium, Pretoria), August 23 (Dobsonville, Johannesburg) while both the T20 matches will be held on August 25 at Tukkies1 in Pretoria.

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Flintoff fires up England



AFP, Birmingham

Andrew Flintoff's 74 took England into a first innings lead against Australia in the rain-affected third Ashes Test here at Edgbaston as the hosts looked to cement their 1-0 series lead.

England, at tea on Sunday's fourth day, were 316 for seven in reply to Australia's 263, a lead of 53.

All-rounder Flintoff, the bowling hero of England's 115-run second Test win at Lord's and the star of the 2005 Ashes, fell shortly before tea in what he said will be his final series in the five-day format.

Trying to withdraw the bat against off-spinner Nathan Hauritz and play no shot, he gloved to first slip Michael Clarke having shared rapid stands of 89 and 52 with Matthew Prior and Stuart Broad respectively.

Broad was 20 not out and Graeme Swann four not out at the interval.

With only a session and a day left in a match where the whole of Saturday's play was washed out, Ashes holders Australia's chances of level-

ling the five-match series ahead of next week's fourth Test at Headingley were fading.

They did though put England on the back-foot earlier Sunday and the hosts were 168 for five, still 93 behind, when Flintoff joined Prior.

But by the time the sixth-wicket duo were separated they'd added 89 in 97 balls to take England to within sight of a first innings lead.

Flintoff, who made two fifties in the corresponding Ashes Test here four years ago, then pressed on and continued to play commendably straight.

England were 159 for four at lunch with Ian Bell, recalled in place of the injured Kevin Pietersen, 46 not out in front of his Warwickshire home crowd.

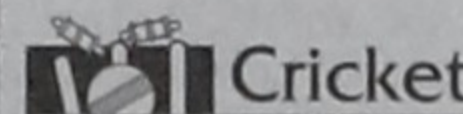
Bell completed a 96-ball fifty when he clipped improving left-arm quick Mitchell Johnson off his pads.

But having survived several close calls, Bell's luck ran out on 53 when Johnson swung a ball back into his pads to have him lbw with veteran umpire Rudi Koertzen at last ruling in the bowler's favour.

Johnson, who had struggled for line and length during the first two Tests, had taken one

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Harmy has old scores to settle with Aussies



CRICINFO, undated

Steve Harmison, the England fast bowler, has said he is desperate to play in the remaining Ashes Tests as he has "unfinished business" with the Australians. Harmison was left out of the Ashes preliminary squad but was named as a cover for Andrew Flintoff in an expanded second Test squad. However he did not feature in the XI's at Lord's or Edgbaston.

"The truth is that, much as I love playing for Durham, I'm desperate to play against Australia," Harmison was quoted as saying in the Mail on Sunday. "You can't overestimate how desperate. I'd have given everything to have played at Lord's, to be playing now in Birmingham and to play in Leeds."

Harmison took 6 for 20 as Durham beat Nottinghamshire by an innings and 102 runs last month and said the way he was bowling at the moment, he would be a handful against any opposition.

"I'll never forget winning in 2005 but I don't want my last Ashes memory to be of 2006-07, neither for that first ball, nor the whole experience of losing 5-0. It took us 20 years to win the Ashes back in 2005 -- and just 18 months to lose them. I'd like to think I could be part of winning them back."

Harmison denied rumours that he planned to retire at the end of the summer and was looking at the remaining Ashes Tests as a chance to get a farewell. "It may be that England do not see a future for me beyond the end of this summer. If that is the case, there is nothing I can do about it. But I'm not going to tell them I'm

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Operations manager of the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy team Jahangir Shah announces the team's tour of South Africa as others follow at the Grameenphone Head Office yesterday.