



## Did U Know?

Artistic gymnastics is another form of gymnastics which is very popular amongst people. This stylised and rhythmic form for women found a place in Olympics in 1928.



## Shahid Afridi

(Pakistan's T20 captain)  
"I am an aggressive captain and I wanted the whole team to play aggressively. That is what we did and I must congratulate the whole team for a fantastic win."  
After winning the only T20 match against Sri Lanka on Wednesday.



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English Premier League  
Chelsea v Hull City  
Live from 6:10pm  
Blackburn Rovers v Man City  
Live from 8:25pm  
Everton v Arsenal  
Live from 10:55pm  
**STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Wolverhampton v West Ham  
Live from 8:25pm

## WOMEN'S HANDBALL Viquarunnissa lift title

SPORTS REPORTER

Viquarunnissa School and College clinched the title of the 12th Delta Life Women's College Handball Competition with a 9-5 win over Siddeshwari Girl's College in the final at the Dhammondi Women's Sports Complex ground yesterday.

The champions faced a tough challenge from the opponents in the first half, which was locked at 2-2, but they finally did well in the second half scoring seven more goals to ensure Viquarunnissa's fifth crown.

Sports minister Ahad Ali Sarker was introduced to the players before the start of the final while Syed Moyazzem Hossain, chairman of the board of directors of sponsors Delta Life Insurance distributed prizes among the winners.

## Miandad PCB's batting adviser

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan appointed former captain and batting legend Javed Miandad as batting adviser to the national team following recent heavy defeats to Sri Lanka, an official said Thursday.

The appointment of the 51-year-old came after Pakistan's humiliating 2-0 defeat in Tests and 3-2 loss in the one-day series in Sri Lanka, results which were blamed on Pakistan's performance with the bat.

Pakistan finished the tour with a 52-run win in the Twenty20 match against Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

"We have requested Miandad help our team's batting before next month's Champions Trophy in South Africa and take care of (the team's) problems," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt told a press conference.

Needing 97 to win on the fourth day of the first Test in

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## Winning streak ends

CRICINFO, undated



Zimbabwe's batting has improved with each outing this series, and yesterday they kept their hopes alive with a victory in Bulawayo that brought Bangladesh's winning run to a screeching halt. On a flat batting track of the Queens Park, the hosts briefly threatened to combust in another jittery display from the top order, but Hamilton Masakadza lit up the innings with a maiden ODI century, supported by a calm Brendan Taylor and a gung-ho Elton Chigumbura. Zimbabwe were in control when Chigumbura joined Taylor in the 39th over, and what proceeded to unfold turned a solid batting act into an exhibition of butchery.

The pair added 90 from 50 balls, Chigumbura racing to his half-century from just 26 balls, and 60 from the batting Powerplay lifted the total to 323, Zimbabwe's best at the venue and against Bangladesh. In reply the visitors came up with a batting effort as edgy as Tuesday's had been powerful, with only Rokibul Hasan and Mahbubul Alam showing any fight.

Early signs indicated this game could be one for the bowlers when Zimbabwe slipped to 17 for 2 and then 60 for 3, but Masakadza and Taylor stood up to be counted. Zimbabwe's top order will do well to take a few lessons from Masakadza, who assessed the situation smartly, bided his time against the bit of swing Mahbubul got and consolidated in the middle overs. He acted as a glue to guarantee Zimbabwe's innings didn't fall apart.

Quick to capitalise on even marginal errors in length, Masakadza stroked delicate drives between cover and backward point off either

foot. With Taylor offering cool support the pair counter-attacked in an efficient manner, knocking the ball into the gaps and not trying to play the spinners too safely -- a factor that had stifled Zimbabwe in the series opener. Boundaries didn't flow -- at one stage Zimbabwe went 11 overs without finding the ropes -- but the run rate rarely dropped. The pair regularly spoke mid-pitch, no doubt stressing in the fact that all that was required was levelheaded batting, and that a wicket would put too much pressure on those to follow.

After a long absence playing cricket in England, Taylor came back strongly with a fluent half-century. He complimented his senior partner with an innings that relied solidly on on-side play. He judged singles superbly and his half-century came up from 62 balls without a boundary.

When Mahbubul came back to bowl the 35th over, Masakadza dumped him over midwicket for six to go past his previous best of 87. Two balls after bringing up three figures, Masakadza was bowled for 102, but the final chapter of the innings was adrenalin-fuelled. Taylor picked his first four in the 40th over, a deft late cut, and Chigumbura was quickly into his stride, slamming six over long-on and slashing through point.

An amazing one-handed six over extra cover by Taylor followed as Shakib returned, prompting Zimbabwe to take the batting Powerplay after 44 overs. Hitting cleanly through the line with meaty power and excellent timing, Chigumbura had Bangladesh scurrying for cover as the tone of the game changed dramatically, despite Taylor's run out on 94. Whether it was pace or spin he backed his game, making room to hit through the line and depositing the

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Zimbabwe opener Hamilton Masakadza goes for a sweep as Bangladesh keeper Mushfiqur Rahim looks on during the third ODI at the Queen's Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## West Indies sack Dyson

Cricket

AFP, St John's

Australian coach John Dyson became the latest casualty of West Indies' bitter cricket turmoil on Thursday when he was sacked as coach.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) axed Dyson following the humiliating home Test and one-day series defeats to whipping boys Bangladesh, losses which coincided with a damaging players boycott.

Dyson's sacking comes less than six weeks before the start of the Champions Trophy in South Africa where assistant coach David Williams will take temporary charge.

"The services of John Dyson have been terminated with immediate effect. The assistant coach David Williams will fill this position on a temporary basis for this tour," said a WICB statement.

Dyson, 55, took over as coach in October, 2007, following on from another Australian, Bennett King who stood down after World Cup.

Before his appointment in the troubled Caribbean, Dyson had been coach of the Sri Lanka team, succeeding Dav Whatmore in 2003 and remained in the job for two years.

He made an impressive start to his career with the West Indies, guiding the team to victory over South Africa at Port Elizabeth -- their first overseas win in a Test for seven years.

But success was always a struggle to achieve as more and more players fell out with the WICB over payments with the dispute becoming so entrenched that the first-choice squad refused to play in the series against Bangladesh.

Dyson oversaw a 1-0 Test win over England on home soil this year but his team, looking dispirited and disinterested, were swept aside in the return series in May.

West Indies are poised to take another second-string side to South Africa for the Champions Trophy which begins on September 22.

The WICB added in their statement: "In view of the special circumstances pertaining to this

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## Dollar leaves for Zimbabwe

SPORTS REPORTER

AFP, London

Pacer Dollar Mahmud was scheduled to leave here yesterday night to join the Bangladesh Squad for the ongoing five-match ODI series against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo.

Mahmud is going as replacement for Rubel Hossain, who was forced to return home after sustaining a side strain during the practice before the start of the second one-day match.

Bangladesh are struggling with their pace attack after pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was ruled out of the Zimbabwe tour and pacer Nazmul Hossain missed the third one-day against the hosts duo to a thigh strain.

## Prior bucks up bowlers

Cricket

AFP, London

Matt Prior shifted the focus from England's batting woes on Thursday, insisting his teammates possess enough bowling firepower to dismiss Australia twice at The Oval next week and snatch back the Ashes.

After losing the Headingley Test in an embarrassing innings defeat in just three days, the series is level at 1-1, leaving Australia needing only a draw in the fifth and final Test from next Thursday to keep hold of the Ashes.

"It's renowned as a pretty good batting wicket and we're going to have to take 20 wickets to win the game," said wicketkeeper Prior.

"But the way the bowlers have bowled this series has been absolutely fantastic, from Fred (Andrew Flintoff), to Jimmy Anderson, to Graham Onions, to Stuart Broad, Swanny (Graeme Swann), we know that we've got the unit and we've got the bowlers who can take 20

wickets and we'll be very confident."

Talking to the BBC, Prior would not be drawn on the question of who might feature in England's middle order.

"That would be up to the selectors to decide," he said. "But what I will say is that the 11 guys who go out next Thursday will be absolutely up for it."

"It's amazing to be 1-1 in an Ashes series, it's like having a final in a Test series, it's so exciting, and the whole country has been gripped by the Ashes and really got behind us."

"Those 11 guys who walk out at The Oval will be really pumped up."

Meanwhile, a century from Jonathan Trott and an unbeaten 92 from Ian Bell helped push their cases to play at The Oval as Warwickshire fought back in their County Championship meeting with Nottinghamshire on Thursday.

After Charlie Shreck wrapped up Warwickshire's first innings by bowling Boyd Rankin, the visitors to Trent Bridge were asked to follow on, still 169 runs behind.

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The members of the victorious Viquarunnissa School handball team celebrate winning the 12th Delta Life Women's College Handball competition at the Dhammondi Women's Complex yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## All eyes on Bolt-Gay duel

AFP, Berlin

The mouth-watering sprint duel between Usain Bolt and Tyson Gay will headline the World Athletics Championships, offering up what should be one of the most eagerly awaited events ever.

Bolt took the Beijing Olympics by storm last summer, the towering, laid-back Jamaican winning the double gold sprint and also claiming gold as part of Jamaica's 4x100m relay team, all won -- amazingly -- in world record times.

He has continued his impressive form into this season, but the year's best marks in both the 100 and 200m races (9.77 and 19.58sec respectively) have been set by arch-rival Gay, the American who endured a miserable Olympics after rushing back from a debilitating hamstring injury.

Gay is also the runner with the world credentials, having emulated Bolt's triple gold feat at the last world championships in Osaka two years ago.

The duo have, to the delight of their agents ahead of a showcase competition, avoided each other so far this season, but the Jamaican who claims to have been performing only at 85 percent of his capability has displayed levels of confidence expected of sprinters.

"I would love to do better than the Olympics, just going out there and winning is enough for

me," said the 22-year-old, who is looking to break his own 100m world record of 9.69sec when he takes to the track on Saturday.

"Expectations are going to be higher here than Beijing, but I am ready to go and do my best. I know what I did there and I know the high responsibility which comes with it, I am working hard to do better than last year."

"I have no problems, I am in good shape and itching to race now."

Gay said that breaching the world record would be the ultimate target.

"I believe Usain Bolt will try to break the world record, why wouldn't he?" questioned the American.

"If that is what it takes to win the 100m, that is what I will have to do and I will try to do the same."

"The world record is the only number I have in mind, I want to win more than anything, but I want to run fast."

"I don't want to run 9.99 and people say it wasn't fast. I believe 9.60secs is obtainable -- that is my goal."

At the Osaka worlds in 2007, Gay spearheaded the US team to the top of the overall table, matching a meet record with 14 titles.

Kenya came second with five, thanks to their incomparable distance runners, with Russia in third.

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## Change dawns in England

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM



What a difference a year (and the tax rate) makes. At the start of last season, the English Premiership boasted probably the widest plethora of talent in world football. Cristiano Ronaldo strutted his stuff at the Theatre of Dreams, World Cup winner Luiz Felipe Scolari traipsed around the Stamford Bridge turf, Xabi Alonso sprayed the ball around like he owned Anfield and every top player inside and outside England was linked to Manchester City.

Come 2009/10 and the impending implementation of the 50% tax rate for earners

in the top bracket, has seen many of England's brightest talents desert the cold and the rain to push through moves to greener pastures. Every one of the Fab Four have grown weaker, bar Chelsea, who have just grown older. Real Madrid

has been the biggest culprit as Florentino Perez's second Galactico project has attracted the best players from the land.

Cristiano Ronaldo, by some way the best player in England finally fled to his mistress ending two full years of flirting and putting an end to the "will he, won't he?" saga. Grown men move on, says Alex Ferguson, but the wily old fox will need all of his canny brain to find a way out of this one.

And if the departure of the mercurial Ronaldo was not enough, cult hero Carlos Tevez also decided his future lay elsewhere. Hugely popular with the Old Trafford faithful, the terrier-like Argentine lost a lot of love as he decided to switch allegiances to what Ferguson describes as "a small

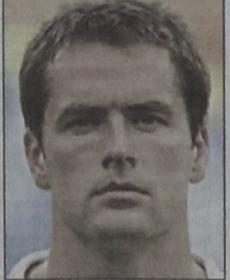
club." The blue half of Manchester are definitely happy to have him however and Fergie may yet have pulled out a coup by signing up the heavily marketed Michael

Antonio Valencia provides them a useful if inadequate replacement for Ronaldo and Fergie may yet have pulled out a coup by signing up the heavily marketed Michael

Owen. In his case however, the old Scot can overlook past allegiances.

So Manchester United are considerably weaker. But what of their eternal rivals?

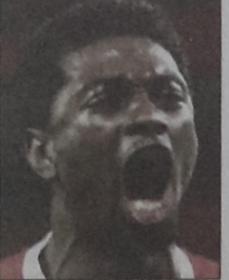
Liverpool have sat by the wayside and seen the Red Devils equal their record of 18 top division triumphs. Pride means that the Kop will be buying for blood and a first title in much too long. But the departure of Xabi Alonso to Real Madrid will do little to help the cause of the fidgety Rafael Benitez. Also the constant signals of departure coming from Javier Mascherano means that the Spaniard might yet lose out on his midfield pivot before the season opens. It will be a huge blow to the Kop's title prospects and even the arrival of Alberto Aquilani and his quite stunning WAG will do little to dampen the blow. The Roman can certainly play but it remains to be seen whether he can



MICHAEL OWEN



CARLO ANCELOTTI



EMANUELLE ADEBAYOR

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