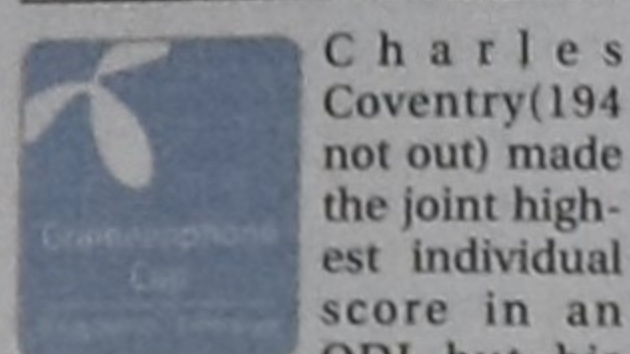


Tamim outshines Charles

CRICINFO, undated



Charles Coventry (194 not out) made the joint highest individual score in an ODI but his effort was outweighed by a sparkling, cool-headed century from Tamim Iqbal (154), who broke the record for the most runs made in an innings by a Bangladesh batsman, as the Tigers took a winning 3-1 lead in the five-match series against Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

Coventry's blockbuster innings pushed Zimbabwe beyond 300, far more than Bangladesh have chased before, but the visitors were rarely troubled as they hunted down the target of 313 in 47.5 overs in the fourth match to take their third consecutive series.

Tamim continued his superb run of form and always kept Bangladesh in with a chance of overhauling the massive target.

Bangladesh needed a solid opening stand after Charles Coventry inspired Zimbabwe to 312, and Zunaed Siddiqui and Tamim provided them that. Both openers were particularly harsh on Elton Chigumbura, who pitched the ball too short right through his opening spell. Zunaed was the aggressor, hammering his way to a 27-ball 38 before, as has so often been the case, throwing away the start with a loose shot.

Bangladesh had motored

to 65 off nine overs but Zunaed's dismissal, and the introduction of Zimbabwe's spinners, sucked the momentum out of the chase. Mohammad Ashraful took his time to settle, and Tamim cut out the big hits for a while, which made the asking-rate make a steady slide upwards.

After hobbling to a boundary-free 10-ball 28, Ashraful chipped a flighted delivery from Ray Price to the covers. Bangladesh would have been in deeper trouble had substitute Vusi Sibanda held on to a chance from Rokibul Hasan at short fine leg in Price's next over.

Zimbabwe were slowly taking control when Tamim decided to take on the spin-

ners: Malcolm Waller was blasted over long-on and long-off off consecutive deliveries, followed by a powerful cut for four. He also came down the track and cracked Price over long-on to get his strike-rate above a 100. There still a long way to go for Bangladesh, but with their best batsman Shakib Al Hasan yet to come, 313 is definitely within their grasp.

Earlier, a blockbuster of an innings from Coventry raised Zimbabwe's chances of leveling the series. Coventry was involved in two substantial partnerships, with Hamilton Masakadza and Stuart Matsikenyeri, on either side of a middle-order collapse to power Zimbabwe to their

second consecutive 300-plus total.

It was a superbly paced innings from Coventry; he provided the impetus after the early dismissal of Mark Vermeulen, then tempered his aggression when the wickets tumbled around him in the middle overs, before finishing off with an awesome display of power hitting. What made it even more astonishing was that the next highest score in the innings was 37, 157 less than Coventry. It was also his first ODI century, and he had never before crossed 106 in any form of senior cricket.

He stomped on the gas soon after reaching his century in the 38th over, particularly targeting the swathe from long-on to midwicket, where he slammed six of his seven sixes. Still, at the end of the 42nd over he was on 129, and the world record didn't seem in his sights. By the end of the 47th he was on 180, and all the interest was around whether he would make an ODI double-century, a feat not

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TOP BANGLADESHI BATSMEN

Batsman	Runs	Balls	Opposition	Venue	Year
Tamim Iqbal	154	138	Zimbabwe	Bulawayo	2009
Shakib Al Hasan	134*	152	Canada	St John's	2007
Tamim Iqbal	129	136	Ireland	Dhaka	2008
Shahriar Nafees	123*	161	Zimbabwe	Jaipur	2006
Shahriar Nafees	118*	148	Zimbabwe	Harare	2006

TOP TEN INDIVIDUAL ODI SCORES

Batsman	Runs	Balls	4s	6s	SR	Team	Opposition	Ground
C Coventry	194*	156	16	7	124.35	Zimbabwe	Bangladesh	Bulawayo
S Anwar	194	146	22	5	132.87	Pakistan	India	Chennai
V Richards	189*	170	21	5	111.17	West Indies	England	Manchester
S Jayasuriya	189	161	21	4	117.39	Sri Lanka	India	Sharjah
G Kirsten	188*	159	13	4	118.23	South Africa	UAE	Rawalpindi
S Tendulkar	186*	150	20	3	124.00	India	New Zealand	Hyderabad
MS Dhoni	183*	145	15	10	126.20	India	Sri Lanka	Jaipur
S Ganguly	183	158	17	7	115.82	India	Sri Lanka	Taunton
M Hayden	181*	166	11	10	109.03	Australia	New Zealand	Hamilton
V Richards	181	125	16	7	144.80	West Indies	Sri Lanka	Karachi

(* denotes not out)



PHOTO: AFP

Zimbabwe's one-down batsman Charles Coventry salutes the crowd on reaching 150 in the fourth one-day against Bangladesh at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday. Coventry went on to hammer 194 not out to equal the world record for highest individual score with Pakistan's Saeed Anwar.

GP BCB fall to crushing loss

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone-BCB National Academy lost the series 2-0 against the Standard Bank National Cricket Academy of South Africa when the visitors crashed to a massive 178-run defeat in the second and final four-day match with a day to go at the Lauder Oval in Pretoria on Saturday.

Chasing a daunting winning-target of 382, the GP-BCB were skittled for 209 in the face of some disciplined bowling from pacer Pumelela Matshikwe, who returned 4-84 to finish with a match-haul of 7-108.

Hosts' pace pair, Matshikwe and Andrew Miller (2-25) attacked all the way and bowled in the right areas and forced the Bangladeshi batsmen to make mistakes and the two are the most seasoned bowlers of the host side to impress throughout the series but it was Miller who was named man of the match for making 75 and 77 in the game.

Spinning all-rounder Tanvir Haider was the lone highlight for the visitors as the leg-spinner, who sat out the first match, claimed five scalps in the game and struck an unbeaten 64 off 91 balls that included seven fours and one six in the second innings.

Earlier, the Standard Bank Academy having started on 102-2 on the third day, finished on 254 in the second innings, widening the lead to 381.

The Grameenphone-BCB were earlier bundled out for

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Did U Know?

The first women's Olympic hammer throw competition was included in the year 2000.



Roberto Martinez

(Wigan soccer manager)

"He is a really powerful lad, technically excellent, with good pace and he will fit in well to our system. I have no doubts about him adjusting to English football."

After signing Spanish defender Antonio Amaya from Rayo Vallecano on Friday.



ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live from 9:30pm

Trott to keep his cool

AFP, London

Jonathan Trott vowed to stay as "relaxed as possible" after being handed arguably the most daunting set of circumstances possible in which to make his England Test debut.

The South Africa born batsman was named Sunday in England's 14-man squad for next week's must-win Ashes Test against Australia here at The Oval and national selector Geoff Miller confirmed that, late injury permitting, Trott would play in place of the

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Boxers travel to Bangkok

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Boxing Federation has decided to send eight boxers and two coaches for a four-week improved training in Bangkok ahead of the 11th South Asian (SA) Games in Bangladesh.

The boxers, who are scheduled to leave here for Thailand in the last week of this month, will be receiving training at the Thailand Boxing Academy under the supervision of a Level-I International coach, said general secretary retired lieutenant colonel MA Latif Khan.

Latif also informed that he was trying to extend the time frame of training to two months from one though the Thailand Boxing Federation has made all arrangements like accommodation, food and training.

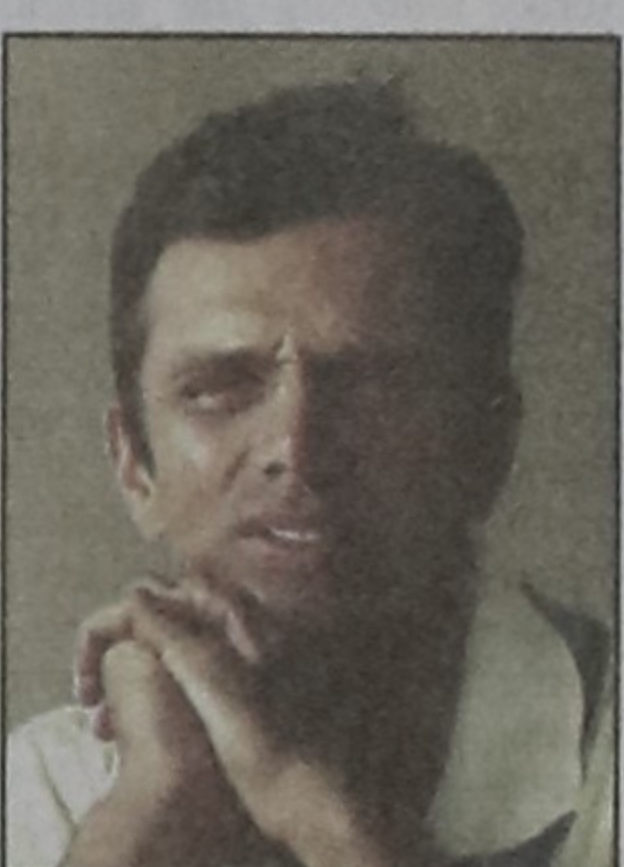
The boxing federation is looking for a gold medal in the upcoming SA Games, scheduled for January-29-February 9 in 2010, and already sent two boxers in Italy for receiving a month-long training as well as taking part in the World Boxing Championship, said Latif. Boxers Nadif Hossain and Abdur Rahim, who left country on August 10 for Italy and will take part in the 54 and 64 kg categories respectively.

Dravid back in ODI fold

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Veteran batsman Rahul Dravid on Sunday made a return to India's one-day squad for next month's tri-series in Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy in South Africa.



RAHUL DRAVID

Dravid, 36, last played a one-day international in 2007 but his form in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in South Africa and the poor show of

India's younger batsmen in the World Twenty20 turned the scale in his favour.

With 10,585 runs from 333 games to his name, Dravid is expected to bolster the middle-order which struggled against rising deliveries in England, hosts of the World Twenty20 in June.

Dravid replaced Rohit Sharma, who managed 15 runs in three innings during India's last one-day engagement, against the West Indies, in June-July.

Aggressive opener Virender Sehwag was ignored by the selectors as he is yet to recover fully from a shoulder injury.

Suresh Raina, out of action owing to a hairline fracture of the thumb, made a comeback while Amit Mishra replaced Pragnan Ojha as the back-up spinner to Harbhajan Singh.

Batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar, who asked to be rested from the West Indies tour, also returned to the squad.

The tri-series in Sri Lanka, which has New Zealand as the third team, is set to begin on September 8 while the eight-nation Champions Trophy will

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Rahmatganj focus on youth

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's giant killers Rahmatganj MFS signed up 17 players yesterday as they pinned their hopes on young guns.

It was a happy search for the old Dhaka outfit, who roped in striker Sabbir Mahmud Pritom, who was in the recently concluded national football team's camp. They also retained the services of their five campaigners of the last season and recruited some players from Mohammedan SC, Muktijoddha Sangsad, Chittagong Abahani and Khulna Abahani.

Rahmatganj, who stunned holders Abahani in the 2nd B. League opener 2-1 and upset runners-up Mohammedan SC 1-0, finished seventh in the 11-team point table in the last edition of the B. League and are now looking forward to lifting their position this time.

"We have recruited young players and the speed will be the key factor of our success," said coach Mir Mohammad Faruque.

While Mohammedan SC were seeking more to be prepared, the Rahmatganj coach said that it would not be problem for him to prepare his

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Freddie set for finale

Cricket

AFP, London

Andrew Flintoff stayed on course to make his farewell to Test cricket in next week's final Ashes match here at The Oval after being named in a 14-man squad on Sunday along with Jonathan Trott.

Uncapped Warwickshire batsman Trott is now set to make a high-pressure Test debut against Australia when the series finale starts on Thursday in a match England must win to regain the Ashes.

Trott, who saw off competition from the likes of Mark Ramprakash and Rob Key, is in line to replace Ravi Bopara after the out-of-form batsman was dropped from the squad completely.

England also gave themselves additional bowling options by recalling left-arm spinner Monty Panesar to the squad while retaining left-arm seamer Ryan Sidebottom.

"Ravi Bopara has been going through a tough time with the bat in this series and we have decided to leave him out of the squad for this game," said England national selector Geoff Miller.

"Ravi's omission means Jonathan Trott will make his Test debut at the Brit Oval," the former England off-spinner, who said Ian Bell would move up into Bopara's position of number three from number four, added.

"Having been part of the squad at Headingley, he was the next batsman in line in our view and this rewards him for the excellent form he has shown in county cricket both this summer and with England Lions over the winter."

"Ian Bell will bat at three next week which is a position he has occupied for England before

and we were delighted to see both him and Jonathan make centuries for Warwickshire this week," Miller said.

South Africa born Trott was included as squad batting cover for Flintoff at Headingley, a match England lost by an innings and 80 runs as Australia levelled the Ashes at 1-1 with one to play, but was ultimately left out of the side as England decided to bring in another fast bowler in Stephen Harmison rather than bolster their top order.

But England's double collapse in Leeds saw batsmen Bopara, Bell and Paul Collingwood manage just 16 runs between them.

Trott, in a sign of his impending promotion, was pulled from the second string England Lions playing Australia in a two-day warm-up match at Canterbury that started on Saturday.

The 28-year-old reinforced his case for a Test call earlier this week with 121 for Warwickshire, whose director of cricket Ashley Giles is also an England selector, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

That was his fourth first-class hundred of the season and took his overall tally to 1,046 runs at an average of 80.46.

"It's been a good few days for me, and I've picked a good one (to make my debut)," Trott told Sky Sports.

"I went into the changing room last week (at Headingley) and I felt really welcome and comfortable, so I've just got to make sure my own mind and game is in order, and make sure I take my opportunity."

However Australia batsman Michael Hussey, speaking on Saturday, said of Trott: "He's obviously playing very well. But it is a big step up from first-class cricket to Tests, no question about that."

England's middle-order has struggled in the

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Another walking gold for Russia

AFP, Berlin



Defending champion Olga Kaniskina of Russia won the women's 20 kilometres walk world title here on Sunday.

The 24-year-old timed 1 hour 28 minutes 9 seconds to beat home Ireland's Olive Loughane while China's Hong Liu took the bronze to make up for her upset at being fourth in last year's Olympics in front of her home country supporters.

Kaniskina's victory gave Russia their second gold on successive days in the walks while Liu's bronze was also the second successive third placing for them as they had also taken bronze in the men's race.

In steaming hot conditions the competitors had set a steady initial pace.

So much so that after 20 minutes there was a tightly bunched group of around 20 walkers with Spain's 2007 world bronze medalist Maria Vasco, Germany's Sabine Krantz and Norway's Kjersti Tysse Platzer -- whose brother had been prominent in the men's race for a long time on Saturday -- three abreast in the lead.

Australia's lead hope for a medal Cheryl

Webb suffered an early blow when the 32-year-old Commonwealth Games bronze medalist got a first warning -- she was later to be disqualified after receiving three.

Up front Kaniskina upped the pace all of a sudden and only two other rivals -- Tysse Platzer and fellow Russian Anisya Kirdyapkina could go with her leaving a group of around 10 struggling to breach the gap.

Kaniskina's remorseless pace was too much for her companions and turning round the Brandenburg Gate with under half the race to go they were left trailing.

She quickly opened up an imposing 13-second lead, while Tysse Platzer looked to be leaving Kirdyapkina in her wake.

However, while Kaniskina simply got stronger, the other two wilted -- both receiving two warnings leaving them on the edge of being disqualified -- and they were replaced as the principal if vain pursuers of the Russian by Loughane and Liu.

Passing the 15km mark Kaniskina held a 56sec lead over Loughane -- eighth in last year's Olympics -- and Liu while that duo were a comfortable 11sec clear of Kirdyapkina.

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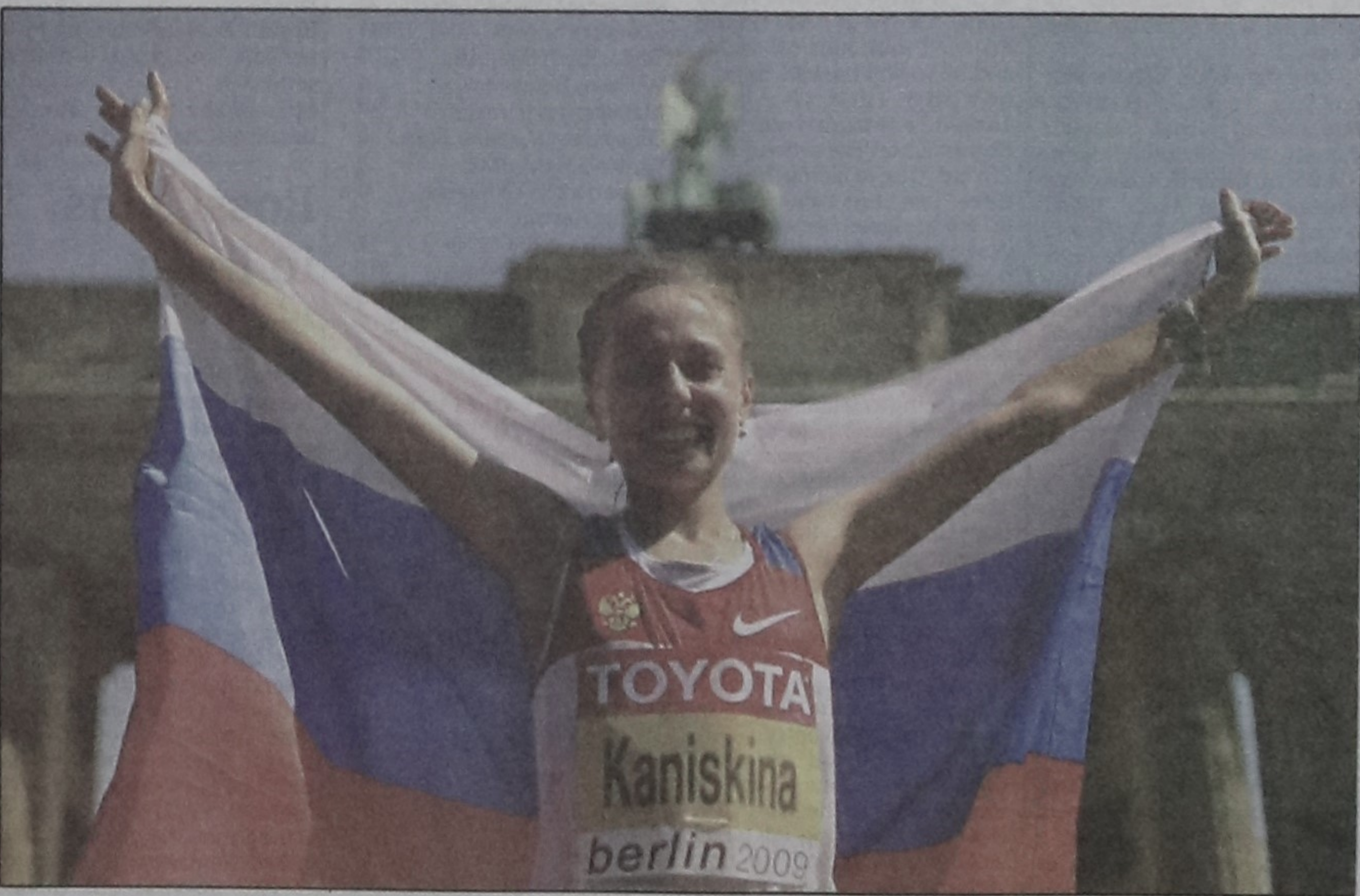


PHOTO: AFP

Russia's Olga Kaniskina celebrates with her national colours after winning the 20km walk gold in the 2009 IAAF Athletics World Championships in Berlin yesterday.