

## Under-15 Dev squad selected

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) picked up 24 players for the U-15 Development Squad camp which will start from August 25 at BKSP.

The players have been asked to report at BKSP on Monday at 4:30pm.

The selected players are Shahriar Islam, Yasir Chowdhury, Al Mamun Rafsan, Zahed Javed, Omar Faruk, Shabbaz Chowhan, Sajid Akter, Sha Afran Shakil, Sadman Islam, Jibon Chowdhury, Bayjid Amin, Abu Haydar, Mahmudur Rahman, Abu Sayem, Taskin Ahmed, Sukanto Kumar Dey, Salman Hossain, Rahatul Ferdous Javed, Mehedi Hasan, Samarat Sardar, Arfat Sunny, Adath Hassan Rabbi, Rashid Khan and Kamran Farhad Sunny.

## Kiwis save

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Star spinner Muttiah Muralidaran had two lucky breaks when he earned a leg-before verdict against the sturdy McIntosh and had Jacob Oram caught off the pad at short-leg for 12.

Television replays showed Australian umpire Daryl Harper erred in both decisions.

The middle order collapse undid the good work of McIntosh, who had batted through the rain-affected morning session after resuming at his overnight score of 36.

The left-hander survived two blows on his helmet and shoulder by rising deliveries from Thushara, but hung on for six hours to anchor New Zealand's reply.

The 29-year-old Auckland batsman, who has a century to his credit in five previous Tests but had never played an international match outside New Zealand, hit six boundaries and six.

Nightwatchman Jeetan Patel helped McIntosh put on 49 for the third wicket, himself contributing 26, before he was leg-before to Muralidaran 20 minutes before lunch.

Taylor added 51 runs for the fourth wicket when he edged a well-placed delivery from Thushara to wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene.

Muralidaran, the most successful Test bowler in history, took his record tally to 773 with the wickets of McIntosh and Oram.

New Zealand play two Tests, two Twenty20 internationals and a limited-overs tri-series also featuring India during the five-week tour.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Thursday:

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 452 (Dilshan 92, Jayawardene 114, Samaraweera 159; Vettori 4-78, Martin 4-77)

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings (overnight 87-2)

McIntosh lbw b Muralidaran 69  
Guptill b Thushara 24  
Flynn b Mendis 14  
Patel lbw b Muralidaran 26  
Taylor c P Jayawardene b Thushara 35  
Ryder b Kulasekara 42  
McCullum b Thushara 1  
Oram c sub (Wanapura) b Muralidaran 12  
Vettori not out 33  
O'Brien not out 3  
Extras: (b-6, lb-5, nb-11) 22  
Total: (For 8 wickets in 105 overs) 281  
To bat: Martin.

Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-80, 3-129, 4-180, 5-188, 6-195, 7-223, 8-259.

**Bowler** O M R W

Kulasekara 10 2 41 1  
Thushara 22 2 80 3  
Mendis 34 8 75 1  
Muralidaran 37 9 66 3  
Paranavithana 2 0 8 0

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## SA condemns

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but the entire country -- a boost for athletics. Her determination to succeed in becoming a world-renowned athlete has made Caster a role model for young athletes.

The government's ministry of women also praised Semenya.

"Semenya's outstanding success despite negative media speculation about her gender demonstrates her determination and resolve to succeed," the ministry said in a statement.



## Did U Know?

The very first Olympic race, held in 776 BC, was won by Corubus, a chef.



German Robert Harting looks back after a satisfying hurl in the men's discus throw that he won after close contest at Athletics World Championships in Berlin on Wednesday.

## Harting hurls gold

AFP, Berlin



Germany's Robert Harting left it till the last of six throws to take the men's discus world title here on Wednesday in a quite thrilling contest.

The 24-year-old - a silver medalist two years ago - threw the discus 69.43 metres to send the German spectators into ecstasy.

Poland's Piotr Malachowski had led from the first round and must wonder what he did wrong to miss out on the title as he twice set new national records ending with a best of 69.15m and had to settle for silver just as he had done in the Olympics last year.

Defending champion and Olympic gold medalist Gerd Kanter of Estonia took bronze with 66.88m.

Harting said that he had not only won gold but also a bet with the coach of Bundesliga side Hertha Berlin, who play at the Olympic Stadium.

"He (the coach) will lend me his Audi A8 500S and believe me I will commit as many

traffic offences as possible," said Harting, who will have the money to pay the fines as he wins 60,000 dollars for winning the title.

"However, I am delighted as I really wanted to beat the Pole."

Malachowski had pulled no punches from the first throw as he landed his mark of 68.77m for a new national record and indeed the first three after three rounds all had their best efforts in the first exchanges.

Harting, who had said earlier that he would willingly throw his discus at the head of anyone caught for doping, went second with a season's best 68.25m while Virgilijus Alekna was in bronze medal position after making a mark of 66.36m.

Harting apologised for his remarks after winning.

"I am sorry for those remarks," he said.

"If I could take them back I would. All this trouble with the media and the federation believe me I am a 'cold dog'."

"I can cope with a lot of things on my mind. But I was close to having too much on my mind."

## Kamel eyes double

AFP, Berlin



Newly-minted world 1500m champion Yusuf Saad Kamel of Bahrain took a step to repeating his father Billy Konchellah's feat of winning the world 800m crown when he breezed through qualifying heats here on Thursday.

The Kenyan-born runner produced a fantastic late surge to claim gold in the men's 1500m late on Wednesday but showed no signs of tiredness as he won his heat with ease in 4:46.44sec ahead of Kenyan rival Abiel Kiprop.

"I did not sleep last night because I was very excited," admitted Kamel. "I slept just two hours in the morning but I still had enough energy for the race today."

Kamel, who until 2003 competed for Kenya as Gregory Konchellah, is the son of Billy, who was world 800m champion in 1987 and 1991, and bronze medalist in 1993.

The 800/1500m double was last achieved by Kamel's disgraced Moroccan-born team-mate Rashid Ramzi at the 2005 worlds in Helsinki but Kamel will have a fight on his hands in what looks like a very tight field.

Defending world champion and Olympic bronze medalist Alfred Yego led a trio of impressive Kenyans into the semi-finals scheduled for 1830 GMT on Friday.

Kiprop, fourth in the 1500m, Kenyan champion David Rudisha and Jackson Kivuva all moved effortlessly into the semis, along with Bahrain's Belal Mansoor Ali, formerly John Yego of Kenya, and dangerous Moroccan Amine Laalou.

"It was a good race," Yego said of his heat win. "It will be difficult for me to defend my title. Now, with the yellow bib, everybody knows it and it means a lot of pressure for me."

South African Mbulaeni Mulaudzi won his heat ahead of Sudan's Abubaker Kaki, who has set the world's leading time this season.

And Canadian Gary Reed and Russia's former Olympic champion Yuriy Borzakovskiy, silver and bronze medalists at the Osaka

worlds in 2007, both also qualified to join Sudan's reigning Olympic silver medalist Ismail Ismail.

In the field, defending champion Brad Walker of the United States withdrew from the men's pole vault competition because of a thigh injury but Olympic champion Steve Hooker of Australia competed despite a nagging groin injury.

Walker, who has been suffering from the injury since the Monaco meeting at the end of July, waited until the last minute to announce his pull-out, just as qualifications were getting under way at the Olympic Stadium.

Hooker bade his time as the field was whittled away and cleared 5.65m on his first vault to ensure qualification for the final scheduled for 1615 GMT on Saturday.

But the 27-year-old, who is second in the all-time lists behind Ukrainian legend Sergei Bubka with a best of 6.06m, looked visibly stiff in picking himself up from the crash mat after his sole attempt.

With just three events remaining in the decathlon - the pole vault, javelin and 1500m, American Trey Hardee regained the lead on 6,334 points ahead of overnight leader Oleksy Kasyanov of Ukraine (6,275).

Russian Aleksandr Pogorelov leap-frogged into third on 6,163 with an impressive 48.46m in the discus.

There was bad news from the British camp with the announcement that 2005 world champion Paula Radcliffe had pulled out of the women's marathon on Sunday.

Despite winning the New York half-marathon last weekend and flying immediately to Berlin, Radcliffe announced that she did not feel ready to race the longer event.

"I am devastated I wasn't ready in time, especially having got so close in such a short time frame," said the 35-year-old, who underwent a foot operation in March.

"However, after having the surgery to successfully put the years of injury behind me it is very important to me that I come back to racing often and winning at 100 percent and continue strongly and successfully through to London 2012."

## Semenya's gender

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but there is nothing which would have stopped her from running today."

Weiss said that they would be completely open once the investigation was finished.

"The investigation is confidential, but we play the game of transparency and when we announce our investigation, I hope the doctors will explain fully. In truth, I have no idea what the investigation involves."

Weiss admitted it was a headache that the IAAF could have done without, but as Semenya had been a total unknown a few weeks ago it had not been a problem they had anticipated.

"We would have preferred no controversy."

"She was unknown three weeks ago, nobody could have anticipated this situation, we are fast, but we are not that fast."

Earlier IAAF spokesman Nick Davies revealed the question had first been raised after Semenya's astonishing performances at the African junior

championships.

"In the case of this athlete, following her breakthrough in the African junior championships, the rumours, the gossip were starting to build up," said Davies.

Semenya has already been involved in a controversial incident at the championships.

During the 800m heats, she became entangled with Janeth Jepkosgei on the final bend and brought down the Kenyan.

Semenya managed to just about keep on her feet, showed great composure and ran out an easy winner.

She has also displayed a certain nonchalance regarding her future in the sport as was in evidence after her semi-final on Monday.

"Running is just a game for me," said Semenya. "Even next year, I can stop running if I want."

There have been precedents in such cases, the most famous being that of Polish athletics great Stella Walsh (also known as Stanislaw Walasiewicz) who won Olympic gold in the 100 yards at the 1932 Olympics

and silver in the same event in the 1936 Olympics here in Berlin.

However, after she was shot dead during an armed robbery in 1980, the subsequent autopsy revealed she possessed male genitalia, although she also had female characteristics as well.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) have now dropped gender determination tests.

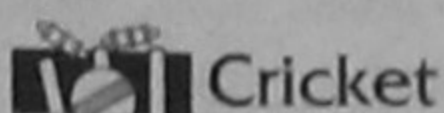
## Div 1 football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Dragon Sporting Club defeated Sana Smriti Sangha 3-0 in the Hafizul Islam Khan Uttu Smriti First Division Football League at Shahid Miraz-Tapan stadium in Manikganj yesterday.

Shahin opened the scoring in the first half. Masud scored the second from a penalty and Shamim rounded off the scoring netting the third goal.

## \$70m rests on Oval Test



CRICINFO, undated

The Ashes decider at The Oval may well be the most eagerly anticipated contest in recent memory, for fans, media and the players themselves. But the fifth Test will have a lot more riding on it than just the destination of the famous urn or bragging rights for the next couple of years. Informed estimates suggest that punters around the world may have staked well over US\$70 million on the result of the Test - and thus the series - beginning today.

The sheer volume of money at stake would also explain why an Australian player was approached by a bookie after the Lord's Test, as revealed by Cricinfo.

Betfair, the leading P2P (person to person) betting exchange based in the UK, had already matched bets worth US\$4.8 million by Wednesday afternoon. Given that Betfair generally accounts for nearly half of the total volume logged

in the UK, the total betting on the winner of the Ashes series will far exceed the figure of US\$10 million by the time the first ball is bowled at the Oval. And though cricket may not yet have taken off on the continent, betting on it is surprisingly energetic, with approximately US\$3 million placed on the result.

However, these figures are dwarfed by those coming out of the illegal betting market in India, as befits the financial centre of the game. It is estimated that each of the preceding four Ashes Tests has seen between US\$30 million and US\$41 million (Rs 150-200 crore) wagered on the result. For the series win (called 'cup betting' in India), those figures increase to between US\$50-61 million (Rs 250-300 crore). Indian bookies, like their English counterparts, have sensed the series shift in momentum towards Australia; on Wednesday afternoon, the odds on Australia winning at The Oval on the Indian market were 2.40, England winning it 4 to 1 and a draw at 1.25. Betfair (on Thursday, hours before the start), offered odds of an Australian win at 2.42, England

5.2 and a draw 2.5.

These amounts are restricted only to match and series winner, however, and once the Test begins much more will be wagered. For most in India, the popular bets are on the result, and about 95% of the estimated 1.5 million regular punters place their money on this. However, some bookies and very big punters bet huge amounts between themselves on what is called "fancy sauda". This can be on anything, from estimating innings scores, top scorers or wicket-takers and staking from Rs 100-10,000 per run against the difference in team totals. It can take in small details, such as who will bowl the next over from which end and how many runs will be scored in an over, or off the next delivery. Putting a realistic figure on these transactions is difficult and though there are very few punters involved in this, the stakes can often be very high.

Bookmakers, such as Ladbrokes and William Hill, used to stop taking bets after the toss in any match. But once they discovered how bookies from the subcontinent actually made

more money after matches had begun, on fancy sauda, they too embraced the system. Thus 'In Play' betting - placing bets when the Test begins, where odds are re-worked with every ball bowled, every run scored - now accounts for the largest chunk of betting on any contest.

Though the figures for the last Test seem impressive, the decider is actually thought to be a low-volume contest in India. There are two reasons for this. One, this is a decider, so the winner (if it does not end in a draw) of this Test and the series is going to be the same, and since there are bets already riding on the series winner category, it does not make much sense for them to increase the ante. Two, New Zealand's series with Sri Lanka has diverted the hearts and wallets of punters not only in the subcontinent, but also to an extent in Europe, where bets over US\$5 million had already been placed by the second day of the Test. In India, sources estimate that nearly US\$80 million (Rs 400 crore) are already placed on the first Test, and nearly US\$60 million (Rs 300 crore) on the series winner.

## Bell elevates

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His leg-glanced four, his eighth boundary, off Ben Hilfenhaus saw Bell, promoted to No 3 in place of Bopara, to a 73-ball fifty.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the fifth Ashes Test between England and Australia at The Oval on Thursday:

**ENGLAND:** First innings

Strauss c Haddin b Hilfenhaus 55  
Cook c Ponting b Siddle 10  
Bell not out 72  
Collingwood c Hussey b Siddle 24  
Trott not out 3  
Extras: (lb-3, w-2, nb-11) 16  
Total: (For 3 wickets in 53 overs) 180  
To bat: Prior, Flintoff, Broad, Swann, Harmison, Anderson  
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-114, 3-176.

**Bowler** O M R W

Hilfenhaus 18 4 59 1  
Siddle 13 4 47 2  
Clark 9 4 17 0  
Johnson 9 0 46 0  
North 4 1 8 0

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## Ayub brings

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83-run partnership with Ayub in the fifth wicket stand.

In reply, SBNA were bundled out for 226 in 47 overs with Y Vallie making team highest 64.

Spinner Saqlain Sajid was most successful bowler with 4 for 37 runs while pacer Kamrul Islam claimed three wickets for 44 runs.

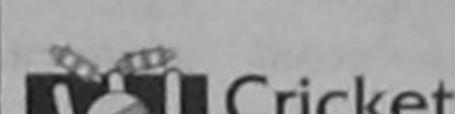
The second match will take place at Laudium, Pretoria today while the third match is scheduled for August 23 at Dobsonville, Johannesburg.

## BRIEF SCORES

NCA: 242-7 in 50 overs (Mithun 20, Ayub 99 not out, Shuvagoto 12, Nasir 25, Farhad 37, Mukter 12, extras 23; R Cameron 2-55, Y Vallie 2-18)

SBNA: 226 all out in 47 overs (P Malan 39, R Rossouw 45, Y Vallie 64, K Zondo 37, extras 12; Kamrul 3-44, Saiful 1-32, Nasir 1-33, Saqlain 4-37, Farhad 1-19).

## Freddie's finale



AFP, London

Andrew Flintoff is to play the 79th and final Test of his career after being named in the England team to play Australia in the Ashes decider at the Oval here on Thursday.

Flintoff, whose career has been blighted by injuries, has decided his body can no longer stand the strain of the five-day format.

"I have had these injuries but I am grateful I have played in as many Tests as I have done," the 31-year-old Flintoff, who has recently been struggling with a right knee problem, said here on Tuesday.

It was that injury which saw the Lancashire all-rounder left out of the England side that lost the fourth Test by an innings and 80 runs as Australia levelled the series at 1-1.

Flintoff, the star of England's 2005 Ashes series win, has proved popular with fans ever since making his debut as a 20-year-old against South Africa back in 1998.

Bowling fast and hitting the ball a long way as Flintoff can, has always had an appeal to spectators who can only dream of playing in such a fashion if they ever had a chance to appear in a Test.

That was the case with

Flintoff's illustrious England predecessor Ian Botham and Australia great Keith Miller, who delighted crowds all round the world in the years after World War II.

Compared with those two players and the outstanding all-rounder of the last 25 years, Imran Khan - who averaged 37.69 with the bat and 22.81 with the ball - Flintoff's average of 32 in both disciplines does not appear that impressive.

And while Imran, when Pakistan captain, saw his record improve to an even more praiseworthy 52.35 with the bat and 20.27 with the ball, there was no such marked change in Flintoff's figures when he was in charge of England, which included a 5-0 Ashes series loss in Australia in 2006/07.

So Flintoff has probably

had occasionally great moments rather than been a truly great player.

However, England captain Andrew Strauss told reporters here at the Oval on Wednesday: "I don't believe you rate someone purely on their stats, you rate them on their contribution to team victories and to the game of cricket."

"And in those two senses 'Fred' has been a massive player for us. He's obviously a huge character as well and I don't think the bare stats do justice to the man."

"He's earned the right to be one of the best players I've seen in my generation and he's earned it because he has put in big performances at just the right time. Hopefully, he can do that once more and lead us to victory."

Andrew Flintoff's Test record (opponent, matches, 100s, highest score, runs, average, wickets, five wickets in an innings, best bowling, average):										
v AUS	14	1	102	877	35.08	49	2	5-78	32.31	
v BAN	02	-	-	-	-	09	0	3-44	15.33	
v IND	11	0	70	473	26.28	29	0	4-50	37.22	
v NZ	06	1	137	459	45.90	19	0	3-49	31.79	
v PAK	03	0	56	125	20.83	13	0	4-68	31.46	
v RSA	19	1	142	935	32.24	48	0	4-44	37.42	
v SL	09	0	77	232	19.33	27	0	3-42	32.85	
v WI	12	2	167	682	42.63	31	1	5-58	25.58	
v ZIM	02	0	16	33	11.00	0	0	-	-	
Overall	78	5	167	3816	32.07	225	3	5-58	32.59	

N.B. Test record includes one match for ICC World XI v AUS in 2005/06.

## Safina sent packing



AFP, Toronto

World number one Diana Safina was eliminated while Serena Williams, Maria Sharapova and Kim Clijsters advanced to the third round of a two million-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament here Wednesday.

France's Aravane Rezaï rallied to oust Russia's Safina 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. Safina made 17 double faults and struggled after losing last