



## Did U Know?

In a wartime international football match between England and Wales in 1943, England substitute Stan Mortensen came on and played for Wales.



**Michael Atherton**  
(Former England captain)  
"During this summer, he has touched greatness and been occasionally inspirational; it has been so throughout his career."

While not buying into suggestions that Andrew Flintoff is one of the game's greats.

**What to WATCH**  
**STAR Cricket**  
England v Australia  
Fifth Ashes Test, Day 4  
Live from 5:00pm  
**ESPN**  
English Premier League  
West Ham v Tottenham  
Live from 7:25pm  
Fulham v Chelsea  
Live from 9:55pm  
**STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Burnley v Everton  
Live from 8:55pm

**Aminul could be out for a month**

### SPORTS REPORTER

Aminul Haq, the goalkeeper of Mohammedan Sporting Club, is likely to miss the early stage matches of the Federation Cup as he underwent a minor surgery in his back in India yesterday.

"I have been asked to rest for 10 days by the doctors and I am expecting to return to action in a month's time," Aminul was quoted as saying by Shafiqul Islam Manik.

The Federation Cup, season's curtain-raising tournament, is scheduled to get underway on September 10 and will remain suspended for a few days for the Eid-ul-Fitr before the final takes place on October 7.

The country's number one goalkeeper, Aminul, felt his old back pain during last month's residential camp of the national football league at Bangladesh Kira Shikha Pratishthan.

**AFC U-16 QUALIFIERS**  
**Bangladesh may not participate**

### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation is seemingly in hesitation to send their Under-16 squad to the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers in the Philippines after failing to earn the right of hosting the Group E qualifiers in Chittagong.

Bangladesh have been placed along with Japan, Mongolia, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei and hosts Philippines and the matches will be held from October 3 to 13.

"We bid for hosting the qualifiers in Chittagong and

## PM calls cricketers 'victorious tigers'

### SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hailed the triumphant Bangladesh cricket team as 'victorious tigers' and declared a cash award of Tk 3 lakh for its members for creating history by winning the Test and one-day series in West Indies last month.

The prime minister announced the cash award to each of the winning cricketers, who whitewashed the West Indies in the two-match Test and three-match one-day series that was followed by their 4-1 one-day series victory in Zimbabwe, when the national team players met her at her official residence Jamuna Saturday.

More bounties came on the same day when State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker declared Tk 50,000 for each of the victors at a reception party he accorded to the Tigers.

Congratulating the players, the premier gave a pat on their back, decorated them by garlanding and said, "The whole nation is proud of you. You are our golden boys."

Hasina also said that the winning team would be given a grand reception after the end of this mourning month of

August, which commemo- rates the brutal killing of the country's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members.

Stand-in Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan thanked the prime minister for extending all-out support to the cricket team and sought her blessings to keep up the winning trend. He also presented a cricket bat signed by them to the prime minister and handed over the series winning trophy to her amid repeated applause.

"Huge responsibilities have been vested in you after winning the Test series in West Indies and one-day series in Zimbabwe. Now you have to get prepared to continue the winning trend in future," Hasina was quoted by BSS as saying.

"Just carry on the hard work with integrity. The government and the people will be with you," she was quoted by BSS as saying.

A smiling Hasina told them that Bangladesh had been able to attain the Test status when Awami League government was in power in the previous tenure.

"If a government does not

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PHOTO COURTESY  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (C) poses for photographs with the members of the Bangladesh cricket team and Bangladesh Cricket Board officials at her Jamuna residence yesterday.

## Eng build big lead

### Cricket

AFP, London

Jonathan Trott was closing in on a century on his Test debut as England continued to press for an Ashes-clinching win in the fifth and final Test against Australia at the Oval on Saturday.

England, on the third day, were 290 for seven in their second innings -- a lead of 462 runs -- in a match where victory would see them win the series 2-1.

Trott was 83 not out and Graeme Swann 34 not out, with part-time Australia spinner Marcus North taking Test-best figures of four for 98.

But the way Swann struck North for two successive fours immediately before the break said much about the state of the game.

South Africa-born Trott shared a fourth-wicket stand of 118 with England captain Andrew Strauss (75) after coming to the crease when the hosts were in trouble at 39 for three.

England at lunch were 157 for a four -- a lead

of 329 -- after Strauss, whose fifty was his second of the match, was out shortly beforehand.

Trott, who made 41 in the first innings, was 50 not out.

Wicket-keeper Matt Prior got off the mark with a cover-driven boundary off fast bowler Peter Siddle but then, attempting a needlessly risky single, was run-out by Simon Katich's direct hit from cover.

Prior's exit brought in Andrew Flintoff, cheered to the wicket by a capacity crowd for what was the all-rounder's final Test innings before his injury-induced retirement from the five-day format.

The 31-year-old lofted North over mid-wicket for four, getting rid of a close-in fielder in the process.

There were three more boundaries before, on 22, Flintoff skied North to Siddle at long-on.

Stuart Broad, the first innings bowling star, got off the mark with a superbly timed four off left-arm quick Mitchell Johnson, which reinforced his credentials as Flintoff's natural successor.

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PHOTO: AFP

England captain Andrew Strauss drives the ball on the off side during his solid knock of 75 on the third day of the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval in London yesterday.

## Kenyan one-two in men's marathon

AFP, Berlin



Abel Kirui led compatriot Emmanuel Mutai to a Kenyan one-two in the men's marathon at the World Athletics Championships here on Saturday.

Kirui clocked a championship record of 2hr 06min 54sec around the picturesque course in central Berlin, ahead of Mutai (2:07:48) with Ethiopia's Olympic bronze medallist Tsegay Kebede finishing in third (2:08:35).

It was only the second marathon victory after Vienna last year for the 27-year-old Kirui who finished second behind Haile Gebrselassie during the Ethiopian's then-world record run

in the 2007 Berlin Marathon.

Kirui, brother of fellow marathoner Mike Rotich, was also appearing in a Kenyan singlet for the first-ever time, having chosen to compete over an appearance in the Chicago Marathon.

He said that he was now targeting Gebrselassie's world record time of 2:03:59.

"I'm very happy," Kirui said. "I've had some great races in Berlin."

"I was determined to be champion at one time in my life. It's a lesson, it's not easy but everyone can make it."

"Now I will prepare for the world record, total commitment in training. My aim is to run 2:03:30 in the near future, between now and next year."

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