

SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Langer takes the step up!

Justin Langer was heckled constantly about his size by the Barmy Army during his playing days, with the English fans serenading him with "Hi, ho, hi, ho" from the seven dwarfs. Now the Australian batting coach, Langer gets another reminder when he does throw-downs at training. Before he helped Shane Watson fine-tune for Thursday's first Ashes Test he had to place a step at the non-striker's end to ensure his release point was up at the height of a normal bowler.

- CRICINFO



Liu hurdles hattrick

Hosts' best ever collection

AFP, Guangzhou

Superstar hurdler Liu Xiang won redemption Wednesday in front of home fans for his Beijing Olympic disaster by claiming Asian Games gold on a day tarnished by a second positive doping test.

On Day 12 of the showpiece multi-sports event, dominant table-toppers China made the Guangzhou Games its most successful ever in terms of total medals.

Li Caixia's gold and Li Ling's silver in the women's pole vault were the 343rd and 344th for the hosts, surpassing the previous record of 342 that China won in Beijing in 1990.

China is also on course to beat its best ever haul of gold, which stands at 183 in the Beijing Asiad. They now have 172 with three days left.

Liu contributed to his country's tally by winning the 110m hurdles in front of 80,000 screaming fans at Aoti Main Stadium and an estimated television audience of up to 600 million.

The former Olympic champion and world record holder crossed the line in a season-best time of 13.09 seconds ahead of teammate Shi Dongpeng (13.38) and South Korea's Park Tae-Kyong (13.48).

It was Liu's third successive Asiad gold after claiming the title in 2002 and 2006.

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U-17 booters kick off campaign today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U17 football team will begin their Subroto Mukherjee Cup Football campaign today taking on Lagaland in a Group H encounter in Delhi, India.

The boys will then face Arunachal Pradesh tomorrow and play the group's final game against Sainik School on Saturday. The top two teams from each of the eight groups will qualify for the second round which will comprising of 16 teams.

The boys reached Kolkata yesterday and were supposed to leave for Indian capital Delhi by train yesterday afternoon, said a Bangladesh Football Federation press release.

SPORTS POLL WEEKLY QUESTION

Which Tigers opening pair you think will be ideal in the Zimbabwe series?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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HATTRICK HERO: Liu Xiang of China (C) hurdles a bar on way to winning the men's 110m hurdles gold at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou yesterday.

'Get the money from Nimbus'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports has asked Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to take necessary steps to realise the money which the board is supposed to get from Nimbus.

"They [BCB] must ensure that they bring the more than 100 crore taka from Nimbus. This is a big amount. No way can the country lose this money. We have asked them to inform the committee about the matter within two months. Everybody has to be accountable," Zahid Ahsan Russel, chairman of the committee, told The Daily Star after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

A groundbreaking six-year television rights deal with Nimbus, penned in July 2008 after the Head of Agreement of the contract was signed in November 2006, was worth 56.88 million dollars but has since become a constant thorn on the board's side.

Nimbus owes a lot of money to BCB, in excess of 22 million dollars, and the board is trying to figure out a way to realise the money.

BCB's senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam and director Dewan Shafiqul Arefin were present in the meeting and Russel informed that the board officials failed to give any satisfactory explanation regarding the issue though they told that they were trying to bring the money from Nimbus.

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Disappointing day

SPORTS REPORTER



discipline.

Interestingly enough, the women did not even take to field yesterday as the result from the other group match, where India expectedly beat South Korea, assured them a semifinals berth. According to the new rules of the competition, a last four berth ensures at least a bronze. However, the Bangladesh team will have their eyes set on more than a bronze when they take on Thailand in the semifinals tomorrow.

The women's kabaddi team will be looking to emulate the feat achieved by the women's cricket team. Cricketers earned a silver medal which is the only

medal so far from the Games for Bangladesh. Like cricket, women's kabaddi has been included for the first time in the continental extravaganza.

While the women's kabaddi ensured a medal, men's team failed to reach the semifinals for the first time after they were comprehensively beaten by Pakistan 15-36 in their last group match. Pakistan led the first-half by 26-10 points. This is the first time since the inclusion of the sport in Asiad in 1990 that Bangladesh men's kabaddi will not earn any medal.

The other disciplines were story of disappointment for Bangladesh. Nazmun Nahar Beauty, the former fastest woman of the country, finished 15th amongst 17 competitors in the preliminary qualification for women's 200-metre with a timing of 29.35 seconds. Fastest in the heat was Fukushima Chisato from Japan in 23.75 seconds who had earlier won the women's 100m sprint.

Both of Bangladesh's male archers, Imdadul Haque Milon and Sojib Sheikh lost their pre-quarterfinal matches at the

Aoti Archery Range.

Milon lost against Japan's Ryota Amano by 1275-1331 points while Sojib lost to China's Yu Xing by 1250-1348 points.

Karateka Zauw Prue lost in the quarterfinals of women's individual kata event by 0-5 points against Indonesia's Dewi Yulianti while Mohammad Hasan Khan conceded defeat to Marwan Almazem of UAE by the same margin.

Shamim Osman, in the under-55 kg category, lost against Djambave Eldor of Uzbekistan by 1-4 points, also in the quarterfinals.

Both men and women's chess teams were comprehensively beaten at the Guangzhou Chess Institute.

Men's lost to Uzbekistan by 1-3 points while the women's lost by 0.5-3.5 points against Iran in the seventh round.

In the women's group, only Rani Hamid managed to draw her board while GM Niaz Murshed and GM Ziaur Rahman drew their respective boards as the others lost.

With six points from seven rounds,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Franklin in for Ryder

ANI, Nagpur

New Zealand fast bowler James Franklin has returned to the Black Caps' ODI squad in place of all-rounder Jesse Ryder, who has been ruled out of the upcoming five-match series against India due to a calf injury.

Ryder had picked up the injury in the drawn first Test in Ahmedabad, and aggravated it further during the final Test match in Nagpur.

"Ryder suffered a calf injury in the first Test and although he showed great determination to push through the discomfort in the second and third Test it is clear the injury has not improved," the New Zealand Herald quoted selector Mark Greatbatch, as saying.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

New stars are born

The 1983 World Cup, won by India, worked as a stage for some greats to give great individual performances. West Indies sparkled with their galaxy of stars and although they lost the trophy, they were at the peak of their rein as the greatest team in the world. Australia, West Indies' chief challengers in the previous decade, were on the wane as a lot of their legends were nearing the end of their careers.

It was an unhappy farewell for Dennis Lillee, Jeff Thomson and Rodney Marsh, great players who could not drag their team past the group stage. They retired a few months after the tournament ended, heralding a tough rebuilding period. It was also the last World Cup for New Zealand's Glenn Turner, West Indies captain Clive Lloyd and England fast bowler Bob Willis.

As great players left, new promising ones made their entrance. One of the best players of the last three generations, and possibly New Zealand's greatest batsman, Martin Crowe announced himself with a 97 in the tournament opener against England. Another familiar name that made a formidable first impression on the world stage in 1983 was legspinner Abdul Qadir, bamboozling New Zealand to the tune of four for 21 and

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Ashes comes back

Strauss confident; Clarke fit

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Skipper Andrew Strauss said Wednesday he was confident his players could pull off 'something pretty special' and win England's first Ashes series in Australia in a generation.

The five-Test series gets underway on Thursday with England chasing their first victory at the Brisbane Gabba fortress since Mike Gatting's team last prevailed on their way to the tourists' last Australian series victory in 1986-87.

Strauss said his team was well prepared from three tour leadup games in Australian conditions and was ready to lay down a marker in the all-important first match against Ricky Ponting's under pressure home team.

Australia have not won a Test since July, slipping below England in the world rankings, and are battling injuries and loss of form affect-

ing key players.

"We have got a good opportunity, there's no doubt about it," Strauss told a press conference on the eve of the first Test.

"We've started the tour well, we're in a good place as a side, but at the same time we recognise that it's a tough assignment, not many sides come out here and win.

"We understand the size of the challenge ahead of us but we couldn't be in a better place mentally to take on that challenge.

"It's going to take a lot of good cricket. It's going to take some guys pulling out some good performances when it really matters and guys will have to dig pretty deep.

"I am fully confident that we have the players to be able to do that.

"We are thriving on the idea that we can pull off something pretty special."

Strauss said it would be foolish for England to look too far ahead over the next six weeks and

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S'kara shines in gloom

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Kumar Sangakkara hit an impressive 135 not out under pressure to boost Sri Lanka in the second Test against the West Indies on Wednesday.

The skipper hit one six and 16 fours in a 252-ball knock for his 24th Test hundred as Sri Lanka posted 294-5 in their first innings at stumps on the second day.

Prasanna Jayawardene was unbeaten on 12 when play was called off after tea due to rain.

Sangakkara steadied the innings with a record 170-run stand for the fourth wicket with Thilan Samaraweera (80) after three wickets fell for 34 runs on a new pitch on Tuesday's opening day.

The stand was the best for the fourth wicket in Sri Lanka-West Indies Tests, surpassing the previous highest of 167 between Chris Gayle and Brendan Nash in the drawn first match of

the ongoing three-match series in Galle.

The West Indies, who bowled well in overcast conditions Tuesday, struggled for success as they could take just two wickets in the first two sessions.

Sangakkara and Samaraweera dominated the opening session with their exciting strokeplay, scoring runs comfortably against both pace and spin. The hosts did not lose a wicket in the morning, adding 115 to their overnight total of 84-3.

Samaraweera looked set to reach his 13th Test century before falling in the afternoon, pulling seamer Dwayne Bravo straight to Shane Shillingford at fine leg after hitting one six and eight fours in his solid 170-ball knock.

The West Indies got a second wicket in the afternoon with the new ball when paceman Kemar Roach had Angelo Mathews (25) caught behind, but not before the batsman had added 69 for the fifth wicket with his captain.

Sangakkara, who made 73 in Galle, completed his century when he drove Bravo through

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Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara celebrates his century on the second day of the second Test against West Indies at the R Peremadasa Cricket Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

China's treble of women's hockey gold

AFP, Guangzhou

China achieved a hattrick of gold medals in the Asian Games women's field hockey after ousting South Korea in a penalty shoot-out on Wednesday.

The hosts, cheered on by some 1,000 home fans in the final, clinched the tie-breaker 5-4 after both teams were locked goalless at the end of extra-time.

Kim Eun-sil missed the first penalty stroke for the Koreans, while the Chinese converted all their five shots and sealed the win when Sun Sinan beat goalkeeper Moon Young-hui.

China, who won the title in Busan in 2002 and repeated the feat in Doha four years later, booked a direct entry to the 2012 London Olympics with their victory.

The Koreans, winners of four gold medals and two silvers since women's hockey was introduced at the 1982 Asiad in New Delhi, had failed to bag a medal at Doha.

They failed to avenge the 2-1 defeat in the final at home in Busan in 2002.

Earlier, Japan took the bronze medal with a 1-0 over India, Keiko Manabe scoring a golden goal in the 77th minute when she pushed in a loose ball following a penalty corner in extra-time.

Japan, who took silver at the Doha Asiad four years ago, had beaten India 3-0 in the seven-nation round-robin league where they finished third.

India, bronze medalists at Doha, will return home empty-handed.



TEN Sports

Asian Games Day Thirteen

Live from 8:00am

Sri Lanka v West Indies

Second Test, Day 3

Live from 10:30am

STAR Cricket

Australia v England

First Test, Day 1

Live from 6:00am

STAR Sports

ATP World Tour Finals

Live from 8:00pm

ESPN

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm