C'WEALTH YOUTH GAMES

Papia sprints into semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Papia Rani qualified for the semifinals of the 100m sprint in the 4th Commonwealth Youth Games taking place in the Isle of Man, UK. Papia took 12.66 seconds to finish her sprint as she qualified for the semifinals, on the first day of the Games yesterday, said a press release from Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA).

In the men's 50m butterfly discipline of swimming, Anik Islam clocked 26.97 seconds to place third in his group while Sonia Akhtar took 32.27 to complete the women's 50m butterfly discipline. Meanwhile, Bangladeshi boxer Riyad Hossen bid bye as his lost his bout to a Zambian counterpart.

Marsh gets SLC offer

INTERNET, Colombo

Geoff Marsh on Saturday confirmed an approach from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) about possibly becoming the new national coach.

Currently in Pallekele to watch his son, Shaun, score a century on Test debut, the 52-year-old Marsh said that initial discussions had not amounted to much but he'd weigh up his options during the remainder of his stay in the country.

Sri Lanka are in search of a new full-time coach after Trevor Bayliss vacated the position at the end of the World Cup earlier this year. They have since been under the interim guidance o Stuart Law, who is now with Bangladesh, and former fast bowler Rumesh Ratnayake.

Former batsman Marsh coached Australia for four years through the late 1990s and then moved onto a role with Zimbabwe. The advent of the Indian Premier League and the arrival of the Pune Warriors has since seen him take up a coaching post with the fledgling franchise.

Ex-Australian all-rounder Tom Moody, who has worked with Sri Lanka before, and erstwhile South African coach Graham Ford are believed to be in the running for the job too.

"They had a word but nothing's come of it. I'm here totally focused on the Test match, but they've had a word to quite a few people," ESPNcricinfo quoted Marsh as saying.

"Definitely nothing for mal, no. I may consider it but we'll just see how things go. You've got the IPL and all that to take into consideration, a lot of things, there's my job back at home.

"So they've spoken to Tom Moody and a whole heap of people, so we'll see how that all pans out."

What about

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it ultimately doesn't come to Bangladesh, everyone will point the finger at him.

The speed at which he often shifts his stance on pressing matters has made him a president unpredictable. If this were a cricket match, the batsman Kamal would have been out hit

There has been an erosion of professionalism within the BCB too, resulting in the vicious rumour that a section within the cricket board is planning to take professionals out of the board and reopen the gate for glorified amateurs to take major decisions. What Saber Hossain Chowdhury, the visionary former BCB president, strived to change all those years ago for the greater good of cricket

mantled quite easily by the man in charge now. It is glaringly obvious that Kamal has least control over the board, which has looked utterly

in Bangladesh is being dis-

lost as an organising body. As the Tigers look for cricketing salvation against West Indies next month, the BCB too has to get its act together soon. Under such a leader, it is a fanciful possibility at the moment.



Spanish world No. 2 Rafael Nadal celebrates his straight-sets win over Andy Roddick of USA in the US Open quarterfinals in New York on Friday.

Grandstand must do

AFP, New York



The US Open Friday defended the decision to stick the women's semifinal between Australian

Samanatha Stosur and German Angelique Kerber on the Grandstand Court -- the number three show court at Flushing Meadows.

Ninth-seeded Australian Stosur and unseeded German Kerber are scheduled to start at 6pm (2200 GMT) on the Grandstand, while the marquee final-four match-up of world number one Caroline Wozniacki and Serena Williams is slated for the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The semifinals had already been pushed back to Saturday night, when the women's final was originally scheduled, after heavy rain cost the tournament two days of play on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The delays -- and complaints from players including defending champion Rafael Nadal and world number four Andy Murray about the fairness of the schedule -prompted officials to move the women's final to Sunday, with the men's final to be played on Monday -- allowing the men's finalists a day off after their Saturday semis.

"Numerous factors needed to be considered for the rescheduling of the remaining four days of the 2011 US Open," a statement issued by the US Tennis Association said. "These factors included programming for US Open ticket holders, competitive fairness for players, and the existing television windows for the tournament." Organisers said that with two men's semi-

finals on the slate for Saturday afternoon, they didn't want to risk scheduling two women's semifinals back-to-back on Ashe "since the winner of the second match will need to play in the women's singles final at 4:30 pm the following day."

The Louis Armstrong Stadium, the number two show court, is still unplayable after the rains left the court so sodden that a bubble of water was seeping up through the playing surface from below.

"Though not ideal, by beginning the Kerber-Stosur match at 6pm, we can provide an opportunity for some of our fans to watch that match," the USTA statement said.

Certainly Stosur-Kerber lacks the starpower of Woznizcki Williams, although Stosur boasts a Grand Slam pedigree that includes a runner-up finish at Roland Garros

Kerber, ranked 92 in the world, admitted she has surprised herself with her best Grand Slam performance to date.

"I came here and my goal was just to get into the second or third round," she said.

Pakistan look

Mike, Shaun grind SL

warmly from the stands as his 28-year-old son jumped in the air with a raised bat to celebrate the landmark.

"It was pretty emotional to be honest with you," the younger Marsh said about scoring a Test hundred in front of his father. "I could see he was very happy. It was very emotional for him." Marsh said he was not sure if Clarke will declare overnight or

push for a lead of 270-280 quickly when play resumes. "The weather is not great at the moment, but we can't worry

about it," he said. "We've just got to worry about what we can do, play some good cricket and get ourselves in a winning

position." Both Marsh and Hussey reached their respective centuries in the same over from off-spinner Suraj Randiv 45 minutes

after the start of play. Hussey, who was on 76 overnight to Marsh's 87, outscored his partner and achieved his third hundred against Sri Lanka

with an on-drive for two runs. Marsh moved to 98 by driving seamer Chanaka Welegedara through the covers for a four and then reached 100 by flicking

Randiv to mid-wicket for two. Australia, who were 378-4 at lunch, lost three wickets in the space of one run after resumption before the weather

intervened. Australia lead 1-0 in the series, their first in Sri Lanka since 2004, after winning the first Test by 125 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 174 (Mathews 58, Sangakkara 48; Harris 3-38, Lyon 2-41)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 411 for 7 (Hussey 142, Marsh 141; Randiv 3-103)

Top four in last

FROM PAGE 16 pair's fourth successive meeting at the last-four stage a

Flushing Meadows. Djokovic won last year's clash, saving two match points in a five-set thriller on his way to an eventual runner-up finish against Nadal.

Federer had won in 2008 and 2009 as well as comfortably seeing off Djokovic in the 2007 final when the Serb was far from the finished product that now dominates the men's game. This will be their fifth meeting of 2011 and third in a Grand

Slam semifinal. Djokovic, who has 62 wins against two defeats all year, said his only concern was starting too slowly against Federer.

"I think I need to step on the court and just be close to the line, be more aggressive," he said. "I think the last two matches I have been starting very slow. I'm very passive."

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have made it clear in our post that the interested candidate will be based at the PCB headquarters in Lahore," Ahmad added.

He said the board was aware that due to foreign teams not touring Pakistan because of security problems, foreign coaches might have issues taking up the post.

"But let us see what happens, for the moment we have kept the doors open for all interested candidates. We have even asked the ICC and other Test countries to advise and assist us in finding a new coach," Ahmad said.

The board has set Sept. 26 as the final date for candidates to send their CVs for consideration.

Shakib was

FROM PAGE 16 Indies," said Mushfiqur.

He also said that he was little bothered about the whisperings that were going on about him becoming the new captain; instead he was focusing on the coming tour against the West Indies, who will arrive in Dhaka on October 4 to play one T20, two Tests and three one-day

internationals. "I am also hearing it from media but my main target is to perform well in the coming series and as a team we are also looking forward to the next assignment. I will try my best if it [captaincy] comes my way," said a confident Mushfigur.

Rooney hattrick destroys Bolton

Football

AFP, Bolton

Wayne Rooney's second consecutive hattrick saw Manchester United reclaim top spot in the Premier League with a 5-0 demolition of Bolton, after losing it to Manchester City for just a few hours.

Rooney, who scored a treble in the 8-2 demolition of Arsenal, scored twice before the break to set Sir Alex Ferguson's side on the way to eclipsing the efforts of closest rivals City, who had beaten Wigan 3-0 earlier in the day. The England striker scored his third

in the second half as his efforts, along with a brace from Javier Hernandez, mean United have scored 18 times in their four opening league games. Both Manchester clubs have sig-

nalled that this year's duel for the title will be a two-horse race, but it is United who lead the way at this early stage on goal difference. It was an afternoon where the old

guard shone alongside a new generation of stars as Rooney combined brilliantly with Hernandez and summer signing Phil Jones. Ferguson fielded an arguably stron-

ger line-up than the one that hammered Arsenal at Old Trafford in their last match before the international break.

Mexican Hernandez returned to partner Rooney in place of Danny Welbeck, while Rio Ferdinand replaced Chris Smalling in the centre of defence.

The architect of this latest victory, perhaps even more so than Rooney, was Nani. His hat-trick of assists, and two more from the impressive Jones, was as much a part of this triumph as the fine finishing of Rooney and Hernandez. The champions began the game at

break-neck speed and Ferguson was left cursing referee Andre Marriner for not booking Kevin Davies after his challenge forced the United boss to replace Tom Cleverley with Michael Carrick. The Bolton skipper escaped with a

talking to and the angry United manager had only just caught up with play when his side took a fifth-minute lead. Wayne Rooney found Nani on the

right and the Portuguese crossed into the six-yard box where Harnandez arrived and beat Jussi Jaaskelainen at the near post. United were immediately forced

into the change when Cleverley limped off, and they also found themselves on the back foot in their own box.

The ball was cleared by Jonny Evans and fell to Chris Eagles, whose shot was cleared by Rooney when an equaliser looked odds-on.

Davies finally found his way into Marriner's notebook when his tackle

on Patrice Evra earned him a yellow card. Within seven minutes, United were further ahead.

Phil Jones exchanged passes with Nani after a throw-in and Rooney finished the cross after reaching the ball ahead of Gary Cahill and Dedryck Boyata.

Then in the 25th minute, United made it three. Former Blackburn midfielder Jones was involved again as he raced through home defence unchallenged.

He evaded Zat Knight's attempted block before seeing his shot saved by Jaaskelainen's legs. But Rooney was on hand to tap in the rebound. Hernandez thought he had added a fourth, only to see it ruled out by the referee's assistant for offside.

He did, however, make it four in the 59th minute following good work from Nani. The winger weaved into the box and teed up Carrick, and the former Spurs midfielder saw his shot blocked and run loose into the path of the Mexican, who pounced once again. Nine minutes later, the job was

complete when Rooney completed his hat-trick with a right-footed strike after more creative magic by Nani. United also missed countless

chances to get closer to the eight goals put past Arsenal in their last outing, with Hernandez guilty of misfiring at least twice.

Dhoni still positive

Fourth ODI against England today the motivational factor we are not

Cricket

AFP, London

India captain MS Dhoni insists his beleaguered side won't throw in the towel in their last two one-day matches against England after suffering a three-wicket defeat at The Oval. Dhoni's team can only draw the

five-match series at best after losing a rain-affected clash in south London on Friday. India had battled back from 58-5 to

post a respectable total of 234-7 in their 50 overs thanks to 78 from Ravindra Jadeja and 69 from Dhoni. But the world champions' hopes of

recording a first win over England on this tour were dashed as Craig Kieswetter blasted 51 from 46 balls to get the hosts off to a good start before Ravi Bopara's 40 from 41 balls saw them reach the Duckworth-Lewis target of 218 with seven balls to spare.

Injury-ravaged India -- now missing eight senior stars including Sachin Tendulkar -- have lost all four Tests, the lone Twenty20 international and two of the three one-dayers, with the other rained off.

Yet Dhoni is adamant young team of back-ups will keep fighting in the final two matches at Lord's on Sunday and Cardiff next week.

"The boys are still very excited. Whenever they turn up they want to give 100 per cent so when it comes to

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down and out," Dhoni said. "It's not like we didn't try. We have been out-played and haven't had the

luck at times but the morale is quite good. It is important not to get depressed." Yet Dhoni admitted India had only themselves to blame for their latest

defeat, getting off to poor starts in both innings. England's Jimmy Anderson took three wickets to leave India reeling in the early stages of their innings, while

poor bowling allowed Kieswetter and

Alastair Cook to give the hosts a flying

start to their chase. "You have to be at your best in the whole match, we gave away a lot of runs in the first 10 overs and it is not the first

time it has happened," Dhoni said. "It is becoming a bit difficult after that to really put pressure on the batsmen.

"The other problem was we didn't get a good start to our innings. Hardly any batsman scored and it was down to the lower order that we got up to 230."

India's best chance to get back in the match came when Jadeja and Ravi Ashwin found some spin under the lights and reduced England to 133-5.

But an hour's rain delay allowed England to recover their composure, leaving Dhoni to reflect on the few positives.

"The biggest positive is it looks as if we have the five bowlers. We were struggling with the fifth bowler, some-

one will have an off-day and go for runs and in that case you need an extra bowler to fill in those overs," he said.

"Seeing Jadeja score those runs was nice as well. That is the other positive."

England captain Cook was delighted with the way Bopara, who has been under pressure after some lacklustre performances, coped with the pressure of steering his team home.

Bopara was only playing after Eoin Morgan suffered an injury, but he did his chances of securing a place on the one-day tour to India no harm with a confident innings.

"The biggest positive is the way we handled pressure at the end. Big credit to Ravi for the way he played," Cook said. "Eoin is an outstanding player and

it is gutting news that he will miss a substantial amount of cricket. "But it gives an opportunity for

playing if Eoin was fit." England can go above India into fourth in the one-day rankings if they win the last two matches, but Cook is

only focusing on clinching a series

triumph by winning at Lord's. "I'm delighted to be 2-0 up but we've come here to win the series,'

he said. "There are always areas to look at and learn from. It is a quick turnaround before the next game at Lord's and we have to focus on that."

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ANY TIME THAT GUY