

Hamid on life support

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdul Hamid, noted sports commentator and one of the pioneers of sports journalism in the country, has been put on life-support at the city's United Hospital in Gulshan yesterday after his condition suddenly deteriorated.

The sports editor of Daily Amader Somoy, who was admitted to the hospital on July 23 after complaint of acute back pain, was put on life support at the hospital's intensive care unit yesterday, his daughter-in-law Israt Quiyum Soma confirmed.

The noted commentator had had an operation on his prostate gland on June 12 and an MRI report later revealed tumours at his spinal cord.

Power outage postpones hockey match

SPORTS REPORTER

Yesterday's crucial Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League encounter between title contenders Usha Krira Chakra and Abahani has been shifted to today following power outage.

The turf at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium is generally watered before the start of each game, but as there was no electricity in that area since the previous night, the turf could not be prepared. The league committee waited for an hour after the scheduled time before announcing the postponement to the next day (Saturday).

"There is no electricity in some area of stadium from yesterday night. They (workers from power office) have been working at the sub-station in stadium area since the morning but they could not fix it yet," said BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah yesterday adding that it is too expensive for the federation to arrange heavy-weight generators.

In another move, the BHF suspended Mohammedan goalkeeper Mahub Ullah Shakil for six matches and Abahani's substitute goalkeeper Aynul Islam for four matches following their unruly behaviour during the match between the two sides on Wednesday.

Mohammedan hockey manager Ariful Haque Prince was also warned for his behaviour.

The league committee took the decision on the basis of umpires' report which stated that Shakil punched Abahani Pakistani player Modassar while Aynul, coming from the side-bench, hit the umpires and hurled abuse toward other players, informed BHF treasurer Moinuddin Pila.

Meanwhile, Pila also informed that they would introduce refereeing system for the last match of the league which will be between Usha KC and Mohammedan SC in order to have a fair finish.

"The teams in that match will be allowed to make one appeal in either half against the umpires' decisions in D-box and we will be taking advantage of the live telecast of the match in this regard," said Pila adding that if any team wins the appeal, they would be given another opportunity to appeal.

Mohammedan lead the table with a four-point advantage over second-placed Usha. If Usha can beat Abahani in today's match, they will cut the gap to a single point but a defeat against Abahani will allow Mohammedan to emerge champions before facing Usha on Monday.



Britain's Jessica Ennis is ecstatic after clocking the fastest ever time in the women's heptathlon 100m hurdles heats during the London Olympics yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Petersen propels SA

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Alviro Petersen hit a career-best 182 as South Africa stretched their first innings to 419 before they were bowled out at tea on the second day of the second Test at Headingley on Friday.

After Petersen's marathon innings ended in mid-afternoon, JP Duminy hit an unbeaten 48 as the last three wickets added 66 runs to put a further question mark against England's decision to pick an all-seam attack and send South Africa in.

There was irony for England, when part-time off-spinner Kevin Petersen took his side's first wicket of the day after Petersen and Jacques Rudolph had batted most of the morning in a stubborn sixth-wicket stand of 59.

England left out front-line spinner Graeme Swann, opting for four specialist seam bowlers. But the quick men could not make a breakthrough despite bowling accurately in overcast conditions.

Finally England captain Andrew Strauss tossed the ball to South African-born Pietersen, whose second ball spun sharply past the bat as the left-handed Rudolph stretched forward defensively.

Wicketkeeper Matt Prior whipped off the balls and television umpire Asad Rauf ruled that the batsman had not got part of his foot behind the line in time. James Anderson and Stuart Broad sent down six successive maidens at the start of the day.

In the fifth over Petersen was given out leg before wicket to Anderson by umpire Steve Davis without adding to his overnight score of 124. But, for the second time in his innings, he called for a review and was reprieved when replays showed the ball would have missed his leg stump.

Petersen went past his previous Test best of 156 against New Zealand in Wellington in March before he was caught behind off Stuart Broad after batting for 530 minutes. He faced 365 balls and hit 23 fours.

Ennis sets scorching pace
AFP, London
British title hope Jessica Ennis, a poster girl for the London Olympics, clocked the fastest ever time for a heptathlete in the 100m hurdles on the opening day of athletics on Friday.

Ennis, the current world silver medallist, beat her personal best by 0.25sec as she set a new British record of 12.54sec in brilliant sunshine in front of an 80,000-capacity crowd at the Olympic Stadium.

To put her time into perspective, it was faster than American Kellie Wells' victory in the 100m hurdles at last month's London Diamond League, in which the event's world champion Sally Pearson was beaten into second place.

It also matched American Dawn Harper's winning time in the individual hurdles at the Beijing Games in 2008. "I'm still in shock from the hurdles, to be honest," Ennis said. "I can't believe I ran that time. It was a great start."

"I just felt ready, I'd done all the hard work in the training, and hurdles has been going well so I knew I was in shape to run a good time but didn't quite think I'd run that quick."

It was the perfect start in the gruelling seven-discipline event for Ennis, who cleared 1.86m in the high jump for 2,249 points after the first two events, with the shot put and 200m to come later in the day.

Eleven players shared the lead in the Open International Rating Chess Tournament at the close of the third round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

The eleven, who have secured maximum three points from as many matches, are: IM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Debaraj Chatterjee, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Monir Hossain, Uten, Abdullah Al Saif, Anisuzzaman Mallik, Mokaddesur Rahman Sohan and Emdadul Haque.

The home games have started on a disastrous note for Pendleton but if her performance was something to go by, she looks to be a strong competitor for the other two disciplines she is participating in.

"The only positive I can take is I know I'm in good form," said Pendleton. Britain will be hoping that form translates into some gold.

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Men's event.
All smiling volunteers
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Eleven at the lead

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Roger, Maria in final

AFP, London



AFP, London

Roger Federer fought through the longest three-set singles match in the Open era Friday when he beat Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 19-17 to reach the Olympic final.

Maria Sharapova swept into her first Olympic final as the Russian world number three defeated compatriot Maria Kirilenko 6-2, 6-3 in the semifinals.

The 25-year-old will play Wimbledon champion Serena Williams or world number one Victoria Azarenka in Saturday's final as she tries to complete the Golden Slam of titles in all four majors and the Olympic singles.

Sharapova is competing in the Games for the first time and the French Open champion is now guaranteed at least a silver medal following her dominant display against the 14th seed in a clash lasting one hour and 29 minutes on Wimbledon's Court One.

If Sharapova felt slighted by tournament organisers, who chose her match as the only one of the four men's and women's singles semi-finals to be scheduled on Court One, she didn't show it.

This was a composed display from the moment she landed the first blow with a break to love in the sixth game of the first set. Sharapova pressed home her advantage with another break to take the set in convincing fashion.

NZ out for 260

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

Kemar Roach took four wickets as the West Indies dismissed New Zealand for 260 before stumps on the first day of the second test at Sabina Park on Thursday.

Roach finished with 4-70 and both Tino Best and Narsingh Deonarine took two wickets.

Martin Guptill top-scored for New Zealand with 71 and Ross Taylor contributed 60.

That left the home side having to bat five overs before stumps, which Chris Gayle and Kieran Powell safely negotiated for the addition of 11 runs.

An unbeaten 62 from Guptill earlier helped New Zealand to reach tea on 152 for three.

West Indies, leading the two-match series 1-0, struck two early blows before lunch in restricting New Zealand to 74 for 2 having won the toss and electing to field.

Guptill formed a fine partnership with skipper Taylor, punishing some wayward

bowling from Roach.
SCOREBOARD
NEW ZEALAND: First Innings
Watling c Gayle b Roach
Guptill run out (Best)
McCullum c Ramdin b Best
Taylor c Ramdin b Best
Williamson c Sammy b Deonarine
Brownlie c Ramdin b Roach
Van Wyk b Deonarine
Bracewell b Narine
Wagner c Best b Roach
Southee c Sammy b Roach
Boulton not out
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, w-1, nb-11)
Total: (All out in 82.5 overs)
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-11, 3-114, 4-161, 5-162, 6-170, 7-202, 8-202, 9-225.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	17.5	2	70	4
Best	16	1	40	2
Sammy	10	1	31	0
Narine	26	7	66	1
Samuels	1	0	2	0
Deonarine	12	3	43	2

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Guptill not out	1			
Powell not out	10			
Extras:				
Total: (For no loss in 5 overs)	11			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Boult	3	1	7	0



West Indies paceman Kemar Roach (R) celebrates after taking a New Zealand wicket during the opening day of the second Test in Jamaica on Thursday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

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