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 Mahbub 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 Wednes-

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 Dbox 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 secondplaced 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.

But one moment of madness, one little slip-up and the dream had disintegrated. Track cycling is Great

twice.



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.

Petersen propels SA

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Alviro Petersen hit a careerbest 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 midafternoon, 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 offspinner Kevin Pietersen 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 frontline spinner Graeme Swann, opting for four specialist seam bowlers. But the quick leg stump. men could not make a Petersen went past his previ-

speedy track in bullet speed.

They consistently broke the

50km/hr barrier as they tee-

tered on the edge of control

but somehow managed to

record again within a few

minutes and the Olympic

record fell four times in an

hour as the Velodrome lived

up to it's reputation of being a

Pendleton had been a bit too

fast. Rules state that on the

team sprints the rider behind

cannot get ahead of the rider

in front until a specified

point. Pendleton it seemed

had accelerated a bit too

quickly and reached that

point ahead of her teammate

thousands of times,"

lamented Pendleton. "All I

was focusing on were Jess's

wheels and I had no idea of

anything else. We were proba-

bly just a bit too eager," she

fastest in my life so far. I am

really sorry for disappointing

all of the supporters," she

said. "It's encouraging,

because it shows my form is

really good, because that is by

far the fastest lap I've ridden.

When you're going at that

speed, it's really hard to know

ple. Great Britain had dis-

mantled Ukraine in the semi-

finals and had looked set to

compete in the gold medal

final against China who had

broken the world record

It had all seemed so sim-

where the change comes."

"My sprints were by far the

"We do these changeover

But in this case, perhaps

China broke the world

whoosh by.

fast track.

Varnish.

concluded.

Speed costs

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 bails 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

Britain's big chance for gold

this time around, with Sir

Chris Hoy in the men's and

Pendleton in the women's

that her preparations for her

cycling swansong had been

phenomenal and said that she

Thursday's debacle all the

things happen and this is one

of them," said Pendleton

started on a disastrous note

for Pendleton but if her per-

formance was something to

go by, she looks to be a strong

competitor for the other two

disciplines she is participat-

"The only positive I can

take is I know I'm in good

form," said Pendleton. Brit-

ain will be hoping that form

bundled out for 106 runs in

37 overs. Number nine bats-

man Toua Tom scored

most successfu

Bangladeshi bowler picking

up four wickets for seven

will play their first official

practice match against

Scotland on August 7 and the

second and final one is

scheduled for August 8

placed in Group D in the ICC

Under-19 World Cup along-

side Sri Lanka, South Africa

Bangladesh have been

against South Africa.

and Namibia.

Bangladesh Under-19s

Nasum Ahmed was the

translates into some gold.

BD U-19s

FROM PAGE 16

team's highest 20.

runs in 5 overs.

Which probably made

"Now and again rubbish

The home games have

really could 'not get any fitter.'

harder to swallow.

philosophically.

Pendleton had confessed

dominating the build-up.

ous 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.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight

Petersen c Prior b Broad Smith c Bell b Bresnan Amlarun out (Bresnan) Kallis c Cook b Anderson De Villiers b Broad Steyn b Finn Rudolph st Prior b Pietersen **Duminy not out** Philander c Bresnan b Finn Morkel c Cook b Broad Tahir c Cook b Anderson Extras: (b-5, lb-6) Total: (All out in 139.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-120, 2-132, 3-157, 4-254,5-259,6-318,7-353,8-375,9-414. Bowler

O M R W 33.2 10 61 Anderson 35 10 96 3 32 3 118 2 5 1 9

ENGLAND: Strauss, Cook, Trott, Pietersen,

Eleven at the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

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, Anisuzzman Mallik, Mokaddesur Rahman Sohan and Emdadul Haque.

Mohan

round.

FROM PAGE 16 the heats advance to the next

Mohan admitted the transition from Bangladesh to London had been difficult for him.

"It took me a while to get used to the weather and overcome the jet lag. The first few days it was extremely hard to get to sleep," he said.

Mohan has been practicing regularly so far and admitted that he already has a prized photo with Jamaican sprint king Usain Bolt.

"It is really hard to get close to him, since he is surrounded at all times by

security." He did manage to speak to other luminaries like Asafa Powell and Justin Gaitlin though.

Ennis sets scorching pace

AFP, London

52

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 80,000capacity 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 sevendiscipline 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.

First phase of talent hunt ends

SPORTS REPORTER

A two-month long advanced training titled Talent Hunt and Intensive Training for Athletes at Root Level concluded on Thursday at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan with the participation of 250 athletes from seven disciplines.

A BKSP press release informed that they initially picked up 1000 athletes in 12 disciplines from across the country for the one-month training and later the number of athletes was reduced to 500 for another two months of training.

The BKSP had started the first-phase training with 250 out of the selected 500 athletes from June 6 and it ended on Thursday. The first-phase training included seven disciplines -- archery, athletics, basketball, cricket, gymnastics, hockey and tennis.

All participants were given certificates at the concluding ceremony where BKSP DG Brigadier General Mohammad Emdadul Haque handing over the certificates.

The second-phase of the training with the remaining 250 athletes, with participants in boxing, football, judo, shooting and swimming, will start from August 25.

Roger, Maria in final

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 clashing 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.

Wimbledon champion Federer was on the brink of a shock defeat on Centre Court after dropping the first set, but the world number one finally subdued del Potro after a

marathon four hours and 26 minutes. The match, 23 minutes longer than Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic's Madrid semifinal in 2009, comes after Jo-Wilfried Tsonga took 66 games to beat Milos Raonic in the second round

-- the most seen in an Olympic three-setter. The great escape means Federer, 30, is guaranteed at least a silver medal. In Sunday's final, he will face world number two Novak Djokovic or Britain's Andy Murray, who was beaten by Federer in last month's Wimbledon final.

After a relatively barren two years by his standards, Federer is suddenly enjoying another of his dominant periods and this hard-fought victory showed his hunger for success remains as strong as ever. Less than a month ago, Federer, a doubles

gold-medallist with Stanislas Wawrinka in Beijing four years ago, was crowned Wimbledon champion for a record-equalling seventh time.

Now he is just one win away from completing the 'golden slam' of titles in all four majors and the Olympic singles gold.

Del Potro's 2009 US Open final win over Federer was one of just two victories in 14 meetings with the Swiss, who came from two sets down to beat the 23-year-old in this year's French Open quarter-finals.

Phelps

FROM PAGE 16

last 25m to seize gold in an

steamed past Lochte to take

the silver in 1:53.78, 16-

hundredths of a second in

provided a suitable curtain-

raiser to the drama of the

Phelps-Lochte duel as she

became the first woman to

American Rebecca Soni

front of Lochte's 1:53.94.

Japan's Ryosuke Irie also

Olympic record of 1:53.41.

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 reachtea 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 part- Roach, Best. nership with skipper Taylor, Bowler punishing some wayward Boult

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 Boult 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. O M R W 17.5 2 70 4 16 1 40 2 10 1 31 0 66 Samuels 12 3 43 2 Deonarine **WEST INDIES:** First innings

Gayle not out Total: (For no loss in 5 overs) To bat: Fudadin, Samuels, Chanderpaul Deonarine, Ramdin, Sammy, Narine,

break 2min20sec in the women's 200m breaststroke. Soni's victory in a world record of 2min 19.59sec made her the first Beijing swimming gold medallist to retain her title and improved on the world record of 2:20.00 she set in the semi-finals on Wednesday night.

Japan's Satomi Suzuki took silver in 2:20.72 and Russian Yuliya Efimova captured bronze in 2:20.92.

Ranomi Kromowidjojo of the Netherlands lived up to her favourite's billing in winning the women's 100m freestyle in an Olympic record of53.00sec.

Aliaksandra Herasimenia of Belarus took silver in 53.38 and China's Tang Yi claimed bronze in 53.44.



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.

London diary

their seats in the Velodrome for Friday's cycling, while at Eton Dorney, they have been boasting of visits from Cameron and the Princess Royal.

At the judo events, meanwhile, they had the chance to gawp at Russian president Vladimir Putin as well as Cameron and Hollande. That's a potential European superpower summit right there, isn't it?

It is not all champagne and caviar for the celebrities at these games, mind. Comedian Dara O'briain made a surreal pairing a few blocks down from German football legend Lothar Matthaus ("I support all German teams", Matthaus explained in between shouting loudly for his countrymen) at the volleyball yesterday, but the Irishman clearly missed a trick as he was stuck in the cheap seats.

So I guess these seats are in the middleranking TV comedian section, right?"

"Is there a VIP section?" he said. "Oh, I see.

He also revealed the perils of tweeting about his activities. "I've been mentioning I'm at the volley-

ball, and I'm bombarded by tweets saying 'You pervert!' So I have to explain, 'no, not at the beach volleyball, the normal volleyball. I'm actually off to the beach volleyball, too, but I hasten to add, I have ticket for the

Men's event.'

All smiling volunteers

When the first staff first arrived at the Park several weeks ago, many Londoners among them commented on the friendliness and

cheery, irrepressible mood of the volunteers. "Don't they know this is London?" some cynics quipped. "You're not supposed to actually smile in public, and say 'good morning' to complete strangers. People will think they are weird..." Some also voiced the opinion that the cheeriness would wear off once the Games

started and the stress began to show. Not a bit of it. In fact, it seems there is nothing that can wipe the smiles off the faces of these tireless servants of the Games.

The London Eye on Thursday witnessed a couple of volunteers given the most unenviable of tasks to clean up the large, foulsmelling deposits left behind by a couple of police horses on the main concourse.

Naturally, they took to their task with a good humour and stoicism that made some onlookers question whether someone had slipped something into their soft drink bottles. But no, it seems they are simply high on the Olympic spirit.