

## Vettori may miss India tour

CRICINFO, Kingston

Daniel Vettori is unlikely to make the upcoming India tour due to a groin strain. The injury had kept him out of New Zealand's second Test against West Indies last week as well. Vettori has been New Zealand's lead Test spinner for over a decade and would have been a key member of the attack in the India series. "[There's] a 90 percent chance that he won't be there," Ross Taylor, the New Zealand captain, said. "So we've got to look forward to seeing how the next spinner gets on over there." New Zealand are yet to announce their squad for the series, but the frontrunner to take Vettori's place is leg-spinner Tarun Nethula, who had been the second slow bowler on the recent West Indies tour.

The India series starts on August 23, with the first of two Tests. There are also two Twenty20s lined up. New Zealand have just completed a difficult tour of the Caribbean, where they were comprehensively beaten in all three formats.

## Mehdi, Debaraj share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Mehdi Hasan Parag joined FM Debaraj Chatterjee in the lead of the Open International Rating Chess Tournament at the close of the sixth round games at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Debaraj slipped in the sixth round to draw against IM Abu Sufian Shakil while Parag defeated Arifuzzaman Shikder. Both of them have 5.5 points each.

Nine players shared the second position with five points.

They are IM Abu Sufian Shakil, IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, Sohel Chowdhury, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Shafiq Ahmed, FM Rezaul Haque, Uten, Abdul Momin and Gysusuddin Mithu.

## Passion

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Known for his strict training methods, McInnes has always believed in maintaining a disciplined structure, right from the players' nutrition to introducing physically strenuous training routines. A number of players from the current squad have given credit to the Australian for his unconventional techniques.

"There are a number of things that go towards making a good international player. The reason why I focus on the most basic aspects such as nutrition is because these are the easiest areas to progress in. You cannot ignore them," he said.

"The domestic competition in Bangladesh isn't as strong as some of the other countries, so it's obviously going to take a longer time for the local players to be mentally strong. So if we can progress in some other areas, over time it can eventually help the players become more competitive in the long run," adds McInnes.

The Australian stated that it was the passion for cricket in Bangladesh that brought him back to the country. "I don't think there's any country in the world that has more passion for cricket than Bangladesh," he said.

Things have changed by a huge degree ever since the Australian resigned in 2005. Expectations have rocketed in the last seven years and the head coach of the NCA is bound to face a lot more pressure; only time can tell if Richard McInnes can be as successful as in his previous stint.



Captains of 16 participating teams including Bangladesh U-19 skipper Anamul Haq (holding the trophy L) pose for an official photo session ahead of the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane yesterday. The youth cricket jamboree will commence from August 11. Bangladesh have been placed in Group B along with Sri Lanka, South Africa and Namibia.

PHOTO: CoURTESY



SPORTS REPORTER from London

Sebastian Coe has described a spectator who allegedly threw a bottle onto the track at the start of the 100m men's final as getting "poetic justice" when he was then smacked by a judo champion.

LOCOG chairman Lord Coe said: "I'm not suggesting vigilantism but it was actually poetic justice that they happened to be sitting next to a judo player."

He added: "Throwing a bottle onto the field of play is unacceptable, it's not just unacceptable at an Olympic Games but at any sporting event and anybody who does that will be removed.

"There is zero tolerance for anything like that."

Holland's world judo champion Edith Bosch swung into action after seeing the man lob the bottle just seconds before the race started.

She claimed on Twitter that she had "beaten" the person who had thrown the bottle.

She said: "A drunken spectator threw a bottle onto the track! I HAVE BEATEN HIM .... unbelievable."

Speaking to NOS TV, Bosch said: "I had seen the man walking around earlier and said to people around me that he was a peculiar bloke.

"Then he threw that bottle and in my emotion I hit him on the back with the flat of my hand. Then he was scooped up by the security.

"However, he did make me miss the final, and I am very sad about that. I just cannot understand how someone can do something like that."

### NBC's major gaffe

While as many as two billion people around the world were watching arguably the greatest 100m final of all time, most athletics fans in the US were being treated to a replay of the equestrian event.

NBC, who are the rights holders for Olympic broadcasts in the USA, have taken the decision throughout the Games to offer highlight packages of the day's action in their primetime slots.

They showed the London 2012 Opening Ceremony several hours after it had finished (and came under fire for cutting out a poignant tribute section to London terror victims), and have missed out on hundreds of hours of footage as it happens.

The decision will be hard to understand in the UK, where viewers have been treated to rolling live coverage throughout the day.

But despite the 100m final taking place at 1645 on Sunday on the east coast of the US, and around lunchtime on the west coast, the race was not shown until primetime.

### Watt power surge from Ennis

Australian long jumper Mitchell Watt thanked Jessica Ennis, Great Britain's gold medal-winning heptathlete, after earning silver at the Olympic Stadium.

Struggling early in the competition, he pulled out enough to seal the medal late on, explaining: "I had to do my last jump when Jessica was finishing the 800m and the roar was so loud that for 30 seconds I pretended I was British. I later went over and thanked her."

Mitchell went into the rounds as the favourite but the

## 'Sweeter than Beijing'

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a little bit. But I stopped worrying and I executed, and it worked."

Indeed, Bolt did not get the best start. His reaction time was only the fifth fastest and he also jerked his way through the drive phase, which slowed him down as Tyson Gay, Gatlin, Blake and Powell took flight.

But the start has never been his strong point. "My coach told me not to worry about the start and just concentrate on the last 50 metres, which is my strength," Bolt had said earlier.

His coach was of course right.

At the 40-metre mark, Bolt was still behind, his face straining with the effort to catch up. By the 50th though, those long legs had pumped into their gazelle-like strides and Bolt began to pull away.

"My legs felt good today," Bolt said later. "I was confident."

By the finish, it was clear that there was no catching Bolt. Cameras flashed and crowds roared as the Jamaican finished about a metre ahead of Blake. He was Olympic champion again; the first man to cross the finish line first on two consecutive 100-metre sprints in modern Olympics.

"I'm still the No.1, I'm still the best. I'm just happy," said Bolt.

This was not the untouchable Bolt of Beijing or Berlin. This time, he was a little less explosive, a lot older and somewhat scarred by the memory of that false start in Daegu last year. At times, many even thought the unthinkable—Bolt might be beatable.

But legends rise to the occasion. Bolt certainly did. And whether he thinks so or not, his ascension to the pantheon of greats is now complete.

## SL-Ind lone T20I today

PTI, Pallekele

The world number two ranking clinched following a dominating 4-1 triumph in ODIs, India will now look to stamp their authority against Sri Lanka in the only Twenty20 international here on Tuesday.

India's domination was reflected in the margin of victory and they would look to carry their rampaging form to the shortest version of cricket as well.

## Wu equals medals record

AFP, London

China's Wu Minxia won the women's 3m springboard diving gold medal to draw level with Guo Jingjing as the most-decorated diver at the Olympics with six medals on Sunday.

World champion Wu totalled 414.00 points from her five dives to beat teammate He Zi (379.20) and Mexico's Laura Sanchez (362.40).

Wu's victory was China's fifth gold medal from five events as they attempt an unprecedented sweep of all eight diving medals in London.

China won seven out of eight diving events at the Beijing Games four years ago, having won all 10 diving golds at last year's Shanghai world championships.

Wu reeled off an impeccable back 2.5 somersault on her last dive to clinch the gold medal with a score of 85.50.

She led after the opening round with 79.50 for a back 2.5 somersault from Italy's Tania Cragnotto and He.

He nailed 83.70 for a forward 3.5 somersault to take the lead from Wu (79.75) with Cragnotto dropping back to third.

But Wu retrieved the lead with a gem forward 3.5 somersault which netted her 85.25.

Another exquisite dive, a reverse 2.5 somersault, earned Wu 84.00 to give her a 13.50 points buffer over He going into the fifth and final round.

Wu, who won the synchronised 3m springboard with He last weekend, made sure of her first individual Olympic gold medal with her showstopper final dive to beat her teammate home by 34.80 points.

China begin their bid for a sixth diving gold at the London Games with the preliminaries of the men's 3m springboard on Monday.

## Bolt's best yet to come?

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM from London



Even champions get jitters. Usain Bolt certainly did, as on the starting blocks of the race that would either define his life or shatter his aura, Bolt battled the butterflies in his stomach.

"I would be lying if I said I wasn't thinking about it [Daegu]," said Bolt. A false start in the World Championship in Daegu last year had seen Bolt disqualified. "But when I came out and they announced my name and the crowd gave me that roar, everything just went away."

Indeed it did as Bolt blasted his way to the second fastest 100-metre sprint of all time; a searing 9.63-second run that was required to defeat the best group of sprinters ever assembled in the marquee event.

Bolt had declared his intention to run under 9.50 in London as often as he had declared his intention to become a legend at these Games. But while the Jamaican did not achieve the former, the latter is now in his grasp.

Bolt, surprisingly, was uncharacteristically modest. "It means one step closer to being a legend. That's one step, I have the 200m to go, so I'm looking forward to that."

Bolt was in fine form in the press conference following his race, joking around with his friend and training partner Yohan Blake.

"He [Blake] ran a better race than I did. I am not even going to try to say that I ran a good race, because my coach will say that I did not," said Bolt, amidst much laughter from the gathered press.

The reality is frightening though. Here was a man, who had just posted the second fastest 100-metre time of all time, and

## MSC retain title

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including the First Division Hockey League.

Following the disputes regarding the umpires' decisions in the past, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) introduced the television review system in the domestic circuit for the first time for this match, availing the video footages of the live-telecast. Usha KC lost both their appeals against the umpire's decision to award Mohammedan penalty corners while Mohammedan won an appeal and lost the last one.

From the outset, Mohammedan dominated the game and went ahead in the very fourth minute with a fierce hit by Jimmy, who entered the box playing a wall with Hong Kong's Istaque Ahmed before hitting the board.

But Mohammedan's joy lasted only two minutes as Pakistan forward Mohammad Imran brought Usha back into the game with a brilliant goal from a seemingly difficult angle. Mohammedan goalkeeper Mehrab Hossain Kiron left his goal-post to try to deny Imran but

the forward scored from the touch-line.

After levelling the score, Usha put up a brilliant performance to keep Mohammedan under pressure but the Black and Whites grabbed the lead against the run of play. Malaysian Tanku Ahmed Tajuddin worked hard from the right flank to enter the box and danced past at least three defenders to pass forward to an unmarked Jimmy, and the national striker did not hesitate to take a powerful hit that rocketed past Usha goalkeeper Rasel Khan Bappi in the 25th minute.

After resumption, Mohammedan won two penalty corners but none of them found the desired destination while Golam Mostafa Manik squandered two opportunities before Jimmy struck his second hat-trick in the league to complete the rout in the 66th minute to put Mohammedan fans into rapture.

It was also revealed that Mohammedan will tour Italy, Austria and Germany to play

match was almost certain to end in a draw. South Africa were 239 for seven at tea, a lead of 233 with a possible 44 overs remaining.

Pietersen followed up a thrilling century in the first innings by taking the first three wickets with his occasional off-spin bowling. He had never taken more than one wicket in an innings in 87 previous Test matches.

While Pietersen prised open the South African batting, dismissing Jacques Rudolph, Graeme Smith and Hashim Amla, he leaked runs with some loose deliveries.

After he had taken three for 52 in nine overs, captain Andrew Strauss took him off and brought back fast bowler Broad.

With his fourth ball Broad trapped AB de Villiers leg before wicket. He won another verdict against JP Duminy off his next ball and

followed up with the wickets of Vernon Philander and Jacques Kallis.

Broad's four wickets were taken in the space of 20 balls at a cost of 12 runs.

### SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 419

ENGLAND: First innings 425

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (over-

night 39-0)

Rudolph lbw b Pietersen 69

Smith c Taylor b Pietersen 52

Amla c Cook b Pietersen 28

de Villiers lbw b Broad 44

Kallis c Prior b Broad 27

Duminy lbw b Broad 0

Philander lbw b Broad 6

Petersen not out 16

Steyn c & b Anderson 3

Morkel c Cook b Broad 10

Extras: (lb-2, w-1) 3

Total: (For 9 wts decln 67.4 overs) 258

Did not bat: Tahir.

Fall of wickets: 1-120, 2-129, 3-182, 4-

209, 5-209, 6-223, 7-230.

Bowler O M R W

Anderson 19 7 40 1

Broad 16.4 2 69 5

Finn 14 2 55 0

### CRYPTOQUIP

Y J V E W Z E B D G D D P D C X G B D C

H W T O A R Y K H Z D D K K A P D

S W M M K A C S F W K X F W R Z W V E

Z W W X : A F D - F V D J R O T C X J H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: REALITY SERIES

ABOUT A GUY TAKING A SUMMER JOB AS AN

ATLANTIC CITY BLACKSMITH: "JERSEY SHOER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y