

Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 9, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Aussie minister loses wager

Australia's sports minister Kate Lundy Wednesday promised to wear a Team GB shirt and row the Olympic course after losing a bet with her British counterpart.

Lundy said she would honour the wager after Australia failed to win more medals than Britain at the London Olympics. With five days to go, Britain are third in the medals table and Australia are 12th.

Her British opposite number, Hugh Robertson, would have had to dribble a hockey ball near Australia House in central London, wearing an Australia



Brownlees light up London

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM from London

Overhead, there was the distant whirl of the helicopter blades. Down below though, swans still swam elegantly and peacefully on the brimming Serpentine. A cool breeze rustled through the leaves of the lush green surroundings of Hyde Park. The only thing breaking the serene monotony was the noise.

On Tuesday, one of London's most famous parks was transformed into a beehive of activity. 300,000 people had made their way to Hyde Park and now they stood in crowds 10 deep across the banks of the Serpentine and along the roads from Wellington Arch to Buckingham Palace.

And all this to watch 55 men battle it out in a winner take all test of endurance that included a 1500-metre swim, a 40-kilometre bike ride and a 10-kilometre run. This is the men's triathlon, perhaps the most gruelling of Olympic sports.

But like all great stories, this too had a subtext. This one

was sibling rivalry, or rather the lack of.

The favourites for the triathlon were Great Britain's very own Brownlee brothers, Alistair and Jonathan. Fierce competitors they might be, but the two are so close that earlier in 2012 they had finished a race arm-in-arm. But Olympic officials had thrown in early warning signs; such a stunt could not be repeated in London where victory could come down to a photo finish and even the length of one's vest might come into the reckoning.

Given the warning, it would then have been poetic justice had the two actually managed to pull off that extraordinary feat. For a while, it even looked possible, as deep into the final legs of the unthinkable 10-kilometre run, the Brownlee brothers were one and two. But Jonathan had incurred a needless 15-second penalty on the changeover from swimming to biking; a rule so pedantic in a sport of such magnificence that you wonder why it isn't abolished. This meant that he

finished third, while Alistair, showing quite remarkable speed over distance took the gold with a running time of 29 minutes and 7 seconds.



FAMILY AFFAIR: Britain's Alistair Brownlee (R) and twin Jonathan Brownlee run with their bicycles in the transition area after the swimming competition of the men's triathlon event in London on Tuesday. Alistair won the gold and Jonathan took the bronze.

PHOTO: AFP



MEDALLIST

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
China	34	21	19
United States	30	19	22
Great Britain	22	13	13
Russia	10	18	20
Germany	7	15	10
Japan	2	13	14
France	8	9	11
Australia	5	12	9
South Korea	12	5	6
Italy	7	6	4
Netherlands	5	4	6
Canada	1	4	8
Hungary	6	2	3
New Zealand	3	2	5
Belarus	3	2	4
Ukraine	3	0	6
Romania	2	5	2
Denmark	2	4	3
Brazil	2	1	6
Kazakhstan	6	0	2
Iran	4	3	1
Poland	2	1	5

Sally, Taoufik's night

AFP, London



Sally Pearson gave Australia a much-needed boost at the Olympics Tuesday with gold in the 100m hurdles while Algeria's Taoufik Makhloufi won the 1500 metres a day after he was disqualified.

Pearson's victory in an Olympic record 12.35sec added some lustre to a largely forgettable Games for the sports-mad Australians.

Makhloufi was only on the start line at all after a successful appeal against the decision to bar him for not trying in his 800m heat on Monday.

The organisers accepted medical evidence that the 24-year-old Algerian had a knee ligament injury and he was given the green light to compete in the 1500m.

Makhloufi showed little effects of an injury as he destroyed a strong field to take the gold.

"It was the will of God, yesterday I was out, today I was in," he said.

Pearson had tried to alleviate the huge expectation in Australia by basing herself in Britain for the past six weeks, and she produced a near-perfect race to edge Beijing gold medallist Dawn Harper of the United States.

"I don't even know how to describe it because it's like a dream right now," said the 25-year-old reigning world champion.

"I am feeling relief, that's the first thing,

And now I am just in shock.

"I really wanted this tonight, I've worked so hard for the last two years. My goals were last year to win the world champs and this year to win the Olympic Games and I've done that and I couldn't be happier."

Makhloufi produced a devastating kick to destroy a strong field which included defending champion Asbel Kiprop, who trailed in last, apparently hampered by injury.

It was Algeria's first gold in the 1500m since the great Nourredine Morceli won in 1996 -- coincidentally the last time Germany won the discus title thanks to Lars Riedel.

Robert Harting ended that drought and showed real character in doing so.

Before the Games he told Der Spiegel magazine he was a troubled man and felt under enormous pressure to deliver the title, but he put that aside to produce the winning throw of 68.27 metres in the penultimate round.

That deprived the longtime leader of the competition, Iran's Ehsan Hadadi, of gold, but he had the consolation of giving his country its first ever Olympic athletics medal.

"I've dreamed of this since I was 12 years old," said Harting, who celebrated by trying to show a bemused Pearson how to hurdle, ignoring the efforts of the track officials to stop him.

"I first picked up a discus in 2000, from then on I worked hard to get here.

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BCB names 19-man squad

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 19-member squad for the national team camp yesterday keeping all the players who played in the Tigers' recent tour of Europe.

The Akram Khan-led selection panel made the shortlist from the 30-member preliminary squad they announced for the ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Sri Lanka from September 18.

"We have to announce the 15-member final squad for the T20 World Cup by August 18. We selected four more players for the training camp as you know Mushfiqur Rahim, Nasir Hossain and Tamim Iqbal will miss the camp due to their involvement in the SLPL," said chief selector Akram Khan.

Opener Imrul Kayes, all-rounder Shabbir Rahman, Farhad Reza and Naeem Islam were the players who weren't a part of the team

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Under-19s lose in tight finish

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19s completed their preparation with a four-wicket defeat to South Africa Under-19s in an exciting warm-up match before the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup at the Kev Hackney Oval, Buderim yesterday.

Chad Bowes led from the front with an unbeaten hundred to script South Africa's victory, which will give them the psychological edge over group-mates Bangladesh in the tournament proper. In the thrilling encounter, Bowes hit a 145-ball 104 that contained six boundaries, driving South Africa's successful chase of Bangladesh's total of 213. Some of the credit though must go to number eight batsman Prenelan Subrayen who smashed a six in the last over to help them reach the target with a ball to spare. South Africa needed ten runs to win after the sixth wicket fell off the last ball of the penultimate over.

Al-Amin (2-42) and Noor Hussain (2-48) were the main wicket-takers for Bangladesh.

Fresh from a seven-wicket victory over Scotland in the first official warm-up match, Bangladesh Under-19s could only manage to score 213 before being bundled out after deciding to bat first. That total was reached thanks mainly to number seven batsman Al-Amin who scored 60 off 73 balls with five boundaries and a six to hold the innings together after his team enjoyed useful contributions from top-order batsmen Soumya Sarker (26), Liton Das (37) and Asif Ahmed (46).

Vincent Moore (2-5), Solo Nqweni (2-46) and Corne Dry

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Mushfiqur's tenure extended

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahim has been retained as captain of the national cricket team and Mahmudullah Riyad will continue as his deputy till the home series against West Indies in November this year.

The decision was taken during the board meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"Mushfiqur and Riyad continue their duties in the upcoming T20 tournament in Trinidad & Tobago, the ICC Twenty20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in September and the home series against West Indies in November this year," informed Jalal Yunus yesterday after the meeting.

He said that Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad will also continue as team operations manager till the home series against West Indies in November this year.

"We also had some other major agendas but you know our president (AHM Mustafa

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PHOTO: AFP

Australia's Sally Pearson (L) takes a giant stride on her way to winning the women's 100m hurdles gold at the Olympic Stadium in London on Tuesday.

BD A face steep chase

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team are set to face a tough task against Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) XI after the end of the third day's play of their last four-day encounter of the Safi Darashah Invitational Tournament in Bangalore yesterday.

The local side put in a strong batting display in their second innings to declare on 284 for seven with an overall lead of 354 runs.

Bangladesh finished the day at 17 without any loss.

Nayeem Islam captured five wickets for 38 runs but still the KSCA XI batsmen stuck to their task as Samarth (86), Pavan (47) and Ganesh (68) scored significantly to enable them to declare their innings with a handsome lead.

Earlier, Bangladesh A were all out for 214 runs in their first innings after resuming the day on 188 for seven.

Gowtham took six wickets for 74 runs.



8 August, 2012

SPORTS REPORTER from London

London 2012 are investigating how a bucket of unofficial condoms found its way into the athletes' village without official consent.

The Australian BMX cyclist Caroline Buchanan tweeted a photograph of the bucket, which featured a sign reading "Kangaroos condoms, for the gland downunder", and a picture of a boxing kangaroo.

She joked that bucket seemed to back up rumours that the village becomes a hot bed of activity as thousands of competitors complete their events and celebrate after years of working to get to the Olympics -- tweeting: "Haha, the rumours are true. Olympic village."

Barcelona started the trend of supplying free condoms to athletes when the Spanish city held the Olympics in 1992, with the International Olympic Committee endorsing the move.

The London Olympic organisers provided 150,000 free condoms in dispensers for the 10,800 athletes at the Games, supplied by Durex which paid for the supply rights.

A LOCOG spokeswoman said they were trying to find out who distributed the Kangaroo condoms, with the container shown to hold condoms from Durex's rivals Ansell Ltd, an Australian company, and Pasante, a private British firm.

She said athletes and officials were allowed to bring products into the village for their personal use.

"We will look into this and ask that they are not handed out to other athletes because Durex are our supplier," said the spokeswoman.

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