



Russia's Natalya Antyukh powers her way to the finish line in women's 400m hurdles final at the Olympic Stadium in London on Wednesday night. Natalya clocked 52.70 seconds to win the gold.

PHOTO: AFP

Smith axed from World T20

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa Test captain Graeme Smith was omitted from the 15-man squad to take part in the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka next month, Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on Thursday.

The 31-year-old last played a T20 international in October 2011, but in July was named by CSA in a 30-man provisional squad for the global event.

There was, however, a place in the squad for all-rounder Jacques Kallis, who has played just one T20 international for his country since May 2010.

"We are confident that our squad will be very competitive and make South Africa proud. We have had basically the same squad together for the past year and many of them also produced stand-out performances at the Indian Premier League (IPL)," CSA selection convener Andrew Hudson said in a statement.

The World T20 starts in Sri Lanka on Sept. 18 with South Africa drawn in the same group as the hosts and Zimbabwe.

SQUAD

AB de Villiers (captain), Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Johan Botha, JP Duminy, Francois du Plessis, Jacques Kallis, Richard Levi, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Justin Ontong, Wayne Parnell, Robin Peterson, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe.

BD A tour

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second-highest scorer with a 90-ball 45.

Once again Gowtham, who took six wickets for 74 runs in the first innings, tore apart Bangladesh A's second innings, picking up six wickets for 49 runs.

It was a disappointing tour for the Bangladesh A team, mainly because of their poor batting all through the tournament while the punishment meted out to captain Shahriar Nafees, who was sent back to home just before the third and final match on disciplinary grounds, added insult to injury.

US notch

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a year after tests into her gender following her win at the 2009 World Championships, moved a step closer to adding the Olympic title to that crown as she eased into the 800m semifinals.

"It was a tactical race. I wanted the race to be a fast one," she said of her heat, adding that her chances of winning a medal would come down to the speed of the race.

"I have to run a sub-two minute race to be a contender."

American world record holder Ashton Eaton dominated the first day of the decathlon, sitting on 4,661 points after the first five events, in three of which (100m, long jump, 400m) he set leading marks.

His overnight mark was 220pts more than US team-mate and current world champion Trey Hardee (4,441), with Canada's Damian Warner in third on 4,386.

The Dream Team rumbles on

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made hardly any impact during the first two quarters. Instead it was left to the maverick LeBron to grab the game by the scruff of the neck and push the USA through to the semifinals.

Kobe did arrive at the party, somewhat late. His second-half play was sensational as he grabbed a team-high 20 points, all in the second-half. The Australians never really stood much of a chance but with their crowd roaring them on to chants of "Aussie Aussie Aussie, oi, oi, oi" the team nicknamed the Boomers stayed close to their opponents for most of the game, before the USA just ran away with it in the final quarter. For their part, the USA were also keyed up by frequent chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A" from most of the ground. Even in support, the Americans were dominating.

On this evidence, another gold medal for the USA looks almost a formality. They have completely dominated men's basketball in the Olympics since its introduction in the 1936

Games in Berlin. The won seven successive tournaments since their bow in Berlin and when professional players were first allowed in 1992 in Barcelona, the US Dream Team won gold. Altogether, the USA men's team have won 13 out of 16 Olympic tournaments they have participated in. The only other side to have won Olympic gold? The Soviet Union, of course.

This means that the USA's semifinal against Argentina should almost be a formality. The Argentines fended off a strong challenge by their great rivals Brazil to sneak into the semifinal. That game too provided a great atmosphere, mostly because it acted as a substitute for the football rivalry that did not materialise. While the Brazil football team has been dominating others, Argentina inexplicably failed to make it to the Olympics. A phoney war in the basketball courts will have to whet the appetites of those who had been hoping for the clash of the South American giants. At least this time Argentina came out on top.

London Diary

FROM PAGE 16

Committee of that country and they verify who they are and work with them to get them back to their bed for the night."

Pole fault

Some days you wish you could just start again. Cuban pole vaulter Lazaro Borges may have had high hopes but fell to Earth with a bump when his pole broke in two places as he took a vault on Wednesday morning.

He was thankfully unhurt but failed to qualify for Friday's final.

Left orange-faced

"Oh wee" [oh dear] as the Dutch would say. The Daily Express and Mirror printed a photograph of the gold medal winning British dressage team of Charlotte Dujardin, Carl Hester and Laura Bechtolsheimer, to commemorate their momentous Olympic win.

Only one problem -- the picture was actually of the Netherlands bronze medallists Anky van Grunsven, Edward Gal and Adelinde Cornelissen.

Cue a flurry on Twitter with Daily Express soon trending.

It seems the root cause may be a mislabelled agency picture which was distributed to journalists.

The images were removed for later editions.

Red, or should that be orange, faces all round.

MEDALLIST

FROM PAGE 16

Kazakhstan	6	0	2
Iran	4	3	1
Cuba	3	3	1
Czech Republic	1	3	3
Sweden	1	3	3
Jamaica	2	2	2
North Korea	4	0	1
South Africa	3	1	1
Kenya	1	2	2
Colombia	0	3	2
Mexico	0	3	2
Croatia	2	1	1
Ethiopia	2	0	2
Slovenia	1	1	2
Azerbaijan	0	2	2
India	0	1	3
Slovakia	0	1	3
Switzerland	2	1	0
Georgia	1	1	1
Norway	1	1	1
Armenia	0	1	2
Belgium	0	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	2
Dominican Republic	1	1	0
Lithuania	1	0	1
Egypt	0	2	0
Estonia	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	1	1
Serbia	0	1	1
Thailand	0	1	1
Tunisia	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	2
Qatar	0	0	2
Moldova	0	0	2
Singapore	0	0	2
Algeria	1	0	0

(The medal list was updated at 10:00pm Bangladesh time)

Football camps from Aug 16

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will start football camps for four groups from August 16, ahead of the 15th International U-18 Tournament in Russia, SA Games and AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers, the National Teams Committee (NTC) chairman and BFF vice president Kazi Nabil Ahmed disclosed at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

"There were some failures and successes in the last four years for the national teams and in an effort to raise their consistency levels, we are going to hold football camps for four groups -- U-18 to U-20, U-21 to U-23 and two national squads from August 16," said Nabil.

He also informed that the football camps, with the participation of approximately 70 booters, would last ten days before the groups play six matches among themselves over three days.

After those matches, the number of players will be reduced to 35 and a coach outside the BFF will be appointed to guide them in three exhibition matches to be played in Sri Lanka between September 15 and September 25.

The BFF vice president said that they have been trying to bring a full coaching staff including trainer and physio.

Powell to miss 4x100m relay

AFP, London

Former world record-holder Asafa Powell will miss Jamaica's Olympic 4x100m relay with a groin strain that has ruled him out for the rest of the season.

The 29-year-old Powell sustained the injury during Sunday's 100m final, in which he limped in eighth and last position.

"Confident that Team Jamaica will deliver a great 4x100 relay. Join me in cheering them on!" tweeted Powell.

The Jamaican quartet are the ones to beat in the relay. Their world record-breaking victory at Beijing 2008 concluded a fabulous Games for their sprinters, and particularly Usain Bolt, who also won the 100m and 200m.

They have continued to dominate since, winning the world title in Berlin 2009 and lowering their world record to 37.04sec when winning at the 2011 world championships in Daegu, South Korea.

Oscar's dream not over

AFP, London



Double amputee Oscar Pistorius's landmark Olympic campaign gained a reprieve on Thursday as South Africa were given a place in Friday's 4x400m relay final on appeal.

"IT'S ON!! We in the FINAL. Team management Protested as Ofentse was taken out and we have been given Lane 9!! @ljvanzyl to take his place!!!" tweeted Pistorius after he heard the news.

"Will be up on the 3rd leg tomorrow for the Final! Really can't wait"

Pistorius, 25, thought his adventure had come to an end when second leg runner Ofentse Mogawane fell on the bend into the home straight after tangling with Kenya's Vincent Kiilu. Mogawane suffered a dislocated left shoulder.

While Kiilu said he had been spiked his team agreed he was at fault, having viewed the video evidence, after the organisers disqualified Kenya on account of Kiilu's actions.

That prompted South Africa to appeal.

"The Jury of Appeal met and agreed to advance the South African team to the final, even though they did not finish the race,

considering that they had been severely damaged in the incident with Kenya," said the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in a statement.

"South Africa will run as an additional team in lane 9."

Pistorius, who made history when he became the first double amputee to compete in the athletics at an Olympics in the 400m individual heats last Saturday, had summed up how disappointed he was after the heat.

"I can't tell you how disappointed I feel 11/10 if I had to give a number," said Pistorius, who reached the individual 400m semifinals.

Pistorius, who has been supported here by his 89-year-old grandmother who brought him and his two siblings up after their mother died 10 years ago, had only learned on the eve of the relay he would be running and also in his preferred third leg spot.

The South African, who had both his legs amputated below the knee before he was one, because of a congenital condition, had fought a long battle to be allowed to compete.

Pistorius competed in the Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 Paralympics.

He was given the green light for the Olympics following studies that found his prosthetics give him no advantage over his able-bodied rivals.

Tahsin country's first Ironman

STAR SPORT DESK

On July 22 Tahsin Alam crossed the finish line of the 2012 Ironman Lake Placid Triathlon Championships in an official time of 16 hours and 27 minutes, making him the first Bangladeshi to conquer the world's most difficult one-day endurance sport. As previously reported, this is the culmination of Tahsin's 2-year preparation to cover a 3.8km swim, 180.2 km bike and a full 42.1 km marathon in a non-stop continuous race against the clock.

In a field of over 3100

athletes, Tahsin finished in 2193rd place with a strong finish in both the swim and bike sections. Each section of the Ironman has time cut-offs; athletes unable to finish within the allotted time are not allowed to proceed with the race. Tahsin comfortably finished the 3.8 km swim in 1 hour 35 minutes, well under the 2 hour 20 minute limit. "It was the best swim of my life, particularly with that many athletes in the water at the same time," Tahsin commented. All 3100 athletes begin in the water at the same time, making it a very dangerous affair. "I was kicked in the

face several times, but was lucky enough not to lose my swim goggles."

Tahsin had an equally successful bike ride. Tahsin completed the course -- two 90.1 km loops including two 24 km continuous hill climbs -- in 8 hours and 2 minutes, well within the time limit of 10 hours. "I drank about 9 litres of water and salts, while also eating 300 calories of food per hour."

He was most worried about stomach failure and heat exhaustion, both common occurrences during the Ironman.

The first half of his marathon was completed successfully, where he maintained a steady speed up to the half way mark. "Unfortunately, my body started to slow down shortly into the second half of the marathon. I never stopped moving. I ran when I could, I walked when I could not run. It is very tempting to stop, but if you stop, your race is over." Tahsin pushed through into the night with a headlamp to guide his way. Shortly past 11pm, Tahsin entered the Lake Placid Olympic Stadium, home of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics and the site of the Ironman finish line. Assisted by his coach, Tahsin unfurled the Bangladesh flag above his head as he crossed the finish line. His brother and mother, Dr. Amena Begum of Dhaka University, were there to greet him.

After a required rest of three weeks, Tahsin will compete in two other shorter distance triathlons, a half marathon and the prestigious Philadelphia Full Marathon in November..



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh expatriate Tahsin Alam is on his bike during the gruelling Ironman Lake Placid Triathlon Championships in which he finished 2193rd out of 3100 competitors in New York on July 22.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- "Great —!"
- "The Sorcerer's Apprentice"
- composer
- Woman's snug hat
- Jong and Kane
- Steve of the WWE
- Steve of "The Jerk"
- Edge
- Bessemer material
- U.N. workers' org.
- Screen image
- Day divs.
- Acknowledge
- Muddle with liquor
- Fishermen
- However
- Moray, e.g.
- Combination
- Trunks
- Unrivaled
- Fond du —, Wis.

DOWN

- Floodgate
- Carl Sagan topic
- Autumn mo.
- Not that
- First extra inning
- Legal possession of land
- Kazakh river
- Creme de cassis cocktail
- Hardly idle
- Tar
- Antillean tribe member
- "The — of Kilimanjaro"
- Historic time
- Aristocratic
- Let
- Yank
- Understand
- Fox hunt cry
- Socially dominant
- Punk rocker's coif, maybe
- Tenor Bocelli
- Long March leader
- Break a promise
- Caulking matter
- Pastoral pieces
- Washer phase
- Toy block name
- Speaker's spot
- Namely (Abbr.)
- Pen-sioned (Abbr.)

Solution time: 27 mins.

C	A	S	T	S	E	L	S	T	S	P
C	H	L	O	E	A	U	K	E	T	A
C	A	I	R	N	S	K	I	M	M	E
H	U	M	A	T	E	A	R	O	S	E
O	R	E	S	T	R	A	L	A		
E	N	R	A	G	E	L	E	S	S	E
D	O	R	A	L		S	H	O	O	
C	U	R	I	O	S	L	O	P	I	N
O	N	E	S	J	E	T	S	A	M	
S	W	I	M	M	E	R	H	U	M	O
T	E	N	P	E	T	A	D	E	L	E
A	D	S	H	R	S	W	I	R	E	D

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
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43					44			45		46		
47				48				49		50		
51								52				
	53							54				

CRYPTOQUIP

S E N Y C C Y K S W V C J W J T O H M

U H E M Z J M W U T G C K H C K P D Z

J H V V K P N K M V W P R T S D W

J O H P K V D K R K C C K M G Y K K V K ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHENEVER I DAMAGE
SOMETHING IN A SHRUBBY WASTELAND, IT'S
ALWAYS COVERED BY MY HEATH INSURANCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals B