

## Chess Olympiad Fortunes swing for BD

SPORTS REPORTER

Fortunes continued to swing for Bangladesh men's and women's chess teams in the 40th Chess Olympiad as the women's team recorded a straight 4-0 victory over Trinidad and Tobago while the men's team were trailing 0-2 against Armenia, when this report was filed.

The women's team, who were beaten 4-0 by top-seed China on the opening day of the Olympiad in Istanbul, turned the tables as they beat lowly T&T. Sharmin Sultana Shirin beat Nikielia Chuniesingh, WIM Rani Hamid beat Aditi Soondarsingh, WFM Zakia Sultana beat WCM Javanna Smith and Nazrana Khan Eva beat Gabriella Johnson to complete the clean sweep. The women's team have two points from two rounds after this victory.

The men's team on the other hand who started with a 4-0 win over Papua New Guinea on the opening day, were facing defeat against third-seed Armenia as GM Ziaur Rahman lost his board to GM Aronian Levon and GM Abdullah Al Rakib lost his board to GM Akopian Vladimir. GM Enamul Hossain Razib was playing against GM Sargissian Garriel while GM Niaz Murshed was playing GM Peterosian Tigran when this report was filed.

## No quick fix

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in order to perform well in the tournament. "It's not only spin. We have a good pace attack as well. The addition of Mashrafe (Bin Mortaza) has given us a huge boost. Our strategy will depend on the wicket, conditions and how we execute our skills on that day," said Riyad.

With the tournament less than a month away, Pybus will hope that his charges execute the game-plan on the given day and will also expect the players to stick to their roles, a feature that was quite visible during the Asia Cup this year.

"I hope the boys can gain confidence from their performance in the Asia Cup and put up a similar effort," he said.

Furthermore, he pointed out a change with regard to the mental strength of the current crop of players. "We came back from the two losses in the tri-nation series in Zimbabwe and went on to beat South Africa in the second game... So, we have definitely improved in this area," said Pybus.

The results from the recent tours depict a mixed impression. While a clean sweep of Ireland and a victory against South Africa may have been impressive, a disappointing performance in Holland exhibited the vulnerability of the team.

One thing is for sure, no matter what happens in the practice matches, only a berth in the second round of the world cup can satisfy the ever-growing expectations of the Bangladeshifans.

## Siddikur

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much is always nice and I know that if I continue to stay patient, I'll be able to improve my result from last year," added Siddikur.

Other notable Asian Tour stars expected to mount a strong challenge at the Omega European Masters include 13-time Asian Tour winner Thaworn Wiratchant from Thailand, Korean-American rookie David Lipsky and India's Anirban Lahiri.

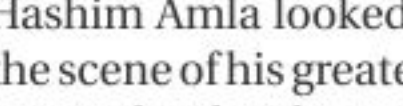
They will come up against a stellar world-class field that includes Major champions Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland and Australian Greg Norman at the 2.6 million dollar event.



Bangladesh head coach Richard Pybus (L) speaks at a press conference while Tigers vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad looks on at the conference room of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, ahead of their departure tomorrow for Trinidad & Tobago to play in a T20 tournament.

PHOTO: STAR

# Amla classic takes SA to No. 1



AFP, Southampton

Hashim Amla looked forward to returning to the scene of his greatest triumph after punishing England with yet another superb century.

Amla's brilliant 150 was the centrepiece of the Proteas 80 run-win in the second one-day international at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton on Tuesday as they went 1-0 up in the five-match series following last week's washout in Cardiff.

Victory, sealed with more than nine overs to spare as England were bowled out for 207 in reply to 287 for five, left South Africa top of the standings in all three international formats. It also meant the Proteas had knocked England off the summit of both the Test and 50-over standings in a matter of weeks.

Now the one-day series heads to The Oval where last month Amla became the first South Africa batsman to score a Test triple century with his 311 not out setting up an innings victory that sent the tourists on the way to a 2-0 win in a three-match series.

"I think we are all looking forward to it," man-of-the-match Amla said of his side's return to the south London ground.

"We have some good memories of the place. Different game, different ball so we'll see what happens."

In Southampton, Amla was twice dropped by England's South Africa-born wicket-keeper Craig Kieswetter, on 42 and 92, and although neither chance was easy they were both ones glovemen at this level would expect to hold.

A slow pitch renowned for taking spin proved no problem to Amla during a 124-ball

innings featuring 16 fours that saw him become the fastest player to 3,000 one-day international runs, taking 57 innings to reach the landmark compared to the 69 innings of West Indies great Vivian Richards

"It definitely felt like one of my better ones (innings)," said Amla.

"I think what makes it special to me is it was a difficult wicket. We won the game too, you always want to score runs in a winning cause."

The 29-year-old Amla, who opens in one-dayers and bats at first-wicket down in Tests, said the recent change to having a separate ball at each end of a one-day innings had made his career-best ODI effort especially pleasing.

"With the two new white balls up front, it's a lot more challenging."

Meanwhile, South Africa one-day captain AB de Villiers, while pleased by his side's rise to number one in the rankings, said the key aim in 50-over cricket was to win a major trophy.

Reflecting on the match, de Villiers -- as well as saluting Amla -- praised a youthful bowling line-up shorn of rested spearhead Dale Steyn.

Kieswetter's double reprieve of Amla, the first standing up to luckless spinner Samit Patel, the second off fast bowler Steven Finn, were the latest in costly England errors this season

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 287 for 5 (Smith 52, Amla 150, De Villiers 28; Swann 2-50)

**ENGLAND:** 207 all out (Bell 45, Trott 23, Morgan 27, Kieswetter 20, Patel 45; Morkel 2-29, Parnell 2-30-2; Peterson 2-51)

**Result:** South Africa won by 80 runs and lead five-match series 1-0.

**Man-of-the-match:** Hashim Amla.

## Hawking to star in Paralympics opening

AFP, London

A spectacular opening ceremony starring acclaimed British scientist Stephen Hawking was set to ring in the biggest ever Paralympic Games on Wednesday, aiming to transform ideas about disability and champion the human spirit.

Hawking, author of the best-selling "A Brief History of Time" and described by organisers as "the most famous disabled person anywhere in the world", will make a rare public appearance to narrate parts of the ceremony at the Olympic Stadium.

Organisers said Hawking, who has motor neurone disease and has been paralysed for most of his life, would guide a central character on a journey of discovery in a story inspired by William Shakespeare's "The Tempest".

"What came through to us was the humanity and humour of Professor Hawking," said Bradley Hemmings, the ceremony's co-artistic director.

"He's a fun guy," Hawking, who speaks using a voice synthesiser, will deliver a series of messages about "the origins of the universe and how humanity has tried to understand how everything is ordered," Hemming's co-director Jenny Sealey said.

The ceremony, involving 3,000 performers, many of them with disabilities, brings the curtain up on the highest-profile Paralympic Games in the event's 52-year history.

# Nafees not in BD A squad



SPORTS REPORTER

Shahriar Nafees was ignored when the selectors picked an 18-member preliminary Bangladesh A squad for the training camp ahead of their home series against the West Indies High Performance team.

"You know Nafees was sent back home from India during Bangladesh A's last tour and after that we didn't get any guideline from the board about whether he should be considered for selection. We gave a note to the board regarding this issue," explained chief selector Akram Khan yesterday when asked about Nafees's omission from the squad even though he was captain on the last tour.

"We will consider him if the board gives the clearance," he added.

The left-hander was sent back home due to misconduct before the third group game in Bangalore in the Shafi Darashah tournament

The training camp will start tomorrow and the selected cricketers have been asked to report to A Team head coach Stuart Barnes at 8:30am on the same day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The West Indies High Performance team will arrive in Dhaka on September 12 and the next day they will travel to Khulna to play the first four-day match against the National Cricket Academy team from September 16 to September 19 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium.

They will play the second and final four-dayer against Bangladesh A from September 22 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur where they are also scheduled to play three one-day matches -- on September 28, September 30 and October 2 -- and two T20 matches on October 4 and October 5 against the same opponents.

### SQUAD

Nasiruddin Faruque, Arafat Sunny, Imrul Kayes, Enamul Haque, Marshal Ayub, Saqlain Sajib, Naeem Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Shamsur Rahman, Robiul Islam, Farhad Hossain, Delwar Hossain, Rokibul Hassan, Dollar Mahmud, Mithun Ali, Taskin Ahmed, Shuvogoto Hom and Dhiman Ghosh.

# Aussies overcome Pak spin threat



AFP, Sharjah

Mitchell Starc took 5-42 and Michael Clarke and George Bailey hit fifties to help Australia beat Pakistan by four wickets in the first limited overs international here on Tuesday.

The lanky left-armner's best one-day figures helped Australia keep their rivals down to 198 in 45.1 overs before they fought hard against Pakistani spinners to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series at Sharjah Stadium.

Australia owed their run chase to some responsible batting by skipper Clarke (66), who added an invaluable 54 with Bailey for the fifth wicket before Bailly-Glenn Maxwell (38) put on 63 for the sixth to see off the target in 48.2 overs.

Pakistan had attacked through their much-vaunted spinning trio of Saeed Ajmal (3-30), Mohammad Hafeez (2-29) and Shahid Afridi (1-37) but Australian batting was led by Clarke and finished by Bailey with an unbeaten 88-ball 57.

Clarke hit five boundaries during his 95-ball knock.

Ajmal struck with his first ball of the match, trapping a nervous Michael Hussey (five) in front and then had David Hussey (three) caught in the slip off his last ball of the second over.

Bailey hit a six in the penultimate over before taking a single to seal the match.

Hafeez had dismissed David Warner (five) and Afridi had Matthew Wade (10).

Earlier left-arm paceman Mitchell Starc took a career best 5-42 and James Pattinson (3-19) to derail Pakistan, who won the toss and batted.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**PAKISTAN:** 198 all out (Jamshed 23, Shafiq 56, Misbah 26, Akmal 52; Pattinson 3-19, Starc 5-42)

**AUSTRALIA:** 199 for 6 (Clarke 66, Bailey 57 not out; Maxwell 38; Hafeez 2-29, Ajmal 3-30)

**Result:** Australia won by four wickets.

# Strauss quits

FROM PAGE 16

England dropped Pietersen, who hasn't played international cricket in any format since making 149 in the drawn second Test at Headingley, after he admitted sending "provocative" texts to South African players.

Some of these were alleged to have been critical of Strauss, who succeeded South Africa-born and raised Pietersen as England captain in 2009.

Strauss said he'd spoken to England coach Andy Flower about retiring "before the Kevin Pietersen situation reared its head".

His last Test was a 51-run defeat by South Africa at Lord's, his Middlesex home ground where he made his Test debut in 2004, earlier this month that saw England surrender their number one Test ranking to the Proteas.

Strauss scored 21 hundreds -- one shy of England's all-time record -- and led England to the top of the world Test rankings, a run that included home and away Ashes wins in 2009 and 2010/11.

Cook's first Test as captain will be the first of a four-match series in India in November.

The 27-year-old paid tribute to Strauss by saying: "Andrew's contribution to England cricket in recent years is evident to everyone who follows the sport but only those of us who have been lucky enough to share a dressing room with him are fully aware of his immense contribution to our success.

"He has been a fantastic captain, has led from the front for three-and-a-half years and is a true ambassador for the game. "I know this can't have been an easy decision for him and everyone in the dressing room will be sad to see him go. "I'm very excited by this new challenge, it is a huge honour to be appointed Test captain."

ECB chief executive David Collier said: "On behalf of the ECB and everyone involved in cricket I'd like to thank Andrew Strauss for his outstanding contribution to the game.

"Andrew's calmness and authority when dealing with some of the most difficult moments in our sport in recent times should be applauded and I have no doubt that his contribution as an ambassador for the game will be recognised by anyone who has had an opportunity to spend time with him."

Strauss has enjoyed modest returns with the bat in recent years and his 122 against the West Indies in May was his first Test century since November 2010.

He followed up with another century, at Trent Bridge, but averaged just 17.83 in six innings against the South Africans.

England's form in 2012 has been poor, with six defeats in 11 Tests culminating in a 2-0 series loss to South Africa, their first home reverse in four years.

Strauss was the third England skipper to be 'seen off' in as many tours of England by South Africa captain Graeme Smith after Nasser Hussain in 2003 and Michael Vaughan in 2008.

## Bolt, Rudisha to headline Zurich

AFP, Zurich

Sprinting legend Usain Bolt and 800m world record-holder David Rudisha will headline a stellar track and field line-up at Thursday's Diamond League meeting in Zurich.

Bolt and Rudisha are just two of 15 newly-crowned Olympic champions on show at the sold-out Letzigrund Stadium, where 14 reigning world champions will also feature.

In his only post-Olympic race this year, Rudisha will try to beat the mark of 1min 40.91sec he set in winning the 800m at the London Games, and will have compatriot and regular pacemaker Sammy Tangui on board to ensure a blistering first lap.

Three other Kenyans -- Anthony Chemut, Timothy Kitum and Leonard Kosencha -- will also run alongside Ethiopian teenager Mohamed Aman, British duo Andrew Osagie and Michael Rimmer, and American Duane Solomon in what promises to be a fascinating race.

## Shakib

FROM PAGE 16

beating both the sides. We have been doing well over the last six months. The boys are doing well, some of them have played in the SLPL and that'll help them in the tournament. The next two to three weeks will be extremely important for us. If we can improve a bit through these games then I am sure we can do something good in the tournament," said a confident Shakib.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

### ACROSS

- At the summit of
- Two-timer
- Feathered missile
- Playwright Hansberry
- Reverberate
- Skilled at painting
- Neighborhood
- That woman
- Look for typos, maybe
- Mixed metal
- moss
- Harness strap
- Bad-mouthed big-time
- Distant
- Give a leg up
- Deteriorate
- Tire

### 34 Taj Mahal city

- Pay attention since 1952
- Go back
- Festive
- Sandwich cookie
- Related to "the sum of the parts"
- Active one
- Eternally, to a poet
- Catch sight of
- Scouted
- Penn or Combs

### DOWN

- carte
- Craggy peak
- Table scrap
- Penitentiary
- Give as an example
- Blackbird
- Lessen
- Inadequate supply
- Farm measure
- Comical Caroline
- Frog's cousin
- Wan

### 19 Right on the map?

- "Bow-wow"
- Fall faller
- Old Italian money
- Boastful, perhaps
- As one
- Therefore
- College quarters
- Coffin stand
- Bill
- Speculation
- Bottomless pits
- Tresses
- Took the bus
- Cupid's alias
- Second in command, often
- Singer Campbell
- Eggs
- Sock part
- Gershwin brother
- 100 yrs.

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	E	E	J	U	N	I	T	C	A	P
A	G	R	A	N	O	N	O	O	V	A
N	O	R	M	F	I	S	T	D	I	G
E	S	S	E	A	R	T	J	A	D	E
			S	K	I		E	M		
T	I	M	B	E	R		P	O	L	A
W	O	O	E	R			T	I	B	I
O	N	W	A	R	D		P	E	A	C
			R	Y	E		E	T	C	
Y	A	R	D		L	E	A		H	E
O	D	E		D	U	L	L		I	S
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1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15									16			
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41						42	43			44	45	46
47						48						
49						50			51			

### CRYPTOQUIP

S J M Q W K G U J S V F C J R K I J W H U

D Y J S Q M Q X I Q Q W W Z H Q

C R G Z S V J X D Q F X Z S V W J S V

A F S K U : " U Y J X K U A Q J A W Q . "

**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** AS THE BUTCHER WAS BEING TAUGHT HOW TO CUT MEAT PROPERLY, I IMAGINE IT WAS A LOINING PROCESS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals W