

Anderson out of 4th Test

AFP, Birmingham

England paceman James Anderson has been ruled out of the remainder of the third Ashes Test against Australia at Edgbaston and next week's fourth Test at Trent Bridge, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced Friday.

Anderson left the field three balls into his ninth over in Australia's second innings at Edgbaston on Thursday – his 33rd birthday.

An ECB statement confirmed he had suffered a side strain.

"Anderson will be unavailable for the fourth Test beginning on Thursday 6 August at Trent Bridge and his availability for the final Test in the series (at The Oval on August 20) will be determined in due course," the statement said.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

BD grab 3 more gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh grabbed three more gold medals in the Special Olympics in Los Angeles, said a press release from the Special Olympic Bangladesh yesterday.

Shuttler Mohammad Abdul Kader Soron won gold in badminton singles; Sadia Akter Rumin grabbed gold in table tennis singles while Jakia Sultana bagged gold in bocce singles.

Apart from the three golds, Bibi Fatema and Sharnali Akter Sweety won silver medals in 100m sprint in different divisions.



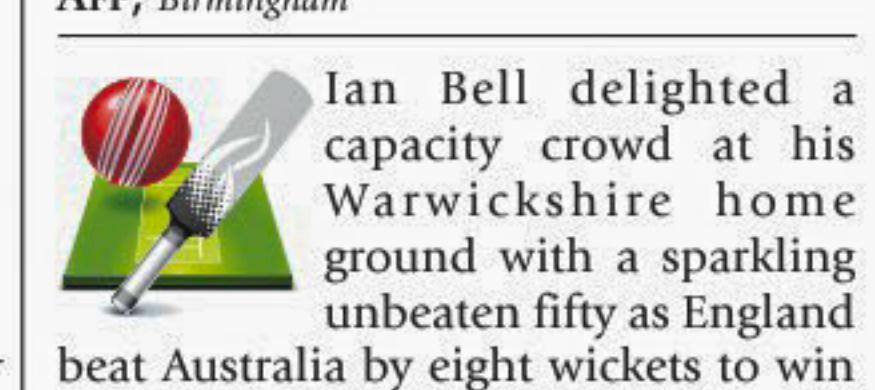
England batsman Ian Bell (L) raises his arms in celebration as Joe Root (C) whips one for four to clinch victory against Australia on the third day of the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

England take 2-1 lead

Beat Aus by 8 wks in the 3rd Ashes Test at Edgbaston

AFP, Birmingham



charge with a flurry of four fours in seven balls off Starc, including one down the ground and a classic cover-drive.

Bell was, however, given a reprieve on 20 when, with England 35 for one, he edged Starc to second slip only for Australia captain Michael Clarke to drop the two-handed catch.

England opener Adam Lyth has also been struggling with the bat and when he was lbw to Josh Hazlewood's inswinger for 12, it meant the hosts were now 51 for two.

Rooftop, Lyth's Yorkshire team-mate, showed few signs of nerves, however, in cutting his first ball, from Hazlewood, for four.

Bell's late-cut boundary off Starc saw him to his second fifty of the match, off 68 balls with seven fours.

It was a fine performance by the 33-year-old Bell, who came into this match -- his 113th Test -- with a question mark against his place after

several meagre innings.

Australia resumed Friday on 168 for seven, 23 runs ahead and the two not out batsmen overnight, Peter Nevill and Starc, both went on to make fifties and shared an eighth-wicket stand of 64 that boosted Australia's second innings total to 265 all out.

England fast bowler Steven Finn, recalled for his first Test in two years following an injury to Mark Wood, led the attack with his best figures at this level of six for 79.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 136

ENGLAND: First innings 281

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 265 (Warner 77, Nevill 59, Starc 58; Finn 6-79)

ENGLAND: Second innings 124 for 2 (Lyth 12, Bell 65 not out, Root 38 not out; Starc 1-33, Hazlewood 1-21)

Result: England won by eight wickets and lead five-match series 2-1.

Player-of-the-match: Steven Finn.

FIFA PRESIDENCY CAMPAIGN

Zico gets Brazil backing

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

The Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) said Thursday it is backing national football legend Zico's bid to replace Sepp Blatter as FIFA president.

The endorsement was a big boost for Zico, 62, who has previously conceded lacking support from Brazil's footballing top brass. However, to establish himself as a formal candidate he would still have to get backing from four other countries.

"Zico has our support to pursue his candidacy. If he gets the other four signatures, the CBF will back his application," the body's president, Marco Polo Del Nero, said in a statement.

Zico -- who has managed several teams including Japan and Iraq as well as latterly Indian club side Goa -- has no experience in international football administration.

He said he was "happy with the response," which he called a "kickstart" to his bid to win the FIFA top spot.

Blatter announced his intention to stand down on June 2, shortly after winning election to a fifth term, amid a corruption scandal sweeping through the FIFA executive committee. Brazil had been one of the countries voting to extend his mandate.

Gunners duo sign new deals

AFP, London

England forward Theo Walcott and Spanish midfielder Santi Cazorla have both agreed contract extensions with Arsenal, the Premier League club announced on Friday.

Walcott, 26, announced on Twitter that he had signed a four-year contract, but the length of Cazorla's deal was not disclosed.

"We're delighted to have extended the contracts of Santi and Theo," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told the club's website. "Both are top quality players who are hugely important and influential to our squad."

Walcott tweeted a picture of himself wearing Arsenal's home kit and standing beside the Emirates Stadium pitch, accompanied by the caption: "This is my home! Happy to have signed a new 4 year deal."

Beijing to host 2022 Winter Olympics

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Beijing on Friday narrowly won an IOC vote for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games that secured its place in sporting history.

The Chinese capital beat Almaty of Kazakhstan by just 44 votes to 40, with one abstention, to become the first city to be awarded the summer and winter Games.

Beijing held the summer Olympics in 2008 in what was then seen as China sealing its place as an emerging superpower.

The 2022 Games will be held in March 2022 during the Lunar New Year and with many outdoor events held against a backdrop of the Great Wall of China.

Asia will also host the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Di Maria fined for no-show

GOAL.COM

Manchester United have fined Angel Di Maria two weeks' wages in what is expected to be one of the final acts before the Argentine completes his transfer to Paris Saint-Germain.

Goal understands that United have withheld £360,000 from Di Maria's pay following the player's decision not to board a plane to San Jose to meet his teammates during their recent US pre-season tour.

Sheikh Jamal's recipe for success

SPORTS REPORTER



Good management, proper training facilities, team spirit, timely incentives and quality players are undoubtedly the off-field ingredients behind

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's back-to-back success in the professional football league, but the real architects in their on-field success are the three foreigners – Haiti's Wedson Anselme, Nigeria's Emeka Darlington and Gambia's Landing Darboe.

The three musketeers have racked up a total of 46 goals -- Wedson (17), Emeka (17) and Landing (12) -- out of 56 Sheikh Jamal scored in 18 matches so far. Wedson (26), Emeka (20) and Sony Norde (13) had also played the key role behind the club's premier league success last season league as they scored 59 out of 78 goals in 27 matches.

However, the three of them did not perform too well in the first phase of the league and bagged only 14 goals. But things turned dramatically in the second phase, corresponding to Joseph Afusi appointment in place of veteran coach Maruful Haque.

The Nigerian was, however, not ready to draw the line between the foreign players and the local players, rather he was happy to give credit to all of the team members.

"Football is not a game of one or two players. It is a game of 11 players; so if the local players did not perform well and assist the players upfront, the foreign players could not have scored," said Afusi, after the win against Mohammedan on Thursday.



Sheikh Russel players walk off the pitch after heavy rainfall led to abandonment of their scheduled Bangladesh Premier League match against Farashganj SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Feni Soccer pip Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Feni Soccer Club notched up their fifth victory in the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League with a 2-0 win over hosts Chittagong Abahani at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Gambian forward Jatta Mustafa put the visitors ahead in the 12th minute before his compatriot Dawda Cessay wrapped up the victory in the 69th minute to help Feni Soccer climb up to seventh position of the 11-team table with 18 points from 17 matches.

Chittagong Abahani remained in 10th position with 11 points from 17 matches.

Meanwhile, the day's other fixture between Sheikh Russel KC and Farashganj SC in Dhaka was abandoned due to heavy downpour.

JFA U-14 C'SHIP Mymensingh, Tangail in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh and Tangail set up Sunday's final clash of the JFA Under-14 Women's Football Championship after beating their respective rivals in the semifinals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mymensingh handed a massive 6-1 defeat to Narayanganj, with Marzia scoring a brace while Yeasmin, Sajeda, Maria Manda and Shamsunnahar netted one goal each. Onu Ching Marma pulled one back for Narayanganj.

In the day's second semifinal, Tangail thrashed Dinajpur 6-0, thanks to a four-goal haul from Krishna Rani, Munni and Razia scored one goal apiece.



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Certainly.