

‘A DEFINING IMAGE OF TRIUMPH’

AFP photographer Jerome Brouillet’s perfectly-timed shot of Brazilian Olympic surfer Gabriel Medina earned the adulations it deserved, with TIME magazine describing it as “the defining image of triumph of the 2024 Summer Games”. Even though Brouillet said he did not have a clear line of sight of the initial action, he still managed to catch Medina soaring ramrod-straight above the waves pointing one finger in the sky, his surfboard pointing skyward at his side. This picture of Medina kicking out of the wave after a ride that earned a record Olympics score in Tahiti became a global sensation for its sheer brilliance and significance, with this being used by scores of publications around the world and shared or liked millions of times online.



Covid looms: Several athletes test positive

REUTERS, Paris

Three years after the Tokyo Olympics were held amid strict precautions and with no fans because of the global Covid 19 pandemic, the virus has forced athletes to withdraw from events and has others donning masks once again at the Paris Games.

Several athletes have tested positive, including Australian swimmer Lani Pallister who was a medal hope in the women’s 1,500 metres freestyle but had to withdraw from the event. Pallister has been instructed to isolate in her room.

British swimmer Adam Peaty tested positive a day after he narrowly missed out on 100 metres breaststroke gold, sharing silver with American Nic Fink. He, however, hopes to compete in relays later this week.

Meanwhile, multiple Australian women’s water polo players tested positive for Covid in the days leading up to the opening ceremony, forcing them to isolate from other team members.

Men’s triathlon postponed due to Seine pollution

REUTERS, Paris

The men’s triathlon at the Paris Olympics did not go ahead as planned on Tuesday as pollution levels in the Seine remained too high, World Triathlon said in a statement, dealing a blow to organisers and leaving athletes facing more uncertainty.

The race was postponed to Wednesday at 10:45 am (2:45 pm Bangladesh time), immediately after the women’s event.

Should levels of bacteria remain too high by Wednesday morning both the men’s and women’s races are likely to be postponed to Friday, the contingency day reserved for the events.

If by Friday the water quality is still not good enough the swim leg will be scrapped and athletes will compete in a duathlon instead.



O’Callaghan, Popovici poised for revered twin gold



AFP, Paris

Mollie O’Callaghan and David Popovici backed up from winning 200m freestyle gold with strong 100m heat swims Tuesday.

Australia’s O’Callaghan upset defending champion Ariarne Titmus to clinch the 200m crown on Monday, while Romanian teenager Popovici won by a fingertip in a frenetic men’s race.

They both returned barely 12 hours later, with Australian two-time world champion O’Callaghan fifth fastest through the heats, while 19-year-old Popovici – who burst onto the scene by winning the 100m-200m freestyle double at the 2022 world championships – was third best.

With reigning champion Emma McKeon failing to qualify at the Australian trials, O’Callaghan has a golden opportunity to secure the revered 100-200 double.

The men’s 100m is also without a defending champion after Caeleb Dressel’s failure to make the grade at the US trials, leaving it wide open.

‘Now is what matters’ for history-maker Bhaker

AGENCIES

Scripting a story of remarkable resilience, shooter Manu Bhaker became the first Indian female athlete to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Summer Games and the first Indian to achieve this feat in the post-independence era.

After breaking the country’s 12-year Olympic shooting medal drought with a bronze in the women’s 10m air pistol event on Sunday, Bhaker, alongside Sarabjot Singh, defeated their South Korean counterparts in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event to bag another bronze.

In the gold medal match, Serbia’s Zorana Arunovic and Damir Mikec staged a dramatic comeback to beat Turkey’s Seval Ilayda Tarhan and Yusuf Dikec 16-14.

Bhaker’s debut at the Tokyo 2020 Games

was marred by disappointment as she failed to reach the final in any of the three events she participated in.

“After Tokyo I was very disappointed... It took me a long time to overcome that. However, I came back stronger. So, what is now is what matters and the past should remain in past,” Bhaker concluded.

Prior to Bhaker, British-Indian athlete Norman Pritchard had won two silver medals in the 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics, before India’s independence.

International Olympic Committee member Nita Ambani is hopeful the 22-year-old can take her tally to three medals from the Paris Games after taking part in the individual 25m pistol event too.

“The entire nation is keeping its fingers crossed for her hat-trick now!” said Ambani.



Sakib takes five-for in practice game

SPORTS REPORTER

Pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib starred for BCB Red as he claimed a five-wicket haul against BCB Green on the second day of three-day practice match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Tuesday.

Sakib, who claimed three wickets on the opening day, took two more wickets to finish with 5-53 and helped his side dismiss BCB Green for 290 in their first innings after they had resumed on 220-5.

BCB Green’s wicketkeeper-batter Jaker Ali Anik, who was unbeaten on 12 runs overnight, made 50 off 91 balls while Mahedi Hasan scored 19 runs. Both batters were dismissed by Sakib after the match started with nearly three hours’ delay due to rain.

BCB Red batters then faced the wrath of Hasan Mahmud (3-24) and Mahedi’s (2-25) bowling to be reduced to 92-6 at stumps.

Pritom Kumar and Nayeem Hasan made unbeaten 28 and 17 runs respectively and shared a 44-run stand for the seventh wicket to bring some respite after being 48-6 at one stage.

Earlier on Day One, Anamul Haque Bijoy made 90 runs while Yasir Ali and Mushfiqur Rahim scored fifties for BCB Green after being sent into bat first.

BCB reunites with Stonier

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has reunited with U-19 World Cup-winning strength and conditioning coach Richard Stonier, roping him for two years in the same capacity ahead of the upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup, scheduled to be held in Namibia and Zimbabwe in 2026.

BCB is now back with all of their previous foreign coaching staff for the U-19 unit, with the board already appointing Naveed Nawaz as head coach. Nawaz had guided them during their U-19 World Cup triumph in South Africa in 2020.

“It is confirmed, Richard is returning, he will join on August 3,” AEM Kawser, BCB’s game development manager confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday.

Stonier, who previously worked for BCB between 2018-2022, also confirmed his arrival to Bangladesh.

“Hoping to arrive at the weekend. Leaving London as we speak for visa once again,” said Stonier.

Kawser also informed that they also hired a performance analyst for the U-19 team, Sandip Kumar Ramal, who also had experience of working in the same capacity.

Both Richard and Sandip will join the U-19 group in Khulna, where they will have a selection camp until August 20.

“Sandip Kumar Ramal, a performance analyst from India, will also join us in the upcoming camp. He worked with us in the last U-19 World Cup as well,” Kawasar said.

“There will be four selection games. They will go to Khulna on August 4. The camp will run till August 20 and they will return on the 21st,” he concluded.



Lack of options sees Soumya cross over to red-ball zone

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday named a host of players for ‘A’ team’s tour of Pakistan to play Pakistan A in two four-day matches and three one-day matches. Two separate squads were announced for the two four-day matches and another squad for the one-day matches on August 23, 25 and 27 respectively.

The A Team’s longer-version matches will be followed by the national team’s two-Test tour of Pakistan and it could be surmised that the first four-day match of the A team’s tour is being prioritised to allow a few national team players to adjust to the conditions in Pakistan before the Test matches.

The Daily Star had previously reported that Mominul Haque and Mushfiqur Rahim, two veterans of the national team’s Test squad, are to play the first four-day match for A team. Along with those two, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shahadat Hossain Dipu, Nayeem Hasan and Hasan Mahmud from the national team have been selected for that match, which will begin in Islamabad on August 10.

The national team squad for Pakistan Tests is yet to be announced but it is believed that at least six players from the first red-ball game will join the national team camp in



Pakistan after the match.

Surprisingly, Soumya Sarkar and Tawhid Hridoy, who are considered white-ball players, have been named in the squad for the second four-day match of the A Team, scheduled to be played in Islamabad from August 17.

“They [Soumya and Hridoy] are basically for one-dayers and will play [four-day matches] if required. It’s likely that the players for the second four-day game and the one-day players will go together. So the delegation of players will be 17 to 18 [members]. If there are injuries or otherwise, they are in the squad,” BCB chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu told The

Daily Star yesterday.

The selectors had issues selecting the ‘A’ team with quite a few players having just finished their BCB HP red-ball assignment in Australia. Thus, the likes of Soumya or Hridoy are not the priority for red-ball games but may play given that they are already named for the ‘A’ team’s three-match one-day squad and will be travelling with the one-day squad together.

“There aren’t too many players available and we have few players in Australia too. The likes of Soumya are not in the priority list for the four-day game even if they play there,” Lipu informed.

Opener Anamul Haque, all-rounder Mosaddek Hossain, spinner Tanvir Islam and pacer Tanzim Sakib are in all the squads for both red-ball and white-ball assignments while all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin, wicket-keeper batter Jaker Ali Anik, opener Mohammad Naim along with Soumya have made the squads for the second four-day and the one-day phase of the tour.

Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain and off-spinner Sheikh Mahedi were named in just the one-day squad. With a couple of players being carried over, following the announcement of the national team for Pakistan tour, the playing elevens of the ‘A’ team’s second four-day match and one-day matches will find more solidity.