



## Did U Know?

The Olympic hymn, played when the Olympic flag is raised, was composed by Spyros Samaras and the words added by Kostis Palamas. The Olympic hymn was first played at the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens but wasn't declared the official hymn by the IOC until 1957.



## Mahela Jayawardene

(Sri Lankan cricket captain) "We in Sri Lanka rate him the best bowler in the game. The rest of the cricket world must also be thinking the same."

On Mutiah Muralidaran.

ICC CHAMPS TROPHY

Ganguly in list of probables  
REUTERS, Bangalore

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was surprisingly recalled on Wednesday, named in the provisional 30-player squad for the ICC Champions Trophy to be played at home in October-November.

The 34-year-old batsman was sacked as captain and one-day player last October and then discarded from the Tests after the series defeat in Pakistan early this year.

Although a selector hinted at a return for Ganguly, his chances appeared slim after his recent poor run with English county Northamptonshire.

Chief selector Kiran More defended the inclusion of Ganguly, one of only four batsmen to score 10,000 one-day runs.

"We have 30 players here and he is one of the good cricketers we have," he told reporters. "He definitely fits into the 30, there is no question about it."

The selectors also recalled leg-spinner Anil Kumble and pace bowler Zaheer Khan.

Kumble, 35, India's most successful Test and one-day bowler, had rarely been picked for limited-overs cricket since the last World Cup, but his rich experience could prove crucial in the run-up to the World Cup in the West Indies in March-April.

## Asif won't join Pakistan in England

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan pacesman Mohammad Asif will not be travelling to England to join the team for the fourth Test at The Oval from August 17, a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official told this news agency on Wednesday.

"He was scheduled to join the team before the fourth Test, but the management have asked us to only make him available for the five one-day internationals," PCB director of cricket operations Saleem Altaf said.

The 23-year-old Asif had been one of Pakistan's success stories since forging his way back into the side earlier this year against India but returned home before the first Test against England at Lord's because of an elbow injury.

Altaf confirmed that doctors had cleared Asif off his injury and the selectors made him available to leave for England.

"But now the team management has said they don't want him for the Oval Test," Altaf said, adding that all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez had left for England to reinforce the team after a string of good performances for the A team in Australia.

## ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY BCB names probables

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

There was no surprise inclusion or exclusion when Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) disclosed yesterday the list of 30 probables for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy to be held in India in October-November.

While keeping faith in the old guard, the Faruque Ahmed-led selection panel included six uncapped players in the long list. Batsmen Mehrab Hossain Jr, Nazmus Sadat, Mahub Ullah

Riyad, wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain, left-arm spinner Nadif Chowdhury and left-arm fast bowler Shafaq Al Jabir were the new faces in the preliminary squad.

"We considered two things before selecting the names. One was obviously the regular members of the team and the other was the ones who have prospect," said Faruque.

"Yes, there were few more players like opener Uttam Sarker who could be in the list but we thought about those players who had represented different national and age-group selections in recent past and

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## Roxy upbeat about Vietnam tour

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-17 football coach Mahub Hossain Roxy was happy that his boys would be able to play a warm-up tournament abroad as part of their preparation for next September's Asian Youth (u-17) Football Championship finals.

The 25-member Bangladesh youth (u-17) team including five officials were due to leave Dhaka after midnight yesterday to play a four-nation invitational tournament in Vietnam.

Apart from hosts Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos are also playing in the competition as part of their preparation for the event in

Singapore.

"It is a great opportunity for us that we can play a warm-up tournament ahead of the final round," told coach Mahub Hossain Roxy yesterday at a press conference at the BFF Bhaban.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan, team leader Azfaruzzaman Sohrab and manager Najir Ahmed Alok were also present.

"There is not other team at under-17 level in the country and we cannot really measure our real stand while playing against senior teams. In this tournament, we would be able to pick up our lacks and correct the mistakes," said Roxy, a former national footballer

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A WHITE ELEPHANT? A desolate Saifur Rahman Stadium in Moulvibazar which is yet to stage any competitive game since it was built a year ago.



PHOTO: STAR

## Zia shares top spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman kept the top spot along with fifteen others after the end of the third round of the Open FIDE Rating Chess Tournament at the federation hall room yesterday.

Zia beat Mainuddin to secure maximum three points.

IM Abdullah Al Rakib, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, FM Rezaul Haque, Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, Mohammad Javed, Debaraj Chattarjee, Sohel Chowdhury, Mohammad Hasan Enam, Uten, Monir Hossain, Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Abdul Majed and Alimul Haque Kajal were the other players who won their successive third games to share the lead.

## Saifur of no use

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

The M Saifur Rahman Stadium which was built with a staggering 7.5 crore taka, has been lying useless even after a year of its official unveiling, due to the poor condition of the playing area.

Not a single tournament of any sport (cricket or football) could be organised over the last year due to the incapability of the stadium, disappointing hundreds of sporting people.

Interestingly, the Finance Minister dished out such a massive amount of money although he is famous for his usual miserly stance toward sports.

Constructed over an area of 1800 sq feet, the stadium houses a one-tier gallery, a building for the District Sports Association (DSA) office and

a dressing room in addition to the actual ground. The construction work, done by as many as four Dhaka-based firms, was completed after four phases and much beyond the original schedule.

But ever since Saifur Rahman opened the stadium in his hometown in April 2005, the bumpy and hazardous ground kept athletes away from it.

It is alleged that, though it was mentioned in the work schedule that earth filling would be done with alluvial soil, it was hilly red earth and sands that replaced the originally planned substance.

This apart, a special type of grass was also expected to be planted but as it was sidestepped, leading to further unevenness of the ground.

A meeting of Moulvibazar DSA, chaired by Deputy Commissioner of

the district and DSA president Mohammed Eunusur Rahman was held on July 16 and the faulty construction of the stadium was discussed in the meeting. The DSA has decided to place the issue to the National Sports Council (NSC), which holds the bragging rights of constructing any sporting facilities in the country.

It was learned from the sources present at the meeting that the disappointed DSA president locked the main gate of the stadium after the meeting on that day. But curiously, DSA general secretary Mohammed Yousuf Ali opened the gate the next day for unknown reasons.

When contacted Yousuf said that he opened the gate only to mow the sprouting blade of grass. But his explanation hardly failed to satisfy the sports lovers in the northeastern district of the country.

He however admitted that several holes and cracks have been developing in the galleries and office buildings of the stadium already.

Yousuf said that the expensive stadium has been constructed with severe faults but laid the blame of the irregularities on the engineers from NSC.

Meanwhile, local football and cricket players are expected to start a movement for a suitable playground at Moulvibazar. They expressed their frustration as the stadium was built to enhance the sporting culture of the region.

It is reported that at least fifteen sportsmen have left the sports arena, mainly due to the lack of progress, in the shape of competitions and other activities. Even practice sessions are increasingly becoming impossible at the stadium.

## No Pak complaints

Cricket

REUTERS, Leeds

Pakistan did not take the easy option after losing the third Test and the four-match series against England at Headingley on Tuesday.

It would have been easy, understandable even, for them to leave the ground cursing the names of umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove. Perhaps they did but, if so, it was done in private and that was to their credit.

There is no doubt that the touring side, in losing by 167 runs after scoring 538 in their first innings at Headingley, did not get the rub of the green.

First they lost the toss, which never helps. Then they 'dismissed' Kevin Pietersen for two in the first innings, a delivery from fast bowler Shahid Nazir clipping the edge of the bat as well as Pietersen's back leg on the way to the wicketkeeper, only for Hair to keep his finger down.

Pietersen went on to add 133 more runs before he was finally dismissed as the top-scorer in the home side's agenda-setting first innings of 515.

Doctrove proved as hesitant in the second innings when Andrew Strauss survived a huge appeal for lbw against leg-spinner Danish Kaneria. The England captain had been on 29 at that stage. He continued all the way to 116, the highest second-innings score by any batsman on either side.

"If we had got him out, or caught

Marcus Trescothick early on, and kept their stand down to 20 as we should have done, we might well have been chasing 180," conceded Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer. "Unfortunately it didn't happen that way."

There were a couple of other such decisions, against Alastair Cook in the first innings and Paul Collingwood in the second, which went against the visitors, although those proved far less costly. Almost as galling, they took two other wickets during the match off no-balls.

Woolmer remained steadfastly gracious in defeat.

"England played very well," he said. "They played better than us throughout the series, it's as simple as that. We made too many mistakes. We never quite got it together as a team."

And Woolmer was right. To an extent, you make your own luck. Pakistan failed to do that, just as they have done earlier in the series.

In the drawn first Test they dropped half a dozen chances. At Headingley they dropped Pietersen, although he had got to three figures by then, and, much more pertinently, gave the out-of-form Trescothick two huge let-offs early in his second innings.

The result? He put on a decisive 158 for the first wicket with Strauss in a stand which went a long way to win the game.

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## Aussies feel let down

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Cricket commentator Dean Jones was accused of tarnishing Australia's reputation for racial tolerance Wednesday after labelling a South African Muslim player a "terrorist" during a Test in Sri Lanka.

Jones was sacked by his TV employers after saying on air "the terrorist has got another wicket" when bearded Muslim Hashim Amla caught Sri Lankan batsman Kumar Sangakkara during the second Test in Colombo on Monday.

Jones's return home in disgrace made front-page news across Australia, with the Melbourne Age declaring "Gone! Deano caught out by 'terrorist' remark" and the Sydney Morning Herald headlining its story "Me and my big mouth."

Sydney's Daily Telegraph detailed other foot-in-mouth moments by Australian-based commentators, including Tony Greig's remark "Do you think she's been flown in?" when the camera panned to a wedding between a Filipina woman and Caucasian man during an idle moment in a Sydney cricket match.

The Herald said in a comment piece that Jones's outburst deserved condemnation and displayed a

serious problem in Australian sport that needed to be addressed.

"Yet again a racism controversy has rattled international sport. And, yet again, an Australian is at its epicentre," it said.

"Racial insensitivity is a real and a serious issue in Australian sport. Unsavoury? Perhaps, but it's better to be stung by the truth than appeased by a distortion of it."

It cited allegations earlier this year that Australian crowds called South African players "kaffirs" and the 2003 suspension of batsman Darren Lehmann for derogatory comments directed at Sri Lankan players.

However, the condemnation was far from universal. Melbourne's top-rating commercial radio station 3AW confirmed Jones would return to its commentary box for upcoming internationals Down Under, including The Ashes against England.

"We haven't had a lot of people getting upset about what he said on talkback," a station spokeswoman told AFP.

"He will be commenting for us this summer, as he does every summer."

Discussion about the controversy on the Telegraph's website mainly supported Jones, with reader Steve Franklin saying "political correctness has gone too far."

Another reader named Farooq

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PHOTO: AFP

SEE, THE ELBOW IS OK: Star Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar (R) addresses something to his captain Rahul Dravid during a practice match in Bangalore on Wednesday.

## Sarfraz urges Inzy to quit

AFP, Islamabad

Former Pakistan fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz said Inzamamul Haq should step down as captain after England scored their first home Test series win against the South Asian team in 24 years.

"In the best interest of the game, Inzamam should retire immediately and (vice-captain) Younis Khan should be made the captain," said Sarfraz, acclaimed as the pioneer of reverse swing.

"Inzamam is scared of short pitched deliveries, he can't even negotiate short balls by a spinner." Burly Inzamam became a figure of fun after his dismissal in the first innings, when he fell into his own stumps attempting a sweep shot against left-arm spinner Monty Panesar.

Sarfraz said poor team selection and a lack of team spirit were to blame for Pakistan's performance. He criticised the picking of both

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## Jones jibe 'unfortunate'

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Indian cricketers and commentators on Wednesday described Dean Jones's "terrorist" jibe as "unfortunate", saying the Australian pundit should have been more careful.

Cricketer-turned-commentator Jones was sacked Tuesday by his TV employers for calling a South African Muslim player a terrorist during the second and final Test in Colombo.

"The terrorist has got another wicket," Jones said on Monday when bearded Hashim Amla took a catch to dismiss Sri Lankan batsman Kumar Sangakkara on the fourth day of the

Test. "You have to be careful about what you say and think if it's likely to hurt anyone. So choice of words is very important," Laxman Sivaramakrishnan, former India leg-spinner and current commentator, told the Times of India.

"This was an unfortunate incident, because knowing Deano he did not mean any offence. It's a basic human error."

Noted commentator Harsha Bhogle said TV experts have to be more careful of what they say and should assume that the microphone is always on.

"There will be some network somewhere who will be on live even when there is a break. We have directional microphone too, so we have to

be very careful," said Bhogle, who has been commenting on the game for more than a decade.

"Sometimes producers do tell us that it is leaking, be careful. I have made up my mind not to swear even when not on air."

Jones, 45, appeared to suggest there was an element of bad luck to the affair.

"There was only one country in the world that didn't take the ad break live and that was South Africa. It was picked up by a few viewers," he said after arriving in Melbourne on Tuesday.

Former India Test batsman Arun Lal said it just one of those

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