

## Hamer on shortlist

SPORTS REPORTER

Australian coach John Hamer was included in the list of probables to coach Bangladesh alongside Dave Houghton and Jamie Siddons, it was revealed during a board meeting yesterday.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahbub Anam said that the three coaches are due in the capital at the end of this month for their interviews. During the first week of August, BCB will decide on their choice.

65-year-old Hamer is currently the senior coach of the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy, a job he has held since 2003.

During the meeting it was also revealed that a three-member committee consisting of ASM Faruque, Afzalur Rahman Sinha and general secretary Mahbub will suggest to the board on the new selection committee as the contract of the existing chief selector Faruque Ahmed and Athar Ali Khan end on July 31. The board will appoint a new selection committee, also on the first week of August.

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## Monirul, Sabura reign at Shitalakhya

UNB, Dhaka

Mohammad Monirul Islam of Rajshahi Alamgir Swimming Club and Sabura Khatun of Kushtia Sagarkhali Swimming Club emerged champions in the Keya Cosmetics 9th National Long Distance Swimming competition held in the Shitalakhya River yesterday.

Celebrated national swimmer Karar Samedul Islam of Bangladesh Navy finished second while Zakirullah of Bangladesh Air Force was third in the men's event.

Montaz Shirin and Lovely Khatun of Bangladesh Ansar finished second and third respectively in the women's competition.

Bangladesh Swimming Federation president and Navy chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam was the chief guest during the competition.

The daylong competition began from the BIWTA VIP terminal in Narayanganj and concluded at the Munshiganj Launch Ghat of the Dhaleswari River.



## Did U Know?

It costs 66 dollars per minute for the electricity to light a large baseball stadium. That's 3,960 dollars per hour.



### Daren Ganga

(West Indies cricketer)

"Human relations, man management skills, these are very, very essential in today's world in any field of work ... having that compassion, having that closeness towards your employees. And the same goes for West Indies cricket."



B.League  
Abahani v Arambagh  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Time: 4:30 pm



PHOTOS: STAR

UMBRELLA FEST: (above) Rain could not deter the Mohammedan faithful from showing up at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to watch their win against Brothers Union. (R) Mohammedan's Nigerian striker Emeka heads the ball during the B.League match against Brothers Union.

# Emeka powers MSC



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club striker Emeka made sure his side stayed alive in the hunt for the championship after his lone strike sunk Brothers Union hopes during their second-leg B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Latching on to a long ball from countryman Divine in the 65th minute, the black and white's Nigerian recruit slotted home the winner past Brothers' goalkeeper Mohammad Ali, who just seconds before had fisted away the ball from Divine's shot.

Interestingly, Emeka also scored the winner in the corre-

sponding fixture earlier in the season.

It was a very important victory for Mohammedan as they now go level on points with arch-rivals and league leaders Abahani on 38 points from 18 matches while the Orange remained at mid-table with 23 points from 18 outings. Abahani, however, have a chance to go three points clear if they win today's match against Arambagh.

Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik stated that they now have a good chance to grab the first-ever B. League title, although their Dhanmondi-based rivals still have a match in hand.

"We'll be taking the two remaining matches very seriously. Even if we win all the two matches, we will still have to wait for Abahani's results," said the former national player.

About the day's performance, he commented that he was satisfied with his players, adding, "The boys played absolutely superb."

Manik's counterpart and new Bangladesh coach Syed Nayeemuddin mentioned a slippery ground but also admitted failure.

"We missed some scoring chances in the beginning of the match," he said.

The Oranges manager Amer Khan said, "The match against Mohammedan was a matter of prestige for us, as we failed to win any match against the big teams in the league. And once again, we failed to win."

Earlier, Zahid Hossain Emily's cross was cleared by Rony in the Brothers' defence in the tenth minute but the ever-alert Divine fired in the loose ball from 30 yards but the shot was parried away by Ali for a corner.

Brothers had a string of chances in the first-half but were thwarted. First it was Jalaluddin whose curved effort in the 21st minute off a ball sent into the penalty area from Brothers' Nigerian player

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# 'Applaud Murali'



AFP, Sydney

Andrew Symonds on Saturday urged Australian cricket fans not to taunt Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidaran if he passes Shane Warne's Test wicket world record while touring Down Under this year.

Australian crowds have regularly abused Murali since he was twice called for throwing, with even Prime Minister John Howard labelling him a chucker.

There are fears the harassment, which led to the spinner boycotting a tour Down Under in 2004, will intensify if he eclipses Shane Warne's 708 Test wicket haul on Australian soil later this year.

Australian all-rounder

Symonds, Muralidaran's former teammate at English county side Lancashire, said he would be embarrassed if the Australian crowds failed to acknowledge his achievement.

"I just hope the beer drinkers in the sun don't give him a hard time and late one afternoon if he breaks the record they start on him," Symonds told Australian Associated Press.

"I hope that doesn't happen, I hope people can stand up and actually applaud him for what he is - a legend."

Muralidaran has 700 Test wickets and is likely to overtake Warne's 708 in one of the two Tests between Sri Lanka and home side Australia in November.

Symonds said if Murali snared the record, he did not want the

Australian crowd to sour the moment.

"Definitely it would be embarrassing for us as a team if they didn't (applaud him)," Symonds told AAP.

"We respect him for his skills and for what he has done and I think it would be rude, straight out rude, if they didn't sort of respect him and give him the pat on the back he deserves."

Controversy over the bowler's action exploded publicly on Boxing Day 1995 when Australian umpire Darrell Hair called Murali seven times for throwing, creating a furore.

He was subsequently called during a one-day series in Australia, which almost prompted

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# A fatal illness!



BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

Has Mohammad Ashraful ever learnt from his mistakes? The answer is no. And especially after the batting icon of Bangladesh got himself out in the first one-day international against Sri Lanka at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on Friday, the sentiment has grown even louder.

Will this talented yet highly erratic right-hander ever learn from his mistakes? If you are optimistic then you are putting your money for a lost cause since the past record hardly speaks in his favour.

He went on an ambitious hook shot against Dilhara Fernando when it was absolutely unnecessary in the first ODI that Bangladesh surrendered meekly after a bright start. It was however not for the first time in the tour he gifted his wicket.

Take for instance Ashraful's first innings of the tour. The 23-year-old Bangladesh captain threw away his wicket in almost identical fashion against the same bowler a mistimed pull shot and an easy catch at backward square leg.

"I will not make the same mistake," Ashraful promised after his first blunder of the tour and many felt that the burden of captaincy

would make him more responsible in shot selection.

But he hardly kept his word save his unbeaten 129 in the second innings of the second Test at the same venue.

However, his comical display on Friday has bordered beyond any logic at a stage when Bangladesh sniffed an opportunity to pull off a victory against the world's second-ranked side.

It was acceptable when Tushar Imran, playing his first match after a long time, was out leg before or out-of-form Shakib Al-Hasan was caught behind for a duck. But it was inexplicable how a captain, with the experience of more than 100 ODIs under his belt played such a rash shot when the occasion demanded him to re-build the innings with opener Shahriar Nafees against an attack that lacked the necessary bite in the absence of two front line bowlers Muttiah Muralidaran and Chaminda Vaas.

A team like Bangladesh seldom gets the chance to restrict an imposing Sri Lankan batting to 234 and then score 45 runs for no loss inside 11 overs. But Ashraful's one stroke of madness coupled with the injudicious shuffle of the batting order eventually spoiled the brilliant effort of the bowlers.

The captain in question accepted it.

"Believe me I went into the middle with a mind set of avoiding the pull shots, but I made the same mistake," said Ashraful while reflecting on his latest gaffe.

"I am ready to accept all the blame. All the other batsmen have reasons for their dismissals but there was no excuse in my case. I can't still believe that we lost the match. What a great opportunity we spoiled," lamented Ashraful.

While Ashraful talked a lot after the failure, it was however all quiet at the team management front. Bangladesh is carrying large tour management party that included former national captain Akram Khan as selector and an Australian tagged as 'interim coach' who is as fascinated with the word 'positive' as his captain is with the term 'learning from mistakes'.

"No doubt it was disappointing the way we lost the match because we were in a position to win it. But I don't want to criticise any individual player because the whole squad is disappointed by the outcome," responded coach Shaun Williams.

"I think still there were lot of positive things for us as we dominated the match till 60 overs and our bowling was tremendous," said Shaun Williams.

## Handball semis today

UNB, Dhaka

Holders BJMC, Bangladesh Ansar & VDP, Dhaka and Fairpur moved into the semifinals of the Basic Bank 18th National Women's Handball Championship after they won their respective matches at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

In the semifinals today, Ansar & VDP meet Dhaka while BJMC face Fairpur at 3:30pm at the same venue.

In the day's first match yesterday, Fairpur defeated Magura 10-6 after dominating the first half 5-2. Rosy scored five times for the winners.

In the second match, Ansar & VDP dumped Madaripur 21-5 after cruising in the first half 10-3. Rumi scored six goals for Ansar & VDP.

In another match, BJMC outplayed Rajshahi 19-4 with Dalia scoring eight times.

In the day's last match, hosts Dhaka beat Panchagarh 13-9 with Akherun contributing 12 goals.

## Speed to quit ICC

BBC ONLINE, undated

Malcolm Speed is to step down from his position as chief executive of the International Cricket Council in June.

Cricket's world governing body says Speed, 58, will not seek an extension of his deal when it expires in 2008.

"He made a decision ages ago that he was not going to seek renewal of his contract," said an ICC spokesman.

"It has long been Malcolm's intention to retire at 60 and his current contract takes him a couple of months short of his 60th birthday."

Speed headed the Australian cricket board prior to succeeding Dave Richards as the figurehead of the ICC.

During Speed's reign the ICC departed Lord's, the body's home for almost a century, to move to Dubai in 2005.

Recently he came under fire for the seemingly never-ending World Cup and was at the centre of the Darrell Hair affair last summer following the forfeited Test between England and Pakistan at the Brit Oval.

## PCB agrees on T20 tie

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan have agreed to play a special Twenty20 match against India to raise money for a cricket academy to be named after their late coach, Bob Woolmer.

He was planning to build the academy in South Africa to help develop the game at grassroots level.

And his widow, Gill, wants the project to go ahead despite his death during the World Cup earlier this year.

She hopes the match will be staged either in India or England, but no date has yet been fixed.

A statement issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board said they "fully supported" the idea.

"The PCB has already communicated to Gill Woolmer its commitment to play this match and will certainly opt for any venue that the host board agrees upon be it ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) or BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India).

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## ESPN warns against piracy

PTI, New Delhi

Armed with a Delhi High Court order against piracy of the ongoing India-England cricket series, sports broadcaster ESPN Star on Saturday warned cable operators of strict action if they violated it.

The Delhi High Court had on Thursday restrained 104 cable operators across India from telecasting or transmission of the ongoing cricket series, which began on July 19, without license from the broadcaster.

"We are stepping up our monitoring mechanism to tackle this issue so that the court order is followed and strict action is taken against cable operators who telecast cricket matches illegally," ESPN Star Software Vice President Rajesh Kaul told PTI.

He said non-compliance of the order by any cable operator would tantamount to contempt of court.

ESPN holds exclusive rights

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# Anderson hits India hard



AFP, London

James Anderson took a Test-best five for 42 as England took charge of the first Test against India at Lord's here Saturday.

Anderson, playing his first Test since January's final Ashes clash in Sydney and his first at home since 2004, led the way as India were bowled out for 201 to give England a first innings lead of 97.

Left-arm Ryan Sidebottom followed up with four for 65 as the two seamers, in the absence of injured quicks Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison and Andrew Flintoff, got England back into the match after the hosts had collapsed to 298 all out.

At lunch, England were eight without loss in their second innings, a lead of 105. Andrew Strauss was nought not out and fellow left-hander Alastair Cook unbeaten on eight.

Anderson, whose previous Test best of five for 73 also came at Lord's, during his debut match against Zimbabwe in 2003, added Sourav Ganguly to a list of wickets that already included fellow star

batsmen Rahul Dravid, the India captain, and Sachin Tendulkar.

India resumed on 145 for four with Ganguly -- who scored a hundred at Lord's in his Test debut 11 years ago -- 25 not out and nightwatchman RP Singh unbeaten on five.

Ganguly though was clean bowled for 34 by an Anderson delivery that swung back into the left-hander in Saturday's sixth over to leave India 155 for five.

Meanwhile debutant quick Chris Tremlett, who shortly before the second day's collected his first Test wicket when he caught and bowled top-scorer Wasim Jaffer for 58, after the opener had been put down on nought by wicketkeeper Matt Prior, continued to bowl with good pace and aggression.

Anderson, after a fine spell of one wicket for two runs in four overs, was replaced by Sidebottom.

And with his fifth ball Sidebottom had Singh skying to Anderson at mid-off for a Test-best 17.

Singh's exit brought in hard-hitting wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

However, a ball after hesitantly guiding Anderson just short of the

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PHOTO: AFP

England paceman James Anderson celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Sourav Ganguly on the third day of the first Test at Lord's on Saturday.