



India opener Dinesh Karthik pulls one on way to scoring a solid 91 on the first day of the third and final Test against England at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Meril Media Cup football from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Meril Media Cup football tournament organised by Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) kicks off today with 24 teams taking part in the seven-a-side competition for journalists.

Eight matches will be played on the opening day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The eight group winners will play in the quarterfinals on Monday while the semifinals are scheduled for the next day.

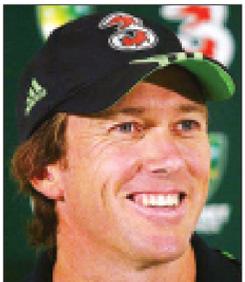
The final and the third-place deciding match are slated for Thursday.

National Sports Council (NSC) secretary Aminul Islam Khan will declare the meet open.



## Did U Know?

The motto for the Olympic Games is Citius Altius Fortius. Translated, it means Faster Higher Stronger.



## Glenn McGrath

(Former Australian fast bowler)  
"I think I played as long as I could mentally. Physically the body feels great, but the mental side of it is another thing."  
On why he decided to quit international cricket.



ESPN  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live from 8:30 pm

## India make solid start

Cricket

AFP, London

James Anderson led England's fightback on the opening day of the third and final Test against India at The Oval here Thursday with two important wickets.

At tea series-leaders India, who had been 189 for one and on the way to building a lead which would have made their 1-0 advantage all but impregnable, were 211 for three with Anderson having taken two for 55 in 15 overs.

Sachin Tendulkar was two not out and Sourav Ganguly eight not out after opener Dinesh Karthik had made 91.

India resumed after lunch on 117 for one with opener Karthik 50 not out and Rahul Dravid, who'd won the toss and chosen to bat on a good pitch, unbeaten on 25.

In the second over after the break Karthik, on 58, gave a sharp chance when he was dropped at short extra-cover by Andrew Strauss following a powerfully-struck drive off left-arm spinner Monty Panesar.

Dravid then responded to England captain Michael Vaughan's decision to post two fielders close in at short extra-cover by stylishly driving Panesar between the pair of them for four. Karthik then used his feet well to go down the pitch to drive Panesar for six over extra-cover.

Dravid, who in India's last Test at

The Oval five years ago scored 217, went on to complete an 82-ball fifty with eight fours. But a stand of 127 was ended when Dravid, on 55, was bowled by Anderson's yorker.

Tendulkar, one of several India players who could be playing their last Test in England, walked out to an ovation from several sets of spectators.

He was still on nought when pace bowler Anderson let loose a huge appeal for a well-held 'catch' at leg slip by Ian Bell.

But the ball had clearly come off Tendulkar's chest and unimpressed umpire Steve Bucknor turned down the appeal.

No India batsman has so far made a hundred this series. It seemed as if Karthik, whose lone Test hundred came against minnows Bangladesh earlier this year, was about to end that sequence.

But nine runs short of a century he played an airy shot outside off-stump against left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom and edged to wicketkeeper Matt Prior. India had now seen 189 for two become 199 for three.

In all, Karthik faced 151 balls with one six and 10 fours.

Wasim Jaffer was the only man out in the morning, caught for a dashing 35 when going well by Kevin Pietersen off Anderson, having previously cut the bowler for six in the same region.

The first wicket duo's fifty partnership came up in 81 balls.

But soon afterwards Jaffer gave

his wicket away when he cut a short ball from Anderson to Pietersen, standing several yards in from the boundary at third man. Jaffer's innings also featured six fours.

Both sides were unchanged from the teams that played the second Test at Trent Bridge where India won by seven wickets.

England need to win this match to maintain their six-year unbeaten run in home Test series.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the third and final Test between England and India at The Oval in London on Thursday:

INDIA: First innings	
Karthik c Prior b Sidebottom	91
Jaffer c Pietersen b Anderson	35
Dravid b Anderson	55
Tendulkar not out	2
Ganguly not out	8
Extras: (b-16, w-1, nb-3)	20
Total: (For 3 wks in 56 overs)	211
Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-189, 3-199	
To bat: Laxman, Dhoni, Kumble, Zaheer, RP Singh, Sreesanth	
Bowler	O M R W
Sidebottom	17 4 59 1
Anderson	15 5 55 2
Tremlett	11 0 38 0
Panesar	13 2 43 0

ENGLAND: Strauss, Cook, Vaughan, Pietersen, Collingwood, Bell, Prior, Tremlett, Sidebottom, Panesar, Anderson

Toss: India.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor and Ian Howell.

## Hockey team for Asia Cup named

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday announced an 18-member squad for the 7th Asia Cup to be held in India.

It would be the first time the Bangladesh team would be without veteran and number one goalkeeper Rasel Khan Bappi who did not join the national camp. Also missing is playmaker and national captain Musa Mia.

The skipper would be named within a few days.

According to a revised fixture, the 10-day event will begin on August 31 in Chennai instead of September 1.

The players, who were finally selected on conclusion of a warm-up tournament following long-term camp, have been requested to report to the coach and manager tomorrow at 7 am.

Bangladesh have been placed in a very tough Group B with hosts India, Korea, China, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore make up Group A.

### THE SQUAD

Zahid Hossain, Mahbubullah Shakil, Issa Mia, Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Yamin Hossain, Shamsuddin Tuhin, Mustafizur Rahman Dinar, Imran Hasan Pintu, Tabib -e-Noor, Khondokar Hasan Ahmed, Shahidullah Titu, Kamruzzaman Rana, Rahul Kanti Roy, Mosharrar Hossain Kutu, Russell Mahmud Jimmy, Zahidul Islam Rajan, Zahid Bin Talib Shuva and Iqbal Nader Prince.

Standby: Mehrab Hossain Kiran, Tapash Barman, Shahidul Islam and Sheikh Mohammad Nannu.

## BCB to give Dipu legal support

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday confirmed that it would help the arrested Dipu Roy Chowdhury with legal aid.

"As and where required, we will give him legal support because he is our employee," said media committee chairman Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby during the press conference at the board headquarters.

On Wednesday night, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the former national cricketer and his wife Anifa Chowdhury from a Banani house on charge of forgery and embezzling a large amount of money from illegal manpower trade. Rab-1 recovered five passports from Dipu, who also allegedly sent players abroad for the past five years. The players, who were supposed to play for local clubs, did not return to the country and have been living there ever since.

Back in 2002, the former fast bowler deceived many in the name of sending them to Canada.

Dipu Roy Chowdhury was a left-arm fast bowler who played for Bangladesh on several occasions. He is a bowling coach with the Bangladesh Academy team.

## Zia only surprise



SPORTS REPORTER

While the rest of the top cricket teams opted for a mix of experience and youth for the coming Twenty20 World Championship, Bangladesh were no exception.

The 15-member squad that was picked by the national selection panel yesterday had little surprise as it included three fresh faces in Junaed Siddique Imroz, Ziaur Rahman and Nazim Uddin.

Junaed and Nazim both looked certain to book their flights to South Africa for the extravaganza of the shortest version of international cricket following a tremendous season.

But Abahani pacesman Zia's name hardly came in speculations as Tapash Baisya was expecting a return to the national fold, only to be grounded for lack of fitness.

The selectors had the final say as the ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) approved its choice in yesterday's meeting before officially announcing it at a press briefing with media and communications committee

chairman Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby and all three selectors present.

"We have mostly picked youngsters. It's a young team but the experience is there," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed.

"It would be an intense competition and we have selected capable players who have proved themselves at different levels.

"Zia has had a good season and he has a bright future," Faruque told of the Abahani fast bowler whose batting down the order would also be handy.

Like Zia, Junaed and Nazim are also tested. Both batted magnificently well in the last domestic league and are in good touch," added the former national captain.

Middle-order Nazim was not only consistent in the league for champions Abahani but also with the A team against England and Sri Lanka while left-handed opener Junaed's power-packed batting helped Mohammedan lift the Twenty20 league title.

"I hope this would prove an exciting team. Kapali's recall would definitely strengthen the middle order and his fielding and leg-break would be a plus point. There was never any doubt about his (Kapali) talent and after a poor season, he made a tremendous comeback and almost made it to

the national team again. This is a good time to use his all-round qualities.

"We have a group of players who have all-round capabilities and it is a type of cricket where it would make the difference."

In reply to a question whether he felt comfortable taking only three specialist pacers to South Africa where wickets will be bouncy, Faruque said bowlers had little work in Twenty20s.

"One bowler gets just four overs. We have Forhad (Reza) and Aftab (Ahmed) as backups."

The chief selector, however, had a little worry of how the batsmen would cope with seam-friendly pitches.

"Our batting looks great for conditions of the sub-continent. The bounce the wickets in South Africa offers does not suit us. That is why we tried to increase our batting depth."

"We have two official warm-up games before the tournament and I hope the batsmen adjust fast to the conditions."

In a tournament where batting will dictate the terms, Bangladesh must rely on the established players like captain Mohammad Ashraful, Aftab, Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan and Nadif Chowdhury with all-round support

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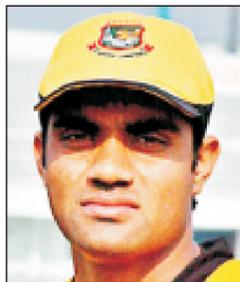
### JUNAED SIDDIQUE

Major Teams: Rajshahi, Mohammedan

Right-handed batsman  
Batting averages

Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	
List A	15	15	0	341	104	22.73	1	2

Note: List A are the one-day matches of National Cricket League.



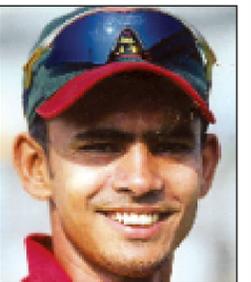
### ZIAUR RAHMAN

Born: December 2, 1986

Major teams: Bangladesh Under-19s, Abahani, Khulna

Bowling style Right-arm fast-medium  
Bowling averages

Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	Econ
List A	14	495	18	5/24	27.5	4.62



### NAZIMUDDIN

Born: October 1, 1985

Major teams: Bangladesh A, Bangladesh Under-19s, Chittagong, Abahani

Batting style Right-hand bat  
Batting averages

Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	
List A	36	35	0	814	108	23.25	1	4

## Sarwan recalls shock drop

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ramaresh Sarwan has called the experience of being dropped from Test squad in Pakistan last November one of the most shocking incidents of his life and hit out against the team management of the day, calling it a political decision.

"I was in the dressing-room on the morning of the Test preparing to go out for batting practice when Brian (Lara) approached me and said I was not playing," Sarwan told the Jamaica Gleaner. "I was very shocked but I said nothing and went out to do some batting drills. I don't think my omission was justified. I was very angry because there was no specific reason given for the decision to drop me."

"It made me understand that sport is also about politics and that people would do what's necessary to accomplish their own goals, whatever that might be. It was a very

humiliating experience, but I think it has made me stronger as a person."

Lara had insisted at that time that the move wasn't "designed as a drop," and Sarwan had a key role to play in West Indies cricket. "He will come back from this and come back stronger. It wasn't designed as a drop," Lara said on November 24. "We just wanted to make him aware of the situation and come back stronger. We need him and we need him to take control."

Sarwan went on to replace Lara as the captain of the West Indies team. However, he injured his right shoulder while attempting to stop a boundary during the tour of England and had to return home. Chris Gayle replaced him and led West Indies to series win in the one-dayers against England.

The good news for West Indies is that Sarwan has recovered fully from the shoulder injury. "I am ready to go, I have started to do some shadow batting and the pain has subsided," Sarwan said. He spent last week in Toronto, receiving laser

and acupuncture treatment and active release therapy from chiropractor and acupuncturist Dr Rudy Singh.

Looking back at the injury, Sarwan said he regretted the way he dived to make the stop. "I was in two minds as I was going after the ball. I wanted to dive earlier, but by the time I realised I was very close to the boundary, I lunged forward and fell awkwardly. Looking back, it was obviously not the right thing to do."

"I have been unfortunate with injuries recently, but hopefully I will remain healthy for a long period." Sarwan suffered a small hairline fracture in his right foot during a Test match in Pakistan last year and had to miss the five-match ODI series. He also missed this year's Caribbean series after he had injured his hand while batting for Guyana.

## Giles calls it a day

Cricket

AFP, London

Ashley Giles became Thursday the first member of England's victorious 2005 Ashes side to announce his retirement from cricket.

The 34-year-old left-arm spinner has been struggling with a hip injury for over a year.

Giles took 143 wickets in 54 Tests and one of his best performances came during his final appearance at The Oval where he made a Test-best 59 and shared in a decisive 109-run eighth wicket stand with Kevin Pietersen, which secured the draw that won the Ashes two years ago.

His Test debut was against South Africa at Old Trafford in 1998 and his final Test match was against Australia in Adelaide in December 2006.

Giles, in a statement issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), said: "Following guidance from my hip surgeon, Dr Marc Philippon, I am very sorry to announce that I am retiring from all forms of cricket with immediate effect."

He added: "I had hoped to make a full recovery and return to playing over the next few months but the advice I have received means that there is no chance of me returning to cricket at any level."

Giles, who also played 178 County Championship matches for Warwickshire, added: "I would have

liked to have left cricket at the very top still playing the game that I have always loved and whether it be on the village green or Test arena.

"But I have no regrets. I will always have great memories of being part of a fantastic Warwickshire and England dressing room."

"It has been a huge honour to play for my country and to play a part in one of the most successful periods in its cricketing history. I dreamt of playing cricket for England and winning the Ashes as a child and so to be part of that magical summer of

Warwickshire and England for giving me such great support during difficult periods of injury and rehabilitation. I wish both teams great success in the coming years."

England captain Michael Vaughan added: "Ashley's retirement is very sad news and everyone in the England dressing room will miss his professionalism and, of course, his sense of humour."

"In my view, Ashley has to be one of the most underrated cricketers ever to pull on an England shirt. He was a key member of the England Test side which won six successive Test series and I know how much his teammates valued his contributions to our success."

Giles, having played in the first two of England's Test in Pakistan in November 2005 was then sidelined by hip trouble.

But he recovered in time to be controversially chosen ahead of Monty Panesar for the first two Tests of the 2006-07 Ashes.

However, after returning home early from Australia for family reasons, he got injured again and has now had three operations in the last 18 months.

During his England career he was often criticised for bowling in a defensive fashion, although that had much to do with the tactics of then England captain Nasser Hussain, whose oft-repeated comments the team needed a "mystery

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ASHLEY GILES



Bangladesh cricket's chief selector Faruque Ahmed (L) addresses a press conference organised to announce the Twenty20 World Championship squad at Bangladesh Cricket Board's Management Office in Gulshan yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR