



## Did U Know?

Badminton made its debut as an Olympic sport in the 1992 Barcelona Games.



**Anil Kumble**  
(Star India leg-spinner)  
"I have achieved what everyone dreams of when you start playing. Throughout my career I've put a price on my wicket. I know as a bowler how difficult it is to get a wicket."

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## Shoaib in for more penalty

CRICINFO, undated

Shoaib Akhtar may face more action from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on his alleged outburst at the board's headquarters in Gaddafi Stadium on Friday, following the imposition of a fine of approximately 5000 dollars.

On Friday, Shoaib reportedly clashed with several board officials over the fine, and specifically because he felt he wasn't provided a chance to clear his position. The board announced his punishment on Wednesday, after Shoaib did not turn up on Tuesday to clarify why he was absent from the national training camp in Karachi on August 4.

Shoaib has reportedly insisted that he received the letter for the original disciplinary hearing on Friday, and not Tuesday as the board claims. Shafiqat Naghmi, the board's chief operating officer, however, contradicted this, telling Dawn that he had been in touch with Shoaib earlier.

"Shoaib rang me up and admitted that it was wrong of him not to attend the camp in Karachi and the PCB had rightly imposed a fine on him," said Naghmi. "He expressed annoyance over the manner in which one of the PCB officials had inquired of his whereabouts from his family."

Naghmi said he will be looking into the matter now personally. "I will be in Lahore on Monday and will inquire from the PCB staff about the actual incident which happened on Friday," he said. "After that, we will then decide on a course of action."

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## Tatenda 'not after money'

CRICINFO, undated

Tatenda Taibu has insisted that money was not the motivation for his return to the Zimbabwe side, maintaining that it was a desire to play international cricket that made him go back.

Taibu quit Zimbabwe in November 2005 after he claimed he and his family were threatened by people with connections to the board. He attempted to find a career in Bangladesh, England and Namibia but failed to establish himself.

Cynics may argue that Taibu's return has been forced on him because he had run out of alternatives, but speaking to The Sunday Telegraph, he was quick to deny that. "My wife was tired of travelling and asked if we could come back home and I agreed," he said. "She was against the idea of me

# Top players to go to Nehru Cup

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Syed Nayeemuddin finally chose to take the best possible team to Nehru Cup in India as it had been expected.

The new Bangladesh coach named his first national team yesterday alongside the second string side, which will participate in the Merdeka Cup in Malaysia.

Although the initial plan of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) had been to strike balance between the two sides for this month's two international meets, former Indian international and coach Nayeem opted to give exposure to the team that would be the base of the SAFF Championship squad.

Centre-back Nazrul Islam, who has had an outstanding season with B. League champions Abahani, will lead Bangladesh in the Nehru Cup against teams like Syria, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia and hosts India. Goalkeeper Biplab Bhattacharjya has been chosen his deputy.

The team also include Muktijoddha striker Alfaz Ahmed, who returns to the national fold from international retirement to partner Zahid Hassan Emily, the Abahani

star voted player of the country's inaugural professional football league.

A mix of experience and youth, Nayeemuddin's side also have four new caps -- third keeper Mamun

## SQUADS

**MERDEKA CUP:** Goalkeepers: MN Shakil, Mazharul Islam Himel; defenders: Hassan Al Mamun, Parvez Babu, Amit Khan Shuvra, Arfat Rony, Mahmudul Hassan, Akram Hossain, Jahirul Islam; midfielders: Matur Rahman Munna, Jumratul Islam Mithu, Arup Baidya, Mamunul Islam, Enamul Haque Sharif, Rony Islam; forwards: Saifur Rahman Moni, Mohammed Rony and GM Mamun.

**Officials:** Asaduzzaman Khasru (coach), Amirul Islam Babu (manager), Hasanuzzaman Babloo (coach), Ujjal Chakrabarty Shibu (assistant coach) and Monirul Amin Shammi (physician).

**NEHRU CUP:** Goalkeepers: Biplab Bhattacharjya, Ziaur Rahman Zia, Mamun Khan; defenders: Feroz Mahmud Titu, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Rajani Kanta Barman, Nazrul Islam, Anifur Islam, SM Rajib, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat; midfielders: Mehdi Hassan Ujjal, Aman Aziz, Abul Hossain, Zahid Hossain, Zahed Parvez, Akramuzzaman Liton; forwards: Alfaz Ahmed, Mohammed Robin and Zahid Hassan Emily.

**Officials:** Shafiqul Islam (team leader), Mojammeel Haque Mukta (manager), Syed Nayeemuddin (coach), Golam Jilani (assistant coach), Debashis Chowdhury (physician).

Khan, fullbacks Mishu and Rajib and midfielder Liton apart from defender Saikat, who had previously represented the national Olympic team.

Three of the four newcomers played for Farashganj while Mishu was impressive with Sheikh Russel. Veteran local coach Hasanuzzaman Babloo will be in charge of the Malaysia-bound team with Hassan Al Mamun getting the armband.

The ace Muktijoddha rightback had missed international activities in the entire last season due to injury and it would help him to fightback into the main side in near future.

It would comparatively be the more experienced team with veterans like Parvez Babu, Mahmudul Hassan, Matur Munna and Saifur Rahman Moni all having previous international experience.

Moni, however, will be the only seasoned striker with two Mohammedan first-timers -- Mohammedan's Mohammed Rony and Khulna Abahani's GM Mamun -- chosen as his partners.

"It was very difficult to select two teams simultaneously. In such a short time with weather being a constant hazard, we hardly had the time to play match," said

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Superstar batsman Sachin Tendulkar, dismissed by James Anderson in the second innings of the final Test on Sunday, walks off the Brit Oval in what could be his last Test innings on English soil.

## Tigers snorkel on Day 2

SPORTS REPORTER

The second day of the Tigers' commando training programme in Sylhet has gone to plan, even though there was a slight injury to all-rounder Alok Kapali.

After a three-kilometre run early in the morning, captain Mohammad Ashraful led his charges through rappelling, building climbing and mountain climbing throughout a windy and cloudy day.

The day ended with the national players taking part in a snorkelling stint at Lala Khal in Shari Ghat.

"The boys are happier today because of the weather but it was a very challenging day," said team operations manager Tanjib Ansan Saad while he talked to the Daily Star during their trip back from the snorkelling session.

"It is a different feeling for some of these boys to have done the work in combat attire and they are enjoying these different programmes."

But Kapali's injury, on his big toe, was the dampener. But it is expected that he will recover for today's tougher programme, which also includes hiking.

## Yadav in line for ICL

CRICINFO, undated

Jai Prakash Yadav, the Indian all-rounder, has expressed an interest in joining the Indian Cricket League (ICL). Yadav is currently in negotiations with ICL officials and, if he does sign up, will become the

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# Fans can't take it!

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Two years ago The Oval was the scene of wild celebrations as England won the Ashes for the first time in 18 years.

But on Saturday the mood was one of misery, dejection and even boredom as England faced up to the prospect of a 2-0 home series defeat by India.

Their fans have grown used to winning on home soil -- and the easy 3-0 triumph over a poor West Indies side only built up expectation of another success against the Indians.

But things have not gone to plan. Indeed, England have been convincingly outplayed in the last two Tests.

In 2005, fans roared every Kevin Pietersen slog-sweep with gusto as the series against Australia produced an unforgettable finale.

This time the mood could not have been any flatter as the threat of a second straight Test defeat, and a

mighty thrashing at that, grew ever closer.

Supporters arrived at The Oval hoping for a resilient batting display which would at least restore some pride, even if the series had gone once India piled up 664.

But, after a decent start, spirits plunged just before lunch when the wily leg-spinner Anil Kumble followed up his maiden Test century by getting rid of Alastair Cook and Michael Vaughan in consecutive overs.

Not even Pietersen, so often the star attraction with his extravagant and aggressive strokeplay, could lift the crowd.

The Hampshire man, knowing that England needed to bat for two days, dropped anchor in the way that Sachin Tendulkar had done for India.

At one stage he went 36 minutes without scoring and such was the afternoon torpor the frustrated crowd, some of whom were napping in the sunshine, couldn't even find the energy to get a Mexican wave going.

There wasn't anger (that came

when Matt Prior dropped VVS Laxman on Friday) but an air of resignation at England's sorry plight.

At least an inflatable toy gave one section something to play with -- before the stewards whisked it away.

And a brief flurry of fours from Pietersen finally raised some cheers but it was India's fans who rose to their feet when their hero Tendulkar prized him out with his first ball of gentle leg-spin.

How the Indians whooped and chanted football-style in jubilation; their counterparts could only sit in silence and disbelief.

Even after Paul Collingwood and Ian Bell battled away after tea, one look at the scoreboard brought back the depression.

The Barmy Army was out sung by a lone Indian singing Jerusalem -- and the match, in only its third day of five, seemed to be drifting into a strange No Man's Land.

Once Collingwood and Bell departed so did some spectators,

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## Athers now a Tendulkar fan

PTI, London

Sachin Tendulkar's impressive performances in the ongoing Test series against England has made Michael Atherton eat his words as the former cricketer has expressed "great admiration" for the Indian, admitting he had matured to be "a very fine player now".

"Watching Tendulkar bat throughout this series has been a curious business; his decline at once obvious and yet, since that decline has been accompanied by two telling innings, there comes with it a greater admiration," Atherton wrote in a British newspaper "Daily Telegraph".

"Decline" is a relative term, of course. It is simply that Tendulkar is now a very fine player rather than a very great one," he said after the Indian scored 217 runs and also picked some crucial wickets in the three-match series.

Atherton had joined the intense debate started by former Australian captain Ian Chappell on whether Tendulkar should call it a day in the aftermath of his poor showing in the World Cup by writing a column in the paper under the headline "Sachin Tendulkar, now just a comic hero".

Atherton had also doubted that if sponsorship deals were among the reasons that was keeping Tendulkar going in cricket.

"The truth is that Tendulkar has been marketed as a brand for some time. There are many interested parties who are keen to see Tendulkar wearing India's colours for a while yet..."

"There are only two reasons for carry on playing: if you are good enough, and if you still love the game. Only Tendulkar knows whether that love is alive. Everyone else is painfully aware that, despite his new super-hero status, his powers are very much on the wane," Atherton had said.

## Graveney to tour with team

CRICINFO, undated

David Graveney will accompany England on tour for the first time in his decade as chairman of selectors.

The ECB will ask Graveney to be part of the touring group for this winter's trips to Sri Lanka and New Zealand. In the past he has been present for parts of tours but has always had to make his own travel arrangements and has never been part of the selection process.

Selection matters have been left to a four committee consisting of the coach, the captain and senior players. That came to a head last winter when it was reported that there was a split in the group over whether to pick Ashley Giles or Monty Panesar and Geraint Jones or Chris Read. In the end Duncan Fletcher, the coach, got his way for the start of the series.

Earlier on that tour ECB officials reconfirmed that Graveney was not part of the tour management or selection process, but that position has now changed in the light of the Schofield Report.

# India extend lead

Cricket

AFP, London

Paul Collingwood took two wickets but couldn't prevent India extending their lead in the third and final Test at The Oval here on Sunday.

India, at tea on the fourth day, had slumped to 121 for five in their second innings -- but that still left them 440 runs ahead.

England now needed to set a new Test world record fourth innings winning total, surpassing the 418 for seven made by West Indies against Australia in Antigua in May 2003, if they were to level this series at 1-1.

VVS Laxman and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who'd smashed a rapid 92 in India's record first innings 664, were both 16 not out.

Medium-pace Collingwood's figures of two for 24 were his best in Tests.

India, when rain forced an early lunch, had collapsed to 35 for three with fast bowler James Anderson capturing the prize wicket of Sachin Tendulkar, bowled for one in what

could be his last Test innings in England.

India resumed with captain Rahul Dravid not out and Sourav Ganguly 21 not out.

Left-hander Ganguly continued to counter-attack, cutting 6ft 7in fast bowler Chris Tremlett through the slips for a couple of fours while a becalmed Dravid spent 35 balls on two.

The Indian fourth-wicket pair posted a fifty partnership of which Dravid's share was just five before Ganguly completed a dashing personal fifty in 53 balls with nine fours.

But Ganguly fell for 57 when, trying to force Collingwood -- who before this match had a Test bowling average of 130 -- he was caught by Andrew Strauss on slip.

Dravid took 91 balls to both score his first boundary, a late cut four off left-arm spinner Monty Panesar, and go to double figures.

However, the batsman nicknamed 'The Wall' finally ran out of patience when he too fell to the Collingwood-Strauss combination for 12, made in 140 minutes, and

India were 89 for five.

Alastair Cook dropped a sharp chance at silly point off Panesar when Dhoni was on 11.

England were a bowler light with left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom off the field with a side injury he'd sustained earlier in the match.

Dravid, despite England being bowled out for 345, 120 runs short of the follow-on total of 465, chose to bat again.

He then saw England reduce India to 11 for three inside seven overs with Anderson taking two wickets for no runs in four maiden overs.

Tendulkar, after both openers fell cheaply, walked out to applause.

But he was soon returning to a further ovation, after being bowled by Anderson when an inside-edged drive saw his middle and leg stumps knocked out of the ground.

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# Maria pulls out

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Maria Sharapova's bid for a second title in as many weeks ended with a whimper Saturday as the top-seeded Russian withdrew injured before her scheduled semifinal in a 600,000-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament.

Sharapova said the pain from a lower left leg strain came on suddenly on Saturday afternoon, and despite feverish efforts to combat it with ice, massage and acupuncture

- she didn't feel able to play.

"When I started to warm up, it was getting worse and worse," said Sharapova, whose exit sent fourth-seeded Russian Nadia Petrova into a final against third-seeded Serbian Ana Ivanovich.

Sharapova said she felt discomfort around her shin, which interfered especially with her serve.

"I couldn't lift my foot up on the serve," she said. "I could not run to more than two or three balls. I was in the treatment room trying to get everything done to it, but it didn't help."

Sharapova won her first title of 2007 when she triumphed at San

Diego last Sunday.

She remained optimistic that her success there would prove a springboard to a successful defence of her US Open title, and that her current injury would be resolved soon.

"You never know, but I hope it is only a couple of days," said Sharapova, who said she had a similar ailment in Australia two years ago that didn't linger.

Petrova was disappointed to miss out on a chance to test herself

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Russian star Maria Sharapova answers questions during a press conference after she pulled out of her semifinal against Nadia Petrova of the East West Bank Classic at the Home Depot Center in California on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

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