



## Did U Know?

Cricket will be a demonstration sport at the 2007 Special Olympics in Shanghai, China, to be held over October 2-11.



### Rahul Dravid

(India cricket captain)  
"Tension is a good thing within a team, but it needs to be creative, not destructive. John Wright had similar problems at the start but unlike Greg Chappell he was prepared to adapt. By the end he (Wright) was more Indian than the Indians."

### What to WATCH

TEN Sports  
US Open Tennis  
Day Nine  
Live from 9:00 pm  
ESPN  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live from 8:30 pm

### Shakib getting better

TIGERCRICKET.COM, Nairobi  
All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's injured right index finger is showing signs of improvement.

Shakib, who is nursing an impact fracture, gripped a bat during the Tigers' training at the Nairobi Gymkhana without any discomfort and also took a few catches with a tennis ball yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Uganda team have won the heart of two full members in the tournament after their stunning two-wicket victory against Kenya.

During an official reception on Sunday, the Pakistan team declared that the man of the match prize won by Shahid Afridi and Imran Nazir in two matches will be given to the Ugandan side and Bangladesh also showed the same gesture by announcing that Nazimuddin's cheque of US \$500 would go to Uganda.

### Tendulkar admits it!

PTI, London

Sachin Tendulkar has for the first time admitted that it is increasingly becoming difficult for him to play one-day cricket with long recovery time after matches taking toll on his body.

"I enjoy every moment I have on a cricket field, but the recovery times between games these days are difficult, especially for one-day internationals, and that's my major obstacle," he said.

"It does take its toll on the body. When you are 22 or 23, you recover a lot more quickly. But at 34, it's not so easy," he was quoted as saying by the Times on Monday.

Tendulkar recently opted out of the Twenty20 World Championship but refused to agree that he was old enough to call it quits.

"My body will tell me when I have played enough cricket, but I don't feel old just yet. I still think I'm a young boy at heart." He, however, confirmed that this was likely to be his last tour of England.

"Whatever cricket is left in me, I would like to make the most of it. I don't know what the future has in store, but I don't think I'll be touring England again, because that will be in four or five years," he said.

## Tigers play Uganda today All eyes on Nazimuddin

### Cricket

**SPORTS REPORTER**

With ice up to the neck. I thought why don't they kill me instead," Nazim says with a boyish smile.

"After the ice-bath there was another 40-minute ordeal at the swimming pool. When I got back to the dorm I called my mother on the phone and just asked her 'yu want to see your son alive or you want a cricket player?' and she could hear me weeping. She paused for a few seconds and then said in a steely voice, 'a son who is a cricket player.' I was so upset I did not call home for the next four weeks. Looking back, I guess if she had played the typical mom and told me to come back home then I would never have gone on to play international cricket," the soft-spoken cricketer explained.

Bangladesh have made one change for today's game, bringing in Nadir Chowdhury for Mahmudullah Riyad. The 22-year-old, who struck a match-winning 43 against Kenya and then flayed the likes of Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif for a scintillating 81 off 50 against Pakistan, now has a chance to finish the meet with flying colours provided he continues his rich vein of form against the lightweight Africans.

Included in the playing eleven in place of injured Shakib Al Hasan at the last moment, the right-hander so far grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

Although it is too early to say whether he would be able to solve the opening headache in the abridged version of the game, the way he paced his innings in the last two games gave the selectors ample food for thought.

Nazimuddin himself was quite confident to make a grade while recalling the contribution of former Bangladesh Under-19 coach Richard McInnes behind his success.

"I was in the Bangladesh Under 19 team's pre-World Cup 2004 camp at the BKSP and it was like staying in hell. There was so much physical hardship for six months and I was close to breaking point," recalls Nazim, in an interview with TigerCricket.com, who is one of the four players in the present national side from that class of 2004 under hard taskmasters McInnes and fitness trainer Justin Cordy.

"One day we were taken for an ice-bath at 7 in the morning. It was winter and I had never experienced anything like standing inside a drum

## ASIA CUP Bangladesh take revenge

### Hockey

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh bounced back in the 7th Asia Cup hockey tournament with a 3-2 win against Sri Lanka in Chennai yesterday morning.

The victory came as sweet revenge for Bangladesh, who had lost to the Lankans in the 10th SA Games last year in Kandy to be dispossessed of the bronze medal of the regional Games they had won in the same south Indian city – then known as Madras – back in 1995.

Bangladesh came to the game, starting at 8am, on the back of a 6-0 defeat to China while Sri Lanka were smarting from a 20-0 thrashing at the hands of hosts India.

Russel Mahmud Jimmy, whose four-goal stint against Thailand gave Bangladesh a 13-0 win over Thailand on the opening day of the meet, opened the scoring after four minutes when the striker neatly completed a move following a penalty corner.

Sri Lanka fought hard in a bid to come back but only managed to reduce the arrears from a 58-minute penalty corner.

Bangladesh, who have six points after two wins from three games,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

penalty corner.

Sri Lanka, looking for their first point in Pool B, managed to keep the Bangladesh attackers at bay and hit back from the 31st minute counter attack to equalise through Hettiarachchi with a fine hit.

Bangladesh, however, came vigorously after being held 1-1 at the break and setpiece specialist Mamunur Rahman Chayan, who struck thrice against the Thais, scored from a penalty stroke in the 46th minute.

Bangladesh got better on setpieces and playmaker Zahidul Islam Rajan sealed the victory from another penalty corner three minutes later.

Sri Lanka fought hard in a bid to come back but only managed to reduce the arrears from a 58-minute penalty corner.

Bangladesh, who have six points after two wins from three games,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

## NCA in driving seat against Tasmania

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The bowlers did an excellent job after impressive batting as BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) team continued their domination against Tasmania on the second day of the Crocodile Cup three-day match at the University ground in Darwin yesterday.

Promising pacer Dollar Mahmud and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque equally shared six wickets as the visiting side took a huge 156-run first innings lead after wrapping up the local side for 152 in 54.5 overs.

The NCA extended their lead to 295 runs when they reached 139 for six in the second essay before the bats were drawn for the day. Shahid Hussain remained not out on 34 and Nayem Islam accompanied him with 27.

Imrul Kayes (5), captain Mehrab Hussain (8), Suhrawardi Shuvo (0) and Dhriman Gosh (0), who made an unbeaten hundred in the first innings, failed to cross the double digit while Nasiruddin Faruque added 27 and Rokibul Hasan chipped in with 31.

Divin captured three wickets for 29 runs for Tasmania.

Earlier, Dollar conceded 21 runs to claim three wickets while Test spinner Enamul Haque took three for 25. Nazmul Hussain captured 2-40 and Mahbubul Alam Robin 2-38.

## Harmer leaves Dhaka

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Aspirant John Harmer left Dhaka yesterday after making his presentation for the position of Bangladesh national cricket coach.

The veteran Australian was the first hopeful from a three-member shortlist to have appeared before a five-member panel of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). However, the arrivals of the other candidates are still uncertain.

Former Zimbabwe captain David Houghton, now in the UK, is next in line but his arrival would be confirmed once he gets a British passport.

"We are in touch with our two remaining candidates. Houghton has yet to get his passport and it may take some time," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, chairman of the cricket operations committee.

Another Australian coach Jamie Siddons who is currently touring India with an Australian selection, will probably make his presentation after the ICC Twenty20 World Championship.

BBC has been also trying to communicate with some other coaches available.

"We are desperately trying to appoint a new national coach before the New Zealand tour," Lipu added.

## Dhoni equals world record

**PTI, Leeds**

When Indians are under attack for their poor fielding, Mahendra Singh Dhoni provided a ray of hope by engineering six dismissals behind the stumps to equal the world record for maximum dismissals by a wicketkeeper in a one-dayer.

This was the eighth instance of any wicketkeeper lending a hand in six dismissals and the first by an Indian.

Nayan Mongia with five dismissals held the Indian record previously.

"It wasn't so much the visibility but the wind was the problem. The ball was swaying away from the fielders," Dhoni said.

Dhoni got into the act when England was going great guns at 97 for 1. He began by effecting a lightning quick stumping off a *one-pener*.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Ponting in doubt for T20 WC

**AFP, Brisbane**

Australian cricket captain Ricky Ponting may miss the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa because of undisclosed family reasons.

The Australian squad was due to leave for South Africa on Monday morning but Cricket Australia said Ponting would not make the flight.

Vice-captain Adam Gilchrist will lead the Australian squad and a decision on whether Ponting joins them for the tournament is expected later in the week.

All-rounder Shane Watson and paceman Stuart Clark will also

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP

India's Sourav Ganguly (L) runs for joy after taking England's Matt Prior's wicket during the fifth one-day international at Headingley on Sunday.

## India keep series alive

### Cricket

**AFP, Leeds**

Sachin Tendulkar returned in style to the Headingley ground where he was Yorkshire's first overseas player as he set up India's 38-run win against England under the Duckworth/Lewis method in the fifth one-day international here Sunday.

India's victory reduced England's lead in the seven-match series to 3-2.

Tendulkar (71) and Sourav Ganguly (59) shared a rapid first-wicket partnership of 116 in 118 balls to lay the base for a total of 324 for six. Yuvraj Singh followed up with 72, including two sixes and 10 fours, in a match India had to win to keep the series alive.

Gautam Gambhir, in for left-arm pace bowler Rudra Pratap Singh as India strengthened their batting, made 51 after being dropped twice and helped Yuvraj add 94 for the third wicket.

England, ultimately chasing a

revised target of 311 in 45 overs after a rain break, lost three wickets for seven runs in 13 balls as they collapsed from 97 for one to 104 for four.

When rain finally stopped play, England were 242 for eight off 39 overs with captain Paul Collingwood 91 not out and James Anderson unbeaten on one.

Man-of-the-match Ganguly also proved a thorn in England's side with his medium-pace bowling, taking two for 26 in seven overs.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's six dismissals equalled the record for a wicketkeeper in a one-day international, achieved on seven previous occasions.

Fast bowler Stuart Broad, man-of-the-match in England's three-wicket win at Old Trafford on Thursday, where he compiled career-best figures with bat and ball, conceded 84 runs in 10 overs and was later dismissed for one.

"I thought we batted beautifully," said India captain Rahul Dravid.

"It was a good all-round batting

performance and a great start again from Sachin and Sourav.

"It's nice to go to London with a chance to win the series," he added ahead of next week's matches at The Oval and Lord's.

Collingwood, who won the toss and fielded, added: "When an opposition gets 320-odd you are always going to question it. It was overcast but the ball didn't do as much as I thought it would."

He added: "But we gave a lot of credit to Tendulkar and Ganguly, who was hard to stop them."

Ravi Bopara dislocated his right thumb and sustained a minor fracture after dropping Gambhir off his own bowling.

England had started the game without his fellow all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, out with a recurrence of his left ankle injury and Bopara's setback left them with a fresh worry ahead of their departure next Sunday for the inaugural World Twenty20 championships in South Africa.

"They are going to be assessed in the next couple of days and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Proteas' chance at hand

**AFP, Johannesburg**

Smith said the team had not allowed themselves to be disrupted by the disputes and had remained



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa skipper Graeme Smith takes questions at a press conference in Johannesburg in connection with the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship.



PHOTO: AFP

Spain's Rafael Nadal in action against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during their third round match of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Sunday.

## Nadal moves into qtrs Henin, Serena set to renew rivalry

**AFP, New York**

Justine Henin and Serena Williams advanced to a US Open quarterfinal showdown in impressive fashion Sunday while Wimbledon winner Venus Williams ousted one Serbian star only to be faced with another.

World number one Henin, who took her sixth Grand Slam title in June at the French Open, blasted Russian 15th seed Dinara Safina 6-0, 6-2, while Australian Open winner Serena Williams defeated French 10th seed Marion Bartoli 6-3, 6-4.

French Open champion Rafael Nadal kept his US Open campaign on track on Sunday despite a painful knee as Spanish-speaking claycourters clamped a stranglehold on the bottom half of the draw.

Nadal once again had strapping on both knees when he took on Tsonga, but he looked much more at ease than in the first two rounds

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## Ponting in doubt for T20 WC