

## Dhoni differs with chief selector

PTI, Chandigarh

In complete contrast to chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar's remarks about the senior players in the side, Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni yesterday sided with the ageing stalwarts and said they are irreplaceable.

After his side beat Australia by eight runs in a cliffhanger here, Dhoni said the team needed to groom the youngsters but at the same time insisted that the ageing trio of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid was an indispensable part of the side.

"I think none said they are no longer needed. Frankly, you can't replace the seniors, given the amount of talent they have. They have proved themselves in this match as well," Dhoni said.

"Of course we need to groom the youngsters side by side. Because if one day the senior players decide to leave the arena, you would be at sea. So you have to keep the juniors ready," he said.

Vengsarkar in a recent interview had told that seniors should not take their place for granted.

Tendulkar and Ganguly gave India their best start of the series, forging a 91-run stand in 20 overs and saw through the difficult early hour when the ball was swinging a lot.

Asked if he felt that it was a tardy start, Dhoni said that was not the case.

"(On the contrary) I think we went on to score 291 just because of the start they gave us. They played really well against the Australian bowlers who were bowling so well and credit goes to Sachin and Sourav," he argued.

Dhoni had also asked for Murali Kartik in the side and he was delighted when the left-arm spinner played a crucial role in the team's thrilling victory.

## More to come

**FROM PAGE 20** Messi's goal was his sixth of the season, and saw him go clear at the top of the Primera Liga scoring charts.

Rijkaard said of the brilliant youngster: "He is a key player, capable of doing great things. It is a pleasure to watch him on the pitch."

Barca now have an enforced two-week break due to the international matches, and when they return to action they will face one of La Liga's form teams in Villarreal.

Although they suffered a 3-2 defeat to Osasuna on Sunday, Villarreal had won 15 of their previous 16 matches and Barca goalkeeper Victor Valdes admits it is unlikely to be easy for them at El Madrigal.

"It will be a difficult game like always when players come back from international duty," Valdes said.

Barca midfielder Andres Iniesta added on his club's website: "We have shown a good image and attitude (against Atletico), and that is the line that we must follow."

"We are playing good football, and doing things well. After the break we will return with the same desire to continue our good form."

## Ajax agree ten

**FROM PAGE 20** at Ten Cate, club chairman John Jaakke and defender Jurgen Colin.

Regular chants of 'Henkie, get lost and take Jaakke and Colin with you' rang around the away end as Ajax struggled to gain a point.

Ten Cate, who previously worked under compatriot Frank Rijkaard at Barcelona, responded by defending his record in charge, which has yielded two trophies - last season's KNVB Beker and the Dutch Super Cup.

He said: "What must I say about that? Under my leadership we have played 41 games, gained 92 points and scored over a hundred goals."

Ten Cate was non-committal when asked whether the Sparta clash would be his last in charge with a two-week break for international fixtures now looming.

He added: "I can't say if I was sitting on the Ajax bench for the last time."

"That's not up to me. It's now something between Ajax and Chelsea."

"I don't know more than that the clubs are speaking."

"And if they don't come to an agreement I will gladly be coach of Ajax until the end of the season. And if they reach a deal I will go to Chelsea."

Reports in Holland have suggested Ajax would approach Marco van Basten should Ten Cate leave and ask him to combine club duties with his existing job as Holland coach.

But the Dutch FA (KNVB) have ruled out a dual role for the former Ajax and AC Milan striker.

KNVB director Henk Kester told De Telegraaf newspaper: "It's absolutely not something we want to speak about."

"We won't allow the coach and his assistant John van 't Schip to bet on two horses. Holland deserves their full attention in the run-up to Euro 2008."



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Cricket Board's tournament committee chairman Selim Bhuiyan (C) addresses a press conference in connection with the launching of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Ninth National Cricket League at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. The country's lone first-class competition commences on October 19.

# BCB reveals financial package

SPORTS REPORTER



Ushering in a new dimension, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invited all the divisional captains during the unveiling ceremony of MM Ispahani Ltd. as the sponsor for the 9th National Cricket League, which starts from October 19, at a local hotel yesterday.

But the diverse intention was not carried out to the dot as both of the most sought after skippers, Dhaka's Mohammad Ashraful and Khulna's Habibul Bashar, were not present in the official media briefing, apparently due to a lack of coordination.

Crickit Operations Committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu expressed his disappointment but both the skippers had their own reasons behind the non-attendance.

"We had a practice game today against the Under-19 team, which is why it was not possible for me to attend the briefing. Only one of our

divisional officials told me about the session but he also said that it is better to play the practice match," said Ashraful.

"I am sick," was Bashar's explanation.

The tournament committee was however hopeful about the great success of the tournament as they almost doubled the budget by increasing the amount to Tk 4.15 crore from Tk 2.56 crore.

Ispahani won the sponsoring rights for the seventh consecutive occasion as a lone bidder and they are providing Tk 40 lakhs, ten lakhs higher than the previous year. "They actually offered Tk 35 lakhs in the bid but we increased the amount later in negotiations," said tournament committee chairman Selim Bhuiyan during the press conference.

He also said that they allotted more money for the players to make the tournament attractive and competitive.

The four-day champions will get Tk 10 lakhs, six lakhs more than last year's amount while the runners-up will pocket Tk 5 lakhs up from

one lakh the previous year. The 3rd placed team will receive Tk 3 lakhs.

The highest run scorer and the highest wicket taker in the four-dayers will receive Tk 20,000 each.

In the one-day version, the champion team will collect Tk 4 lakh while the runners up team Tk 2 lakh.

Besides, the highest scorer and the highest wicket taker will receive Tk 20,000 each.

The tournament committee has also increased the prize money for man of the tournament (Tk 40,000), best all rounder (Tk 30,000) and best fielder (Tk 20,000).

Besides, any batsman scoring 1000 runs or any bowler scalping 60 wickets (in the four-day version) will get Tk 1 lakh while a batsman will receive Tk 20,000 for scoring a double century in a four-day match.

Also the TV/DA have also been increased.

Media committee vice chairman Ishaque Ahmed, Ispahani Group chairman Mirza Behrouze Ispahani were also present on the occasion.

## Spinning

**FROM PAGE 17** make runs dear. He has done this many times before and didn't stop doing it till well after tea, a shoulder-yanking 27-over spell later. Only in his last two overs did he look fatigued.

He also procured into the bargain two key wickets: what little gap there was in Graeme Smith's defence, he found it with a sharply-spun leg-break but given his form, Jacques Kallis for 59 was not just key, it was Christmas. Eid and Diwali all at once. And it was just reward too, for Kaneria had Kallis in more trouble than he has been in since setting foot at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi last week. It was the wrong 'un too. But during that hour from the mid-day drinks break right up to tea, when Kallis fell, Kaneria took some heat from the skies and put it onto the batsmen.

Ultimately it kept Pakistan in the hunt, even tilting it as Ashwell Prince said later, a little in the host's favour. Even when they didn't look like getting wickets, South Africa never looked like getting away. Prince, who played Kaneria with the same left-handed bluntness that has so annoyed him through his career, assessed Kaneria best later in the day. "It's hard for him to come on so early on the first day, but he did a good job off."

A good job is exactly what it was, not the art form legspin is stereotyped as but something that needed to be done. Shoaib Malik will not be complaining. And tonight Kaneria will no doubt bring out the other smile like he brings out the other one: not of mischief, but content.

## Nayeem silences

**FROM PAGE 17** the Central Asian teams, this is like a win for us. The players are committed. Despite lack of facilities, the players have proved that if they get more support, they can do anything."

He, however, refused to admit that the conditions were helpful although the Tajiks claimed that they could not play well on a rain-soaked pitch.

"We created many chances and could have scored more goals if the conditions were better," said Nayeem adding that the result will multiply the players' confidence ahead of their second leg match.

"We can now go to Dushanbe with the mid-sit to win," he told.

Mithu, who for the first time entered international arena during the Merdeka Cup in August when he represented the second-string national side, was happy for a remarkable full international

## Hosts hold

**FROM PAGE 17** away goal ahead of the second leg match to be held in Tajik capital Dushanbe on October 28.

Abul had a great chance to seal the victory for Bangladesh afterwards but the midfielder hammered the ball onto a defensive wall while goalkeeper Mukanin palmed away Moni's curling freekick in the remaining time.

Yellow card: Moni (Bangladesh)

### TEAMS

**BANGLADESH:** Biplab, Hassan Al Mamun (Shuvra, 90th minute), Nazrul, Rajani, Wali, Zahid (Sharif, 62), Arman Aziz, Abul, Mithu, Emily and Moni.

**TAJIKISTAN:** Mukanin, Karimov, Farkhod Vasiev, Rustamov, Choriev, Barotov (Fatkhuoloev, 64), Dzhaborov, Makhmudov, Ortikov (Dilshod Vasiev, 46), Saidov and Hakimov, 86).

## More feathers

**FROM PAGE 17** also surpassed 1,000 runs in the current calendar year, becoming the second Indian to do so after Sourav Ganguly.

Ganguly has compiled 1,065 runs in 25 matches while Tendulkar has 1,026 from the same number of games.

Tendulkar has now achieved this feat seven times in his 18-year career, the most by any player and one more than his nearest rival in the list, Ganguly.

## Concussion

**FROM PAGE 20** Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari last month.

Serbia are currently fourth in a four-way fight with Poland, Finland and Portugal for two places at the top of Group A in the Euro 2008 qualifiers.

Coach Javier Clemente has said Serbia must win its two upcoming matches, both of them away to Armenia on Saturday and to Azerbaijan on October 17.

## Pakistan keep

**FROM PAGE 17** African innings. Rehman finally brought an end to Prince's innings when he beat the batsman in the air to hit the stumps.

Prince hit five boundaries in his stubborn three-hour knock. The Lahore Test is the swansong for Inzamamul Haq who is retiring from Test cricket.

The 37-year-old veteran was brought into the team along with Mohammad Yousuf. Inzamam was unavailable for the first Test while Yousuf pulled out at the last minute citing a lack of match fitness.

South Africa remained unchanged, leaving veteran all-rounder Shaun Pollock on the sidelines. Pollock was dropped for the first Test - the first time in his 107-Test career.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the first day of the second Test between Pakistan and South Africa at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Sunday:

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
Gibbs c Misbahul b Gul 13  
Smith b Kaneria 46  
Amla b Asif 10  
Kallis lbw b Kaneria 59  
Prince lbw b Rehman 63  
De Villiers run out 45  
Boucher not out 9  
Nel not out 0

Extras: (nb-2, w-7, pn-5) 14  
Total: (For six wickets in 83 overs) 259  
To bat: Harris, Steyn, Ntini.

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-47, 3-100, 4-160, 5-243, 6-259.

**Bowler**  
O M R W  
Asif 23 5 55 1  
Gul 18 1 78 1  
Kaneria 27 4 73 2  
Rehman 10 3 28 1  
Malik 5 0 20 0

**PAKISTAN:** Shoaib Malik, Salman Butt, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Mohammad Yousuf, Misbahul Haq, Umar Akmal, Mohammad Asif, Faisal Gul, Danish Kaneria, Abdul Rehman.

**Umpires:** Mark Benson (ENG) and Simon Taufel (AUS)  
**TV umpire:** Nadeem Ghouri (PAK)  
**Match referee:** Alan Hurst (AUS)

## Testing times for CAB boss

CRICINFO, undated

A controversial murder case in Kolkata has rippled over to the top levels of Bengal cricket and could bear serious repercussions for the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) chief, Prasun Mukherjee, and joint secretary Snehasish Ganguly -- brother of Sourav.

A meeting of the CAB's working committee on Monday could see pressure on Mukherjee to either not preside or, in an extreme case, step down from the post. Mukherjee is also the Kolkata police commissioner and his police department is facing heavy flak for the death of Rizwanur Rehman, a local youth who had married the daughter of a leading city industrialist, Ashok Todt, against her family's wishes.

The police then asked the girl to return home and questioned Rehman on several occasions. Late last month his body was found on the railway tracks in the city but his death led to a public outcry that is gathering momentum.

## Mutu derails

**FROM PAGE 20**

on the counter-attack and following the dismissal of Parma's Bernardo Corradi on 27 minutes, Torti wrapped up the points late on following good work from Daniele De Rossi.

European champions AC Milan scored an impressive 5-1 victory at Lazio, with two goals apiece from Brazilian midfielder Kaka and striker Alberto Gilardino, to move them up to eighth place in the table, seven points behind the leaders.

It was a welcome goal spree for Milan who lost to Celtic earlier this week in the Champions League and had previously only won one of their first six league games.

In other matches, Genoa are up to fifth after beating Cagliari 2-0 at home while Livorno remain rock bottom on two points from seven games after a 1-0 loss at Catania.

On Saturday Julio Cruz scored both goals in a 2-1 victory over Napoli at the San Siro as champions Inter consolidated their lead at the top of the table.

## Badrinath

**FROM PAGE 17** be unavailable for approximately two weeks," said an Indian board release yesterday.

"The selection committee decided to replace Badrinath in place of Gambhir," it added.

The 27-year-old Badrinath, who is yet to make his international debut, drew the selectors' attention with a double century for India A in their recent series against South Africa A.

## GP to sponsor Siddique

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone will sponsor Siddique Rahman Siddique, an amateur golfer who turned professional recently, in the Indian Professional Golf Circuit (IPGC) starting from October 16.

Siddique, who will be the first professional golfer from the country to play in the IPGC, was introduced by GP's Head of Information Yamin Bakht at a media briefing at Grameenphone's Gulshan headquarters yesterday.

Grameenphone wished Siddique good luck at the start of his professional career.

Siddique, who has so far won 17 amateur titles having played in 30 national and international tournaments, also won trophies in all SAARC competitions.

GP has been sponsoring the 23-year-old since 2004. He started his golf club days as a ball boy, one of the junior caddies who carried bags for the members of the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) where he later got support to enter the game as a player.

Siddique, who is expected to play in Malaysia, Singapore and Pakistan next year, dreams to play in the prestigious US PGA.

## Euro Famous group champs

UNB, Dhaka

Euro Famous emerged group champions in the Third Division Football Super League beating Matuail Udayan Sangsad 2-1 in a matuail match at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

They will play Gazirchot SC in the title-deciding match tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Matuail will face Friends Social Welfare Organisation also tomorrow at the same venue.

All four teams have already been promoted to the Second Division.

Dolon and Nazir scored for Euro Famous while Atiqul Islam netted the lone goal for Matuail.

In the day's other match, Gazirchot drew goalless with Muslim Institute.

# Swann steals the show



AFP, Dambulla

Little-known Graeme Swann put in a superb all-round performance to help England pull off a tense two-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the third one-day international here on Sunday.

The off-spinner grabbed four wickets in a disciplined spell and then made a crucial 25 as England achieved the revised target of 164 in a game reduced to 48 overs a side due to rain to gain a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

England were tottering at 107-7 on a difficult pitch before Swann added 40 for the eighth wicket with Stuart Broad (20 not out) to help his side win with seven balls to spare.

Swann, playing only his fourth one-day since making his debut in 2000, was named man of the match.

"Credit goes to all the boys. It was a big challenge battling under lights after losing the toss," said England captain Paul Collingwood.

"Broad has already scored vital runs for us and Swann showed a cool head. But we haven't won the series yet," he added.

Paceman Farveez Maharoof grabbed three early wickets and veteran left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya took two wickets to raise Sri Lanka's hopes of victory, but Swann held his nerve under pressure on a slow pitch.

Maharoof threatened to upstage fine efforts from Swann (4-34) and left-arm seamer Ryan Sidebottom (3-19) when he wrecked England's top order by removing Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell and Phil Mustard in his lively opening spell.

Jayasuriya then dismissed

Collingwood (32) and Owais Shah (19) just when the pair looked like restoring England's fortunes with a 47-run stand for the fifth wicket.

But Swann dashed Sri Lanka's hopes in a vital stand with Broad, who finished the match with a four and a two off fast bowler Lasith Malinga. Broad had earlier taken two wickets.

"We made a lot of mistakes while batting. We did not even bat our full quota of 48 overs. I am disappointed with the way we batted in the last two matches," said Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene.

"I think a total of 200-225 would have been good. Only (Tillakaratne) Dilshan batted really well under pressure. We have to make sure we don't repeat our mistakes in the remaining two games."

Dilshan was the only Sri Lankan to defy the England attack as he top-scored with a gutsy 70, just one day after being dropped from the squad for next month's tour of Australia.

He hit six fours in his 84-ball knock for his first half-century in 15 matches.

Swann earlier built on the efforts of Sidebottom and paceman Broad (2-26) to restrict the hosts to a modest total.

Sidebottom and Broad jolted Sri Lanka with four early wickets before Swann kept pressure in the middle overs.

Sri Lanka struggled to score freely against England's pace-spin combination after electing to bat. They lost openers Upul Tharanga and Jayasuriya in Sidebottom's opening spell before Broad struck in quick succession.

Broad took a wicket with his first delivery when he had Jayawardene (two) caught by Collingwood at

point and then had Kumar Sangakkara (nine) caught behind.

Sangakkara "walked" even though wicketkeeper Mustard and the bowler initially had not appealed.

England's lead could prove to be decisive as rain threatens to play spoilsport at Colombo, venue for the next two matches on Wednesday and Saturday.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Sri Lanka and England here on Sunday:

**SRI LANKA:** 164  
Cook c Sangakkara b Vaas 0  
Mustard b Maharoof 14  
Bell c Dilshan b Maharoof 16  
Pietersen lbw b Maharoof 8  
Collingwood lbw b Jayasuriya 32  
Shah b Jayasuriya 19  
Bopara lbw b Malinga 6  
Swann b Fernando 25  
Broad not out 20  
Sidebottom not out 7  
Extras: (lb-1, lb-8, nb-2, w-6) 17  
Total: (For eight wickets in 46.5 overs) 164

Did not bat: Anderson.  
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-23, 3-44, 4-47, 5-94, 6-101, 7-107, 8-147.

**Bowler**  
O M R W  
Vaas 6 1 20 1  
Maharoof 10 0 34 3  
Fernando 10 2 31 1  
Malinga 7.5 1 39 1  
Dilshan 3 0 8 0  
Jayasuriya 10 1 23 2

Result: England won by two wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Graeme Swann.

Note: England's target was revised to 164 in a match reduced to 48 overs aside due to rain.

Fourth one-day: At Colombo on Wednesday.

# Credit goes to Anderson



AFP, Dambulla

Graeme Swann, England's surprise match-winner against Sri Lanka in the third one-day international here, said Monday he owed his success to teammate James Anderson.

Swann rose from virtual anonymity to fame on Sunday with a superb all-round show under pressure which helped his side win back-to-back games for a 2-1 lead in the five-match series against the hosts.

England were wobbling at 107-7 chasing a modest 164-run target before Swann contributed a crucial 25 on a difficult track to help his side win with seven deliveries to spare.

The off-spinner had earlier finished with 4-34 to restrict the hosts in only his fourth one-day since making his debut in 2000 in South Africa.

"I sat there before I went out to bat talking to Anderson and he was great

because he got me talking all sorts of rubbish to take my mind off the pressure," said man-of-the-match Swann.

"That was perfect for me because it cleared my mind and I just tried to basically keep a cool head."

Swann fell when his team were just 17 short of the target, but Stuart Broad completed the job under lights with a four and a two off Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga.

"I'd have loved to have been there at the end with Broad," said the 28-year-old, who put on a vital 40 runs for the eighth wicket with Broad.

"He's only a young lad, but you could tell he had been there before and he certainly taught an old dog a new trick."

England captain Paul Collingwood lauded his team's character for gaining the lead after losing the opening match.

"It was an exceptional effort full of character and I think every single person went out there and put a lot of pride on their wicket," he said.

"If you can win games from seven or eight down, it's proving we're batting further and further down all the time. It is vital that everybody can hold a bat and perform under those situations and under that pressure."