

## Don't go Murali: Ranatunga

CRICINFO, undated

Adding fuel to the fire surrounding racism in cricket, Arjuna Ranatunga, the former Sri Lanka captain, has advised Muttiah Muralidaran to not tour Australia in November.

The comments by Ranatunga, as reported by News Limited papers, come in the wake of Australia's tour of India, a series where racist taunts from the crowd was a topic of discussion.

"I told him I wished he wasn't touring Australia because of the amount of trouble he has had," Ranatunga said. "But he wants to go. It was up to him to decide that. My personal opinion was that he shouldn't go. I think Murali is tough enough to go through that and take whatever he gets."

Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said he wasn't surprised with the comments but was confident there were no issues regarding poor crowd behaviour this summer.

CA would launch a new TV advertisement campaign aimed at stamping out poor behaviour in the stands this season, before the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Gabba starting on November 8. Ricky Ponting had already called for fans to show respect to this summer's visitors, which include Sri Lanka and India.

Murali was subjected to crowd taunts during Sri Lanka's last visit to Australia and he was said to have been upset three years ago by Prime Minister John Howard's suggestion that his action wasn't clean. Murali, though, said that he hoped to break Warner's record of 708 Test wickets during the two-Test series in Brisbane and Hobart.

## Socceroos set

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provide a very competitive match for the Socceroos," Buckley said. "It is vital that we give the team another match ahead of the World Cup qualifiers and we look forward to seeing Australia's national football team play against a high quality opponent."

Nigeria are ranked 23 in the FIFA world rankings, with Australia 48.

Australia also played a friendly in London in February, losing 3-1 to Denmark at QPR's Loftus Road stadium.

## Platini gets

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That position goes against a previous stance from the association of European leagues (EPL) which unanimously opposed the proposed reforms.

G14, the grouping of the continent's richest clubs, including the likes of Barcelona, AC Milan and Manchester United, who met last Wednesday, have already rejected Platini's proposals.

## SA President

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It will be difficult to change the names and colours of the teams ... because they are synonymous with the team. People already know them by those names," she told AFP.

Mbeki said it was important the public was involved in the names debate.

"The public should participate in a plan where we look for new names for our national teams," he said.

"I'm not saying we must call all our national teams Springboks, but we have to change the names, the emblems and the colours the teams wear, so that they can be recognised as representatives of South Africa."

## Chelsea look

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If those purist principles help Chelsea beat Schalke in their first home European game since Mourinho's final match - a stale 1-1 draw against Rosenborg - Abramovich will have got his wish.

Mirko Slomka's side have lost only one of their first 10 league matches, but Saturday's 1-1 draw at Hansa Rostock left them nine points behind Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich.

With the title already almost out of reach, Europe will be Schalke's focus now but defeat in London would leave them facing a tough task to qualify.

## Nike takes over

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Nike has expanded aggressively into the football market over the past few years and aims to become the world's leading football brand by the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Takeover speculation last week caused Umbro shares to rocket, boosting investors while fans were picking over the national side's 2-1 defeat to Russia which makes qualification difficult for the 2008 European Championships.

Nike intends to operate Umbro as a stand-alone affiliate brand in the same way as Converse, which the Beaverton, Oregon-based firm acquired in 2003.

Earlier this year, German sportswear manufacturer Puma was bought by French luxury goods empire PPR. In 2006, Puma's German rival Adidas took over US sportswear group Reebok.

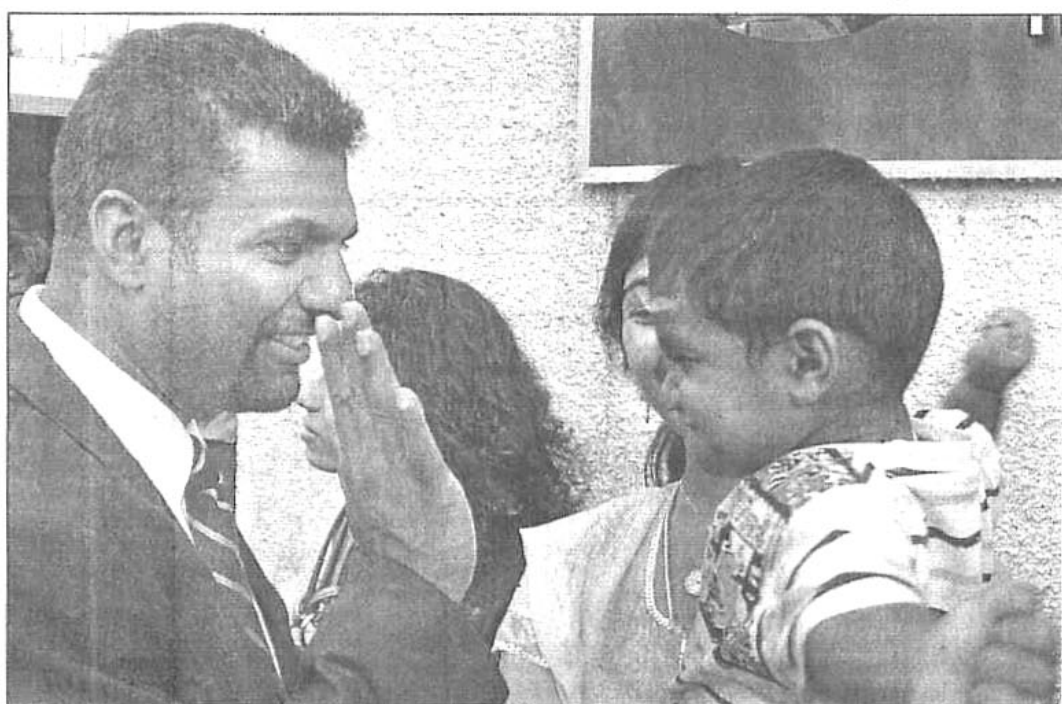


PHOTO: AFP

SEE YOU SOON: Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralidaran says bye to his son ahead of the Lions' departure for Australia in Colombo yesterday. The Lankans will play Australia in two Tests before participating in a triangular one-day international series also involving India.

# Lankans want first win

Cricket

AGENCIES, Colombo

Sri Lanka flew out to Australia on Tuesday determined to win their first Test Down Under after an improved performance in recent away matches.

"We have played consistently good cricket away from home in the recent times, so we want to maintain that," captain Mahela Jayawardene said before the team's departure.

"Obviously we want to beat Australia. We have to play as a team and put up our best effort to try and win the series."

Sri Lanka will play two Tests in Brisbane and Hobart next month, before returning to Australia in February for a limited-overs tri-series also featuring India.

Sri Lanka have lost six Tests and drawn two in Australia since their maiden appearance there in 1988.

In recent times, Jayawardene's team have drawn Test series in New Zealand and England and were runners-up at the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean.

The tour is important for off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, who needs nine wickets to overtake retired Australian leg-spinner

Shane Warne's world record tally of 708 wickets.

Sri Lanka open the tour with a three-day match against a Cricket Australia invitation team in Adelaide from October 27-29.

They play another warm-up match against Queensland in Brisbane from November 2-4 before the first Test starts at the Gabba, Brisbane on Nov 8.

The second Test will be played in Hobart from Nov 16.

PTI adds: After being dramatically picked into Sri Lankan side for the forthcoming tour of Australia, former captain Marvan Atapattu wants to live up to the expectations during the tour Down Under.

"I have been out of the game for sometime and I know I have to perform and prove myself because I was invited due to my ability," Atapattu said in a radio programme on Monday.

The 36-year-old opener, who was not selected in the original touring squad, was brought in as the 17th member on Thursday following the intervention of the country's sports minister Gamini Lokuge.

Expressing happiness over Atapattu's return for the Australian tour, Lokuge said "we are now waiting for victory".

Atapattu's return to the national

team marks the end of a six-month controversy that commenced from the World Cup where he was not selected to play in any of Sri Lanka's 11 matches despite being part of the team.

The former captain was also overlooked for the one-day series against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi in May and he withdrew from the three-Test home series against Bangladesh in June saying he was not mentally prepared to play Test cricket.

Atapattu, who has represented Sri Lanka in 88 Tests and scored 5,330 runs at an average of 38.90, with 16 centuries, had also accused the Sri Lankan selectors of affecting the team's morale.

"Team spirit decreased because the players became insecure," said the right-hander, who played his last Tests against India in Ahmedabad in December 2005.

SQUAD

Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Kumar Sangakkara, Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Marvan Atapattu, Michael Vandort, Chamara Silva, Thilan Samaraweera, Jehan Mubarak, Prasanna Jayawardene, Chaminda Vaas, Lasith Malinga, Dilhara Fernando, Farveez Maharoof, Chanaka Welegedara, Muttiah Muralidaran, Malinga Bandara.

# Ramadan worries PCB

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan board officials have been trying to move next year's Champions Trophy from September to October to avoid hosting the tournament during Ramadan, but a packed international calendar is not allowing any change of dates.

"As things stand, the Champions Trophy will be played in September next year at a time when we will be observing the holy month of Ramadan," Shaqafat Naghmi, the PCB's chief operating officer, said. "We do not believe it would be an appropriate time to hold such a mega event and have informed the ICC about it."

Naghmi raised this issue at an ICC chief executives' meeting in South Africa last month but the suggestion to move the tournament to October was shot down because of a packed international schedule.

Representatives of England, India, West Indies and New Zealand made it clear at the meeting that their teams could not play the tournament if the dates were changed since they have other international assignments in October as per ICC's Future Tours Programme.

"September doesn't suit us because it would be difficult to guarantee attendance for matches during Ramadan," said Naghmi. It will be Pakistan's first time hosting the Champions Trophy and the first major tournament in the country since the World Cup in 1996.

But guaranteeing full stadiums is not the only concern for the PCB officials who are also worried about the timing of the matches.

"We don't want to have action on the ground at a time when spectators and the people watching the matches on television are busy breaking their fast (iftar). I don't think it would be appropriate," Naghmi said.

The bad news for the PCB is that it will be fasting season during

almost the whole of next September which means that all the matches of the Champions Trophy will have to be played during Ramadan.

However, Naghmi said that PCB is still hoping that with mutual consent, Pakistan and the ICC will work out the schedule.

"For the Champions Trophy to be really successful, it is important that we find best possible dates for the event and we are trying our best to do it," he said.

Naghmi is aware that the FTP's schedule might not allow any change of dates and the PCB is already working on plans to have a successful event even during Ramadan.

"We might work out match timings with the innings break coming at iftar time," he said adding that several proposals were under consideration in a bid to successfully host the Champions Trophy.

ICC officials will arrive in Pakistan on November 2 to review the three venues for the event -- Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi.

# Discipline scripts Pak win

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order slump from which they could not recover.

South Africa, reduced to 77-3 in 20 overs, was lifted by Smith (48) and Kemp, who shared a fourth-wicket stand of 45 off 75 deliveries but they never looked in command.

Herschelle Gibbs, who scored a century in the first match, fell in the ninth over when he edged Umar Gul to the wicketkeeper after scoring 19.

Gibbs, on ten, completed 7,000 one-day runs, to become only the second South African behind Kallis to achieve the milestone.

Kallis, who made eight and nought in the first two matches, failed once again as he misused a drive off Afridi and was well caught in the covers by Misbah-ul Haq for 13.

AB de Villiers made just 17 before his uppish drive off Iftikhar was smartly snapped up by Afridi at mid-wicket.

Smith and Kemp steadied the innings, taking the score to 122. Smith, who remained on 18 for ten overs, was run out in the 33rd over when he failed to beat a throw from Shoaib Malik to the striker's end.

Kemp hit two sixes to raise the tempo before he went for a third

only to be bowled by Afridi in the 42nd over.

Iftikhar returned for his second spell, removing Albie Morkel (12) and Charl Langeveldt (four) to better his 3-44 he took against the West Indies at Kingston during the 2007 World Cup in March this year.

South Africa lost Mark Boucher (17) to spinner Abdul Rehman as the tourists lost their last six wickets for just 35 runs.

The fourth match will be played at Multan on Friday.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Pakistan and South Africa at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Tuesday:

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
Gibbs c Akmal b Gul 19  
Smith run out 48  
Kallis c Misbahul b Afridi 13  
De Villiers c Afridi b Iftikhar 17  
Kemp b Afridi 42  
Boucher c Malik b Rehman 17  
Morkel c sub (Nazir) b Iftikhar 12  
Pollock c b Afridi 1  
Botha not out 7  
Langeveldt b Iftikhar 4  
Ntini b Gul 0  
Extras: (lb-8, w-9) 17  
Total: (All out in 49.2 overs) 197  
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-57, 3-77, 4-122, 5-162, 6-174, 7-181, 8-189, 9-196.

**Bowler**  
Gul 8.2 3 25 2  
Tanveer 9 0 36 0  
Afridi 10 0 37 3  
Iftikhar 8 0 33 3  
Rehman 10 0 42 1  
Malik 4 0 16 0

**PAKISTAN**  
Hameed c Kallis b Ntini 18  
Afridi c Smith b Pollock 32  
Younis Khan c Botha b Morkel 10  
Yousuf not out 58  
Malik c Boucher b Morkel 42  
Misbahul not out 29  
Extras: (lb-5, nb-1, w-7) 13  
Total: (For four wickets in 48.1 overs) 202  
Did not bat: Akmal, Tanveer, Rehman, Iftikhar, Gul.  
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-58, 3-68, 4-147.

**Bowler**  
Pollock 10 0 44 1  
Ntini 6 0 23 1  
Langeveldt 5 0 20 0  
Morkel 9.1 2 30 2  
Botha 10 0 50 0  
Kallis 8 1 30 0

**Result: Pakistan won by six wickets and lead 5-match series 2-1. Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi. Toss: South Africa.**

**Umpires:** Billy Bowden (NZL) and Zamir Haider (PAK)  
**TV umpire:** Asad Rauf (PAK)  
**Match Referee:** Alan Hurst (AUS)

## Citi Cup starts tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The second Citi Cup golf tournament will begin at the Kurmitola Golf Club tomorrow. The competition will see 400 golfers, professionals and amateurs, participate.

Lt Gen ATM Zahirul Islam will inaugurate the two-day event, that will end with a prize-giving ceremony and dinner on October 26.

## We must

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were all pretty new to it, pretty inexperienced in Twenty20 cricket," he said.

The Australian captain said with the Indians winning the Twenty20 World Cup and talks of star-studded Twenty20 Leagues the game was sure to get further popular in the sub-continent.

"There's no doubt the popularity of the game in the part of the world we've just been in is amazing. With India having won the World Cup, the game is going to be massive over there."

## Commentary

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It happened throughout and one guy in particular was simply saying it wrong. The new voice either has eye trouble or was commenting with his back to the ground.

They however never lacked enthusiasm. So much so that the two were seen taking photographs of their well-known producer after play ended.

With broadcast on BTV World, the endeavour was fruitful and laudable. But with such a commentary team, comic could be another word to describe this venture.

So does anybody want this mindless rant to stop or just let this comedy to continue?

## Tokai kabaddi from today

UNB, Dhaka

The Orient Bread Tokai Kabaddi Tournament begins today at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court with two matches billed for the opening day.

In the inaugural match, Tokai Stadium team will play Tokai Palatan while Tokai Mirpur face Tokai Syedabad Terminal.

Tokai Gulistan and Tokai Khilgaon are the other teams of the meet.

Six teams, split into two groups, will take part in the competition with the group winners playing in the October 26 final.

Bangladesh Olympic Association's COO Col (ret'd) M Wali Ullah will declare the meet for the destitute open.

Members of the champion and runners-up teams will receive prize bond worth Tk 500 and 300 each.

## Tamim storm

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Shaheen 0, Tariqul 3\*, Rubel 1-23, Kamrul 2-40, Sajjadul 1-41, Sunny 4-36, Sajid 1-46, Ehsanul 1-33).

CHITTAGONG: 225-2 in 36 overs (Tamim 133, Salahuddin 1, Nafees 56\*, Nazimuddin 19\*, Arafat 1-26, Tariqul 1-51).

Result: Chittagong won by eight wickets.

SYLHET: 168-9 in 50 overs (Rajin 5, Imtiaz 13, Mabud 7, Kapali 4, Mushfiq 1, Sharifullah 56, Saif 30, Tapash 6, Rezaul 7, Enamul 6\*, Nabil 13\*, Shahjada 2-37, Delwar 1-16, Forhad 2-23, Sajib 2-29, Mahbub 1-30).

RAJSHAH: 169-8 in 48 overs (Jahirul 21, Zunaid 1, Forhad 5, Nayeem 24, Anisur 22, Mushfiqur 50\*, Mashud 1, Mahbub 0, Delwar 5, Shahjada 35\*, Tapash 1-28, Rezaul 2-42, Saif 3-36, Enamul 1-34, Nabil 1-19).

Result: Rajshahi won by two wickets.

## Booters leave

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When asked about the cold in the Tajik capital, Nayeem said if the temperature in Dushanbe remains within 10-15 degrees (Celsius) it would not be a problem.

However, weather forecast is that it could be as low as three degrees on matchday with prediction of rain.

"The hosts are expected to get the advantage. How we tackle that is the key to success," the Bangladesh coach said.

The 18-member team will fly this afternoon by a Thai Airways flight to Bangkok en route to Tajikistan. They will stay overnight in Tashkent before travelling by bus to board a domestic flight for Dushanbe from the outskirts of the Uzbek capital.

**SQUAD**

**Goalkeepers:** Biplab Bhattacharyya, Mazharul Islam Himmeli; **defenders:** Hassan Al Mamun, Rajani Kanta Barman, Amit Khan Shuvra, Ariful Islam, Mahmudul Hassan, Wally Faisal, Arman Aziz, Abul Hossain, Jumaratul Islam Mithu, Zahid Hossain, Enamul Haque Sharif, Mohammed Robin, Zahid Hassan Emily and Saifur Rahman Mont. **Coach:** Syed Nayeemuddin, co-ordinator: Amirul Islam.

## BOB WOOLMER DEATH INQUEST

# Cause of death uncertain

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

Canadian pathologist Michael Pollanen told the inquest into the death of Bob Woolmer that he couldn't determine the cause of death of the Pakistan cricket coach who died during the World Cup in March.

Pollanen testified on Monday that Woolmer wasn't strangled, as police initially suggested.

Under cross-examination by Director of Prosecutions Kent Pantry, Pollanen said that he understood a foreign substance was detected in Woolmer's body.

Questioned by Pantry as to whether he was informed that poison was detected in Woolmer's body, Pollanen said: "I was aware that there was a positive toxicology finding relating to Woolmer's death."

Pressed to explain the foreign substance and about his knowledge of a toxin called cypermethrin, Pollanen responded by saying "it is a form of insecticide or herbicide."

Pollanen said he couldn't state the symptoms that cypermethrin would induce in a person, but he did say "it could weaken the body movement."

Pollanen also told coroner Patrick Murphy and the 11-member jury that he was not presented with a copy of the toxicology report, which made it impossible for him to determine the cause of death.

Pollanen said that in his opinion strangulation wasn't indicated as the cause of death.

"If the hyoid bone (in the neck) was broken, it would be a good evidence of injury to the neck," he said. "It was not broken in this case."

Jamaican government pathologist Eric Seshiah had said Woolmer died of manual strangulation -- a conclusion that rocked the cricket world as Jamaican authorities said they were treating his death as murder.

The former 58-year-old former England international was found unconscious in his room at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on March 18, a day after Pakistan made a shock exit from the cricket World Cup, losing to minnows Ireland.

When authorities said the death was suspicious, it prompted speculation that it might somehow be linked to match-fixing in international cricket.

In June, Jamaican police said further investigation showed Woolmer died of natural causes.

"In my view there is no foundation of physical attack or pressure

on the neck," Pollanen testified.

Pollanen said Seshiah failed to follow proper procedures when he examined Woolmer's neck.

"Based on the evidence, I would exclude strangulation as the cause of death," he said.

He added, however, that the hyoid bone doesn't have to be fractured for strangulation to take place.

When asked if he would entirely rule out strangulation, he responded "No."

According to images shown at the inquest, Woolmer had injuries to the face and neck.

Pollanen agreed with Seshiah that bleeding would be caused from the injuries.

"If there is bleeding in these areas, there would be a head injury, which may be caused from a fixed, hard surface," he noted, adding that the injuries could have been the result of the face "coming in contact with a hard surface."

The inquest had previously heard that Woolmer was found with his head under the toilet bowl and that medical personnel had to move him in order to attempt to revive him.

The inquest, presided over by Murphy and an 11-member jury, is to determine the cause of Woolmer's death and whether anyone bears responsibility.

# ICL changes BCCI stance

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's new-found fascination for Twenty20 cricket has turned into a tug-of-war as money, power and court battles overshadow the country's most popular sport.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is determined to be the sole crusader of the lucrative crowd-pulling Twenty20 format in cricket-mad India despite its secretary Niranjan Shah earlier describing Twenty20 as a "waste of time".

This apparent change of heart had nothing to do with Mahendra Singh Dhoni's young Team India winning the inaugural World Twenty20 Championship in South Africa in September, an event Indian officials once strongly opposed.

It had everything to do with the unveiling in May of the unofficial multi-million-dollar so-called rebel Indian Cricket League (ICL), bankrolled by the country's largest media group, Zee Telefilms.

A rattled BCCI banned cricketers signing up to the ICL from representing the country, forcing the rebel body to file an ongoing

case challenging the BCCI's monopoly over the sport.

The BCCI also drew up its own three-million-dollar Indian Premier League (IPL) with the blessing of the International Cricket Council and supported by boards around the world.

And so began a game of one-upmanship, lapped up greedily by the media and showing no signs of abating with no apparent concern for the effects it could have on players, their international commitments and the sport in India.

The Zee-backed ICL presented India's only World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev as its chief executive, while the BCCI's IPL paraded the country's other legend, Sunil Gavaskar, and popular commentator Ravi Shastri as members of its governing council.

At the moment the IPL is seemingly winning the battle in terms of getting star players to sign up.