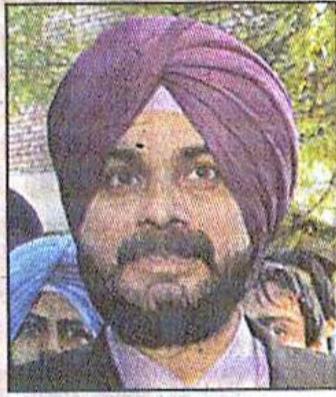




Did U Know?

The average American spends over 80 dollars per year on sporting equipment.



Navjot Singh Sidhu

(Former India cricketer)
"Test cricket is like classical music which has survived since ancient ages. One-dayers are like film music that leaves people enthralled and T20 cricket is like disco and rap which provides occasional pleasure in short bursts."



TEN Sports

Sportscenter India
 Sports News

Live at 8:30 pm



Murali shines in drawn tie

AFP, Adelaide

Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidaran claimed four wickets in a drawn-three day tour match against the Cricket Australia Chairman's XI at Adelaide Oval here Monday ahead of the Test series against Australia.

Muralidaran, eight wickets short of Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne's world record of 708 Test wickets, captured 4-121 off 44 overs as the Chairman's XI forged a 41-run lead on the first innings.

The Chairman's XI were dismissed for 409 off 122.2 overs in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings 368 for six declared.

Batting a second time, Sri Lanka finished at 125 for three off 36 overs when play was called off early by mutual agreement.

The tourists lost two wickets to paceman Mick Lewis (2-17) before captain Mahela Jayawardene (52) gained some valuable batting time ahead of the November 8 Brisbane first Test, following his first innings duck, with Thilan Samaraweera (41) not out.

Sanath Jayasuriya missed the final day with a head cold with vice-captain Kumar Sangakkara and reserve paceman Chanaka Welagedara troubled by leg injuries.

Muralidaran had Philip Hughes stumped for 49, and claimed invitation skipper Luke Ronchi out on the second ball of the morning for a duck when he was bamboozled and was bowled by an off-break.

Cullen Bailey played back to a well-pitched quicker ball to be leg before wicket for three.

South Australian Tom Plant compiled 124 before the remaining wickets fell quickly after lunch with Muralidaran having Plant taken at short fine leg from a top-edged sweep.

In Sri Lanka's second innings batting practice, Marvan Atapattu was lbw half-forward to Lewis for

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Siddons sees 'great challenge'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Jamie Siddons arrived in the capital yesterday to sign a two-year deal with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as a national team coach.

The Australian will become the eighth foreign coach of the national cricket team after completion of the official signing today.

The 43-year old coach, who has accepted the offer to put an end to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) search of finding a successor of Dav Whatmore, termed Bangladesh as a "big growing cricket team" on his arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

"Bangladesh are a young and upcoming team who are playing good cricket in one-day competition and have reached a certain level. I will try to move the team into a better position by upgrading their rank," said the shaven-headed Siddons.

The seven-member Bangladesh team led by Mohammad Ashraful returned home after playing the Hong Kong Sixes tournament in the same flight but, for yesterday at least, it was the Australian who was the centre of attraction for the media.

"It's a great challenge," he responded when asked how big a task it would be to take over a bottom ranked team after working as an assistant coach with the number one side (Australia).

"The team needs to be consistent in their performance," he added.

Siddons was not interested to talk about the weakness of the Bangladesh team as he said that it was important to "take responsibility."

"I can only comment on the deficiencies after my own assessment," he concluded.

Asked what prompted him to revert his decision to accept responsibility, after initially turning down Bangladesh's offer, Siddons remarked, "The time is right on this occasion. I am very happy with my decision."

It was learnt that Siddons first showed an unwillingness to accept the demanding job due to the financial package offered by the board.

The main interest among the throngs of reporters, however, surrounded the official signing ceremony but the BCB officials informed that it will be concluded this afternoon.

"We have got a good and quality coach and now it will be our duty to

signing because it's just a mere formality," said Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, chairman of the BCB's media committee.

"We have completed all of our discussions and now he will spend his second day settling personal issues like residence," he added.

Although he is the coach in all but paper, Siddons still made a presentation to the BCB's coach-selection committee in the afternoon while at the same time meeting with board president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali, captain Mohammad Ashraful and members of the cricket operations committee.

He inquired about Bangladesh's upcoming assignments, his support staff and other facilities.

He professed himself satisfied with the local fielding and bowling coaches but expressed a desire to look beyond the border for a batting coach.

It was learnt that Siddons first met with his compatriot Shaun Williams, who is enjoying a job as a national game development coach, before entering the board management office in Gulshan along with the BCB president in the afternoon.

"We have got a good and quality coach and now it will be our duty to

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Rajshahi stay atop

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi maintained hundred percent record in the first-class competition of the 9th National Cricket League when they handed Barisal an eight-wicket victory yesterday to storm to the top of the table with 30 points.

Second-time unlucky Khulna, who collected 11 points away in Dhaka in the drawn opening round match were once again held, this time in another tight finish at home by Chittagong, to stay at second place with 23 points.

After Dhaka's win over Sylhet inside three days, the remaining two matches of the second round finished in contrasting styles on the fourth and final day.

Rajshahi took just 28 deliveries to wrap up the show against sur-

prise pack Barisal, who had upset Chittagong in the first round, while Chittagong fought hard to keep an imposing Khulna attack at bay.

Dhaka with 16 points from the second round, moved to third with 21 and were followed by Barisal (18), Chittagong (11) and Sylhet (7) -- all three bottom-half sides collecting four points each from the round.

Rajshahi-Barisal

Visiting Barisal added just six runs to their overnight 216-9 in the second innings to set a meagre 9-run target for Rajshahi at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

Ali Arman Rajan was the last man to be dismissed in the second over of the morning when Rajshahi medium pacer Mushfiqur Rahman had him caught behind in his fifth delivery.

However, the hosts -- taking it too casually -- lost opener Jahirul Islam and number three Rafiqul Islam to wrap up the show against sur-

prise pack Barisal, who had upset Chittagong in the first round, while Chittagong fought hard to keep an imposing Khulna attack at bay.

Captain Khaled Mashud was adjudged man of the match.

KHULNA-CHITTAGONG

Khulna were denied from an outright victory in the competition for the second time as Chittagong, set to score an improbable 367 in the fourth innings, finished on 252 for seven at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

Resuming on 25 without loss, the tourists lost Nafees Iqbal for 27 but his younger brother Tamim Iqbal shared in a significant partnership to guide Chittagong out of troubled waters.

Nafees left the side on 51 and Gazi Salahuddin departed without adding anything to the total before hard-hitting Tamim, banned (serving for the limited-overs competition) for a scuffle with Talha Jubair in the last round, had to check his style.

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Islam to score nine runs off 2.5 overs.

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