



## Did U Know?

Gymnastics was first included as an official sport in the Special Olympics in 1972, when 11 athletes competed in tumbling and free exercise routines.



**Carlo Ancelotti**  
(AC Milan manager)  
"We're all really happy for him. It's an award he deserves for what he has done and for the image he has given to this sport."  
After Brazilian superstar Kaka won the Ballon d'Or award.



**DD National**  
India v Pakistan  
Second Test, Day Five  
Live from 10:00am

**TEN Sports**  
Sri Lanka v England  
First Test, Day Four  
Live from 11:00am

**UEFA Champions League**  
AC Milan v Celtic  
Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

## C'WEALTH CHESS 4 Bangladeshi players win

UNB, Dhaka

Four Bangladeshi players -- Grand Masters Niaz Morshed, Reefat Bin Sattar and Abdullah Al Rakib and International Women Master Rani Hamid -- won their respective first round matches of the Commonwealth Chess Championship which began in New Delhi on Monday.

Rakib beat Abhishek Reddy, Reefat defeated Uthra P. Niaz beat Niv Anusha and Rani Hamid beat Rajesh Handa in the first round. Another Bangladeshi FIDE Master Amin drew with Antonio Viani.

A total of 282 players including 13 GMs and 36 International Masters are taking part in the 10 round Swiss League for US dollars 20,000 prize money.

## Dilip free to go: BCCI

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar is free to resign if he cannot abide by guidelines barring him from writing a newspaper column, the country's cricket board said on Monday.

The former India skipper threatened to step down after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) refused to pay him compensation after persuading him to stop writing his column.

"Mr. Vengsarkar has written a letter to BCCI, in that (he has said) if the guidelines issued by the board are not withdrawn then he would like to step down," board vice-president Rajiv Shukla told reporters.

"The official position is those guidelines have been framed keeping in mind the constitutional provisions of the board, well established rules and regulations," he added.

"Those guidelines cannot be withdrawn. Mr. Vengsarkar is free

# Murali above all else

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidaran became Test cricket's most successful bowler on Monday after surpassing retired Shane Warne's record tally of 708.

The off-spinner, playing his 116th Test, bowled Paul Collingwood in the morning session of the third day of the first Test against England here to grab the record in his hometown.

The 35-year-old's achievement was watched by about 6,000 joyous fans at the Asgiriya Stadium, including his parents and Indian wife Madhimalani.

The feat marks a new high in the 15-year career of one of the most celebrated bowlers of the modern game whose controversial bent-arm action was questioned in the past by umpires.

Muralidaran had previously held the record briefly in 2004 when he overtook West Indian fast bowler Courtney Walsh's 519-wicket mark, before Warne surpassed him.

Muralidaran's 61st five-wicket haul -- he finished with 6-55 to take his tally to 710 -- saw England being bowled out for 281 on the third morning in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 188.

The beaming Sri Lankan told a television interviewer during the lunch break that "it was the right time" to achieve the record.

"It's my hometown, my parents are here, my wife is here, all the relatives are here and all my school

friends," said Muralidaran.

"It's a bigger moment than if I had taken it in Australia. It's the right time, I think. It's not easy to take six wickets in an innings but I managed to let my pressure off now."

Muralidaran said bowling Collingwood was a special moment, even though the ball did not spin as much as he had expected.

"I tried to spin the ball and it went the other way, but that's a special wicket," he said.

Muralidaran said he regarded the 16 wickets he took against England at the Oval in 1998 as his best performance.

"That was the highlight because it made people think that I was a good bowler and one who could take wickets overseas as well as at home," he said.

Muralidaran's bent-arm action, the result of an elbow deformity since birth, helped him impart considerable turn and bounce even on the most placid wickets.

The unusual action caused

heartburn in the cricket world, especially in Australia where umpires no-balled him for throwing and former prime minister John Howard once called him a "chucker."

Sri Lanka's captain Mahela Jayawardene saluted his master spinner, saying Murali was not only "the best bowler in the world" but also the ideal teammate.

"He is hungry for wickets but for him the team comes first," Jayawardene told AFP.

"At team meetings, he always talks about how to get the opposition out, how to win matches. It is always about the team, never about how we get another record."

"With that attitude, he will go on for a long, long time."

Murali, who made his Test debut in 1992, hopes to carry on despite a string of injuries that once forced exasperated former team physio Alex Kontouris to describe him as a "bio-mechanical mess."

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LEADING TEST WICKET-TAKERS									
Top 10 Test match bowlers after Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidaran surpassed Shane Warne's record tally of 708 wickets (bowler, matches, wickets, average, best bowling, 5-wkt in innings, 10-wkts in match)									
Muralidaran	SRI	116	710	21.77	9-51	61	20		
Warne	AUS	145	708	25.41	8-71	37	10		
Kumble	IND	119	573	28.56	10-74	33	8		
McGrath	AUS	124	563	21.64	8-24	29	3		
Walsh	WIS	132	519	24.44	7-37	22	3		
Kapil	IND	131	434	29.64	9-83	23	2		
Hadlee	NZL	86	431	22.29	9-52	36	9		
Pollock	RSA	107	416	23.19	7-67	16	1		
Akram	PAK	104	414	23.62	7-119	25	5		
Ambrose	WIS	98	405	20.99	8-45	22	3		

# Jayasuriya's bye to Test

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

Sanath Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka's highest scorer in both forms of cricket, has decided to retire from Test cricket, officials said Monday.

The 38-year-old left-hander will end his Test career after the ongoing first Test against England at the Asgiriya Stadium here, but will continue to play limited-overs cricket.

"Sanath has decided to retire from Test matches," Sri Lanka Cricket media manager Samantha Alagana told AFP.

Jayasuriya marked his last Test innings with a spectacular 78 earlier on Monday, an innings that included six boundaries in one over from James Anderson.

It was Jayasuriya's highest Test score in 16 Tests since the last of his 14 centuries in Karachi in 2005 and was reportedly under pressure from selectors to call it a day or be axed.

Jayasuriya's 6,973 runs from 110 Tests and 12,207 runs in 403 one-dayers are the highest by any Sri Lankan batsman. He has also claimed 97 Test and 307 one-day wickets with his left-arm spin.

"I am retiring after this Test," Jayasuriya told reporters after the third day's play in the first Test which ended with Sri Lanka 74 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand.

"But I want to continue playing one-day cricket. I had decided before this match that I will retire after the Kandy Test."

Jayasuriya made his one-day debut against Australia in Melbourne on December 26, 1989,

and played his first Test against New Zealand in Hamilton in February 1991.

His retirement comes the same day teammate Muttiah Muralidaran overtook Australian Shane Warne's world record of 708 wickets to become the most successful Test bowler.



HIS LAST HURRAH: A Sri Lankan fan escorts batsman Sanath Jayasuriya as he leaves the ground after being dismissed on his personal score of 78 on the third day of the first Test against England at Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy yesterday. Jayasuriya afterwards disclosed that it was his last Test innings.

FACTFILE									
Full name: Sanath Teran Jayasuriya									
Born: June 30, 1969, Matara									
Current age: 38 years 156 days									
Major teams: Sri Lanka, ACC Asian XI, Asia XI, Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club, Colombo Cricket Club, Marylebone Cricket Club, Somerset									
Batting style: Left-hand bat									
Bowling style: Slow left-arm orthodox									
Test debut: New Zealand v Sri Lanka at Hamilton, February 22-26, 1991.									
TEST CAREER AVERAGES									
Batting									
Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s
109	186	14	6885	340	40.02	14	30	898	58
								78	0
Bowling									
Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR
109	138	8092	3329	97	5/34	9/74	34.31	2.46	83.4
									4w
									5w
									10

## Akhtar played on his own

PTI, Kolkata

'Rawalpindi Express' Shoaib Akhtar, who was hospitalised with a chest infection three days before the start of the Kolkata Test against India, said there was no pressure on him from the Pakistan team management to play in the match.

"It was my decision to play. After all, this Test is crucial for us. There was no pressure on me from the team management," the fast-bowler said.

Akhtar seemed unfit, especially on the opening day of the match on Friday, as he could bowl only nine overs in short spells with a curtailed run-up.

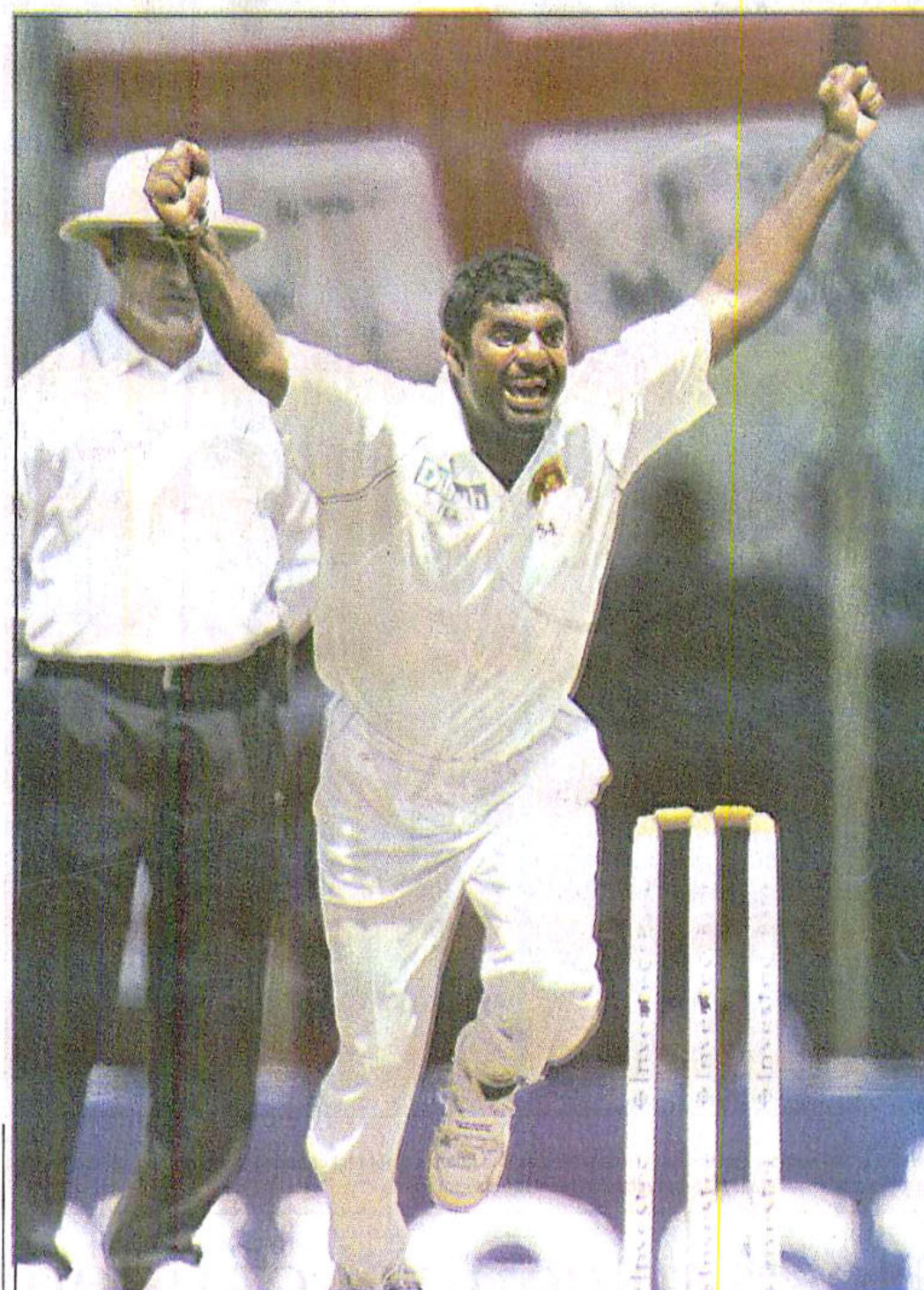
There were reports that Akhtar had been forced to play the match by the selectors and the team management.

Akhtar said he was still suffering, though the fever and cough had reduced.

"I am still suffering. When I was



NEW ZEALAND IN DHAKA? Bangladesh batsman Tushar Imran goes for a single after turning the ball to square-leg as an unidentified wicketkeeper and a fielder at point sporting New Zealand shirts look on during the Tigers' training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



THIS ONE IS VERY SPECIAL: Champion Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran sets off to celebrate his record-breaking wicket after having England batsman Paul Collingwood (unseen) clean bowled on the third day of the first Test at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy yesterday. Murali overtook Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne's record of 708 Test scalps with the wicket of Collingwood.

## 'India to bat for some time today'

PTI, Kolkata

India would look to set Pakistan a challenging second innings target after landing themselves in a position of safety as they look for a series-clinching win on the final day of the second Test at the Eden Gardens here, wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said on Monday.

With the wicket helping spinners, it was hard to score off the slow bowlers on the Eden Gardens track.

"We will bat for sometime tomorrow and everything depends on the time (of declaration) and the runs we score. You have to be on the safer side first. You need extra runs to challenge them in this kind of a wicket," Dhoni said when asked about India's prospects on Tuesday.

"The wicket is helping the spinners. And normally the game changes on the final day. We will look for a win tomorrow. It's a slow wicket. The bowlers will have to use the rough. When the balls get softer, scoring gets difficult," Dhoni said after the fourth day's play.

Asked whether the Indians

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# Hosts in control of Eden

Cricket

AFP, Kolkata

Wasim Jaffer hit a brisk half-century as India kept alive their hopes of forcing a win in the second Test against Pakistan here on Monday.

The opener followed his first-innings 202 with 56 to help the hosts reach 141-2 in their second innings for an overall lead of 301 at stumps on the penultimate day.

India, leading 1-0 in the three-Test series, shuffled their batting order to gather quick runs in a bid to set a testing fourth-innings target for Pakistan on the fifth and final day.

Hard-hitting Mahendra Singh Dhoni (28) and Sourav Ganguly (24), who were promoted in the batting order, were at the crease when bad light stopped play.

In-form Jaffer showed the way with a 75-run stand for the opening wicket with Dinesh Karthik (28). Dhoni and Ganguly then kept the momentum as India made 121 in the closing 29 overs.

Pakistan will need to bat more than two sessions on a last-day pitch on Tuesday if India declare their second innings closed during the morning session.

Misbahul Haq earlier gave Pakistan a lifeline when he remained unbeaten with a gutsy 161 to help his side avoid a follow-on.

The middle-order batsman showed remarkable determination and concentration under pressure, forcing India to bat again in the match when he had only tailenders to give him company.

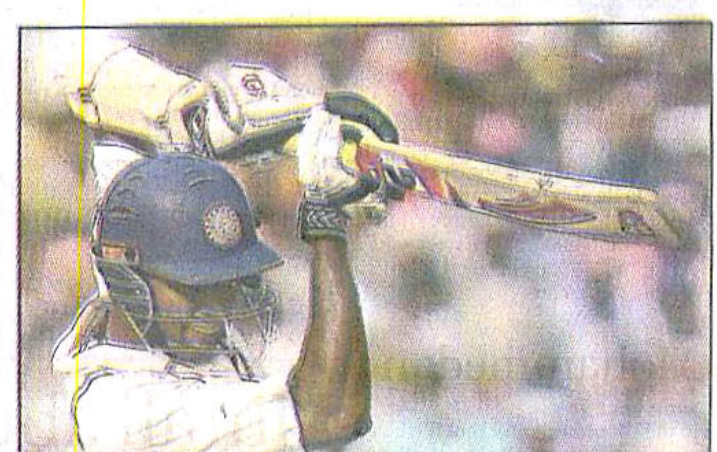
"I will always remember this knock as it was my son's birthday

when I scored my first century. So, definitely it was special," said Misbah.

"It was not easy to bat second in these conditions. So if a team fight back, the confidence level goes up and that is what happened to us. If we manage to draw the Test, it will be good for us."

"If they set a target then we will go out there and play normal cricket. If a situation develops

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India opener Wasim Jaffer follows through on a copybook straight drive during his brisk fifty on the fourth day of the second Test against Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

# Siddons's goal is to improve, innovate

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Simulating a certain condition or situation is quite common in human nature but applying it into a cricket practice session, to give the players a feel of their opponents is quite an innovative idea.

There was no way that the New Zealand bowlers could come out for a session against Tigers at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, but new Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons still managed to give his charges a view of the opposition during yesterday's practice.

In some unique additions to the Tigers training, the net-bowlers all sported shirts resembling the New

Zealand one-day jersey while a length of the pitch was cut down to produce quick bowling.

"I said to the players during my presentation yesterday (Sunday) that Dav (Whatmore) has left a great legacy. But I am a new coach with new ideas, a new vision, new goals which the players will help me set and hopefully a fresh start for a lot of players who have been labelled along the way. So everyone's got a new opportunity to set the scene for Bangladesh cricket," explained Siddons.

The full-fledged training under the tutelage of Siddons started yesterday although it was not possible for the man in charge to give his full effort as he had to leave the ground at the middle of the session to receive his partner.

But before leaving the ground

he explained his new ideas while talking with the reporters.

"It is just to give the batsmen perfect practice. White shirts or something else would not have been very similar to New Zealand so we have put black shirts on them. They are not exactly the New Zealand uniform but the closer we get to the New Zealand bowlers the better because the batsmen will then get a feeling of what is exactly coming to them in a game," he reflected on his new addition.

"I've never seen it done. I have no doubt it has happened and it is a pretty obvious addition to a training session. If you can get the jersey then why not?" he added.

To give his batsmen some idea about the opponents bowling in their own seaming condition,

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