



## 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.



**C'WEALTH CHESS**  
**4 Bangladeshi players win**  
 UNB, Dhaka

Four Bangladeshi players -- Grand Masters Niaz Morshed, Reebat 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 Abhilash Reddy, Reebat 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 Viana.

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 Vengsarkar has written a letter to BCCI, in that (he has said) if the guidelines issued by the board are not withdrawn then he would like to step down," board vice-president Rajiv Shukla told reporters.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"Those guidelines cannot be withdrawn.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

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

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 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."

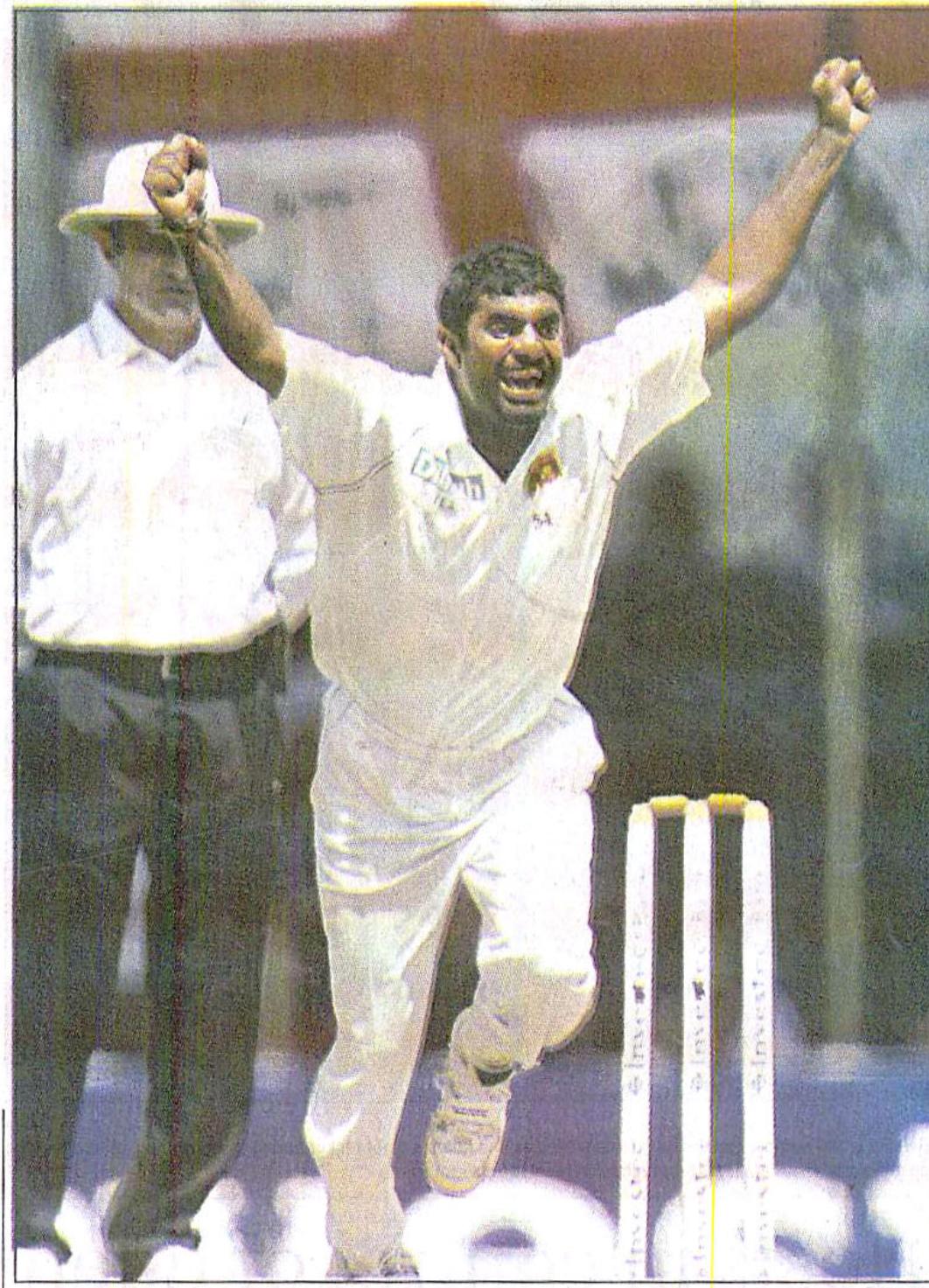
Murali, who made his Test debut in 1992, hopes to carry on despite a string of injuries that once forced exasperated former team physio Alex Kontouris to describe him as a "bio-mechanical mess."

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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-wk in innings, 10-wk in match)

Bowler	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St
Muralidaran	116	710	21.77	9.51	61	20						
Warne	145	708	25.41	8.71	37	10						
Kumble	119	573	28.56	10.74	33	8						
McGrath	124	563	21.64	8.24	29	3						
Walsh	132	519	24.44	7.37	22	3						
Kapil	131	434	29.64	9.83	23	2						
Hadlee	86	431	22.29	9.52	36	9						
Pollock	107	416	23.19	7.87	16	1						
Akram	104	414	23.62	7.19	25	5						
Ambrose	98	405	20.99	8.45	22	3						



Murali photo up there at Lord's

AFP, London

Just hours after Muttiah Muralidaran became Test cricket's leading wicket-taker, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) announced Monday it had unveiled a portrait of the Sri Lanka off-spinner at Lord's.

The specially commissioned oil-on-canvas painting is six feet tall by three-and-a-half feet wide, making it one of the larger exhibits to hang at Lord's, the London home ground of MCC and known to many of the game's followers as 'the home of cricket'.

Many cricket greats have had their portraits displayed at Lord's, including batting legends Sir Donald Bradman, Vivian Richards and Brian Lara, as well as Shane Warne, the man whose record Murali broke on Monday.

Muralidaran, 35, went past the 708 mark of now Test-retired Australia leg-spinner when, on his home ground in Kandy on Monday, he bowled England's Paul Collingwood on the third day of the first Test.

Murali then took his tally to 710 in his 116th Test before England were bowled out for 281 in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings 188.

**Shane applauds his successor**

AFP, Sydney

Shane Warne has congratulated Muttiah Muralidaran on reclaiming the world record for most Test wickets, declaring on Monday that the mark will stand forever.

Muralidaran claimed his 709th wicket in Sri Lanka's first Test against England in Kandy on Monday to become Test cricket's most successful bowler.

The off-spinner, playing his 116th Test, bowled Paul Collingwood to grab his fifth wicket in the innings and surpass retired Australian leg-

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## Jayasuriya's bye to Test

### Cricket

AFP, Kandy

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.



PHOTO: AFP

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

Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St
109	166	14	6885	340	40.02	14	30	898	58	78	0

Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR	4w	5w	10
109	138	80923329	97	5/34	9/74	34.31	2.46	83.4	6	2	0	0

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.

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.

## Hosts in control of Eden

### Cricket

AFP, Kolkata

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

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PHOTO: AFP

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