



Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar (C) stretches as he takes part in a training session along with his teammates at the MAC stadium in Chennai yesterday.

## ICC for better behaviour

CRICINFO, undated

India's often ill-tempered tour of Australia, during which players from both sides were hauled up by match officials, has prompted the ICC to formally stress on the need to avoid "obscene, offensive or insulting language". A note, urging players to improve their behaviour, has been issued by the ICC chief executive, Malcolm Speed, and its general manager, David Richardson, to the captains of international teams, Elite Panel umpires and Referees and CEOs of Full Members.

Recent events and, in particular, the series between Australia and India have highlighted the issue of "sledding", the note said. "We seek your support in learning lessons from these issues and moving forward in a positive way."

It pointed to "several controversial incidents" on the field in international cricket which "originated from the use by players of language or gestures which are considered obscene, offensive or insulting."

The Indian board had proposed a ban on sledging when the ICC executive committee met in Kuala Lumpur in the third week of February.

The note also asked players to be more respectful towards fellow players, umpires and referees. "Players are asked to take their responsibility as role models seriously and to make an effort to improve their behaviour in this regard. Captains are requested to lead by example and to ensure that they keep tight control over the behaviour of their players. There is no question that international cricket must be played with intensity and with no quarter asked nor given but within the bounds of mutual respect and the spirit of the game."

The ICC also acknowledged that it was difficult to define what combination of words and gestures would be construed as offensive, and asked umpires to apply "a degree of individual interpretation and judgement" to determine whether a player's behaviour had fallen below acceptable standards.

## Trent takes

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"There are also the demands on my time with work. I've now got a terrific job with Architectural Hardware, who have been fantastic with their support."

Johnston indicated that he was hoping to return to the Ireland fold later in the year.

"I do feel I've still got a lot to offer, particularly in the four-day format."

"I suppose I could still field in the slips, and I've been in good form with the bat, so could maybe concentrate on that aspect of my game more."

"I'll be sitting down with Phil Simmons this week and discussing my plans."

"I don't think I'm up to the strains of one-day cricket any more. These three one-day internationals in the space of five days have nearly killed me."

"It's only fair to give Phil a chance to build up a working relationship with William Porterfield now, rather than drop this on him in six months."

Johnston will continue to play domestic cricket in Leinster, where he is captain of Railways Union.

In addition to leading Ireland in the tremendous World Cup campaign, the Australian native has captained Ireland to successive Intercontinental Cup Final wins against Kenya (2005) and Canada (2007).

## Fish stuns Federer

Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

Mardy Fish pulled off a whale of an upset on Saturday, stunning world number one Roger Federer 6-3, 6-2 to reach the final of the ATP Masters Series Pacific Life Open.

Fish ranked 98th in the world, needed just 63 minutes to roll past the Swiss superstar, who mustered just one break point and couldn't convert.

The defeat leaves Federer still searching for his first tournament victory of 2008, the first time since 2000 that the 12-time Grand Slam champion has gone so far into a season without a title.

Fish sent a shock through the stadium-court crowd with his first victory over Federer in the second game. He held for 3-0 and never looked back, taking the opening set in 39 minutes.

The American opened the second set with a break - firing a stinging service return on break point - and broke again in the fifth game.

Federer fended off two match points against his own serve in the seventh game, but Fish took a 40-0 lead in the next game to give himself three more chances, and claimed the unlikely triumph when Federer netted a forehand.

Fish had lost all five of his previous encounters with Federer, winning just one set in the process.

"I've had a great record against him, always controlled matches against him," Federer said. "Today was different. He played great today, so congratulations."

Fish became the lowest-ranked player to beat Federer since then 101st-ranked Richard Gasquet of France beat him at Monte Carlo in 2005.

However, Federer said that was misleading, since Fish has been ranked as high as 17th in the world in March of 2004.

"We all know how Mardy can be," Federer said.

While Fish had to battle through five tough rounds to reach the semifinals, Federer enjoyed a first-round bye and then advanced from the quarters on a walkover when his scheduled opponent, German Tommy Haas, withdrew with a sinus infection.

"I was a bit deflated yesterday," Federer said. "I was ready to play against Tommy. But that's not an excuse. Mardy played incredible."

Fish next faces Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic, who ousted defending champion Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-2.

Djokovic, the third seed, turned the tables on the second-seeded Spaniard, who beat him in the final here last year.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Kamol struck a late winner as Badda Jagarani defeated Jatrabari Krira Chakra by a solitary goal in the super league of the Senior Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Kamol separated the two sides after 83 minutes as Badda stayed above Jatrabari in the super six table.

In the relegation league, Agrani Bank blanked Wari Club 2-0 at the Birsreshtha Shaeed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur Stadium with Chowmohri Rakhan scoring both the goals.

### JEA CUP

The final of the 4th JEA Cup Under-15 Football Championship between Dhaka and BKSP will be held today at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

Japan Football Association's representative Maksuda Takahiro is expected to be present as special guest and will distribute gifts from the football's governing body in Japan, which has been sponsoring the event regularly.

### UNB adds:

#### HANDBALL

The 17th Bata School Handball Tournament (Under-17 boys and girls) begins today at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

ZD Hunts, managing director of Bata, will formally inaugurate the five-day meet sponsored by Bata, at 3pm.

Ten matches in the girls' group and five in boys' are lined up for the opening day.

A total of 32 metropolis schools, including 15 from girls, split into four groups will participate in the tournament.

Later, the top team from each group will participate in the semifinals on March 28. The final will be held on March 29.

Of the total budget of Tk 3.30 lakh, Bata will provide Tk 2.52 lakh for holding the tournament.

Tournament committee secretary Khalekuzzaman Swapan disclosed the details at a press conference at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room yesterday.

MA Kader, marketing manager of Bata, Nurul Islam, deputy general secretary of Bangladesh Handball Federation and Hamida Begum, tournament committee chairman, were also present.

### HOCKEY

Old Dhaka Hockey Association brushed aside Bangladesh Navy 7-0 in the Dhaka Bank Independence Day Hockey Tournament played at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Maksud Alam Habul struck three and his national teammate Russell Mahmud Jimmy netted twice while Rashed Hasan Ronny and Mahbubul Ehsan Rana scored one each for the winners, who led the first half 3-0.

In the day's other match, Sepahi SC outplayed Police AC 7-1.

Ashraful Islam Shishu struck four goals, Krishna, Shahjahan and skipper Rajan netted one each for the winners while Nannu scored the face-saving goal for the losers.

## Pak-SL series under threat

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's proposed series of one-day internationals against Pakistan next month is in jeopardy due to a clash of dates with the cash-rich Indian Premier League.

Sri Lanka had offered to play in the short series following a pullout by Australia from a full tour of Pakistan in March-April due to security concerns.

But the dates of the series -- from April 23 to May 5 -- are in direct clash with the inaugural Twenty20 league, to be played over 44 days at various venues in India from April 18 to June 1.

The lure of playing in the cash-rich IPL ahead of the Pakistan series could prompt some Sri Lankan players to shun their national colours, media reports said Sunday.

Captain Mahela Jayawardene, key batsman Kumar Sangakkara and spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran are among a host of Sri Lankan players contracted to play in the IPL.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), the governing body for the sport here, would be helpless to prevent the players from playing in the league as they are currently bound only by the West Indies tour contract, The Nation reported.

It said the players, currently in the West Indies to play two Tests and three one-day internationals, had deliberated at length over the clash.

## Issa leaves

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have 18 paid well.

The rest of the stick wielders will find it difficult to find a decent living for the season and the players' plea for increasing the pool quota to seven fell to deaf ears as the federation, which originally had fixed the quota to five, decided to stop at six.

## 'I'm not Sanath'

Cricket

AFP, Providence

Malinda Warnapura feels he has a long way to go before anyone can put his name in the same bracket with Sanath Jayasuriya.

The left-hander was speaking after he collected his maiden Test hundred against West Indies on the opening day of the Test at the National Stadium worked in his favour.

Warnapura made 120 playing in his third Test to lead Sri Lanka to 269 for four in their first innings when stumps were drawn, after they chose to bat in ideal conditions.

The 28-year-old Warnapura believes that the Sri Lankans' good fortune of having to play their only warm-up match prior to the test at the National Stadium.

Warnapura entered the match in a rich vein of form with the benefit of retiring-out in both innings of the match against a West Indies Select XI for scores of 132 and 50.

"I think it helped us a lot to adjust to the conditions," he said. "It was much easier batting against the new ball on this pitch, since it was coming on to the bat nicely."

"But once the ball got old, the pitch became a lot slower, and it was much more difficult to play your strokes."

"I don't feel any pressure from the expectations that I can replace

Sanath Jayasuriya," Warnapura told reporters after the day's play.

"I am not Sanath Jayasuriya. I am only a player who has been given an opportunity, and I will have to take the chance and prove that I am good enough to play for Sri Lanka."

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"I was the same thing when we

played the three-day game, so I knew it was going to be slow, and I just had to be patient."

Warnapura, a nephew of former Sri Lanka batsman Bandura Warnapura, felt his knock was vital since it gave his side a strong start to the series.

"It was the responsibility of each one of us to bat through the innings whichever one of us got to 60 or 70, and I think I did well to achieve this favour."

"We had a game plan to not lose more than two wickets a session, and I think we did well, since we batted through the first session without losing a wicket, and we only lost one wicket in the second session which was good."

"Unfortunately, we lost three wickets in the last session, and I think that was the only thing that went wrong. But we are looking alright at the end of the day."

Sri Lanka are aiming to win their first Test match in the Caribbean having lost two and drawn two of their previous four.

## Malinda's lone battle

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In the same over, Dilshan almost played a delivery into his stumps, but he and Jayawardene soon regained their composure and saw Sri Lanka through to the close without further damage.

Taylor was the most successful West Indies bowler with three wickets for 59 runs from 18 overs.

Earlier, Warnapura reached his milestone, when he cut his 182nd ball from West Indies captain Chris Gayle for a single to backward point.

But he was fortunate on 95, when Dwayne Bravo dropped him at slip, after top-edged a cut at a delivery from Gayle that turned and bounced sharply.

The 28-year-old Warnapura entered the Test in a rich vein of form, after retiring-out in both innings of Sri Lanka's only warm-up prior to the Test against a West Indies Select XI for scores of 132 and 50.

Following the retirement of Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu, a void has been left at the top of the Sri Lanka batting line-up, and Warnapura continued without loss at the interval.

The closest Warnapura and Vandort came to gifting West Indies a wicket was, when Benn had a

he could adequately fill the role of opening the innings.

He shared a record-breaking opening stand of 130 with Michael Vandort, whose knock of 52 ended when he was adjudged lbw to Jerome Taylor in the first hour after lunch.

Vandort struck seven boundaries from 117 balls in 2-3/4 hours before he played back and across to a full-length delivery from Taylor.

His stand with Warnapura eclipsed the 126 -- unbroken -- shared between Atapattu and Jayasuriya four years ago at the Beausejour Stadium in the Caribbean island of St. Lucia.

Sangakkara came to the crease, and the runs continued to flow for the Sri Lankans, as he looked to lay the groundwork for a significant innings and Warnapura continued to dig in.

Before lunch, Warnapura drove Benn through cover off the back-foot for two to reach his 50 and helped catapult Sri Lanka to 85 without loss at the interval.

The hosts handed a Test debut to Benn, and he became the 268th player to wear the Maroon Cap.

The second Test between the two sides will be contested from April 3 to 7 at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad, and the series is completed with three one-day internationals on April 10 and 12 at Queen's Park Oval, and a day/night affair on April 15 at Beausejour.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day in the first Test between West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Guyana National Stadium on Saturday:

**SRILANKA:** First innings

Vandort lbw b Taylor 52

Warnapura c Ramdin b Bravo 120

Sangakkara c D Smith b Taylor 50

M Jayawardene not out 25

Samaraweera c (sub) Down b Taylor 0