

## Indians share the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian International Master Dinesh Kumar Sharma drew his penultimate round with FM Taibur Rahman to share the lead with his compatriot IM Himanshu Sharma in the eighth United Insurance and United Leasing International Masters Chess tournament at the federation hall-room yesterday.

The tenth and final round will take place today and prize distribution ceremony will also held on the same day at the National Sports Council conference room.

In the ninth round, Himanshu beat Delwar Hossain.

Pakistan International Master Mahmood Lodhi beat Grand Master Ziaur Rahman to secure the second place with 6.5 points.

FM Abu Sufian Shakil and FM Minhazuddin Sagar improved their tally to six points to share the third place. Shakil beat IM Shahzad Mirza and Sagar beat FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed.

### JUNIORCHESS

Women FIDE Master Samima Akhter Liza won the fourth round game in the World Junior Chess Championship in Turkey yesterday.

Liza, who also won the third round match, beat Sanja Misovic.

## Ranjan, Amal in final

UNB, Dhaka

Amal Roy and Ranjan Ram moved to the men's singles final of the Dhaka Open Tennis competition at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Amal Roy beat Alamgir Hossain of Nordic Club 6-3, 6-3 while his opponent Ranjan Ram defeated Murad Hossain of Hotel Sarina 6-1, 6-2 in the two semifinals.

In the men's doubles, the two finalists paired up to beat Dipu Lal and Alamgir Hossain 6-3, 6-2 in the semifinal and they will meet Niranjan Ram and Mahmudul Huq of Dhaka Sheraton, who defeated Anwar Hossain and Delwar Hossain of British Club 7-5, 1-6, 7-5 in the second semifinal.

In the women's singles, Sathi moved to the final with a comfortable 6-0, 6-0 victory over Barsha while Shammin made her final berth confirm by defeating Bhabna 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 in the semifinals.

## Watto excited by Olympics

CRICINFO, undated

All-rounder Shane Watson would be 39 if Twenty20 completed an astonishing rise to Olympic status by 2020, but he is still excited by the outside prospect of taking part.

"As a cricketer it would be great to think you could achieve an Olympic gold medal in your career," he said. "Everybody who plays elite sport dreams of Olympic gold."

Watson's credentials in cricket's shortest format are outstanding -- he was the player of the tournament in the inaugural Indian Premier League and is a brutal hitter and economical bowler. He has stepped into line with a large group of current and former stars who support Adam Gilchrist's Games proposal, including Steve Waugh, Stephen Fleming and Sourav Ganguly.

"This brand of cricket is a perfect fit for the Olympic schedule," Watson said. He received a taste of what the Games meant when Sir Steve Redgrave, the five-time Olympic gold medallist, spoke to the Australian team during its successful campaign at the 2007 World Cup.

"Everyone wants to be part of the Olympic Games," he said. "I think we should continue to explore this."

While Mitchell Johnson, Watson's former Queensland teammate, said it would be "pretty cool" to play at the Olympics, he told AAP Tests remained the "ultimate". "You ask all the other guys and they'll say the same thing," he said.

"Test match cricket is what they want to play. Hopefully it can stay like that and Twenty20 not take over, but I'm pretty confident Test match cricket is staying strong."

Pakistan players have also come out in support of Gilchrist's idea. "We are all professional cricketers and I for one would really like to take part in the Olympics, which is the biggest global sporting event," Shoaib Malik, the Pakistan captain, told PTI. "It would be great to go to the Olympics and play cricket. The length of a match is a factor which has dissuaded organisers from considering cricket as a Olympic sport but with Twenty20 cricket coming into play things have changed."

Younis Khan wasn't perturbed with which format would be played at the Games. "Other team games are played in the Olympics so why not cricket. I am not concerned what type of cricket makes it to the Olympics, be it the 10-over version, 20-overs version or 50, but it must be there."



India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh follows the path of his own delivery during practice at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

## Gary's faith in Anil

CRICKET

AFP, Colombo

India coach Gary Kirsten says he is confident the team will remain focused in his absence when they take on Sri Lanka in the crucial third and final Test starting here on Friday.

"I have complete faith in what (captain) Anil Kumble can do," said Kirsten, who will be unavailable for the match as he is leaving on Tuesday for his native South Africa to be with his ailing mother.

"There is a calm focus about the team and there is a humility about how we are going to go about our business. There is no arrogance in the environment."

The series is currently tied 1-1, with Sri Lanka winning the opening Test by an innings and 239 runs in Colombo and India coming back strongly to clinch a 170-run victory in the second match in Galle.

"These players are aware what they need to do and they are right on track in terms of preparations. The important thing is the awareness of the situation. They know they have an opportunity (to win the series)," said Kirsten.

"Every guy is aware if he is not

fully focused for the next Test it could affect the team's performance."

Kirsten said he had faith in the team's ability to fight back.

"We were happy with the team's response as they lifted their performance by at least 20 per cent (in Galle)," said the former South African opener.

"But the important thing is there is a real awareness about things to achieve in the next Test. And we have always believed that when this team is firing on all cylinders they can match the best in the world."

Kirsten said it was not difficult to motivate the team after the big defeat as they took "great pride" playing for the country.

"There was a tremendous hurt in the team after the loss. I think it all started with Kumble and from there it filtered down to the rest of the team. He is a fantastic leader and fighter," he said.

"So, to motivate the team to improve their performance by 20 per cent was not really difficult. The big challenge now is to see that they maintain it in the third Test since they have pulled one back."

Kirsten was all praise for teenager paceman Ishant Sharma and opener Virender Sehwag for playing big roles in the team's victory at

Galle.

The 19-year-old paceman rattled the top order with two quick wickets before finishing with 3-20 off 15 overs as Sri Lanka were shot out for 136 chasing a 307-run target.

"He is quality seamer and at the moment he stands out in the Indian line-up. I am very impressed by what he has to offer," said the coach.

"He is learning which are good areas to bowl. So, at the end of the day we tell him to bowl the natural length. And when he is bowling his natural length he is as good as anyone in the world."

Sehwag dominated the Sri Lankan attack with his brilliant strokeplay, scoring an unbeaten 201 in the first innings and 50 in the second. He was named man of the match.

But the Indian coach said it was not necessary that every batsman should play like the hard-hitting opener.

"The success of any Test-playing side is how each batsman sticks to his own skill," said Kirsten.

"We certainly don't say that Sehwag plays like this so the rest of the batsmen need to play like this. He plays like that since he has the skill and ability to play like that."

## Dravid crosses Sunny

CRICKET

INTERNET, undated

In that gentle, serene manner that has been the hallmark of his career, Rahul Dravid took his aggregate past Sunil Gavaskar's in the Galle Test. In fact, so gently and so serenely that it was barely noticed. We were told, breathlessly, that Gautam Gambhir and Virender Sehwag became the first pair of Indian openers to make two half-centuries in the same Test abroad. Interesting trivia, of course, but hardly in the same league as a contemporary giant overtaking a legend of the game.

Yet, that has been Dravid's lot. He has played fewer Tests than Gavaskar, averages three runs per innings higher, and averages nearly 72 in 40 Indian victories (Gavaskar averaged 44 in the 23 wins he was involved with). Had it not been for the phenomenon called Sachin Tendulkar, the media would have been indulging in the Gavaskar versus Dravid debates. We don't need to get into such pointless arguments here; it needs to be said, however, that Dravid has seldom been given his due. For, he also has the second best catching record in history -- 176 catches to Mark Waugh's 181.

He is beginning to climb out of a bad patch. One of the pleasures of watching the Test was to see how Dravid became more and more his old self with every ball he played -- and did not play. In the first innings, he walked without realiz-

ing that the short leg fielder's juggling effort had touched the helmet and therefore he was not out. In the second, when he was batting well it was a decision that involved a per centage of the ball pitching on the edge of the "mat". When the review is reviewed, its efficacy in leg before decisions will be questioned. Camera positioning is crucial. Perhaps we will soon have umpires with a camera between their eyes to go with their ears. It is easier to make human beings robots than the reverse.

Only Tendulkar, Brian Lara and Ricky Ponting -- apart from Dravid -- have got over ten thousand runs in both forms of the game. Dravid, the Test batsman had to adapt the one-dayer to his game rather than the other way around which has been the path taken by the rest. He continued to bat as before, except that he used his tools, the square cut, the pull, the on drive, more often. He had the intelligence to eliminate risk rather than borrow the big-hitting techniques of his colleagues.

Before the start of the Sri Lanka series, skipper Anil Kumble had said that mystery spinner Ajantha Mendis would hold no terror for the Indian batsmen since someone like Dravid would work him out. It has taken Dravid longer than expected to do that partly because he wants an answer through orthodox methods, and partly because his confidence after the England tour when he gave up the captaincy has been low.

But he is too good a player to stay out of touch for too long. If the

near half-century at Galle is any indication, he is ready with the answers. Sehwag and Tendulkar have shown how Mendis can be conquered through attacking batsmanship. Dravid showed briefly how he too can go down that road; but he would be happier frustrating Mendis through a mixture of footwork and straight bat. Spinners know they have a chance when they are being hit. But when batsmen play them comfortably in defence, they worry. That is why India's great spin quartet are agreed that the batsman who played them best was not Viv Richards or Gary Sobers, but England's 'barn door' Ken Barrington.

## Cricket workshops begin today

SPORTS REPORTER

A cricket coaching workshop for local cricket coaches and physical education teachers of schools will start at different districts today.

BCB game development committee has arranged these workshops in 64 districts which will continue till September 3 and there will be a workshop for two zones of Dhaka Metropolitan area too.

Eight BCB divisional coaches have been assigned to conduct the workshops.

It will concentrate on practical training on batting and bowling and designed for professional development of the coaches and physical education teachers.

## Beard shifts her focus

AP, Beijing

Olympic gold medalist swimmer Amanda Beard had to launch her naked, anti-fur campaign poster outside the Athletes' Village on Wednesday after Chinese authorities canceled a planned unveiling, citing safety concerns.

In a poster for the animal rights group PETA, the reigning 200-meter breaststroke champion appears naked in front of the US flag and the slogan "Be comfortable in your own skin. Don't wear fur."

Jason Baker, an Asia-Pacific spokesman for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said the launch was "a bit more dramatic than we had planned" after Chinese security officials visited a hotel where an official news conference had been scheduled and shut down the event.

"From what I've been told from the hotel, the public security bureau showed up at midnight and told them our specific event had to be canceled for safety reasons, without going into any specifics," Baker said. "When I arrived at 8 a.m., there were public security officials in the press conference room we had booked."

"Amanda didn't want her voice to be silenced, so we went ahead and arranged something else never knew if we were going to be stopped at any point."

Baker said the protest was not against China and did not interfere with the Olympics. Police and security did not interfere with the event outside the village's south gate.

"It was a sexy ad really designed for the U.S. market. It was positive, and it was (supposed) to be done in a private function room," Baker said. "I'm surprised they were so concerned, given we've done similar with Asian celebrities in the past."

The 26-year-old Beard, who has posed nude in men's magazines, said she decided to participate in the PETA campaign because she loved animals and was horrified to see how fur was produced for fashion in some places.

### Div II cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

GKSP and Anwar Smrity Sangsad won their respective matches in the Second Division Cricket League at the local stadium here yesterday.

GKSP scored 86-9 in 20 overs and then wrapped up CYSA for 67 runs to register a 19-run victory.

In the second match, Anwar Smrity secured a five-wicket win as they scored 117 runs for five wickets in reply to Anirban Sporting Club's 116 for eight wickets in stipulated 20 overs.

### India withdraws

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samples from her in the last two months and we got a report today saying she tested positive," he told Reuters. "It does not even say which sample tested positive and for what substance. The report itself is flimsy."

He said there would be no replacement because stand-by lifter Shailaja Pujari had been suspended for doping in the past and could prove an embarrassment.

This is another high-profile doping incident involving an Indian woman lifter after Kavita Devi was banned for two years by the federation in May.

### KO for Messi

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will benefit from such an experience, but also his club. I regret that the CAS has not taken the Olympic spirit into consideration."

Both Barcelona and Schalke have Champions League qualifiers during the Olympics, where the football final takes place on August 22, while Bremen want Diego for the start of the Bundesliga on August 15.

"Normally, clubs must release players for international."

But CAS, explaining their decision, said: "The Olympic tournament doesn't feature in the official FIFA calendar and there is no executive decision by FIFA which establishes a right of release for Under-23 players for this tournament."

"Consequently, Schalke 04, Werder Bremen and Barcelona are not obliged to release the players Rafinha, Diego and Messi."

It added: "CAS appeals to the good sense of the clubs and FIFA to find a reasonable solution which will allow a player who wishes to represent his country to compete in the Olympic Games."

### Get big runs

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bundled out for 136 chasing a 307-run target.

India will be without coach Gary Kirsten, who left Tuesday for his native South Africa to be with his ailing mother.

"There is a lot of expertise in the team. There are five guys who have captained India, so it will just be a case of co-ordinating the expertise that's already there," said Paddy Upton, a member of India's coaching staff.

"Individually, each person needs to take some responsibility to contribute to the win. We are very confident and comfortable that we have got the players in the team who can win this Test match."

## Out of the world swimsuit

AFP, Beijing



of the planet's best swimmers who insist it is out of this world.

After the high-tech suit was launched in February this year, many elite swimmers rushed to grab one with spectacular results as records tumbled.

There were even calls for the sport's governing body FINA to review their approval on ethical grounds, but the athletes who rave about it read like a who's who of swimming.

In a shrewd marketing move by Speedo, America's Michael Phelps - bidding to win an historic eight gold medals in Beijing when the competition starts on Saturday - was heavily involved in the LZR's testing and advertising.

"When I hit the water, I feel like a rocket," Phelps says of the suit he wore when breaking the world 200 and 400 metre individual medley records at the US Olympic trials in June.

And he is not alone in his praise. "It's like swimming downhill," said Libby Trickett, who set three world records in the LZR suit at the Australian trials for Beijing in March.

Using the same fluid dynamics research utilised by America's Cup yachting teams, the suit has 38 per cent less drag in the water than a traditional nylon swimsuit.

More than 60 types of fabric were tested for surface friction at NASA's research centre, before it was put through its paces at Canberra's Australian Institute of Sport by some of the world's best swimmers.

At 550 US dollars, such technology comes at a price, but Speedo insist the suit will be available to all competitors in Beijing.

Their major rivals Adidas, Mizuno and Arena have rushed similar state-of-the-art suits into the market in time for Beijing, but the LZR has already made waves of its own.

Not since titanium golf clubs meant golf balls flew further or graphite racquets allowed tennis balls to be hit harder has new technology had such an impact in sport.

But is all this fuss really worth the hype?

In a bid to find out, I went along to the Ozone Fitness Club in Beijing's Chaoyang district for a chance to try the suit for size.

The first surprise was a detailed briefing on how to put the LZR on - but ultimately it came down to brute strength.

It is skin-tight, ultra-light, at just 500 grammes, and on first touch feels like a plastic bag, but the

fabric proved its strength in the 20 minutes needed to have it on.

"It is a high-technology piece of kit and we have made a video for the athletes just to show how to put it on," said Jason Rance, the worldwide head of sports at Aqualab, the research arm of Speedo.

"We tell them to use the pads of their fingers tips to pull it. Liesel Jones (Australia's double world record-holder) ripped hers, because of her nails."

With the suit finally on, it was time to get wet.

James Hickman, a Commonwealth Games gold medalist from Kuala Lumpur in 1998, offered tips on how to get the most out of the suit.

"Just push off the wall with your feet and glide as far as you can, you'll soon feel the difference," he said.

With my hands above my head in a dive position, I kicked off the experiment.

The feeling was incredible, my glide was at least double what I would normally manage.

A special core stability panel lifts your hips in the water to put you in an ideal streamline position and you literally slide through the water.

I have never felt so fast in the pool, and with the same feeling you get behind the wheel of a powerful sports car. I just wanted to keep doing laps.

And if it works for me, imagine what it can do for Phelps & Co.

## Upton takes over

CRICKET

CRICINFO, Colombo

India's conditioning coach Paddy Upton has taken over the responsibilities from head coach Gary Kirsten, who flew back to South Africa Tuesday evening to be with his ailing mother. In Kirsten's absence, Upton wasn't worried about having to delegate responsibilities to the Indian team, instead stressing to make sure the basics are all in place for a must-win game for India.

"Each person knows their role," he said during India's practice session at the P Sara Stadium. "It's a case of just doing what we've always been doing and doing that well."

Kirsten's hands-on role, especially working on fielding drills with seniors such as VVS Laxman and the two wicketkeepers, Dinesh Karthik and Parthiv Patel, was obvious all series. Yesterday that responsibility was shared between Upton and fielding coach Robin Singh, but Upton was comfortable being more conservative.

"There are guys out there who have captained India," he said. "For me it's just a case of coordinating

the expertise which is already in the team. Gary would give his expert input and receive input from the players, and even though he's not here, there are other experts."

India already have two specialist coaches, Venkatesh Prasad (bowling) and Robin, plus Upton in the support staff, and the Indian board isn't rushing anybody as cover for Kirsten.

"The key is to prepare for every single possibility," Upton said. "Every game is critical in Test cricket. We know its 1-1 and we know how important it is. The players don't need too many reminders. Whether we win or lose the toss, our preparation is the same. We focus around what needs to happen to win. We're happy to take the consideration of the toss out of the picture."

It was a pretty hot day, with temperatures hovering around 30 degrees, but not something India's players are unaccustomed to. Anil Kumble mentioned in Galle that players were allowed to leave training once they felt they had done enough, and Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly were no different.

They practiced earlier in the morning and left to freshen up while the rest of the team stayed on till early

afternoon.

Parthiv had long batting and wicketkeeping stints but Upton said the choice of which wicketkeeper plays the final Test was not a decision he would be a part of. Sachin Tendulkar had the longest batting session, first receiving throw downs from Robin, virtually all of which were well timed, and then moved over to the nets, adjacent to Rohit Sharma's. Tendulkar, who needs 96 runs to overhaul Brian Lara's record of 11,953 runs in Tests, looked in a decent groove, though he was troubled a couple times by Prasad.

Which brings us to the nature of the pitch. One glance at it revealed how hard it was, even under a green tinge. There was plenty of grass on the track, but even Geoffrey Boycott would have found it very difficult to force a key in there. Shoaib Akhtar, Makhaya Ntini and Dale Steyn have all rattled teams here in recent years, and there looks to be some encouragement for the quicks, especially India's opening pair of Ishant Sharma and Zaheer Khan.

It is a different game and different pitch from the last two matches but as Upton said, India's strategy was the same -- go in and win.

## Harmison, Broad in

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(coach Peter Moores) and I are singing from the same hymn sheet at the moment. It's all positive."

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur said there will be no special motivation for his side because of Pietersen's South African upbringing and his criticism of the South African system when he pledged his future to England.

"Not at all," said Arthur. "Our guys are extremely motivated for any Test match, irrespective of who the opposition is or who the captain is."

He said there was no lingering feeling among his players that Pietersen was still a South African.

"He made his decision. It's clearly been a good move for him and he's regarded as the enemy now. We can't claim him."

Arthur said he wished Pietersen well as captain but warned that he

would face some major challenges.

"Does it affect his batting, what's his vision going to be going forward? I guess all these things will be answered over the next year or so."

Arthur said he was not totally satisfied with his team despite them leading the series 2-0.

"We are a very goal-driven side. We want to become very resilient, we want to be ruthless and this is part of the journey. For us there's no dead rubber. It's about us winning 3-0."

"There are areas we haven't performed well in. We're looking to improve all the time and become the complete package, which I don't think we are yet."

### TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Kevin Pietersen (captain), Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Ravi Bopara, Andrew Flintoff, Tim

Ambrose, Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Ryan Sidebottom, Monty Panesar, Steve Harmison.

**SOUTH AFRICA** (probable): Graeme Smith (captain), Neil McKenzie, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, Ashwell Prince, AB de Villiers, Mark Boucher, Morne Morkel, Paul Harris, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini.

### Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17

Athlete Mohammad Abu Abdullah will compete in the games hot event of men's 100m sprint on August 15 while another athlete Nazmun Nahar Beauty will contest in the women's 100m sprint on August 16.

Shooter Imam Hossain will compete in men's 10-meter air rifle on August 11 at the Beijing Shooting Range.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
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12 Cleese  
13 Rush  
14 Stereo  
15 Easy  
17 Dubious  
18 Bullet  
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