

## Ma's mantra

"Be there to guide, be there to comfort and be there to give a squeeze and a gentle hug and a kiss. That's been the delineation of (my) jobs in raising Michael Phelps to be the champion that he is."

Proud mother Debbie Phelps reveals the secret behind raising the greatest Olympian of all time.



## Nazim's Aus tour over

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazimuddin was ruled out of the Australia tour as the opening batsman tore a tendon on his left ring finger during practice in Darwin yesterday.

The national selection committee led by Rafiqul Alam has selected left-handed Zunaed Siddiqui as his replacement following request from the touring team management.

Zunaed will fly to Australia on the next available flight while Nazimuddin is scheduled to fly out of Darwin early morning Wednesday and is expected to return home the next day.

The injury occurred during the pre-match warm ups of the practice game against the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS) at the Gardens Oval yesterday and the player would require six to eight weeks of immobilisation in a splint, according to a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) press release.

"Nazimuddin has been declared unfit by the Bangladesh team physio as he is unable to hold a bat. The batsman has seen an orthopedic surgeon and had an X-ray. He also went to a hand specialist for splint," it stated.

Interestingly, Nazimuddin was not in the original squad rather he was only included after Shahriar Nafees had opted out in the eleventh hour to attend his exams.

Zunaed was out of favour because of his poor form even during the recent Bangladesh A tour in England as a captain but chief selector Rafiq said that they had no choice but to pick up the Rajshahi opener.

"Though uncapped Nayeem Islam has the experience of opening, we considered Zunaed ahead of him because of experience. Zunaed has the experience of playing against South Africa and New Zealand," explained Rafiq.

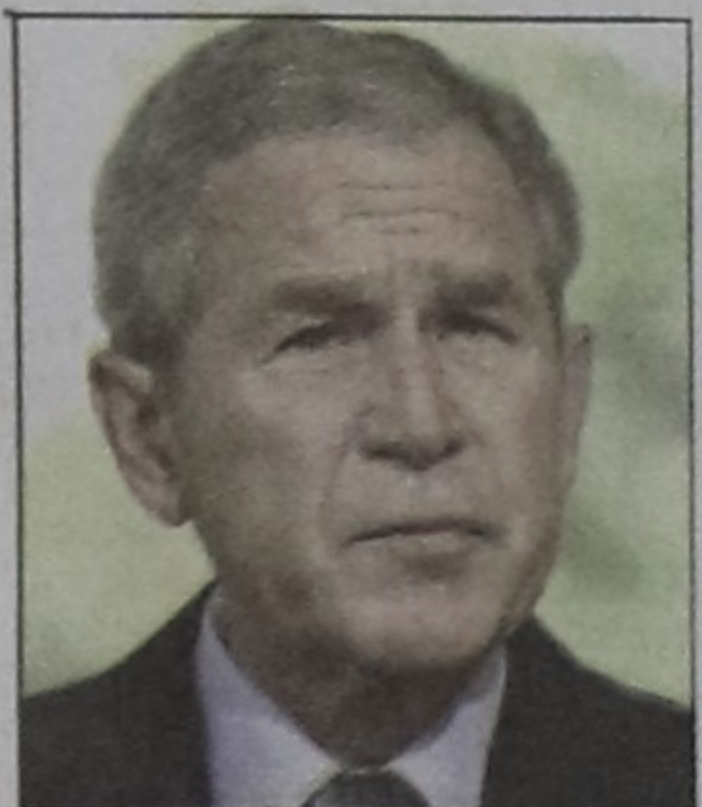
"We are really facing a big problem to find out a consistent partner of Tamim Iqbal and now injury made the things more difficult," he added.

The three one-day matches are scheduled for August 30, September 3 and September 6.



## Did U Know?

The fuel of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games torch is propane, which is a common fuel which also comes with a low price. It is composed of carbon and hydrogen. No material, except carbon dioxide and water remain after the burning, eliminating any risk of pollution.



## George W. Bush

(US President)  
"Laura and I are proud of you. Our family is proud of you, but most importantly, America is proud of you."

While praising American swimming great Michael Phelps who won eight gold medals at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.



**What to Watch**  
BTV  
Beijing Olympic Games  
Men's Tradition Final  
Live from 9:40am  
Aquatics (Women)  
Live from 12:20pm  
Men's Weightlifting  
Live from 1:30pm  
Men's Football  
First Semifinal  
Nigeria v Belgium  
Live from 4:00pm  
Second Semifinal  
Brazil v Argentina  
Live from 7:00pm



Chinese He Kexin performs her final somersault on way to a perfect landing during the women's uneven bars final of the artistic gymnastics at the 2008 Beijing Olympics yesterday.

## Lanka blow India away

Cricket

AFF, Dambulla

Mahela Jayawardene cracked a responsible half-century to guide Sri Lanka to a crushing eight-wicket victory over India in the first one-day international here on Monday.

The Sri Lankan skipper scored an unbeaten 61 for his 47th half-century to help his team achieve a modest 147-run target with more than 15 overs to spare for a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The victory was set up by man-of-the-match Ajantha Mendis and Muttiah Muralidaran, who exposed India's batting limitations against spin.

Unorthodox spinner Mendis took 3-21 and off-spinner Muralidaran 3-37 as India were bundled out for 146 after electing to bat on a slow track.

"We knew if we picked early wickets we could control the Indian batting line-up. The wicket had something in it for bowlers," said Jayawardene.

"The important thing is to play to your strength. I am happy with the way we are doing at the moment. It was an all-round performance with everybody chipping in, but we need to keep working hard."

Sri Lanka lost opener Sanath Jayasuriya (10) and Kumar Sangakkara (19) in seamer Munaf Patel's opening spell, but Jayawardene and Chamara Kapugedera (45 not out) ensured

the win with a 102-run stand for the third wicket.

Jayawardene hit seven fours in his 82-ball knock and Kapugedera four boundaries in his 72-ball innings.

India were let down by their batsmen as none could get past 25 in a spineless display against a disciplined Sri Lankan pace-spin combination. Yuvraj Singh was the top scorer with 23.

The tourists suffered a setback even before the first ball had been bowled as in-form opener Virender Sehwag was ruled out of the match due to an ankle injury, sustained during a practice session on Sunday evening.

"Our bowlers did well, but we never had enough runs to defend," said India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"I would have liked to bowl first, but now that it's gone you cannot do anything about it."

Sri Lanka's new-ball bowlers Nuwan Kulasekara and Chaminda Vaas did the early damage when they shared three wickets in the opening 12 overs to leave the tourists reeling at 36-3.

Left-arm seamer Vaas gave his team a dream start when he dismissed opener Gautam Gambhir with the second delivery of the match, which moved in sharply to knock back the off-stump.

He is now one short of becoming the fourth bowler to complete 400 wickets in one-day internationals.

Kulasekara (2-23) trapped debutant Virat Kohli (12) leg-before and then got rid of Suresh Raina

(17), who drove straight to Chamara Silva in the covers.

Mendis, who took six wickets for 13 runs in his team's win over India in the Asia Cup final in Karachi last month, continued to trouble Dhoni's side as he took two big wickets in his opening spell.

His first victim was Yuvraj, who inside-edged a delivery onto his stumps after smashing the bowler for a six over long-on in the same over.

Yuvraj, dropped on five by Jayawardene at second slip off Kulasekara, could not cash in on the chance, adding just 18 more runs before falling in Mendis's opening over.

Mendis then removed Dhoni, a stroke-playing batsman like Yuvraj, to make sure the tourists could not get a foothold in the match. Dhoni (six) was caught by Jayawardene at lone slip while trying to cut.

The lower-order batsmen found Muralidaran too hot to handle as India failed to bat their quota of 50 overs despite a fighting last-wicket stand between Pragyan Ojha (16 not out) and Patel (15).

The second one-day of the five-match series will be played here on Wednesday.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between India and Sri Lanka at the Dambulla International Stadium on Monday:  
INDIA  
Gambhir b Vaas 0  
Kohli lbw b Kulasekara 12  
Raina c Silva b Kulasekara 17  
Yuvraj b Mendis 23

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## Booters, officials blamed for SAFF failure

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) kept its promise by making public the report of the probe committee for the failure of the national team in the fifth SAFF Championship.

After giving copies of the report - which also included the BFF steps taken against the responsible persons - to the press, BFF vice-president Badal Roy told that the federation has remained true to the findings of the probe committee.

"We have analysed the report seriously and never tried to impose extra punishment on anyone. I hope the steps we have taken will caution everyone in the future. Also it will make players and team management accountable for their deeds," said Badal.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin had promised to bring the report to light, which none of his predecessors had done before.

In line with the probe committee recommendations, the BFF relieved goalkeeper Aminul Haque off the national captaincy and also cautioned vice-captain and goalkeeper Biplab Bhattacharya.

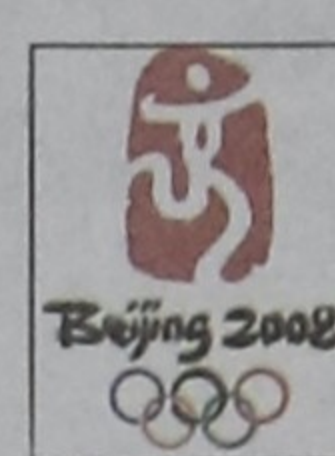
"Aminul failed to unite the team while Biplab did not assist him as the team were divided on senior-junior issue," says the report.

Hassan Al Mamun, Arman Aziz and Zahid Hassan Emily were disciplined and ignorant from the start of the camp and the federation has asked them not to repeat such non-cooperation in the future.

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## He takes gold in a unique tiebreak

AP, Beijing



Nastia Liukin's loss of an Olympic gold medal couldn't have come in a closer or more convoluted manner.

The Beijing Games all-around champion from the United States received the same 16.725 score as China's He Kexin on uneven bars on Monday. A tie-breaker was used because dual medals are no longer awarded in gymnastics.

And that tiebreaker was so complex that long after the medals were handed out, International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) officials still were explaining it.

Suffice it to say that because of the deductions from a perfect 10 for each gymnast in their execution scores, He had gold and Liukin had her second silver and fourth overall medal of these Games.

"For me, it's not correct," said FIG president Bruno Grandi, who noted the rules for dual medals were dropped in 1997 at the direction of the IOC. "When two people arrive on the same level, they are champions. But this competition

doesn't belong to us. It is the IOC's. I believe it's correct to have two gold medals, but this is my modest opinion. The IOC is different."

Liukin would not criticise the scoring system.

"It's nothing I can control, and honestly, I can say it has been very fair to me, and I got the biggest gold medal of them all," said Liukin, winner of the gold in women's all-around gymnastics.

She doesn't have the latest one, but her four medals tie her father

## She is 16

AFP, Beijing

Chinese gymnast He Kexin said she was tired of answering questions about her age after winning Olympic gold on the women's uneven bars Monday.

He is one of three Chinese gymnasts who have faced constant speculation they are younger than the age 16 minimum required under Olympic rules.

She snapped at reporters after being peppered with questions about how old she is at a press conference following her win.

"I don't want to talk about this

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Valeri's haul when he competed for the Soviet Union. Coincidentally, one of Valeri Liukin's golds, on high bar in 1988, came in a tie with teammate Vladimir Artemov.

"I tied in my Olympics," he said with a shrug. "There were people that tied in the all-around back when I was competing. I guess they don't want that now."

He Kexin, at the centre of an age eligibility controversy, admitted to being surprised by the outcome.

"I didn't expect to win a gold medal because the more I want it, the more pressure I feel," she said. "It's more nerve-wracking than competing with the whole team."

Particularly when it comes down to such a minuscule margin.

Liukin's silver gave the United States six overall medals. China has five, including team gold.

Oddly, there also was a deadlock for the men's vault gold, which went to Poland's Leszek Blanik over France's Thomas Bouhail.

Blanik's 16.6 on the first vault was the highest of the four total attempts by the two gymnasts, giving him the gold. Bronze went to Anton Golotsutskov of Russia.

Silver and bronze on pommel horse Sunday also were decided by a tiebreaker.

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## MSC's second win



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club once again left it late to win their second match in a row in the Citycell Federation Cup, which resumed yesterday after a weeklong break due to incessant rain and unplayable ground condition.

However, the competition faced good old inclement weather as rain and poor ground condition marred the Group D thriller which Mohammedan came from a goal down to win 3-2 against Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Nigerian striker Alamo Bokula slotted a brace including an injury time penalty to all but ensure the

black and whites' passage to the quarterfinals. With maximum six points, only a mathematical miracle can stop Mohammedan from going into the last eight if they lose their last group match against Arambagh.

The other group match between Arambagh, who beat Rahmatganj in their opener, and Sunrise was postponed due to heavy rain at Gazipur. The match will be held today.

Former Mohammedan forward Francis put Rahmatganj ahead after 34 minutes after a dashing solo move but the joy for the old-Dhaka outfit was short lived as Bokula made most of a slip by rival goalkeeper Ali to equalise three minutes later.

Rahmatganj keeper Ali lost a cross from Egyptian midfielder Hajem Khaled for a lurking Bokula to shoot home.

Robin who notched

Mohammedan's 87th minute winner against Sunrise in a 1-0 victory in the group opener, scored his second goal of the competition six minutes after breather with a low header on Sharif's centre.

Mohammedan almost conceded the equaliser halfway through the second half but Idris headed the ball onto Aminul's post to relieve the giants' tent.

Rahmatganj finally equalised in the 75th minute when national number one custodian Aminul lost the ball from his grip, only to see Hirok Joarder score with easiest of the taps.

When it seemed to heading for a draw, referee Abdul Hannan Miron awarded Mohammedan a penalty in stoppage time after Wahid Murad was fouled inside the box.

With Rahmatganj footballers protesting the decision, Bokula kept his cool and drove the 12-yarder home to seal victory.

## Tamim fireworks not enough

Cricket

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Darwin

Bangladesh squandered a perfect start in chasing down a massive total and fell short by 14 runs in the first of four practice matches against the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS) at the Gardens Oval yesterday.

The Tigers were given a target of 331 and were 212 for 2 in 33 overs before five wickets fell for 41 runs.

A brave rearguard action by Abdur Razzak (33 from 19 balls) and Forhad Reza (30 not out off 36 balls) inches Bangladesh closer but with 15 required of the last over Shahadat Hossain, the last batsman in, missed the first two deliveries before hitting one uppishly straight to mid on.

"We probably lost it when we lost all those wickets in the middle," said Tigers captain Mohammad Ashraf who made a sparkling 71 (59 balls) and shared 95 for the fourth wicket with Rokibul Hassan (34).

Both batsmen had played sensibly and had creamed the off side with AIS skipper Moises Henriques keeping an attacking field throughout. But Rokibul holed out at deep mid-wicket when he should have continued rotating the strike with low-risk options and Ashraf after an exhibition of classy strokes including a couple of spanking pulls, was bowled while trying to sweep a half volley on the stumps.

Bangladesh had started off in lambasting fashion with Tamim Iqbal bludgeoning a 45-ball 85. He played on the up, swung it around and no bowler was spared. The score went racing along as Tamim played new ball duo Grant Sullivan and Ben Cutting.

The left-hander took a runner in Ashraf following back spasm but still stood there and pulled and flicked sixes and fours. So dominant was he that when he went from 49 to 53 with yet another boundary, his partner at the other end Mehrab Hossain was on just seven and happily playing second fiddle.

The entertainment ended when Tamim skied one but Bangladesh were cruising at 111 for one in 14 overs.

Earlier, the AIS batsmen had shown maturity and good cricket sense as they dominated the Bangladesh bowling from the onset. With pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza rested, Shahadat and Nazmul Hossain opened the bowling.

But they were inconsistent with line and often bowled too short or too full on a placid wicket. Shakib Al Hasan (10-1-45-1) was by far the best bowler for Bangladesh. He

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Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraf pulls one during his knock of 71 against Australian Institute of Sports in the Tigers' one-day practice match at the Gardens Oval in Darwin yesterday.