



## Did U Know?

It is now 27 years since a male player won the men's singles and men's doubles titles in the same year. John McEnroe was the last to accomplish the feat in 1981.



**Yograj Singh**  
(Father of India cricketer Yuvraj)  
"I want Yuvraj to be a legend in the cricketing world and take revenge for all the injustice that has been done to me [in my career]."  
Making clear what he expects from son Yuvraj.



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

**TEN Sports**  
US Open Tennis  
Day Twelve  
Live from 10:30pm

**STAR Cricket**  
Bangladesh v Australia  
Third ODI  
Live from 6:00am

## Futsal sans Muktijoddha

SPORTS REPORTER

The Citycell Futsal competition began yesterday but struggling giants Muktijoddha Sangsad were no part of the first competitive tournament of football's indoor version in the country.

Futsal apart, Muktijoddha's participation in the coming B. League looks an uncertainty as the club have been starving for cash.

"We can't run the camp and most players have gone home," said captain Feroz Mahmud Titu, whose side failed to go beyond the group stage in the Federation Cup last month.

"We agreed to play knowing there could have been no payment this season but if the camp cannot be run, it gets difficult," told the fullback, who has got a recall to the national team.

"We have heard that sponsors

## Manik recalls veterans Enamul, Pranotosh new faces for Merdeka

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani midfielder Pranotosh Kumar Das and Farashganji striker Enamul Haque got their first national calls as Bangladesh coach Shafiqul Islam Manik yesterday named his preliminary squad for next month's Merdeka Cup football tournament.

In his first assignment, Manik also decided to rely on the written-off footballers, recalling the likes of Alfaz, Matiuur Munna, Titu, Shuvra and Parvez Babu. The expected recalls were of Sujun, Robin, Zahid Hossain and Himel.

The 30 footballers have been asked to report to the new coach this afternoon at the BFF Bhawan. Bangladesh, who participated in the prestigious tournament last year after a long gap and failed to win a single match, have been invited for the October 15-25 meet at the Malaysian capital.

Among the eight returns, Alfaz had been called back from international retirement but the former captain was ignored after a medi-

ocre Nehru Cup in India.

Brothers Union's Munna, Shuvra and Parvez and Muktijoddha skipper Titu were not considered due to lack of form while Sujun (Abahani) and Zahid (Brothers) were victims of long-term injury. Robin (Mohammedan) looked a certainty but was a last minute elimination from the SAFF squad.

Sujun's impressive comeback in the recently concluded Federation Cup for the sky-blues all but con-

vinced everyone that the country's top centre-back is closing in on his peak.

Enamul's five goals in the Fed Cup got him the nod and give Manik's old student at Muktijoddha Sangsad -- for whom he had scored a spectacular goal in an AFC Cup away match -- a chance to contest with Emily and Robin for a place in the striking zone.

Pranotosh, on the other hand, proved that he has matured enough to claim his place as a holding midfielder.

Manik, who dropped Mohammedan's Komol and Faisal Mahmud from the SAFF squad, however, will have very little time to prepare as the professional league kicks off in just over a week.

He is also not likely to get the players during the Eid vacation and would hardly get a week just before the tournament.

One might be tempted to question his decision to pick up so many 'bygone' footballers but his predecessor Abu Yusuf was harshly criticised when he had made a bid to develop a young side ignoring the seniors, only leading to disaster.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Aminul Haque, Biplab Bhattacharyya, Zaur Rahman, Mazharul Islam Himel; **defenders:** Hassan Al Mamun, Feroz Mahmud Titu, Arful Islam, Rajani Kanta Barman, Mohammed Sujun, Nazrul Islam, Amit Khan Shuvra, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat, Waly Faisal, Aliqur Rahman Mishu, Arup Baidya; **midfielders:** Parvez Babu, Enamul Haque Sharif, Anif Khan Joy, Pranotosh Kumar Das, Arman Aziz, Zahed Parvez, Zahid Hossain, Mamunul Islam, Matiuur Munna, Abul Hossain, Mehdi Hassan Ujjal; **forwards:** Zahid Hasan Emilly, Hedayetullah Robin, Enamul Haque and Alfaz Ahmed.

## Lee ready for India

Cricket

AFP, Darwin

Sidelined Australian paceman Brett Lee has declared himself available for the upcoming Test tour of India.

Lee withdrew from the current one-day series against Bangladesh following the collapse of his marriage, but caught up with his Australian teammates here on Thursday for a light training session and said he was ready to play again.

The Australians are expected to name their squad for India next week and depart on September 21, with the first of their four Tests starting on October 9.

The 31-year-old admitted he considered skipping the tour, but said he was refreshed and looking forward "to the tough Indian tour."

"India is a great place to tour, the culture, the food, the people, and the atmosphere (and) the crowds over there are just brilliant."

"Even though they may be cheering for the Indians, they've still got a love for Australians," he said.

"It's a tough place to play cricket, but also very enjoyable."

Lee said it was only this week that he decided to make himself available for India, where he is a huge star but is yet to play Test cricket.

"It's only been the last couple of days," Lee said of his decision.

"It's been one of those things where it was just going to be a time thing, so if it didn't work out and I didn't think I was fit enough or I wasn't ready to go, more so mentally... but I'm feeling great on both fronts and I'm actually looking forward to it."

Lee didn't discuss his marriage, but conceded he was pleased to get

out of Sydney.

"I thought it would be a wise move to get out of Sydney and just come up here and spend some time in Darwin and see how the lads are going and get back into the feel of things again," he said.

"I'm looking forward to the next couple of weeks."

Lee said the break could prove a blessing in disguise.

"The time I've had away from cricket both physically and mentally, it actually freshened me right up so I hope down the back-end this is going to prolong my cricketing life," he said.

"I'm right, I'm feeling fit, I'm feeling fresh and I'm looking forward to the next tour."

Lee's availability is a boost for Australian defence of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy they won during a tense series earlier this year, with troubled all-rounder Andrew Symonds unlikely to be available.



England captain Kevin Pietersen (C) poses with the trophy after rain abandoned the fifth and final one-day day against South Africa at the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff on Thursday. England clinched the five-match series 4-0.

## It remains 4-0

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

England's hopes of securing a 5-0 whitewash over South Africa were denied by the Welsh rain, as the fifth and final ODI at Cardiff was abandoned after only three overs of play. England will no doubt feel frustrated in being deprived a fifth win in succession, but a scoreline of 4-0 against South Africa represents an achievement far beyond their pre-series aspirations. Not even Kevin Pietersen, their unerring positive captain, could have foreseen England's dominance.

South Africa, who recalled Justin Ontong in place of Vernon Philander, only had three overs in which to bat, but such is their flattened confidence that they lost Herschelle Gibbs, perhaps the only man in their current lineup capable of ratcheting them out of their slump. A neat outswinger from Stuart Broad lured him into a loose drive, and Matt Prior pulled off his second diving catch of the series, clinging on with his right hand in

front of first slip. Demure -- perhaps even expectant -- celebrations by England were an acute reminder of just how dramatically Pietersen's team have stolen the late-summer momentum.

And that was that. The Cardiff rain shot down from the heavens to end England's international summer, and finally finish what has been a thoroughly dismal denouement to South Africa's tour. Their 2-1 win in the Test series seems an awfully long time ago now, and as Jacques Kallis has admitted, their one-day tribulations -- of the sort England themselves have become far too accustomed to -- has scuffed the gloss of their visit. It seems inconceivable there won't be a clear-out when the debut takes place in Johannesburg in the next few weeks.

A disappointing day for England, but also for Wales. The match was the first to be held at Cardiff's revamped stadium, the contentious venue for the first Ashes Test next summer. Quibbles aside about its makeshift, untraditional appearance, it was mostly a shame that a full 100 overs weren't

possible in order to gauge just what sort of pitch England will face Australia on next summer.

And yet, despite the Cardiff clouds, nothing can dampen England's mood. It was a faintly absurd notion that England were in a position to win this series 5-0. Indeed, they should have, had the rain not intervened. But 4-0 is no less lopsided a result considering the hapless ODI form they have shown for so many years, and although they would have skipped into second position in the world rankings with Wednesday's win, they nestle neatly and proudly into third.

Perplexed wonderment aside, the solution to England's one-day woes has been relatively simple. Pietersen has coaxed Steve Harmison out of retirement and squeezed the best out of him as a second and third-change bowler. In addition, his best friend, Andrew Flintoff, has found a rich vein of batting form, carving two innings of 78 and a blistering 31 in the shortened 20-over thrash at Lord's. Aside from the two giants, Pietersen has shown confidence in

## Academy off to Colombo

SPORTS REPORTER

The GP-BCB National Cricket Academy side left Dhaka last night to the Sri Lankan capital Colombo for a 22-day tour.

The 15-member squad will first play a two-day warm-up game and then go on to play two four-day and three one-day games against their Lankan counterparts.

Nayem Islam, the right-handed batsman, will lead the side replacing left-arm spinner Suharwardi Shuvo, who led in South Africa. Marshall Ayub, another talented right-handed bat, has been chosen as his deputy after his fine performance in the previous tour.

But their overall performance was not upto standards in South Africa, despite winning the opening four-day by one wicket. They went on to lose the next four-day game against the South African Academy and lost the one-day series 1-2.

Wicketkeeper Ashiqul Islam, who fared pretty well in the under-19 World Cup, has been chosen



Serena Williams clenches her fist after winning a point against elder sister Venus during their US Open quarterfinal clash at the Flushing Meadows in New York on Wednesday. Serena won 7-6, 7-6.

## Serena wins family battle

AP, New York



Serena Williams watched the final shot sail beyond the baseline, and immediately her sister called for an instant-replay challenge.

At that point, Venus Williams really had nothing else to lose.

So more than 20,000 fans hushed Wednesday night, looking at the giant video boards high above Arthur Ashe Stadium. A moment later, the call was confirmed and the crowd roared: Serena had won this family affair at the U.S. Open (7-6, 7-6).

It may have been only a quarterfinal, but on the court and in the stands, it sounded as if they were playing for the title as the shrieks and shouts kept getting louder and louder.

"I don't think it'll ever be underdramatized until we're housewives," Venus said. "Until that time, we'll hopefully keep playing good tennis against everyone and also against each other."

With a semifinal spot at stake, the sisters who teamed to win the Olympic gold medal in doubles were separated by the slightest of margins. Serena finished ahead in total points 101-98, and most every other number was close.

Only one stat was out of whack: Venus went 0-for-10 on set points, Serena was 2-for-2.

"I thought for sure we'd be in three sets," Serena said. "I thought, 'I'm going to go change my dress because I'm really sweaty and put a new one on.' And then I was like, 'Oh, maybe I won't have to do that.'"

Top-seeded Rafael Nadal worked late into the night and the early morning to reach the semifinals at the U.S. Open for the first time in six tries at Flushing Meadows.

In a match that started at 11:30 p.m. and ended at 2:10 a.m., the Wimbledon, French Open and Olympic champion beat unseeded Mardy Fish 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2. They approached the latest finish in the tournament's history: Mats Wilander defeated Mikael Pernfors at 2:26 a.m. in 1993 and moved on to play Andy Murray.

"This is one of the things that we players discuss all the time. There should be a limit on when to start. But we know that the TV rules in this," Nadal said.

"I think I'm going to end up sleeping at 5 a.m. I've got to go eat. With all the attention on the match, it takes a while to unwind. There's nothing else you can do."

Said Fish: "It's not ideal starting that late, but I was ready. The first set couldn't have gone better for me."

The sixth-seeded Murray beat No. 17 Juan Martin del Potro 7-6 (2), 7-6 (1), 4-6, 7-5. The young stars put their arms around each other at the net after Murray reached his first Grand Slam semifinal, quite a different scene than they presented

at Rome in May.

Tempers flared during that match, with Murray claiming del Potro insulted his mother Judy Murray provided vocal support for her son from the stands. Also, del Potro nearly hit Murray in the head with a ball.

"Quite early on in the match there was sort of a feeling of respect between us in terms of our games and stuff," Murray said. "There was no arguing over line calls or anyone trying to get in anyone's face."

Sixth-seeded Dinara Safina advanced earlier in the day by overwhelming No. 16 Flavia Pennetta 6-2, 6-3. Safina will play No. 4 Serena Williams in one semifinal Friday, with No. 2 Jelena Jankovic taking on No. 5 Elena Dementieva in the other.

By far, the Williams vs. Williams contest was the most-anticipated match at the tournament. Posters of the sisters were plastered over the subways and trains in New York all paths led to this meeting.

When it was over, Serena had one real regret, and it wasn't that she beat her sister. After all, Venus defeated Serena this summer for the Wimbledon title.

"I feel like I should have a trophy now. Unfortunately I don't, and I got to go to the next round," Serena said.

She rallied from 5-3 deficits in both sets, and overcame eight set points in the second.

"I felt like I was always in control," seventh-seeded Venus said. "If it was someone else, I definitely

## OPEN SECRETS

AGENCIES, undated

Andy Roddick is starting to look like a planning genius as his decision to skip the Beijing Olympic Games in favour of preparing for the US Open pays off. The eighth seed is to play a quarterfinal for the third straight year after crushing Fernando Gonzalez Tuesday with ease.

But the American was sceptical about his performance in New York stemmed from his decision to stay away from Beijing.

"I don't know if it was the right one or not," said the 26-year-old who won the home trophy in 2003.

"I'm certainly not going to give the credit for me playing well here to not going to the Olympics," he added. "I played like crap while the Olympics were going on."

Roddick's losing final in Los Angeles to Juan Del Potro and a Washington quarterfinal did not instill much confidence in the former number one.

"I certainly didn't have any momentum coming off of Washington," he said.

"But more than anything, I had a full week to prepare here for the first time in a long time, and I think that helped," he said.

Roddick has dropped just one set in four matches so far as he heads into a contest against 2007 finalist Novak Djokovic.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

There's a new world No. 4 behind Nadal, Federer and Djokovic. Andy Murray assured himself that ranking -- and his first appearance in a major semifinal -- by defeating Juan Martin Del Potro 7-6 (2), 7-6 (1), 4-6, 7-5 to close out the day session and end Del Potro's 23-match winning streak.

In the key moments, Del Potro

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Members of the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy pose for a photo with BCB cricket operations committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain (sitting, centre) at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5