

## Hello, Lord's to farewell, lads

CRICINFO, undated

It's his Test debut, and he is believed to be a political selection for the tour to England, a perception he puts paid to in seven-and-a-half hours of blissful batting. The image - Ganguly celebrating, arms aloft, no brashness of the later days, and Rahul Dravid applauding him in the background - is enduring: the wait has finally ended; the boy who persistently called newspaper offices for four years to see if he is in the team has arrived.

### THAT DON'T IMPRESS MEMUCH

In 2000-01 Australia are a world-beating team with 15 straight wins behind them and are at the final stop on their conquest. One man is not impressed. "They have won most of their games at home, beaten West Indies 5-0 at home, beaten India, Pakistan at home," Ganguly welcomes Australia. "They toured here in '96 and lost. They toured here in '98 and lost. So obviously that's going to be at the back of their mind." No awe here. If that doesn't rile Australia, Ganguly goes further during the series. He walks out late for the toss and, if he wins it, he walks off on his own after letting the TV interviewer know what India choose to do. Once, after being pulled up by Cammie Smith, the match referee, he turns up five minutes before the toss - in his tracksuit top. "You had to give him an 'A' for effort in his attempt to annoy us," Steve Waugh writes in his

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Sourav Ganguly waves to the spectators during a victory lap with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday.

## Captaincy is a spark: Ganguly

CRICINFO

Speaking after his final day of international cricket, Sourav Ganguly has said his most significant contribution was to raise the image of Indian cricket by building a team that was competitive overseas.

"During the phase from 2000 to 2005 (when he was captain), and it's still going on now, Indian cricket's image has gone up immensely, especially while touring," Ganguly said. "We were always termed as soft when we travelled. I think that has changed considerably. At the present moment India are a formidable side home and away."

"I was lucky to have Sachin (Tendulkar), Rahul (Dravid), VVS Laxman, Anil (Kumble), (Virender) Sehwag and Harbhajan (Singh) probably playing their best cricket at that stage. We've always been a strong team at home. The overseas results I'll always cherish."

Under Ganguly's captaincy, which began in November 2000, India won 11 Tests overseas including matches in Sri Lanka, West Indies, England, Australia and Pakistan. India's success abroad has continued even after Ganguly's tenure ended but he felt that the challenge for Mahendra Singh Dhoni's team now would be to continue winning after the retirements of key players. However, he felt Dhoni would be up to the task.

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### FACTFILE

Full name: Sourav Chandidas Ganguly  
 Born: July 8, 1972, Calcutta (now Kolkata), Bengal  
 Current age: 36 years 125 days  
 Major teams: India, Asia XI, Bengal, Glamorgan, Kolkata Knight Riders, Lancashire  
 Batting style: Left-hand bat  
 Bowling style: Right-arm medium  
 Height: 5 ft 11 in  
 Education: St Xavier's College  
 Relations Brother: Snehasish C Ganguly

BATTING & FIELDING											
	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	CT
Tests	113	188	17	7212	239	42.17	16	35	900	57	71
ODIs	311	300	23	11363	183	41.02	22	72	1122	190	100

BOWLING											
	Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	4w	5w
Tests	113	99	3117	1681	32	3/28	3/37	52.53	3.23	0	0
ODIs	311	171	4561	3849	100	5/16	5/16	38.49	5.06	1	2

## India win series 2-0

CRICINFO

AFP, Nagpur

India capped a tight bowling display to record a crushing 172-run victory over Australia in their fourth and final Test and wrap up the series 2-0 here on Monday.

Australia were bowled out for 209 on the final afternoon as they chased an unlikely 382 to suffer their first Test defeat since the 2005 Ashes in England.

It was also India's first Test series win over Australia in seven years as they clinched the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Matthew Hayden alone sustained his team's slim hopes with a bold 77.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh was the highest wicket-taker with 4-64, while leg-spinner Amit Mishra (3-27) and fast bowler Ishant Sharma (2-31) provided valuable support.

"Once they lost three wickets in the morning, we started smelling victory. We had our plans and executed them very well," said India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"It was worrying the way they started scoring in the morning, but we knew it would be difficult to sustain that kind of a scoring-rate. Our fast bowlers did the trick,

especially since there was nothing in the wicket for them. They were backed very well by spinners. All the bowlers shared responsibility. It was an outstanding team effort."

Only three teams -- the West Indies (v Australia in Antigua in 2003), India (v the West Indies in Port-of-Spain in 1976) and Australia (v England in Leeds in 1948) -- have chased more than 382 in the fourth innings to win a Test.

Australia's chase was virtually over with the dismissal of Hayden, trapped leg-before by Harbhajan while attempting to turn the bowler on the on-side in the afternoon session.

Hayden had been looking dangerous with his exciting strokeplay, using his feet remarkably well against spinners and punishing fast bowlers in a 93-ball knock that contained one six and eight fours.

But he received little support from the other end as wickets kept falling. The tourists lost their last seven wickets for just 59 runs, leaving Cameron White the second-highest scorer with an unbeaten 26.

"It would have been unbelievable if we had chased the target. It was achievable, but on a wearing wicket with quality spinners bowling, it was tough," said Australia captain Ricky Ponting.

"We were not good enough here and in Mohali (where Australia lost

by 320 runs). It has been a fair result. We played good cricket in Bangalore (first Test), but from there we have been chasing.

"India played good cricket and their (defensive) tactics to slow us down on the third day, I think, was the turning point. We weren't patient enough.

"All the boys will learn from this. I am still learning and others will also learn what it takes to play good cricket in India."

Australia had no option but to go for quick runs in a bid to square the series, but suffered a huge setback in the morning when they lost three big wickets.

They made 98 runs in the two-hour session despite India's slow over-rate (21.3 overs), but lost overnight batsman Simon Katich (16), Ponting (eight) and an unwell Michael Clarke (22) who batted with a runner.

India set a defensive field in the initial overs and succeeded in getting the wicket of Katich, who top-edged a Sharma delivery while swinging across the line, with wicket-keeper Dhoni taking the catch.

Ponting failed to beat a Mishra direct-hit from mid-off while going for a risky single.

Hayden continued to defy the Indian attack, once stepping out to hoist part-time spinner Virender

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## Smith angers Tigers

CRICINFO

BISHWAJIT ROY in East London

Bangladesh cricket team landed in Eastern Cape province yesterday to play the third and final one-day match against South Africa at the Buffalo Park on Wednesday. But the short trip from a chilly Johannesburg to a brilliant sunshine city at the lap of Indian Ocean was not at all pleasing for the Tigers, firstly their heavy defeat at Benoni and secondly the offensive remarks made by the South African captain Graeme Smith.

Smith criticised the visitors heavily during the post-match briefing after the second one-day match in Benoni on Sunday for what he observed Bangladesh giving up the chase without a fight.

He also said that Bangladesh's approach was 'bad for cricket'.

"It's a sad day for cricket when one team stops chasing when they are three wickets down. Perhaps it's something that cricket needs to look at," Smith said while referring to Bangladesh's submissive approach once Ashrafal was dismissed for five with the scoreboard reading at 103-3.

Chasing a mammoth South African total of 358, Bangladesh started brightly but eventually lost the game by 128 runs.

"I know 358 is a massive target but they have got guys who have played 100 to 130 one-day matches, so there's a lot of experience around. By not even making an attempt to chase it down from the twenty over is... I must say is

bad for cricket and it's also bad for Bangladesh cricket."

"So, they certainly disappointed me today," said Smith who made an impressive 67-ball 65 in his first match after recovering from a tennis elbow injury.

Smith was not as aggressive as he was after the match while talking with the touring Bangladeshi reporters at the Tombo International Airport Lounge on their way to East London.

"I made the comment not to humiliate the Bangladesh team rather my point was that it's impossible for any team to improve by playing in this way. Still I am really disappointed by the approach of Bangladesh team," said Smith while defending his harsh comments the other night.

"I also want Bangladesh's progress in world cricket and it's needed for the greater interest of the game but you can't achieve anything if you continue to play in this way," he added.

The observation of South African captain however angered Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons and the Australian made no secret about his disappointment.

"He is not coach or captain of this team (Bangladesh). We have our own development plan and we are progressing accordingly," Siddons responded to Smith's reaction.

"Definitely we had a plan to chase the total but it was not possible when Tamim (Iqbal) and Ashrafal (Mohammad) got out. If Tamim played an innings like 120 runs then other batsmen could have played in a different way," he explained.

Tamim was also disappointed by the comments of Smith.

"I don't think so because if we had not desired to chase that target how could we possibly score 40 odd runs in five overs. It was nothing like that we never played just to

exhaust those 50 overs," said the dashing left-hander.

"Actually we don't think about what he (Smith) is saying and we

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Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (C) checks his boarding pass at the Tombo International Airport Lounge in Johannesburg prior to the departure of the national team for East London yesterday.

## Ponting defends decision

CRICINFO

AFP, Nagpur

Australia captain Ricky Ponting on Monday defended his controversial decision to use part-time bowlers at a crucial stage in the fourth and final Test against India here.

He was criticised for pressing part-timers Michael Hussey and Michael Clarke into the attack in a bid to make up for a slow over-rate on Sunday when India were struggling to set a stiff fourth-innings target.

The hosts were 166-6 at the tea break for an overall lead of 252 before skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Harbhajan Singh put on a vital 108 runs, taking advantage of the non-regular Australian bowlers.

Under the International Cricket Council regulations, a captain can face a ban for his team's slow over-rate.

"The thing I'm most disappointed about is that there seems to be this inference out there that I've put myself totally ahead of the team," Ponting said after his team's 172-run defeat.

"Anybody who knows me or knows the way I play my cricket or operate around the Australian team or any team would hopefully



A grim faced Australian captain Ricky Ponting stands during the presentation ceremony at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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## Razzak may miss first Test

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced that left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak would have to travel to Canberra on November 17 to have his action tested by an ICC human movement specialist.

Razzak, now touring South Africa with the Bangladesh team, was reported by umpires Daryl Harper and Ashoka de Silva for suspect action during the second Test at home against New Zealand last month.

"He is expected to leave South Africa for the test on November 15 and we are working out his visa formalities with the concerned authorities," said BCB acting CEO Nazimuddin Ahmed, adding that he had got the instruction from the game's ruling body last night.

BCB had earlier requested the ICC to conduct the test after the South Africa tour.

Bangladesh's first Test against South Africa starts on November 19 and it is unlikely for Razzak to feature in the match.

## Bangladesh take on Myanmar today

SPORTS REPORTER

The tension between the two countries over territorial rights in the Bay of Bengal yet to be over, Bangladesh and Myanmar get ready to confront in the battlefield of football today.

The two teams will be pitted against each other in the opening match of the 3rd Grand Royal Challenge Cup in Yangon, the former Burmese capital and the largest city of the country.

The match will kick off at the Youth Training Centre, also called the Thuwunna Stadium at 3.30 pm local time (3 pm Bangladesh time).

Coached by Brazilian Marcos Antonio Falopa, Myanmar recorded a 1-0 win against their neighbours in the Merdeka Cup in Malaysia last month with captain Soe Myat Min scoring the lone goal.

Today's match would be Bangladesh's seventh international against Myanmar, who had

won big in the 70s when they were one of the top teams in the continent under their old name Burma.

After 6-0 (1973) and 7-1 (1975) defeats at the Merdeka Cup, Bangladesh finally turned the table on Myanmar on home soil, winning a friendly 3-1 in Dhaka in 1993.

Two years later, late Monem Munnna led Bangladesh to defeat Myanmar 2-1 in the final of a four-nation tournament in Yangon despite losing the league match to the hosts 4-0.

The previous edition of the Grand Royal Challenge Cup also saw the two nations meet in the final with the hosts, who had fielded their under-23 squad, winning 2-1 against Diego Cruciani's Dhaka XI.

Bangladesh, who have made three changes from their Merdeka Cup squad, reached Myanmar on Saturday and had a light stretching session in soothing condition.

Shaful Islam Manik's side, who will be playing their second group match against Indonesia

national team on Thursday, had full training at the Aung San Stadium yesterday afternoon.

"The players are very tired due to the long journey but I tried to cheer them up recently. We would like to reproduce our performance from the Merdeka Cup and we want to play better and positive football tomorrow," Bangladesh coach Manik told after the practice session, according to a message received here.

"If we can do that winning is not impossible here. The journey was an obstacle but we have already overcome it. I believe the players will try their heart and soul try for the country," added Manik.

Skipper Maniur Munnna also promised to get the best out of the team.

"The condition of the team is very good now. We are highly motivated and we will be on the field tomorrow to play good and win," the midfielder said.

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### Did U Know?

The youngest player ever to compete at Wimbledon Championships was Mita Kiima from Austria, who was 13 during her 1907 singles competition.



**Karl-Heinz Rummenigge**  
 (Bayern Munich chairman)  
 "He is a very modern and innovative coach, and we are convinced of the fact that we will celebrate plenty of successes with him."  
 On Jurgen Klinsmann.



**What to Watch**

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

**STAR Sports**  
 Shanghai Masters Tennis  
 First Round  
 Live from 4:00pm

**TEN Sports & ZEE Sports**  
 ICL Twenty20  
 Second Semifinal  
 Live from 8:00pm



**Day's Event**

Nat'l Cricket League  
 (Four-Day, Day 3)  
 Khulna v Rajshahi  
 Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

Barisal v Dhaka  
 Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
 Chittagong v Sylhet  
 Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium