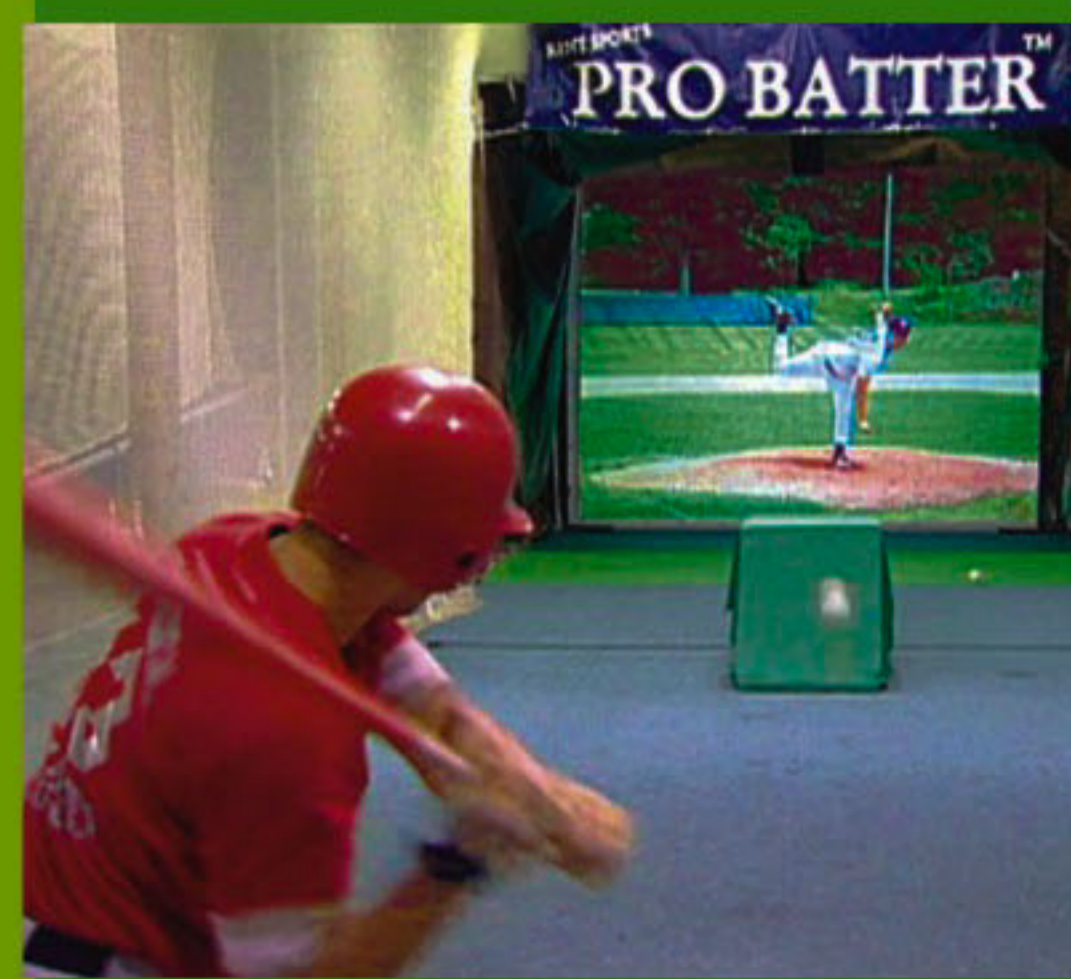


## England's new secret weapon

England had a secret weapon for the first Test against Pakistan that is set to revolutionise the way batsmen prepare for games. The 'ProBatter' is an extraordinary bowling machine imported from America to be unleashed on the cricketing world. It was given its first workout by England captain Andrew Strauss this week. The ProBatter uses Hawk-Eye technology to replicate the exact delivery of any bowler in the world, and produces an image of the bowler running in at the batsman.



## MSC in coach quandary

SPORT REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club (MSC) is in a dilemma to choose a coach for the upcoming football season as the officials are apparently divided into two groups on the issue.

However a club insider seeking anonymity said Mohammedan was going to appoint Shahidur Rahman Shantoo and they have had initial talks with the former national coach, who is now acting as a technical director with the Bangladesh Football Federation.

The source said that they would announce the name of the coach soon after confirming the squad within a week.

When contacted Shantoo, a former Bangladesh international, said that it was just an informal talk and nothing has yet been finalised.

There is also a whisper that Shafiqul Islam Manik may be appointed to replace Maruful Haq, who resigned at the middle of the second leg of the Bangladesh League last season, as some officials want to see former coach Manik at the helm again.

## YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

## 10-member BD team leaves Aug 12

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh is sending a 10-member contingent to the first Youth Olympic Games to be held in Singapore over August 14-26.

The contingent, which leaves here on August 12, includes six athletes -- swimmers Mahfizur Rahman (50m and 100m freestyle), Sonia Akhter (50m and 100m butterfly) and Jewel Ahmed (50m and 100m butterfly), shooter Syeda Sadia Sultana (10m air rifle) and archers Emdadul Haque Milon (recurve bow event) and Beauty Roy (recurve bow event).

Of the athletes, only Emdadul Haque had qualified directly for the Youth Olympic while others are taking part as wild card entrants.

## Muralidaran & Kumble may join hands

AFP, New Delhi

Record-breaking Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidaran and retired Indian legend Anil Kumble plan to join hands to set up a spin academy for youngsters, the players were quoted as saying on Thursday.

Muralidaran, who quit Test cricket last week after a final match against India in Galle, said he had first discussed the academy with leg-spinner Kumble two years ago and was now likely to take it up.

"I would like to be a part of it," Muralidaran told the Indian Express. "I am not planning a career in coaching

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SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY WITH BOTH HANDS: India's left-handed batsman Suresh Raina made an instant impact after winning his first Test cap by default in the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo. Here the veteran of 98 one-day internationals executes a full-blooded shot on way to scoring a century on debut during the fourth day yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# India go one better

## Tendulkar hits double ton

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar hit 203 and debutant Suresh Raina made 120 as India bettered Sri Lanka's run-spree in the high-scoring second Test on Thursday.

India, kept on the field for the first two days during Sri Lanka's massive 642 for 4 declared, responded by piling up 669-9 by stumps on the fourth day at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

With just 13 wickets having fallen on the placid wicket in four days, the batsman-dominated Test is heading for a draw with Sri Lanka enjoying a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Tendulkar and Raina, who came together on the third afternoon with India on 241-4 and struggling to avoid their second successive follow-on, put on 256 runs for the fifth wicket.

Tendulkar compiled his fifth double-century, adding another feather to a glorious 168-Test career marked by more runs (13,742) and hundreds (48) than any other batsman in history.

He is also the leading one-day batsman with 17,598 runs and 46 hundreds, includ-

ing the only double-century in limited-overs internationals.

The 37-year-old braved the stifling hot and humid weather in the Sri Lankan capital for more than eight hours to play a marathon innings studded with 23 boundaries and a six.

Tendulkar reached the 200-mark, his first in six years, with a flick off Ajantha Mendis for two runs, earning warm applause from teammates and spectators alike.

Left-hander Raina became the ninth Indian to score a century in his first Test innings, before holing out to short mid-wicket off Mendis shortly after lunch.

Raina, just 23 and already a veteran of 98 one-day internationals, was awarded his Test cap only after Yuvraj Singh reported sick on the opening day of the match.

He hit two sixes and 12 boundaries, reaching his century with a fluent off-drive against seamer Dammika Prasad that raced to the fence.

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (76) joined in the run feast after Raina's departure, adding 95 for the sixth wicket with Tendulkar and 51 for the eighth with Abhimanyu Mithun (41).

It was left to part-time spinner

Tillakaratne Dilshan to get rid of Tendulkar soon after tea as wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene held a bat-pad catch moving swiftly to the silly point area.

Dilshan also dismissed Harbhajan Singh in the same over and later took a return catch off Dhoni to finish with three wickets.

Sri Lanka missed the wicket-taking abilities of the retired Muttiah Muralidaran and injured fast bowler Lasith Malinga as the young crop of bowlers failed to contain the Indians.

Mendis finished with 4-157 from his 54 overs, while off-spinner Suraj Randiv failed to add to his two wickets on the third day and returned with 2-212 in 64 overs.

Muralidaran and Malinga had claimed 15 of the 20 Indian wickets in the first Test in Galle last week, which Sri Lanka won by 10 wickets.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 642 for 4 declared (Paranavithana 100, Dilshan 54, Sangakkara 219, M Jayawardene 174, Samaraweera 76 not out)

**INDIA:** First innings 669 for 9 (Vijay 58, Sehwag 99, Tendulkar 203, Laxman 29, Raina 120, Dhoni 76, Mithun 41; Randiv 2-108, Mendis 4-157, Dilshan 3-50)

# Imrul, Shafiul settling in

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The emergence of Imrul Kayes as an assured presence over the summer is as much a revelation as Tamim Iqbal's assertiveness since 2007.

And as much as Kayes has surprised his detractors with his persistent showings, Shafiul Islam has impressed with his pace and subtle variation over the past eight months. But while the Tigers have stumbled in the latter stages of their tour to England, both flourished in matches and have a number of memories to cherish from this summer. Kayes picked his 75 at Lord's as his best in Tests while Shafiul said he would always look back at the victorious Bristol one-dayer to find inspiration for the future.

They also have their entrance into the national fold as a common thread: they are products of Dhaka league cricket and made it big only after at least two seasons of sustained performances.

While Shafiul has floundered at times, Kayes has seen almost as good days as that fourth day of that Lord's Test.

The left-hander from the quiet town of Meherpur finally materialised into a Test-level opener, and made sure that it is not just Tamim hogging the limelight. Although he averages a lowly 20 in the seven matches, he has added two century and four half-century stands.

"Tamim (Iqbal) plays the strokes when we open together so it allows me to settle down easily. I play quite defensively then," said Kayes from his Meherpur home.

Kayes got into the national team on the back of solid domestic scores over four to five years but it wasn't a smooth transition.

"I was quite disappointed with my debut and the first few months in the national team. I was dropped after playing three one-day matches and given a chance in Tests, I took the opportunity and made sure I worked hard enough to stay.

"It was important for me to settle into the national team at that stage and I think I have done that," he added.

Kayes's contribution in the longer version is still not substantial enough but he has admitted that he enjoys one-day cricket more, reflecting in his figures as Bangladesh's highest scorer in this

version with 644 runs. And even as an opening partner, he has helped add four half-century partnerships with Tamim.

"You know I did well in one-day cricket in my domestic days and I actually enjoy this version a lot," said Kayes.

But he also talked about the pressure that comes while playing at the top-level. Kayes said that it is never easy for anyone coming into the national team.

"Playing for the country is never easy. When you play for the club or your division, nobody watches but when you play for Bangladesh, everybody is watching the matches. So there is pressure for everyone.

"They (the players) are all skilled, whoever plays for Bangladesh but they require mental toughness and they need a lot of help and support from the management," he explained, adding that Khaled Mahmud is his mentor in the national side.

And the assistance of Mahmud, the former national captain who operates as the assistant coach of the Tigers now, is also extended to paceman Shafiul.

After recovering from a career-threatening back injury in 2007-08, he made it to the national side this year. He spoke of Mahmud being an important influence in his days as an international player.

"Shujon bhai (Khaled Mahmud) has helped me a lot. He is very encouraging and always gives me belief. In our next camp, we will work on the leg-cutter as we both think that it is a skill that I should possess," said Shafiul.

The paceman who has taken 24 one-day wickets but sometimes concedes way too many runs, admitted that it hasn't been an easy ride thus far.

"It is necessary that I keep improving my game and work on my concentration," added Shafiul.

He echoed Kayes's approach of settling into the national side first.

"I felt a bit of pressure when I made my debut and knew that it was a major step for me. But as I started to play a few more games, everyone told me to settle into the side first so that I don't get dropped too easily," he said.

Still, there are many parts of the jigsaw puzzle that are yet to be filled for the Tigers but sometimes it is refreshing to see some of the bit-parts turning into important components.

# Pakistan lose initiative

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Eoin Morgan led England to 190 for four at tea after Pakistan took two wickets in quick succession on the first day of the first Test at Trent Bridge here on Thursday.

England, who won the toss, were in trouble at 118 for four shortly after lunch, with Kevin Pietersen out for nine in his first match since injuring his thigh in a one-day international against Australia at Lord's on July 3.

But former Ireland left-hander Morgan hit back with 44 not out featuring nine boundaries and together with Paul Collingwood (27 not out) had so far shared an unbroken stand of 72.

In a series where the Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS) was being used in England for the first time, Pakistan wasted both their two permitted unsuccessful challenges on appeals by Mohammad Asif for lbw and caught behind against Pietersen on one and five.

But Asif then bowled Pietersen, leaving a gap between bat and pad, off the inside edge.

England's other South Africa-born batsman, Jonathan Trott, had added just three to his lunchtime 35 when he padded up to an inswinger from Aamer.

Trott, successful with a previous referral, asked for New Zealand umpire Tony Hill's lbw

verdict to be reviewed. But replays suggested the ball was clipping the top of the stumps and Trott was out, with England 118 for four.

And there was a fresh flashpoint when wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal appealed for a catch against Morgan, on five, off the bowling of left-arm fast bowler Mohammad Aamer.

But even before the third umpire ruled in Morgan's favour, crowd cheers were ringing round Trent Bridge as replays on the giant screen showed the ball had clearly bounced into Kamran Akmal's gloves.

It took Collingwood 30 balls to score his first four but then two came in as many Umar Gul deliveries, courtesy of a couple of square cuts.

Morgan then cover-drove and glanced off-spinner Shoaib Malik for fours.

Both batsmen cashed in against Pakistan's slow bowlers and Morgan made it six boundaries for England in 12 deliveries with a trademark reverse sweep off leg-spinner Danish Kaneria.

Before lunch Aamer, who took seven wickets in Pakistan's dramatic three-wicket second Test win over Australia at Headingley last week, had Alastair Cook caught at first slip and had England captain Andrew Strauss caught behind for 45.

Earlier, Strauss had a huge reprieve when, on 15, he edged an outswinger from the 18-year-old Aamer only for Kamran Akmal to drop the routine chance.

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# Koertzen all for UDRS

Cricket

CRICINFO

The newly-retired umpire Rudi Koertzen has called for the decision review system to be included in every Test series after he bowed out with a tour that did not feature the UDRS. Koertzen is remaining involved in the game as the International Cricket Council's (ICC) new Regional Umpires' Performance Manager for the Africa region, and he will help mentor young umpires coming through the ranks.

One of the problems for the next generation of officials will be handling the added pressure of constant replays that can show the most minuscule error in their decisions. Technologies like HawkEye and Hot Spot can assist the decision-making process, but the cost of the system is a sticking point for some home boards and broadcasters,

who determine whether the UDRS is used in a series.

Koertzen, who has umpired more Tests than any other man besides Steve Bucknor, ended his career on the weekend with the final Test of the Pakistan-Australia contest in Leeds. Decision reviews were not used on that tour and are not being employed in the ongoing Sri Lanka-India series, which Koertzen believes adds undue pressure for umpires.

"You should have it in every single series," Koertzen told Cricinfo. "Somehow, somebody has to come up with a deal and say we will support this, we will sponsor it. It's no use having it when South Africa play Australia or in the Ashes, and then you have for example Sri Lanka playing Bangladesh and you can't have it.

"I don't think that's fair on the umpires because in one Test you get some sort of assistance and in the other one you're on your own. It's only going to make it harder

for the guys if it goes that route."

Although Koertzen and his colleague Ian Gould largely had a good series in England, there were still occasional decisions that could have been overturned had the players had the right of review. Koertzen said standing in the middle of a venue such as Lord's, having no access to TV while the world watched slow-motion replays, was a difficult task.

"You make a decision and you watch the [corporate] suites -- there are maybe a hundred suites," Koertzen said. "Everyone sitting there jumps up and goes to look at the monitor inside their suite to see if you've made the right decision or not. That is sad because it puts a hell of a lot of pressure on you. At the end of the day you're the only guy who knows if you did your best or not.

"With the technology, millions of people can see if you did it wrong. You

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Pakistan left-arm paceman Mohammad Aamer (C) celebrates the wicket of England captain Andrew Strauss (not in picture) during the opening day of the first Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

**SPORTS POLL**  
**TODAY'S QUESTION**  
 Who is to blame for Bangladesh's latest debacle?  
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 Second Test, Day Five  
 Live from 10:30am  
**STAR Cricket & SuperSport2**  
 England v Pakistan  
 First Test, Day Two  
 Live from 4:00pm