

## Another honour for Murali

The honours keep pouring in for Muttiah Muralidaran, who recently retired as the highest wicket-taker in Tests with 800 scalps. The latest one is a proposal to name a cricket stadium, currently under construction in Sri Lanka, after him. A 22,000-capacity stadium, which is being constructed in Pallekele in Murali's home district of Kandy, is due to stage three World Cup matches in 2011. And according to the Daily Mirror a proposal has been mooted to name the stadium the Muttiah Muralidaran International Cricket Stadium.



## Short term for selectors

### BCB to use UDRS during NZ tour



SPORTS REPORTER

The board of directors of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have extended the tenure of the Rafiqul Alam-led selection panel by another three months.

The interesting decision was taken during the marathon board meeting held on Thursday.

"The last contract of the national selectors expired last June and now it is extended up to September 30. Hopefully we will appoint all the supporting staff of the national team by next September and at that time we also extended the tenure of the national selectors for a long period of time," said BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus while explaining the reason behind the short tenure.

But reliable sources said that most of the directors were not happy with the performance of the present selection committee, particularly they are unsatisfied with chief selector Rafiqul Alam's performance.

The three-member selection panel has been under tremendous pressure after the Tigers' ignominious defeats

against Ireland and the Netherlands. Despite the defeats, the chief selector still believed that the team is improving which has disappointed many.

The sources said that board would even change the chief selector if they got a suitable candidate for the hot seat. BCB have also decided to assign sports psychologist Dr Soumendhra Saha, who is a professor at the Department of Sports Science at the University Sains Malaysia, as a consultant for the national cricket team while the evaluation committee has given the right to propose the name of fielding and a bowling coach.

National tam computer analyst Nasir Ahmed's contract has been extended till June 30 next year while the board approved the appointments of Manzur Ahmed as BCB CEO and Rafiqul Islam as CFO.

The domestic calendar was supposed to be approved in this meeting but the board directors advised the concerned authority to arrange the longer-version cricket after the 2011 World Cup.

"We want to put emphasis on one-day cricket before the World Cup and that's why it was advised to bring some changes in the calendar," informed Yunus.

It was also decided that BCB senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam will be responsible for looking after the operations of the Bangladesh A team while BCB director Gazi Ashraf Hossain has been given the responsibility of overseeing the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy in the capacity of chairman.

"Everybody admitted that there is a huge vacuum in the pipeline and we must give proper attention to the A team and Academy to make sure there is ample supply in the pipeline. They were designated to look after the A team and Academy respectively and prepare the course of action with the help of the game development committee," said Yunus.

Meanwhile, BCB has decided to use the Umpires Decision Referrals System (UDRS) during the Test series against New Zealand in October.

New Zealand is expected to arrive in Dhaka on September 20 to play two Tests and three ODIs.

The BCB Welfare Trust constitution has also been approved. There had been much talk over the Tigers poor showing against Ireland and Netherlands but the meeting had hardly focused on the issue ultimately.



Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo heads the ball during training in Los Angeles yesterday. Real Madrid will play Club America in San Francisco on August 4 and LA Galaxy in Los Angeles on August 7.

## Mohammedan confirm eleven

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club have confirmed services of 11 players in a bid to forming a youthful side for the upcoming football season after having lost all of their previous season's booters to Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Of 11 players so far confirmed, only striker Touhidul Islam Siddique of Chittagong Mohammedan was called on for the preliminary national squad for the South Asian Games held in Bangladesh earlier this year while the other ten are seemingly mediocre

## Karpov puts BCF in a quandary

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Chess Federation is seemingly in indecision over whether to accept former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov's visiting schedule to Bangladesh ahead of the FIDE election to be held in October this year.

Russian Grandmaster Karpov is a president candidate of the FIDE election and will

## Pakistan rattled



REUTERS, Nottingham

England birthday boy James Anderson and rookie pace bowler Steven Finn ripped through Pakistan's batting to reduce them to 90 for six at tea on the second day of the first test at Trent Bridge on Friday. Anderson, who turned 28, utilised the cloud cover to take three for 21 while Finn claimed three for 12 in seven overs as former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik was 26 not out and number eight batsman Mohammad Aamer was on 22.

Pakistan trailed by 264 runs at the break and needed 65 to avoid the follow-on, in front of a sold-out crowd that had witnessed 12 wickets for 113 runs in a pulsating day where ball dominated bat.

England had earlier lost their last six wickets for 17 runs but still were able to post a competitive first-innings total of 354 as Mohammad Asif claimed five for 77 after some accurate out-swing bowling. Eoin Morgan made 130 and Paul Collingwood 82.

Pakistan, seeking to avenge their 3-0 series loss in England in 2006, started badly by losing their captain and most dependable batsman Salman Butt before lunch, caught behind for one. Then, in a bizarre period, they lost five wickets for 15 runs, collapsing to 47 for six.

Left-hander Imran Farhat (19) was bowled by a near-perfect Anderson delivery that

swung into him only to straighten off the pitch. Farhat smashed his bat into the ground in anger but better players would have struggled to combat such a ball.

Umar Amin (2), in his third test, continued to struggle in the top arena and edged Finn to Graeme Swann at second slip.

Azhar Ali (14), also in his third test, was given out caught behind off Anderson

but replays showed that the ball missed his bat and flicked the pocket of his trousers.

With two referrals in hand, it was surprising that Azhar did not choose to review his dismissal having had a mid-pitch discussion with partner Umar Akmal. Pakistan still had those reviews in place by the interval.

Umar Akmal was also

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PHOTO: REUTERS

England paceman James Anderson (R) is congratulated after dismissing Pakistan skipper Salman Butt on the second day of the first Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday.

## Khedira all set for Real

BBC ONLINE

Stuttgart say their German international midfielder Sami Khedira is poised to join Real Madrid.

A statement from the German team said the clubs had agreed a transfer and his move would go ahead once the 23-year-old had undergone a medical.

Stuttgart managing director Fredi Bobic said they were reluctant to let him go "but we can understand Sami's wish to further his career at Real."

"We wish him great success with his new challenge in Madrid." When the deal goes through, Khedira will become new Real boss Jose Mourinho's second major signing, following the arrival of winger Angel di Maria from Benfica. Two club stalwarts, Raul and Guti, have left Madrid this week as they begin rebuilding the team for the Mourinho era. Khedira, who also had been linked with a move to Chelsea, has won 12 caps, having only made his debut for Germany less than a year ago.

But he was thrust into the spotlight at the World Cup because of the injury which

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## Siddikur takes surprise lead

AFP, Bandar Seri Begawan

Unheralded Siddikur Rahman of Bangladesh gave himself a shot at a historic victory after taking a two-shot halfway lead at the Brunei Open on Friday.

Siddikur, who is the first Bangladeshi to play on the Asian Tour, posted a four-under-par 67 for his career's best two-day total of 11-under-par 131 at the majestic Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Overnight leader Thammanoon Srirot of Thailand slipped to joint second place after a 71 for a total of 133 along with Australian Adam Groom, who returned a 68 at the 300,000-dollar full field Asian Tour tournament.

Juvic Pagunsan of the Philippines, Ben Leong of Malaysia and Jbe Kruger of South Africa are a further stroke behind on 134.

India's Gaganjeet Bhullar, last year's runner-up in Brunei, scored the third hole-in-one of the tournament on the 14th hole after his five-iron tee shot trickled into the hole. He closed with a 68 for a 137 total.

Siddikur, who grew up as a ball boy in Dhaka and fashioned his first club with a seven iron head on a metal rod, posted a flawless round with

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## Colombo Test ends in a draw



AFP, Colombo

The second Test between India and Sri Lanka ended in a high-scoring draw on Friday after the bat dominated the ball on a featherbed wicket for five days.

India posted their second-highest total ever when they made 707 in reply to Sri Lanka's mammoth first innings score of 642-4 declared on the fifth morning at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

The total was just 19 runs short of India's Test record of 726-9 declared against the same opposition at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai last year.

Sri Lanka, trailing by 65 runs on the first innings, made 129-3 in their second knock before play was called off an hour early with skipper Kumar Sangakkara on 42 and Thilan Samaraweera on 10.

The match was a poor advertisement for Test cricket in which 1,478 runs were scored for the loss of just 17 wickets on a flat pitch that offered no assistance to the bowlers.

There were five three-figure knocks over the five days, two of them double-centuries by

Sangakkara and Sachin Tendulkar, besides a 99 from Indian opener Virender Sehwag.

Sri Lanka now head for the final Test at the P Sara Oval from Tuesday enjoying a 1-0 lead in the series after winning the first match in Galle by 10 wickets.

India's last-wicket pair of Ishant Sharma and Pragyan Ojha, who resumed at the overnight score of 669-9, batted until 20 minutes before lunch to put on a partnership of 39 runs.

Sharma finally fell for 27, caught in the gully region off fast bowler Dilhara Fernando, leaving Ojha unbeaten on 18.

All four frontline Sri Lankan bowlers conceded more than 100 runs in India's innings, with debutant off-spinner Suraj Randiv going for 2-222 from 73 overs.

Unorthodox spinner Ajantha Mendis finished with 4-172, fast bowler Dilhara Fernando claimed 1-116 and seamer Dammika Prasad went for 0-101.

Part-time spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan was the only bowler to contain the Indians with figures of 3-56 from 27 overs.

India's innings was marked by Sachin Tendulkar's 203, his fifth double-century, while debutant Suresh Raina made 120 and skipper

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## A TT party for kids

SPORTS REPORTER

The jerseys would have alluded to a football tournament but the kids who turned up on Friday morning with 'Messi', 'Torres' and 'Lampard' on their back were geared up for a different sport altogether.

They were students of Siddiqui's International School and yesterday they entered the second month of their three-month table tennis camp in the Singer-BTTPS School Table Tennis Campaign, organised by Bangladesh Table Tennis Players' Society (BTTPS).

Boys and girls of different ages, brought over by their parents, thoroughly enjoyed the couple of hours of training on the table set up in the school building. According to Raziur Rahman, marketing communication manager of camp sponsors Singer, the camp was set up after national players approached them for support.

"They came to us with the proposal and we thought it was a brilliant idea not only to promote table tennis in Bangladesh but to provide school children with an activity," he said.

"We decided to run the camp in different schools and with the help of the players who are also good trainers, we thought this would be a success," added Raziur.

The players' fraternity is heavily represented in the camp with at least three coaches taking charge of the schools.

Apart from Siddiqui's, DPS-STC School, International Turkish Hope, Aga Khan School, Sunbeams, Radiant International, Sunnydale and Dhanmondi Tutorial have taken keen interest and are hosting the camps.

"These schools have really come to the party with table tennis. You only need a table in a room which is no big deal for their parents,"

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Students of Siddiqui's International School are taking part in the Singer-BTTPS School Table Tennis campaign at their premises in Dhanmondi yesterday.

### SPORTS POLL

Who is to blame for Bangladesh's latest debacle?

Players 62.6%  
BCB 28.7%  
Siddons 8.7%

TOTAL VOTES: 356

### TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you think Sachin Tendulkar can reach 100 international centuries?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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### What to WATCH

STAR Cricket & SuperSport2

England v Pakistan First Test, Day Three Live from 4:00pm

SuperSport3

The Emirates Cup

Celtic v Lyon Live from 7:00pm

Arsenal v AC Milan Live from 9:20pm