

AUSSIE TOUR
Lanka include Muralidaran

AP, Colombo

Muttiah Muralidaran, the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket, has been included in Sri Lanka's squad to tour Australia later this month in an indication he may play in the 2011 World Cup on the subcontinent.

The off-spinner retired from Test cricket in July after capturing his 800th wicket, but didn't reveal his World Cup plans and was not part of a limited-overs tri-series involving India and New Zealand in August.

The 16-member squad picked to tour Australia has seven specialist batsmen, three all-rounders, four seamers and two spinners.

The teams will play three warm-up games, one Twenty20 and three one-day internationals.

SQUAD

Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Chamara Silva, Jeevan Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Chamara Kapugedera, Thisara Perera, Lasith Malinga, Nuwan Kulasekera, Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralidaran, Suraj Randiv, Mummika Prasad, Dinesh Chandimal.

Guillermo Thai Open champion

AFP, Bangkok

Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez was made to battle hard to win the Thailand Open Sunday, beating Jarkko Nieminen 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to follow up his shock semifinal victory over Rafael Nadal.

The Finn saved three match points on his own serve in the final game before Garcia-Lopez unleashed a sizzling cross-court return winner for only his second ATP Tour title.

The delighted Spaniard, ranked 53, fell face down before rising to hug Nieminen at the net after their struggle, lasting just under one and three-quarter hours at the Impact arena.

The 29-year-old Nieminen, ranked 60, was appearing in his 10th career ATP final and stands 1-9.

Garcia-Lopez, who shocked world number one Nadal on Saturday, has a 2-1 record in finals, winning his only previous title in Kitzbuhel in 2009.

Valencia

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"The team produced a titanic effort to level the score," said Zaragoza coach Jose Aurelio Gay. "At the end of the match they had counter attacks but Toni Doblaz (the Zaragoza goalkeeper) did really well."

Zaragoza prop up the table with no win from their first six matches while Sporting are in 15th place after squandering two points.

Elsewhere Espanyol's travel sickness struck again as the Barcelona side lost 1-0 at promoted Real Sociedad on Saturday.

An 83rd minute own goal from Argentine centre-back Juan Forlin handed Sociedad victory and inflicted a third away defeat on Espanyol who have to collect a point on the road.

It was a special match for striker Raul Tamudo, 32, as he started against old club Espanyol -- where he spent 14 successful years before joining Sociedad in the summer -- for the first time before being substituted in the 67th minute.

Sociedad had lost their last three matches and the much-needed win sees them move into mid-table while Espanyol are sixth on the back of their perfect nine points at home.

Sven new

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"The ambition of the club attracted me," Eriksson said. "I met the chairman and the owners a couple of days ago and they explained to me what they wanted to do. I want to manage in the Premier League again, that's why I'm here."

Hemistry to spark a revival at his new club with Leicester currently 22nd in the Championship.

I was ready

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Melo also endured a disappointing first year with Juventus after his 2009 move from Fiorentina, but he has rediscovered his form this season under new boss Luigi Del Neri.

"At the age of 27 I can still change," he said. "The faith of Gigi Del Neri and [Juve sporting director] Beppe Marotta really helped me to change, as I realised there were people who truly believed in me."



Thai tennis star Paradorn Srichaphan (L) waves to his fans after announcing his retirement from professional career next to his wife Natalie Glebova (Miss Universe 2005) during the Thailand Open tournament in Bangkok yesterday.

Ctg Abahani-Police tie to open Fed Cup

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Abahani will take on Bangladesh Police in the first match of the 23rd Federation Cup at the Shaheed Bishreshtha Sepoy Mostafa Kamal Stadium on October 8. A total of fourteen clubs will vie for four second round berths where the top four finishers of last season's Bangladesh League -- Abahani, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Sheikh Russel and Feni Soccer Club -- have an automatic berth.

These were revealed as the draw for the first round of the season's curtain-raiser was held in a star-studded conference room of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Bhaban yesterday.

The draw pits Rahmatganj, Chittagong Abahani and Bangladesh Police in Group A while Brothers Union, Chittagong Mohammedan and Victoria Sporting Club are in group B.

Group C consists of Muktijoddha Sangsad, Farashganj, Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Navy while new powerhouse Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Arambagh

Krira Sangha, Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and BKSP are in group D.

After the only match on the October 8, two matches will be played each day till October 13 to where top four teams will qualify for the next round.

The draw for the next round will be held later and the schedule for the rest of the tournament is yet to be decided.

The Federation Cup, as most of the other tournaments of the season, will be held at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mostafa Kamal Stadium where organisers are expecting will be sell out crowds of ten thousand.

Ticket prices for the galleries has been kept at Tk 20 for the first round.

The champions will get Tk 5 lakh while the runners-up will get Tk 3 lakh in the Tk 10 lakh tournament.

Professional Football League (PFL) committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshadi, coordinator Fazlul Rahman Babul, member Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu, BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi, executive member Satyjit Das Rupu, national team head coach Robert Rubcic, former Abahani coach Amalesh Sen and Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik were present among others at the draw ceremony.

Aamer could be let off lightly

Cricket

ANI, Karachi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has hinted that Mohammad Aamer, one of the three Pakistani players implicated in spot-fixing scandal, may draw the lowest charge and have the option of returning to cricket, if he is found guilty of spot-fixing.

ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat disclosed that the tainted trio were likely to be treated differently, as skipper Salman Butt would have far more influence than 18-year-old Aamer, the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

"Once we present the charges we will be asking for proportionate sanctions," Lorgat stated.

"There is still some work to be done, on exactly [what penalties are appropriate] for bowling a no-ball, and instructing a no-ball. We said to Butt we have got evidence upon which we said we're charging you, because we want to protect the integrity of the game. We believe there is a very strong case which justified our

actions (to suspend him), and there is nothing we can do until he appeals."

The alleged spot-fixers, Butt, Aamer and Mohammad Asif, are expected to make separate defences in their hearings, as they have hired different legal teams after lodging individual appeals against their provisional suspensions by the ICC.

While Asif is likely to fall into the more serious charge category, given his long list of previous indiscretions, many have argued that teenage pacer Amir should be allowed to return to the game, even if he is found guilty, keeping in view his naivety and youth.

A few days back, a team source revealed, "Aamer told the team management that he wasn't aware of the gravity of the situation and also claimed that he just followed Butt's instructions. Aamer told (Shahid) Afridi as well as the team manager that he was completely unaware of what was going on. He asked them to help him get out of the mess."

However, according to the ICC rulebook, the lowest penalty for a player found guilty of being approached by a fixer and not reporting it is a six-month ban.

Tendulkar misses ton

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They needed early wickets to gain the upper hand but could manage just two before the tea break, failing to capitalise on the opportunities that came their way.

Raina was on 48 when he survived a stumping chance off spinner Nathan Hauritz, with wicketkeeper Tim Paine failing to collect the ball after the batsman had stepped out to attempt a big shot.

He survived again, this time on 60, when he upishly drove Hauritz, with Johnson reacting late at mid-on.

Hauritz was the unlucky bowler again when Shane Watson dropped Zaheer Khan at mid-wicket when the batsman was on four.

The Australian spinner eventually got his first wicket when he bowled Zaheer for six and then removed Venkatesh Laxman for two to end India's innings.

Middle-order batsman Laxman batted at number 10 due to a stiff back.

Paceman Doug Bollinger claimed the first two wickets of the day, removing night-watchman Ishant Sharma (18) in the morning and Dravid in

the afternoon.

Dravid reached his half-century when he steered Johnson past gully for a four and looked set to play a long innings before being caught behind. He hit 12 fours in his 134-ball knock.

Tendulkar, who never looked in trouble during his stay at the wicket, played some attractive strokes, twice driving Bollinger through the covers for fours and hitting Hauritz for two boundaries in an over.

India batted steadily in the first two sessions, adding 81 to their overnight total of 110-2 in the morning and 89 in the afternoon for the loss the just two wickets.

The second final and Test starts in Bangalore on October 9.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 428 (Watson 126, Ponting 71, Paine 92; Zaheer 5-94, Harbhajan 3-114)

INDIA: First innings 405 (Gambhir 25, Sehwag 59, Dravid 77, Tendulkar 98, Raina 86; Bollinger 2-49, Johnson 5-64)

Twenty-four

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either from the player or from any team is found, they will take necessary action against that player or the club.

Abahani manager Satyjit Das Rupu said that they were not aware of any complaints from another club but if any such allegation were proven, then they would take necessary action against the player.

Two other players, namely Mintu Sheikh and Ashraf Mahmud Linkon have appeared in the registered players' list of Abahani and other clubs.

Registered players of Abahani: Ziaur Rahman, Shahidul Alam Sohel, Manzarul Islam Himel, Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraji, Imtiaz Sultan Jitu, Alfaz Ahmed, Mehedi Hassan Uzzal, Pranotosh Kumar, Abul Hossain, Habibur Rahman Sohad, Mohammad Robin, Choummin Rakhain, Amit Khan Shuvra, Kamal Hossain, Abdullah Al Parvez, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Ashraf Mahmud Linkon, Mamun Mia, Shakawat Hossain Rony, Jahangir Alam Mintu, Arup Kumar Baidya, Mintu Sheikh, Awudu Ibrahim, Samad Yusuf.

Khulna lead women's NCL table

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna topped the points table in the 4th Women's National Cricket League with a 13-run win over Rajshahi at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

At the end of the first round of matches, Khulna are followed by Rajshahi, Dhaka and Barisal.

Dhaka beat Barisal in the day's other match by 26 runs. In Saturday's matches, Dhaka beat Chittagong by five wickets while Barisal beat Sylhet by four wickets.

Int'l kabaddi begins Oct 7

UNB, Dhaka

Meijan International Club Cup Kabaddi tournament begins on October 7.

Five teams from Japan, Nepal and Indian teams from West Bengal, Assam and Tripura and one from hosts Bangladesh will take part in the tournament.

All the matches will be held at the Kabaddi Stadium.

The tournament will be sponsored by the Edible Oil Limited.

Sports get

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our chance for the third place," said coach Kajol Datta.

The coach informed that Sabira had good practice after arriving at the Games Village and mentally prepared to fight for the third place.

The fact that Sabira, national record holder in the weight category, finished seventh in 2006 edition lifting a total weight of 131kg -- 64kg in snatch and 67kg in clean and jerk -- while Indian Kunjarani Devi Nameirakpam clinched gold lifting 166 kg -- 72kg in snatch and 94kg in clean and jerk.

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE

Rajshahi open title defence today

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Rajshahi take on Sylhet in one of three opening day matches of the National Cricket League, the country's only first-class tournament, at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore today.

In the other first phase matches, Chittagong take on Barisal at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra while Dhaka face Khulna at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

Rajshahi have an experienced line-up with the likes of Forhad Reza, Farhad Hossain and Saqlain Sajib as well as skipper Khaled Mashud.

Mohammad Ashraf will be the star attraction as Dhaka look to break their trophy drought while in the Bogra encounter, Aftab Ahmed would begin his long trek to the national team ahead of the World Cup. Curiously, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has not announced a sponsor for the tournament.

TEAMS

Rajshahi: Khaled Mashud, Anisur Rahman, Sabbir Rahman, Forhad Reza, Farhad Hossain, Dhiman Ghosh, Nasir Hossain, Saqlain Sajib, Sanjamul Islam, Shubashish Roy, Mizanur Rahman, Hamidul Islam, Alauddin Babu, Sajidul Islam.

Chittagong: Nafees Iqbal, Nazimuddin, Aftab Ahmed, Faisal Hossain, Mahbubul Karim, Gazi Salauddin, Nazmul Hasan, Mahmudul Hasan, Mominul Haque, Kazi Kamrul Islam, Tareq Aziz, Sazzadul Haque, Rezaul Karim, Irfan Shukkur.

Dhaka: Rony Talukder, Uttam Sarker, Shamsur Rahman, Mohammad Ashraf, Marshall Ayub, Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury, Mehrab Hossain, Mohammad Sharif, Ilyas Sunny, Talha Jubair, Noor Hossain, Mahbub Alam, Anamul Hoque, Nadif Chowdhury.

Khulna: Dollar Mahmud, Syed Rasel, Robiul Islam, Ziaur Rahman, Murad Khan, Fariduddin Masud, Taposh GHosh, Sahagir Hossain, Md Mithun, Tushar Imran, Nazmus Sadat, Nazimuddin Ripon, Md. Aslam Ali, Shommo Sarker.

Barisal: Shahin Hossain, Hannan Sarkar, Nasiruddin Faruq, Tariqul Islam, Asif Ahmed, Fazle Rabbi, Arafat Salauddin, Shafaq Al Zahir, Monir Hossain, Sohag Gazi, Kamrul Islam, Iftekhar Nayeem, Md Sajib, Mohiuddin Balal. **Sylhet:** Alok Kapali, Enamul Haque, Golam Mabud, Rajin Saleh, Imtiaz Hossain, Siddikur Rahman, Saikat Ali, Tanvir Haider, Sayem Rizvi, Shaker Ahmed, Nazmul Hossain, Tapash Baishya, Abul Hasan, Abu Zahid.

DELHI DIARY

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the press box of the stadium.

Two gates were designated for media personnel to enter the venue and both the gates were heavily crowded as the organisers took journalists from the Pragati Maidan, where the Main Press Centre in located, by 10 buses that shuttled every 10 minutes for nearly one hour. Some journalists complained that they had to wait for one hour outside the security gates.

Photographers and the TV crew mainly faced much trouble as their cameras and lenses were checked strictly. Meanwhile, around 80,000 Delhi police and nearly 20,000 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, 1,500 National Security Guard (NSG) commandos, 100 anti-sabotage teams, 300 sniffer dogs and 15 bomb disposal squads were on duty for the biggest sporting event India has hosted since the 1982 Asian Games.

NEWSTARS

The absence of the world's leading athletes have already

reduced the attraction of the XIX Commonwealth Games and the focus is now on Australian and English swimmers as well as Kenyan athletes on track and field.

Those who are now stars of the Games are Australian swimmers Leisel Jones, Brenton Rickard, English swimmer Rebecca Adlington, Canadian swimmer Annamay Pierce, English diver Tom Daley.

In the track and field, the stars are Australian pole vaulter Steve Hooker, Australian long jumper Fabrice Lapierre, New Zealand shot-putter Valerie Vili, Kenyan 1500m runner Nancy Jebet Lagat, her compatriots Ezriel Kemboi, Brimin Kiprotu and Vivian Cheruyot.

Meanwhile, athletes like Usain Bolt, Asafa Powell, Shelly-Ann Fraser, Stephanie Rice, Christina Ohuruogu, Dani Samuels, Phillips Idowu and Chris Hoy skipped the Games for various reasons including security and health concerns and injuries.

Siddikur continues

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Trailing overnight leader Siddikur by a stroke, Pariya, turned in 36 before carding a pivotal birdie on the 15th hole to force a play-off.

"I didn't expect to win but now that I have it is great. I came here with a goal to finish in the top-10 but to win here is just unbelievable. It opens a lot of doors for me but Asia is my home and I'll always play here," said the 26-year-old, who won US\$100,000 for his victory.

Pariya is one of the most consistent golfers on the Asian Tour who has four top-10s to his name this season. His best finish was in third place at the Handa Singapore Classic last month.

Pariya admitted that nerves

got to him on the back nine but was delighted with his consistent performance this week.

"I tried not to look at the results but I couldn't help myself on the back nine. I knew I was neck-to-neck with Siddikur and I'm lucky things went my way," said Pariya, who represented the Purdue University golf team and has clocked over 100 hours as a pilot.

Leading fourth round scores

286 - Siddikur (BAN) 75-69-67-75, Pariya Junhasavasdikul (THA) 71-71-70-74
287 - Lu Wei-chih (TPE) 72-72-72-71
288 - Peter Karmis (RSA) 70-72-71-75 and Chan Yih-shin (TPE) 75-68-73-72.

Moustaches & medals at CWG

AFP, New Delhi

Winning athletes won't be the only ones on display at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. Also present at the medal presentations will be an array of magnificent moustaches.

Teams of hirsute Indian Army soldiers drafted in from across the country have been fine-tuning their flag-raising roles for the playing of the national anthems of victorious competitors.

At the swimming pool, a team of Grenadiers in full uniform was seen marching at poolside, folded flags in hand, as hundreds of swimmers trained.

Four of the eight-man team sported handlebar moustaches and four sprouting "mutton chops" -- the result of more than three weeks growth and careful trimming, a senior officer told AFP.

SPORTS POLL

TODAY'S QUESTION

What do you think is Bangladesh's advantage against New Zealand?

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

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NEO Cricket

India v Australia

First Test, Day 4

Live from 10:00am

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Completely
4 Expire
9 Big pig
12 Zodiac sign
13 Playful water critter
14 "Hail!"
15 Living room piece
17 Scooted
18 — de mer
19 Piece of pasta
21 Take a breath
24 Formerly, formerly
25 Mediteranean or Baltic
26 Home for 9-Across
28 Loses weight
31 Traditional stories
33 Listener
35 Leave out
36 Finish
38 Fellows
40 Historic time
41 Faucet problem
43 Autumn, e.g.
45 Leisurely walk
47 Scot's cap
48 Swiss canton
49 Fonda/Hopper classic
54 Gun the engine
55 Serviceable
56 Have debts
57 CBS logo
58 Studied (over)
59 Whammy
21 Capri, for one
22 Night light?
23 Data-storage device
27 Sweet potato
29 Surrealist Joan
30 Ollie's pal
32 Continental money
34 Shape anew
37 Amass
39 Approached bit
42 Socrates' student
44 Chartres chum
45 Foolproof
46 Deuce beater
50 Madam's counterpart
51 Homer's interjection
52 Ram's mate
53 Actor Harrison

Solution time: 24 mins.

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