



PHOTO: STAR

Physically disabled players take part in a football match during the Summer Competition organised by the National Forum for the Disabled at the Government Physical Education College in Mohammadpur yesterday.

## India go to SL in July

AFP, Colombo

India will play five one-day internationals and one Twenty20 game against Sri Lanka during a three-week tour starting next month, Sri Lanka Cricket said on Wednesday.

### SCHEDULE

July 22: 1st ODI, Hambantota  
July 24: 2nd ODI, Hambantota  
July 28: 3rd ODI, Colombo  
July 31: 4th ODI, Colombo  
Aug 5: 5th ODI, Pallekele  
Aug 7: T20I, Pallekele

## Cook being humble

AFP, London

England one-day captain Alastair Cook refused to get carried away after his latest limited-overs hundred sealed a series win over the West Indies.

Cook made 112 as England, set 239, won by eight wickets at The Oval here on Tuesday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in a three-match series.

It was left-handed opener Cook's fifth hundred in 47 one-day internationals (ODIs) and third in just his last six matches at this level.

Yet there was a time when the 27-year-old Essex batsman, a mainstay of the Test side, was considered too slow a scorer for the 50-over format.

His appointment to the one-day captaincy last year, after Test skipper Andrew Strauss quit limited overs internationals, prompted former England captain Michael Atherton, himself an opening batsman, to describe Cook as "plodder" with the bat and a "donkey" in the field.

As Cook faced just 120 balls with a six and 13 fours during his innings on Tuesday, having previously run out West Indies opener Lendl Simmons with a direct hit, he could have been forgiven for thinking 'some plodder, some donkey', especially as Atherton managed just two hundreds in his 54 ODIs.

## BD keep

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Zatara added his second and the team's third in the 75th minute beating the goalie at the far post latching on to a free-kick from Ahmad Saleh. Yeamin Munna found an opportunity to reduce the margin in the 83rd minute as he found an Emon Babu corner drop on his feet, but the midfielder blasted the ball over the net.

Bangladesh will meet Yemen in their last match on Sunday next.

## Tamim

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loses his place to fellow Rajshahi teammate Junaed Siddiqui, who is likely to bat at number three. Jahurul, who didn't have a chance to bat in the first game, made 12 off 15 balls in the second before holing out to long-on.

## Novak, Maria top seeds

AFP, London



Defending Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic has been confirmed as the top seed in this year's men's singles at the All England Club, while French Open winner Maria Sharapova is the top seed in the women's singles.

Serbia's Djokovic, the current world number one, was beaten by Rafael Nadal in the French Open final earlier this month, but he retains the top seeding ahead of the second seeded Spaniard.

Djokovic's defeat to Nadal in Paris marked the end of a run of three successive grand slam final victories over the world number two, which started when he won Wimbledon for the first time last year.

Six-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer is seeded third as he seeks to win a grand slam for the first time since the 2010 Australian Open.

Britain's Andy Murray, a loser in the Wimbledon semifinals for the last three years, is the fourth seed, while France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a beaten semifinalist at Wimbledon last year, is seeded fifth.

Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, who lost to Nadal in the 2010 Wimbledon final, is bumped up to the sixth seed, one

place above Spain's David Ferrer, who is ranked higher but drops down to seventh seed due to his inferior grass-court record.

Big-serving American Mardy Fish, back in action after serious health issues, is promoted to 10th ahead of John Isner and Nicolas Pietrangeli.

The biggest jump is made by Australian teenager Bernard Tomic, who reached the quarterfinals last year and climbs from 27th to 20th, while three-time finalist Andy Roddick is seeded 30th.

In the women's singles, the seedings reflect the current WTA Tour rankings, with world number one Sharapova, who beat Sara Errani in this year's French Open final, selected to be the top seed ahead of reigning Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic.

Sharapova's victory in Paris gave the 25-year-old Russian a career grand slam after her previous title triumphs at Wimbledon, in 2004, and the Australian and US Opens.

Kvitova, who defeated Sharapova in last year's Wimbledon final, is the fourth seed behind world number two Victoria Azarenka of Belarus and Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, who is seeded third.

Australia's Sam Stosur, the current US Open champion, is the fifth seed and America's Serena Williams, a four-time Wimbledon winner, is seeded sixth.

## Yuvi eyes World T20



AFP, New Delhi

India's explosive all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has said he is back in light training after undergoing cancer treatment and hopes to play in the World Twenty20 starting in September in Sri Lanka.

The 30-year-old, who was diagnosed with a rare germ-cell tumour between his lungs early last year, said he was regaining energy after finishing chemotherapy in the United States two months ago.

"I think favourites [for the World T20] are India because we've got the biggest hitters... Hopefully I should be back by then," he told the ICC's Cricket 360 television show in an interview to be released on Thursday.

"I've done six or seven sessions very light training and very light yoga," he said. "I'm just getting back into the groove of being a normal person."

Yuvraj played a key role in India's 50-over World Cup triumph last year, scoring 362 runs with his aggressive batting and taking 15 wickets in nine matches -- performances that saw him named man of the tournament.

But he has not played competitive cricket since two home Tests against the West Indies in November, and he stressed that he had not

set himself a deadline for his return.

"I can't really give a timeframe but I have to see how my body is recovering and how fast I can come on the field... I don't want to rush and I don't want to come back at 75 percent fitness," he said.

"I might take six months, I might take two months. So I don't know. But the day I feel 100 percent I surely will be back."

Yuvraj, who made his international debut in 2000, impressed with his big hitting in the inaugural World Twenty20 tournament in South Africa in 2007, when he smashed England pacesman Stuart Broad for six sixes in an over.

His cancer diagnosis last year shocked India's huge cricket fanbase and drew messages of support from fellow players and followers around the world.

"It took a long time to sink in but eventually I made peace with it," he said.

"The support was overwhelming, especially from India... I went through chemotherapy which is hard for everybody but the wishes and the love is what made me come back."

He added that he had posted updates and pictures on Twitter during his treatment to spread the message to other cancer sufferers that they "can also fight it with the support of their family and their loved ones".

## Phelps, Lochte on collision course



AFP, Omaha

Michael Phelps's bid to maintain Olympic swimming supremacy begins in earnest next week, when he renews his rivalry with Ryan Lochte at the US Olympic swimming trials.

Both are entered in the 400m individual medley on the opening day of the trials on Monday.

The demanding event was among Phelps's unprecedented eight victories in one Games at Beijing four years ago -- after which he said he would never swim it again in competition.

However, Phelps is still the world record-holder, and has waffled on that stance this season.

Lochte, who put his name down for 11 events, is entered in all seven that Phelps has entered. It's more than likely, however, that neither will swim all the events he has

entered during the eight-day trials.

Phelps and Lochte are also both entered in the 100m and 200m freestyle, the 100m and 200m butterfly, the 200m backstroke and the 200m medley.

Lochte set the 200m medley world record at the world championships in Shanghai last year, the first men's long course world mark since high-tech bodysuits were banned.

He's seeded number one, ahead of Phelps, in both medleys. Phelps goes into the 100m and 200m butterfly as the top seed.

In Beijing, Phelps won the 100m and 200m butterfly, the 200m and 400m medley, the 200m freestyle and three relay golds.

In the Olympic trials that year, which were also held in a temporary pool at Omaha's Qwest Center arena, he was originally entered nine events but eventually completed -- and won -- five.

Phelps has been cagey about his plans for the London Olympics, which he says will be his last.

## Nadal Spain's flag-bearer

REUTERS, Madrid

Gold medalist Rafael Nadal will carry the Spain flag at the opening ceremony for the London Games, the country's Olympic committee (COE) said on Wednesday.

The world number two, who recently won a record seventh French open title, has won 11 Grand Slam tournaments.

Nadal was the unanimous choice of the COE board and local media reported he was chosen ahead of sailing duo Iker Martinez and Xabi Fernandez who have a gold and a silver from the Athens and Beijing Games in the 49er class event.

The 26-year-old will be attending his third Olympic Games. Nadal competed in the doubles in Athens in 2004 and won the singles in Beijing four years ago.

World number one Novak Djokovic will carry Serbia's flag at the opening ceremony on July 27.

## Dan wants to play World Twenty20

AFP, Wellington

Former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori wants to return to the short form of the game at this year's ICC World T20 tournament in Sri Lanka, officials said on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old spinner announced last year that he was taking an indefinite break from one-dayers and Twenty20 cricket to concentrate on his Test career after representing New Zealand in all forms of the game since 1997.

But New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White said Vettori, the world's top-ranked Twenty20 bowler in 2009, had declared himself available for the September-October tournament.

"[He] is widely regarded as one of the best Twenty20 exponents in world cricket," White said.

"His availability is a real boost for the Black Caps, with his style of bowling well suited to conditions in Sri Lanka."

Chief selector Kim Littlejohn said Vettori wanted to participate in a world event and New Zealand Cricket was "thrilled" to have him back.

Vettori has taken 35 wickets at an average of 16.57 in T20 internationals.

In Tests, he has taken 359 wickets and scored 4,486 runs, with his long-term target to become only the second player after India's Kapil Dev to take 400 wickets and 4,000 runs.

## SL favourites in Tests



AFP, Galle

Sri Lanka will look to improve their dismal Test record over the past year when they take on a self-destructing Pakistan side in a three-match series from Friday.

The Sri Lankans have won just two of their last 14 Tests and lost six, but remain a force on home soil where they drew a two-match series against top-ranked England in March and April.

Mahela Jayawardene's men have already handed Pakistan a warning by wrapping up the one-day series 3-1 after both teams shared the two Twenty20 internationals.

"The Test series was always going to be [a] big challenge, but winning is a good habit to have, so hopefully we can continue this momentum," Jayawardene said ahead of the first Test in Galle.

"We have some experienced players coming in for the Tests. It's going to be a great opportunity for us. It's important that we start fresh and start well."

Pakistan, who defeated Sri Lanka in all three formats in the United Arab Emirates last year, were let down by poor fielding and batting in the one-dayers.

But a worse blow hit them on Tuesday when skipper Misbahul Haq was banned from playing in the first Test by the International Cricket Council for a slow over-rate in Monday's final one-dayer in Colombo.

Misbah was penalised for his team falling three overs short, which ICC match referee Chris Broad said was a "serious over-rate offence" in one-day internationals.

Instead Mohammad Hafeez will lead the tourists in Galle as Pakistan bid to bounce back and continue their remarkable run in

Test cricket despite being forced to play abroad due to security concerns at home.

Pakistan have won seven of their last nine Tests, including a brilliant 3-0 whitewash of Andrew Strauss' England in the UAE earlier this year.

They have banked on a potent bowling attack led by prolific off-spinner Saeed Ajmal, who was the world's leading Test wicket-taker last year with 50 scalps in eight matches.

This year, Ajmal has already grabbed 21 wickets in three Tests against England, and will remain the main threat facing Sri Lanka.

Pakistan endured a nightmarish outing in their last Test series in Sri Lanka in 2009 when they lost 2-0.

They missed a modest victory target of 168 in the first Test in Galle, slumping to 117 all out after being 71 for two at one stage.

In the second Test in Colombo, Pakistan were dismissed for 90 in the first innings on a good batting pitch and then lost eight wickets for 26 runs in the second knock, losing the game by seven wickets.

But if they were to win this series 3-0, Pakistan would surpass arch-rivals India to take fourth spot in the Test rankings. A 2-0 scoreline would see them draw level with India on 111 rating points.

Misbah hoped the team's past Test performances will help them put the one-day defeats behind them.

"We need to forget about the one-dayers and start afresh," he said. "We have done well in Test matches in the last two years. We need to recall those performances and start afresh."

Sixth-placed Sri Lanka will also take note of the Test ranking, as a 3-0 or 2-0 series win will see them leapfrog Pakistan to number five.

The second Test will be played in Colombo from June 30 and the third in Pallekele from July 8.

## Afridi pondering ODI retirement



AFP, Karachi

Dashing all-rounder Shahid Afridi Wednesday promised to review his one-day future after Pakistan's series loss to Sri Lanka, saying youngsters needed to be inducted with the 2015 World Cup in mind.

Afridi, 32, managed just 28 runs in four innings and his three wickets were taken at an expensive average of 48.66 as Pakistan slumped to a 3-1 defeat with one match abandoned due to rain in the series, which ended on Monday.

"Our performance was not as such as we were expecting," Afridi told AFP. "Now I want to consult my elders and then decide on my one-day future. I will have to sincerely review where I stand as far as my performance is concerned."

Afridi, who holds the record of smashing the fastest one-day hundred -- off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in Nairobi in 1996 -- has not been in the best of form with the bat and has not bowled to the standard he set as a leg-spinner.

He has played 347 one day internationals for Pakistan, scoring 7,068 runs and taking 347 wickets.

But he managed just three wickets in Pakistan's 4-1 defeat against England in February this year.

He said Pakistan needs to build a strong team for the 2015 World Cup, to be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

"I will make a decision soon but I have yet to decide on retirement. I will continue playing Twenty20 cricket if I leave one-day. I want to leave the stage for youngsters so that Pakistan can have a good team by 2015," said Afridi, who retired from Test cricket in 2010.

Highlighting Pakistan's fielding as one reason for the loss to Sri Lanka, he said: "Sri Lanka used their conditions very well and they are a strong team in their conditions, so they fared better than us."

"We lost mainly because of poor fielding. This has been our weakness ever since I started playing cricket, so we need to overcome that problem."

Afridi had an eventful last year, guiding Pakistan to the World Cup semifinal before falling out with then Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt after being removed as one-day captain.

## England rest main bowlers

AFP, London

England will rest three frontline bowlers for the third and final one-day international against the West Indies at Headingley on Friday.

Seamers Stuart Broad and Tim Bresnan, together with off-spinner Graeme Swann -- who all played in an eight-wicket win at The Oval here on Tuesday that gave England an unassailable 2-0 series lead -- will be given a break.

Into the squad will come Surrey seamer Stuart Meaker, Warwickshire pacesman Chris Woakes and Kent off-spinner James Tredwell.

Woakes had already been called up as possible cover for Jade Dernbach in the event the Surrey pacesman was granted compassionate leave following the death of county colleague Tom Maynard on Monday.

However, Dernbach remains available for selection. Woakes, Meaker and Tredwell have all previously played one-day international cricket for England.

### REVISED SQUAD

Alastair Cook (captain), James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Jade Dernbach, Steven Finn, Craig Kieswetter, Stuart Meaker, Eoin Morgan, Samit Patel, James Tredwell, Jonathan Trott, Chris Woakes.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>38</b> Theater ticket	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>21</b> —
<b>1</b> Stately dance	<b>40</b> Teensy bit	<b>1</b> Corduroy ridge	<b>Doubtfire</b>
<b>6</b> Spice blend in Indian cuisine	<b>42</b> Feedbag tidbit	<b>2</b> Requests	<b>23</b> Mimic
<b>12</b> Nut in a toxic shell	<b>44</b> Vaulted recess	<b>3</b> Tibet's capital	<b>24</b> Gridiron arbiter
<b>13</b> "I, Robot" author	<b>46</b> Ellipse	<b>4</b> — Aviv	<b>25</b> Under the weather
<b>14</b> Acid neutralizer	<b>50</b> Lowly worker	<b>5</b> Dry, crisp bread	<b>26</b> Flip
<b>15</b> Abrade	<b>52</b> With optimism	<b>6</b> Pulverize	<b>28</b> Not widely known
<b>16</b> Disorder	<b>54</b> More goose-bump-inducing	<b>7</b> Foppish neckwear	<b>30</b> Anti-quoted
<b>17</b> Reverb	<b>55</b> Dr.	<b>8</b> Knightly address	<b>31</b> Spacecraft
<b>19</b> In medias —	<b>57</b> As a coquette would	<b>9</b> Texas city	<b>33</b> Altar affirmative
<b>20</b> Early pulpit		<b>10</b> Easy bounding gait	<b>34</b> Seesaw quorum
<b>22</b> Skater		<b>11</b> Birds, to Brutus	<b>39</b> Pay
<b>24</b> Carnival city		<b>12</b> Video maker, for short	<b>41</b> Unlike rolling stones?
<b>27</b> Exceptional		<b>18</b> Long, blunt cigars	<b>42</b> Poets' tributes
<b>29</b> Make a splash			<b>43</b> Neighborhood
<b>32</b> He sang "Alison" and "Veronica"			<b>45</b> Saucy
<b>35</b> Took off			<b>47</b> String instrument
<b>36</b> Recognize			<b>48</b> Partner
<b>37</b> Peculiar			<b>49</b> Caustic solution
			<b>51</b> "Trivial Pursuit" need
			<b>53</b> John's Yoko

Solution time: 27 mins.

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