



## Did U Know?

Nigel Short (born June 1, 1965 in Leigh, Lancashire) is often regarded as the strongest British chess player of the 20th century. He became a Grand Master at the age of 19, and challenged for the World Championship against Garry Kasparov in London 1993.



## Sachin Tendulkar

(Star Indian batsman)  
"It was a little different this time because in 2007 I missed a lot of hundreds and I didn't want that to continue. I wanted to move on and the beginning of the new year is extremely important. It came at the right time so I am happy about that." After scoring his 38th hundred in the second Test against Australia on Friday.



## What to WATCH

### SAB tv

New Zealand v Bangladesh  
First Test, Day Four  
Live from 4:00am (Monday)

### STAR Cricket

Australia v India  
Second Test, Day Five  
Live from 5:30am

### ESPN

Primera Liga  
Real Madrid v Zaragoza  
Live from 11:55pm

### STAR Sports

FA Cup  
Burnley v Arsenal  
Third Round  
Live from 7:55pm  
Luton v Liverpool  
Third Round  
Live from 10:00pm  
Stoke v Newcastle  
Third Round  
Live from 12:00am (Monday)  
Primera Liga  
Sevilla v Betis  
Live from 2:00am (Monday)



Nat'l Cricket League  
(Round Ten, Day Three)  
Dhaka v Rajshahi  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur  
Khulna v Barisal  
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium  
Sylhet v Chittagong  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

## BKSP sink Navy

### SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP earned a convincing 3-1 victory over Bangladesh Navy in the day's lone match of the Dhaka Bank Victory Day Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

BKSP dominated the first half by a solitary goal. Moniruzzaman put BKSP ahead in the 13th minute by a field goal and then Golam Mostafa doubled the winners' margin in the 39th minute, also by a field goal.

Rubel pulled the margin back for the sailors' team in the 43rd minute while substitute Jamil Talib further sounded the winners' margin in the 49th minute, both by field goal.

# Day belongs to Tigers

## Cricket

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Duneidin

After a fascinating day's cricket Bangladesh finally imposed themselves on New Zealand and showed some much needed fight that could yet revive a tour that had been largely disappointing until Saturday. The Tigers bowled New Zealand out for 357 and then in their second innings trailed by just 72 runs with all wickets intact thanks to a record 148-run opening stand in 39 overs from Tamim Iqbal and Zunaed Siddiqui. With three full days to go the first Test could be thrown wide open if the tourists can bat throughout day three, a prospect that is no longer an improbability.

"If the openers carry on like today and we in the middle order contribute then it is possible to get something positive out of this Test. After we were bowled out for 137 in the first innings it was mighty difficult to claw back but Tamim and Zunaed showed the way and they have given the team a lot of confidence. It has turned into a superb batting wicket and we must capitalise on that," said captain Mohammad Ashraful.

Zunaed was impeccable in his shot-selection and solid in defence as he first opened up with straight drives, cover drives and forceful cuts and then grafted on way to an

unbeaten 69. Fellow debutant Tamim started with a delightful punch off a short of length ball from Kyle Mills where he laid his bodyweight just enough to send the ball racing to the boundary and then made the most of a drop at mid-wicket by Lain O'Brien off Mills to whack the bowler over the fence with an old-fashioned full-swirl hook. Tamim was not out on 72 when play ended and in the process had become only the second Bangladeshi batsman after Javed Omar to score half centuries in both innings on Test debut.

Tamim and Zunaed also broke Bangladesh's opening partnership record when they went past the previous best of 133 set by Tamim's brother Nafees Iqbal and Javed against Zimbabwe in January 2005.

"It feels great to set a new mark. The record still stays in the family and that is good also. There is a lot of work to be done and we just want

to bat as long as possible in the same vein we batted today," said Tamim.

Zunaed was also determined to carry on.

"The important thing is to hang in there. The wicket is not doing much and there is plenty of time remaining. We are not in any hurry. They tried short balls, containment, variation today but we were not going to make the same mistakes as in the first innings."

The hero earlier in the day was Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who took 4 for 74 from 23 overs. It was a vintage Mortaza who ran in hard, hit the deck and generated speed around 140 kmph regularly. The first hour on day two went New Zealand's way with no wickets falling and then Mortaza was denied by umpire Peter Parker who turned down a confident appeal for lbw against centurion Matthew Bell

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## PARTNERSHIP BY WICKETS

Wkt	Runs	Partners	Opposition	Ground	Year
1st	148*	Tamim/Zunaed	New Zealand	Duneidin	2008
2nd	187	Nafees/Bashar	Australia	Fatullah	2006
3rd	130	Javed/Ashraful	Pakistan	Peshawar	2003
4th	120	Bashar/Rana	West Indies	Kingston	2004
5th	126	Aminul/Ashraful	Sri Lanka	Colombo	2001
6th	191	Ashraful/Rahim	Sri Lanka	Colombo	2007
7th	93	Aminul/Mashud	India	Dhaka	2000
8th	87	Ashraful/Rafique	West Indies	Gros Islet	2004
9th	77	Mashrafe/Shahadat	India	Chittagong	2007
10th	69	Rafique/Shahadat	Australia	Chittagong	2006

# SA level series

## Cricket

AFF, Cape Town

South Africa successfully chased down 185 runs on the fourth day of the second Test to win by seven wickets, levelling the three-match series with West Indies 1-1 at Newlands on Saturday.

Skipper Graeme Smith hit a forceful 65 off 79 balls that included eleven boundaries. The hosts rushed towards their second innings target after they dismissed West Indies for 262 at the stroke of tea.

Their captain Chris Gayle batted with a broken left thumb and shared a last wicket partnership of 70 runs with Shivnarine Chanderpaul on the fourth day.

Chanderpaul again stood firm for the tourists. He was unbeaten on 70 after batting for 299 minutes

and facing 168 balls.

Gayle hit 38, with 37 of the runs coming off 29 balls in the last wicket stand before he was caught at long-on off Dale Steyn after hitting four fours and three sixes.

Gayle was struck on the thumb by a delivery from Andre Nel four balls into the first over of the day. After lengthy treatment on the field he retired hurt without adding to his overnight score of one.

X-rays showed he had a fractured thumb but he returned to the wicket when his side were nine down and only 114 runs ahead.

Gayle, batting with a runner because of a hamstring injury, swung powerfully whenever the ball was in his range although it was obvious he was in pain.

Chanderpaul, who had scarcely played an attacking stroke for most of his innings, started going for his shots as well and the pair needed

only 53 balls for their partnership.

Chanderpaul made 64 not out in the first innings. He batted for a total of 644 minutes in the match and faced 391 balls for his match total of 134 runs.

It was a frustrating day for the South Africans, who seemed set to wrap up the innings cheaply when Gayle's injury was followed by the dismissal of Dwayne Bravo for 12 and Rawl Lewis for one.

But Jerome Taylor was dropped by Graeme Smith at first slip off Makhaya Ntini when he had one and went on to make 21, while Fidel Edwards, like Gayle batting with a runner, made a career-best 21 in a ninth wicket stand of 25 with Chanderpaul.

Steyn, despite not being able to bowl at top speed because of a hamstring strain, took four for 44 while Nel took three for 62.

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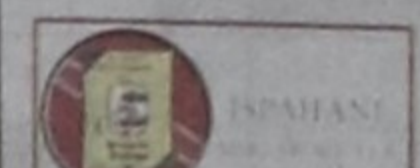


PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi's surprise centurion Mohammad Shahjada swings and misses during their National Cricket League final round match against Dhaka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

# Title tilts to north

## SPORTS REPORTER



Nayeem Islam and Mohammad Shahjada converted their overnight half-centuries into hundreds as Rajshahi tightened their grip on Dhaka at the end of the second day of the tenth and final round National Cricket League match at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi are in course of regaining the title as their closest rivals Khulna conceded a first innings lead to visitors Barisal at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium in Khulna.

Resuming the day on 264-7, Rajshahi declared their first innings on 365-9 to ensure maxi-

mum batting points. Then they reduced Dhaka to 132-4 at stumps while Khulna, who could not manage any batting points, lost two wickets for 73 in their second essay after starting with a first innings deficit of 24 runs.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Chittagong thrived on two half-centuries from captain Ehsanul Haque and Dhiman Ghosh to score 288-7, still 66 runs behind from Sylhet's first innings total of 354.

### RAJSHAH-DHAKA

Naeem and Shahjada added 57 more runs on the second day to extend their eighth wicket partnership to 172 runs.

Dhaka's left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain gave the much-desired breakthrough but not before Nayeem completed his maiden hundred this season after

resuming the day on 82. Nayeem smashed 14 boundaries to make 104 off 236 balls.

But Rajshahi must give maximum credit to Shahjada for their turnaround as the right-hander hammered 109 off 237 balls that featured nine fours and a six before he was bowled by pacer Mohammad Sharif, who returned with five for 70 in 21.4 overs.

Farhad Hossain then made a bright start by picking up two quick wickets to see Dhaka losing four wickets for 61 runs but junior Mehrab Hossain, who recently returned home after the end of the three-match series in New Zealand, and Mahmudullah Riyad kept their cool to repair the damage during their unbeaten 71-run fifth wicket stand.

Left-hander Mehrab was not

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PHOTO: INTERNET

HI THERE: Debutant Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal signals to teammates on reaching his half-century in the second innings on the second day of the first Test against New Zealand at the University Oval in Duneidin on Saturday.

## For the 8th time

AFF, Sydney

Harbhajan Singh spiced up his feisty rivalry with Ricky Ponting, revelling in a first-ball dismissal of the Australian captain on the fourth day of the second Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

Harbhajan, the subject of an end-of-Test hearing over racial abuse charges, claimed Ponting's wicket for the eighth time in Test cricket with the first ball that he bowled to the champion batsman.

Ponting's wicket for one sent a shudder through the Australian team but the world number one side recovered through a Matthew Hayden century and an unbeaten 87 from Mike Hussey to lead by 213 runs heading into Sunday's final day.

Harbhajan has a testy rivalry with Ponting going back to his vocal send-off to Ponting when the master Australian batsman was stumped off his bowling in Sharjah in 1998.

Ponting played forward to Harbhajan's delivery and spooned a catch to VVS Laxman at silly point to send Harbhajan on a manic victory dash culminating in a theatrical tumble in front of the

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## Shakil down to third

### SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil is in third place of the Masters Chess Tournament 83rd Hastings Chess Congress along with 11 other players at Hastings in England on Friday.

Shakil came down one notch after his draw with British opponent Stuart Conquest. He now has 5.5 points after the 8th round matches.

Bangladeshi FIDE Masters Aminul Islam and Mehdi Hasan secured 4.5 points and 4 points respectively.

In the other matches, Aminul drew with Frenchman Vincent Heinis while Mehdi lost to Grand Master Falko Bindrich of Germany.

## Wari eke out a win

### SPORTS REPORTER

Wari's Anwar scored the solitary goal in his team's 1-0 victory over Dipali Jubo Sangha in the Metropolis Senior Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mostafa Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After a barren first half, the striker scored the match-winning goal for old horse Wari in the 55th minute.

Mohakhali will play Sunrise in the lone match on Sunday at 3pm.

# Hayden wrests control

## Cricket

AFF, Sydney

Matthew Hayden batted in pain to give Australia an outside chance of a record-equalling 16th Test victory over India in the second cricket Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

The senior opening batsman battled a right thigh injury with the aid of a runner to score 123 and offer the Australians hope of forcing a result on Sunday's final day.

Indian skipper Anil Kumble kept the pressure on Australia with two wickets in two balls and left home captain Ricky Ponting with the ticklish decision of making an appropriate declaration of his team's second innings and going for victory.

At the close of the fourth day,

Australia were 213 runs ahead at 282 for four with Mike Hussey poised for his eighth Test century on 87 and first innings centurion Andrew Symonds not out 14.

"We've given ourselves the best chance at this stage. We can obviously make up some time Sunday with the early start, so we're in there with a shot," Hayden said.

"I reckon 260 runs might be enough. I think we've got too many runs now."

Ailing Hayden, 36, completed his 29th Test century to join the legendary Don Bradman and his fifth against India, including the last two in successive Tests.

He was out on the reverse sweep to Wasim Jaffer at point off Kumble, who whipped out Michael Clarke next ball off an outside edge to Rahul Dravid at slip.

Symonds saw off the hatrick but only after a huge shout for leg

before wicket.

"We'll see how it goes. They still have to get 300," India's Sourav Ganguly said.

"It depends on how both teams play on Sunday, there's still 97 overs to play and it'll depend on how Australia bat Sunday morning. It'll be up to (captain) Ricky Ponting to decide what to do."

Hayden restored the innings after the jolting loss of skipper Ponting for one with a 160-run partnership with Hussey.

Harbhajan Singh again proved Ponting's nemesis, snaring his wicket for the eighth time in Tests.

Harbhajan, the subject of an end-of-Test hearing over racial abuse charges, performed an extravagant victory jig after he sent Ponting on his way.

The Indian off-spinner has a feisty rivalry with Ponting going

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PHOTO: AFP

Australia opener Matthew Hayden executes a reverse sweep on way to scoring his 29th century on the fourth day of the second Test against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

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