



**WELCOME TO THE ELITE CLUB:** India batsman Rahul Dravid, dubbed as The Wall, salutes the home crowd upon reaching his 10,000th career run on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday. Dravid, who scored 111, is only the sixth batsman to have reached the milestone.

## Draw looms large

**Cricket**

AFP, Chennai

A spirited fightback by South Africa after Virender Sehwag's brutal assault the previous day left the first cricket Test against India headed for a draw on Saturday.

India, resuming at the overnight 468-1 in reply to South Africa's first innings total of 540, failed to maintain the momentum and were all out for 627 by tea on the fourth day.

The tourists easily wiped out the 87-run deficit and closed the day at 131-1 in their second knock with opener Neil McKenzie following his 94 in the first innings with an unbeaten 59.

Hashim Amla, the first innings hero with 159, was the other batsman at the crease on a fluent 35.

Sehwag, who resumed at his overnight score of 309, was dismissed for 319 within the first 30 minutes of play and only Rahul Dravid's 111 ensured India a first innings lead.

Dravid reached the 10,000-run mark on way to his 25th Test century, but the only other notable contribution for the Indians was Venkatesh Laxman's 39.

South African fast bowler Dale Steyn claimed four of the last five wickets to finish with 4-103. Left-arm spinner Paul Harris was the

most expensive with 3-203, while Makhaya Ntini ended with 3-128.

Some 35,000 home fans, who were hoping Sehwag would surpass West Indian Brian Lara's world record score of 400 not out, were silenced soon after the start of the day's play.

Sehwag added 10 runs to his overnight score when he edged a drive off Ntini into the safe hands of McKenzie at first slip.

Sehwag received a thunderous applause from the crowd and teammates as he returned after an epic nine-hour effort that contained 43 boundaries and five sixes in the fastest recorded triple century in history.

Dravid put on 45 for the fourth wicket with Sourav Ganguly and 47 for the fifth with Venkatesh Laxman before being caught in the slips off Ntini after lunch.

Ntini struck again in his next over, this time forcing star batsman Sachin Tendulkar to edge a catch to Jacques Kallis at first slip before he had scored.

Left-hander Ganguly made 24 when an intended slash off Harris took a thin edge to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

Mahendra Dhoni, who was expected to boost the run-rate after Sehwag's dismissal, plodded for 33 deliveries to make 16 when he was caught behind to give Steyn his first wicket in the match.

Steyn then bowled Indian captain Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh and Rudra Pratap Singh to hasten the end of the innings.

Laxman was the last man out, giving Harris a return catch after making 39.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between India and South Africa at the Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday:

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 540 (Smith 73, McKenzie 94, Amla 159, Boucher 70, Harbhajan 5-164)

**INDIA:** First innings (overnight 468-1)

Jaffer c Kallis b Harris	73
Sehwag c McKenzie b Ntini	319
Dravid c Kallis b Ntini	111
Tendulkar c Kallis b Ntini	0
Ganguly c Boucher b Harris	24
Laxman c & b Harris	39
Dhoni c Boucher b Steyn	16
Kumble b Steyn	3
Harbhajan b Steyn	0
RP Singh b Steyn	0
Sreesanth not out	4
Extras (b-20, lb-10, w-4, nb-4)	38
Total (All out in 155.1 overs)	627

Fall of wickets: 1-213, 2-481, 3-481, 4-526, 5-573, 6-598, 7-610, 8-610, 9-612, 10-627.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	32	3	103	4
Ntini	28	3	128	3
Morkel	25	4	76	0
Harris	53.1	6	203	3
Kallis	14	0	71	0
Prince	3	0	16	0

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## MSC-Biman crucial tie today

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club have the chance to reclaim the top position in the Premier League today as they take on table-toppers Bangladesh Biman at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Biman's 70-run win over Abahani at the same venue on Friday took them to the top and were further helped when Old DOHS defeated Mohammedan by four wickets in Fatullah.

Despite the presence of national stars, both giants failed to be inspired to victories.

Mohammedan now have 16 points from nine outings while Biman are a point ahead from the same number of matches.

Defending champions Abahani, who take on lowly Sonargaon in BKSP, would bank on a Biman victory because it that happens, they move into joint second position with Mohammedan.

All three relegation threatened clubs -- Young Pegasus, Sonargaon Cricketers and Kalabagan Krira Chakra -- have difficult games today as both Young Pegasus and Kalabagan take on opponents who have ambitions to play in the Super League. Kalabagan take on fourth-placed BKSP in Fatullah while basement club Pegasus face Surjo Torun in the outer BKSP ground.

Partex, with four points, face City Club in the other match of the day.

## Dravid joins 5-digit club

AFP, Chennai

Rahul Dravid of India on Saturday became the sixth batsman in history to score 10,000 Test runs when he reached 80 with a single to mid-wicket off Morne Morkel in the first Test against South Africa here.

The 35-year-old former captain chalked up an innings of 111, his 25th Test century, before he was caught in the slips by Jacques Kallis off Makhaya Ntini after lunch on the fourth day.

Dravid, playing his 120th Test, averages 55.41 with a personal best of 270 against Pakistan in Rawalpindi in 2004.

Of the six batsmen in the exclusive club, only Dravid, Brian Lara and Sachin Tendulkar have scored more than 10,000 runs in both Test and one-day cricket.

The elite 10,000-run club, led by Lara, includes three Indians, Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar and Dravid, and two Australians, Allan Border and Steve Waugh.

### 10,000-RUN CLUB MEMBERS

Batsman	Tests	Runs	100s
Brian Lara (WI)	131	11,953	34
Sachin Tendulkar (IND)	147	11,782	39
Allan Border (AUS)	156	11,174	27
Steve Waugh (AUS)	168	10,927	32
Sunil Gavaskar (IND)	125	10,122	34
Rahul Dravid (IND)	120	10,031	25

## Mony inaugurates training centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Asian Football Confederation general secretary Paul Mony laid the foundation stone of the youth football training centre at the Barisal Divisional Stadium yesterday.

President of Bangladesh Football Federation SA Sultan, Barisal's deputy commissioner Manjur-Ilahi and secretary of Divisional Sports Association in Barisal Asaduzzaman Khasru were present among others in the ceremony.

The AFC secretary said that work for construction of this facility has been started by using finance from the Tsunami rehabilitation fund.

Although it started as a small project, in future it would expand for creating broad scope to train meritorious, competent, fit footballers of

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## Sunnydale, Narinda take titles

SPORTS REPORTER

The girls' crown went to Sunnydale while Narinda Government High School completed a hat-trick of titles in the Bata 17th School Handball tournament at the Handball ground yesterday.

Sunnydale defeated holders Viquarunnisa Noon School 7-4 in the final held at 3.30pm with Rayma scoring four goals and Maisha chipping in with two. For the runners-up side, Dina scored two goals.

In the third-place deciding match, Scholastica beat Maple Leaf

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## Women's clean sweep

SPORTS REPORTER

As expected Bangladesh women cricketers completed a series whitewash against their Hong Kong counterparts when they registered a 115-run victory in the fourth and final one-day at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The home side showed no mercy to the lightweight visiting team in the last game which was only of an academic interest after Bangladesh had already sealed the series by winning first three games quite comfortably at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium last week.

Bangladesh captain Salma Khatun once again showed that she was the lady to beat in the series with yet another fine knock of 63 in the home side's descent total of 211-9 in 50 overs. Her second fifty in the series contained five fours.

Salma was adjudged player-of-the-tournament for her all-rounder performance with 171 runs and seven wickets.

She got good support from her deputy Panna Ghosh who slammed 40 off 61 balls that contained three boundaries.

The most encouraging aspect for the home team was that they could bat their full quota of 50 overs for a third successive occasion which would be helpful for the team when they play the Asia Cup

in Sri Lanka in May.

For the visitors, the only consolation was the batting of their captain Neisha Pratt who scored a 105-ball 61 that featured five boundaries and the bowling of Connie Wong who claimed three wickets for 47 to become player-of-the-match.

Their efforts were however not good enough to avoid another huge defeat in the series after Bangladesh won the first game by eight wickets, second match by 109 runs and the third one by 71 runs.

In reply to the challenging total, Hong Kong were bundled out for 96 runs in 40.3 overs with eight batswomen returning to the pavilion without troubling the scorers.

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**CELEBRATING A SERIES WHITEWASH:** Bangladesh women cricketers are all smiles on the winners' podium after their 4-0 series triumph over Hong Kong at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi's Abir won the boys' under-16 title while it was Gopalganj's Shiuhi who won the girls' competition in the Independence Day badminton tournament at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium yesterday.

Abir beat Khokon of Feni 21-18, 21-17 in the final and Shiuhi thumped Sabiha 21-5, 21-9.

In the boys' doubles, Khokon and Arman of Feni beat Momen and Arefin of Dinjapur 21-13, 19-21, 21-11.

Shiuhi clinched the girls' doubles with Shamsunnahar as the 'Gopalganj' duo beat Brishiti and Sabiha of Pabna 21-10, 21-9.

**BEACH KABADDI** Bangladesh Jail defeated Fire Services and Civil Defence 38-34 in the opening game of the Naf

Corporation 1st Beach Kabaddi at Laboni Point in Cox's Bazar.

In other matches, Police beat Navy 48-31, Jatrabari Krira Chakra snuck past Jurain Janata Club 20-28 and Matuail Krira Chakra thrashed hosts Cox's Bazar 37-14.

District Commissioner of Cox's Bazar and District Sports Association president Sajjadul Hasan inaugurated the event, that was given live coverage by local television channel ATN Bangla.

**BOOST POWER CUP** A 48-ball 44 from Sajal helped CCS A seize a five-wicket victory over Sourav Smrity in the Boost Power Cup under-13 cricket tournament at the Kalabagan Club ground.

Sajal smashed six boundaries in his innings that took CCS A to 120-5 in 19.2 overs after Sourav Smrity had scored 119-8 in 20 overs. Rana top-scored for Sourav

Smrity with 44 off 39 balls with the help of three sixes.

**INTER-DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL** Khulna will meet Satkhira in the regional final of the 13th Inter-District Volleyball competition in Narail.

In the group B semifinals, Khulna beat Jessore 25-16, 25-14, 25-22 while Satkhira also won in straight sets, defeating hosts Narail 25-19, 25-15, 25-29.

The two finalists meet at 3.30pm today.

**BANKER'S CRICKET** An eight-wicket victory over Dhaka Bank gave Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) their second successive win in the Banker's Cricket competition at the Gulshan Youth Club ground.

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Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohammad bin Hammam (L) looks at the plaque after unveiling the foundation of the artificial turf at the BFF Bhahan yesterday. Also seen in the picture is BFF president SA Sultan (R).

## Hammam calls for strong club base

**Football**

SPORTS REPORTER

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohammad bin Hammam stressed the need for a strong club structure as he inaugurated the foundation stone of the country's first artificial turf at an elaborate ceremony at the BFF Bhahan yesterday.

Hammam also left behind a message ensuring continued support by AFC and FIFA and urged the country's football association to repair the rifts which might hinder the development of the game in the long run.

As part of the second Goal project, Bangladesh was due to receive an artificial all-weather turf and with the unveiling of the foundation stone, the dream looks that bit closer to reality, with Hammam assuring completion of the work by 'the end of this year.'

The artificial turf which is to be located on the 'Balur Math' next to the BFF Bhahan will, according to BFF President SA Sultan, support 'football all year round during both day and night.'

Hammam's fourth visit in as many years has coincided with a ground-breaking meeting that has seen an amendment in the BFF constitution to endorse the formation of Football Associations (FAs)

all of which Hammam considers to be a good sign.

'The formation of the FAs and this amendment in line with the Vision Asia project will bring some much needed discipline and stability in football of this country.'

'Bangladesh lacks sorely behind the advanced continents of Europe and even many countries in Asia. This is a step in the right direction,' said Hammam.

He conceded however that in order to be really successful in the long run, Bangladesh would need the stringent efforts of both human and financial resources to the FA and the clubs.

The AFC president also pro

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**THE CUP OF JOY:** Students of Sunnydale celebrate with the champions' trophy of the 17th Bata School Handball (girls' section) at the Handball Court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



### NEO Sports

India v South Africa  
First Test, Day 5  
Live from 10:00am  
ESPN

English Premier Football League  
Chelsea v Middlesbrough  
Live from 6:25pm  
Liverpool v Everton  
Live from 8:55pm  
Primera Liga

Real Madrid v Sevilla  
Live from 12:55am (Monday)

### STAR Sports

English Premier Football League  
Tottenham v Newcastle  
Live at 7:55pm



Premier Div Cricket League  
Abahani v Sonargaon Cricketers  
Venue: BKSP-2  
Partex v City Club  
Venue: Dhamond Cricket Stadium  
Kalabagan v BKSP  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Mohammedan v Biman  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium  
Young Pegasus v Surjo Torun  
Venue: BKSP-1



### Mickey Arthur

(South Africa cricket coach)  
'He played every possible shot in a disciplined manner and put India in a strong position. We tried every possible way to contain him, including bowling outside the line, but nothing worked. This is the best batting I have ever seen.'  
On Virender Sehwag's innings of 319.