

## Rana guides Swadhinata

SPORTS REPORTER

Swadhinata Sangha rode on a brace by Masud Rana to collect full three points in the Citycell 3rd Division Football League with a 2-1 win against Jirabo SC yesterday.

Rana, who opened the scoring in the 37th minute at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, added the match winner five minutes after Tarek's 71st minute equaliser for Jirabo.

Muslim Institute and Dilkusha shared points in the day's other match, which ended 1-1.

Russel put Muslim ahead from a penalty after 49 minutes but their lead lived short as Dilkusha pulled back the equaliser two minutes later through Al Amin.



PHOTO: STAR  
Action from yesterday's Citycell National Women's Football Championship match between Tangail and Madaripur at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

## India's record run

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

India marched to their longest winning streak - nine matches - with a comprehensive win that pushed Sri Lanka further towards their first 5-0 ODI whitewash. The victory was set up by left-handed opener Gautam Gambhir, who smashed a career-best 150 off 147 balls to help his side score a challenging 332-5. He hit one six and 14 fours in his sixth hundred in one-dayers.

Sri Lanka never seriously threatened India's total and were bowled out for 265 in the day-night match, which was held up for nearly 20 minutes after Indian fielder Pragyan Ojha was hit by an object thrown from the stands.

The hosts got off to a blazing start when Tillakaratne Dilshan (38) and Sanath Jayasuriya (27) added 55 for the opening wicket off just 7.2 overs, but the run-rate declined after their dismissals.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Kumar Sangakkara top-scored with 56 for his second successive half-century, while Nuwan Kulasekara (39 not out), skipper Mahela Jayawardene (28) and Farveez Maharoof (28) were the other

main run-getters.

India, who now lead 4-0 in the five-match series, also improved upon their record of eight successive one-day wins. They had beaten England 5-0 at home last year.

Off-spin genius Muralitharan, the world's leading bowler in Test cricket, became the highest wicket-taker in one-dayers when he dismissed Gambhir for his 503rd victim.

The 36-year-old Sri Lankan surpassed former Pakistan paceman Wasim Akram's one-day record when he had the opener caught by Sangakkara in his 10th and last over. He also holds the world record in Tests with 769 wickets.

Muralitharan dedicated the record to his family, saying they had stood by him through "good and bad times".

"I am happy to have achieved the record. It is also a great achievement for a small cricket nation like Sri Lanka to hold two bowling records."

Gambhir and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (94) earlier dominated the Sri Lankan attack with a wide range of attacking shots, adding 188 for the second wicket after the third-over dismissal of in-form Virender Sehwag (five).

Sri Lanka then had to wait

for more than 30 overs for their next success as Gambhir and Dhoni made the most of a mediocre attack on a slow pitch. The hosts' fielding also left a lot to be desired under pressure.

Gambhir was the first to reach his half-century, hoisting seamer Angelo Mathews over long-on for a six. Dhoni also completed his fifty in style, swinging Muralitharan over mid-wicket for a six.

Dhoni, who promoted himself in the batting order, fell six short of his fifth hundred in one-dayers when he mistimed a shot off left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya, with Dilshan Fernando taking a one-handed catch at point.

The Indian skipper hit two sixes and four boundaries in his 96-ball knock.

Pakistan's Naseem-ul-Kulasekara then bowled Yuvraj Singh for five and Yusuf Pathan for no score of successive deliveries to emerge the most successful bowler with 3-63.

There was no stopping Gambhir, who reached his century with a lofted four over covers off Kulasekara. He hit one six and 14 fours before being the fifth man out.

Gambhir added 103 for the

fifth wicket with Suresh Raina, who remained unbeaten with a 37-ball 49.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between Sri Lanka and India at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Thursday:

INDIA: 332 (Gambhir 150, Dhoni 94, Raina 49 not out; Kulasekara 38)

SRI LANKA: Dilshan c Yuvraj b Kumar 38

Jayasuriya c R Sharma b Pathan 27

Sangakkara c Gambhir b Sehwag 56

Jayawardene c Dhoni b Sehwag 28

Kandambylbw b Y Pathan 10

Kapudera b Ojha 16

Mathews c Dhoni b Yuvraj 6

Maharoof c R Sharma b Pathan 28

Kulasekara not out 39

Muralidaran c Raina b Pathan 0

Fernando b Kumar 9

Extras: (lb-3, w-5) 8

Total: (All out in 48 overs) 265

Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-79, 3-

4-163, 5-174, 6-183, 7-

207, 8-220, 9-220, 10-265.

Bowler O M R W

Kumar 9 0 38 2

IPathan 7 0 58 3

ISharma 5 0 39 0

Ojha 10 0 34 1

Sehwag 9 0 43 2

Y Pathan 3 0 13 1

Yuvraj 5 0 37 1

Result: India won by 67 runs and lead 5-match series 4-0.

Man-of-the-match: Gautam Gambhir.

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