



**BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR MAN:** Premier Bangladesh paceman and Abahani captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders in Friday's IPL auction for a staggering 600,000 dollars, follows through on a delivery during his side's opening Premier Division League match against Cricket Coaching School at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## Premier League sees thrilling opening day

**Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

The opening day of the Premier Division Cricket League was full of excitement as defending champions Abahani and Biman got off to winning starts, but another big name, Mohammedan, finished in a dramatic tie against Young Pegasus yesterday.

Promising opener Rony Talukdar rose to his reputation with the league's first hundred during a rare double-century opening stand with his more illustrious partner Tamim Iqbal to throttle defending champions Abahani to a 57-run victory at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Tamim's return to form could have been more rejoicing had the national opener not missed a century for two runs due to a silly mistake. The left-hander was misjudged from the tent to celebrate when he was two runs short of the three-figure mark and on the very next ball, he went for the kill against Elias Sunny only to hole out to Nazmul at wideish mid-on.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Sanwar Hossain's captain's knock of 73 not out and inform Shakib Al Hasan's stroke-filled 44 guided Biman to a five-wicket victory over Mohammad Ashraful-led Gazi Tank, who finished runners-up in the Twenty20 tournament last week.

On the other hand, Mohammedan skipper Sohrawordi Shuvo let down his side as the left-hander unnecessarily came down to charge Abul Bashar when the Twenty20 champions required only one run from seven deliveries with two wickets in hand at the BKSP ground.

Shuvo was stamped on the last ball of the penultimate over leaving his side to score one run in the last over but Sri Lankan left-arm spinner Nuvin Peiris trapped Tareq Aziz in front with the second delivery as Mohammedan were all out for 192.

**ABAHANI-CCS**

CCS won the toss and put their opponents to bat first in a bid to take early morning advantages but Tamim and Rony put the rivals attack to the sword, adding 203 runs for the opening wicket on way to a massive 320 for four.

Tamim, who missed the Twenty20 competition due to illness, took the opportunity in the

very first match to hit form after struggling in recent international matches.

The dashing left-hander smote eight fours and three sixes during his 118-ball 98 and his younger partner Rony also blazed during a 116 off his 124 balls that contained eleven fours and three sixes.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Sahagir Hossain then took the total over the 300-mark, smashing five fours and two sixes in a quickfire 26-ball 45 not out.

In reply, Uttam Kumar and Elias Sunny made a steady start by associating in a 76-run partnership but the sparkling that needed to

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**WATCH OUT FOR ME:** Abahani's young opener Rony Talukdar salutes the sparse Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium crowd upon reaching his hundred against CCS yesterday.

## Tongi ride on Reza hatricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Selim Reza's hatricket enabled Tongi KC to brush aside Dhaka Junior Eleven 5-1 in yesterday's Citycell 3rd Division Football League.

Reza, who opened the floodgate in the second minute, added two more in the 23 and 27 minutes to complete the treble while Shahadat and Sohel Rana increased the margin after the break at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Masum pulled one goal back for the vanquished from a 40th minute penalty.

In the other match, Jakir slotted home in the 19th minute as City United defeated Mirpur XI 1-0.



## Did U Know?

James Burke of Great Britain was the only deaf heavyweight champion in 1833 and 1839.



## Cristiano Ronaldo

(Man United playmaker)  
"Inter [Milan] are a good team with great players but we're better than them and I'm sure we'll beat them. If we beat them we'll feel like we're just one step away from the final."



**Premier Div Cricket League**  
BKSP v Partex  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur  
City Club v Old DOHS  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Surjo Torun v Victoria  
Venue: BKSP  
Citycell B League Football  
Arambagh v Cig Abahani  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Time: 4:30pm

## SL snap India streak

**Cricket**

AFP, Colombo

Tillakaratne Dilshan top-scored with a solid 97 as Sri Lanka prevented an Indian clean sweep with an emphatic 68-run win in the fifth and final one-day international here on Sunday.

The hosts posted 320-8 following impressive knocks from opener Dilshan and Kumar Sangakkara (84), and then dismissed the tourists for 252 to register their first victory in the series after four successive defeats.

It also ended India's nine-match winning streak, beginning with a 5-0 series victory over England at home last year.

"The wicket played a major role and it allowed us to push the score," said Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene.

"Credit to India, they played really well in the series. We were up against a really good side."

India's batting came under pressure for the first time after the hosts made their highest total of the series, but only Yuvraj Singh posed a real threat with a fighting 62-ball 73.

Debutant Ravindra Jadeja (60 not out) and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (53) also defied the Sri Lankan attack, but their efforts came too late.

"We won the series, but it is never easy playing in Sri Lanka," said Dhoni.

"Sri Lanka played brilliantly today. Our bowling was not so strong."

The hosts never allowed India to build a big partnership with a disciplined bowling performance, with seamers Nuwan Kulasekara and Farveez Maharoof, and spinners Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis taking two wickets apiece.

Sri Lanka strengthened their position after reducing India to 85-4 in the opening 15 overs, with Kulasekara removing in-form opener Gautam Gambhir (13) and Suresh Raina (no score).

Sri Lanka virtually made sure of the win when record-breaking Muralidaran held a return catch to dismiss Yuvraj in his third over. The Indian hit one six and 11 fours.

Muralidaran, who became the highest wicket-taker in one-dayers on Thursday, then trapped Yusuf Pathan leg-before for three runs.

Sri Lanka's top order earlier flourished for the first time in the series, with Dilshan, Sangakkara and Sanath Jayasuriya (37) dominating the Indian attack on a flat track.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Sangakkara smashed one six and eight fours in his 70-ball 84, his third successive half-century.

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## Hosts take on Lanka today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka today in their second one-day match of the GrameenPhone tri-nation women's cricket tournament at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium (SCS) in Bogra.

Bangladesh lost their first match against Pakistan by seven wickets whilst opponents Sri Lanka have one win under their belt against the same team.

The Tigers must win this match to keep their hopes alive in the tournament while Sri Lanka's path to the final will brighten if they wrap up with a win.

Two games have been played so far in the tournament both of which were low scoring affairs.

In the first game, Bangladesh

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## Telly calling Ganguly!

PTI, Kolkata

Come June and former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly will be seen in a new role.

Instead of willow, the cricket star would be holding a speaker in his hand and will be seen comparing a Bengali reality show on the small screen.

The retired former national skipper has already signed a contract with Z Bangla, a popular Bengali television channel in the city, to conduct the weekly show, according to a report published in the Bengali daily Ananda Bazar Patrika.

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## Australia stay alive

**Cricket**

BBC ONLINE, Sydney

Brad Haddin hit his maiden century as Australia ended a five-match losing streak with a 32-run win in the third one-day international against New Zealand at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

Promoted to open the batting, Haddin made 109 off 114 balls before being run out as the home side totalled 301-9.

They then reduced New Zealand to 183-7 but all-rounder Grant Elliott kept them in the hunt with a superb 115.

He was caught in the 45th over and the Kiwis were eventually all out for 269, but still lead the series 2-1.

Haddin was named man-of-the-match and, reflecting on his innings, he said: "It was a good one, especially with the occasion. We spoke a lot about being the guy to make a difference today and I enjoyed it at the top of the order."

His elevation to the top of the order for the first time since September 2004 was prompted

by Australia's decision to cut short skipper Ricky Ponting's two-match break following a six-wicket defeat in Melbourne.

It proved a shrewd move as Haddin and Michael Clarke set them on their way with an opening stand of 135 before Clarke, on 64, drove a ball from Elliott to extra-cover.

Elliott also picked up the wicket of Ponting for 16, caught at deep square leg, but Haddin hit three sixes as he progressed to his century -- although he needed a slice of luck on 75 when Peter Fulton dropped him at long-on.

He was finally run out by fellow wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum as he attempted a quick single, but Mike Hussey (51) and Callum Ferguson (28) added 62 in seven overs for the sixth wicket to keep the score ticking over.

Hussey's half century took only 30 balls and Australia were only three runs short of 300 when he was caught off Kyle Mills at deep mid-wicket.

Iain O'Brien was the most successful bowler with three wickets, but they cost him 68 runs and chasing down such a big total looked a tall order for New Zealand, especially as McCullum was nursing a sore shoulder after being struck by a delivery from Mills.

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## A blast from the past

**Cricket**

THE GUARDIAN

This was a throwback. This was the glory days revisited, those halcyon times for West Indies cricket when Michael and Malcolm, Andy and the Big Bird, Pato, Crofty, Courtney, Amby and Bish were in their ferocious, irresistible pomp.

They were the days that those who once loved cricket in the Caribbean, who recognised it as the global representation of what could be achieved under a disparate region of islands, cultures, religions and ethnicities could be galvanised under one flag, though had been lost for ever. But in one blazing bowling spell, inspirational beyond imagination, Jerome Taylor, son of Jamaica on his home turf, bowled himself into the West Indies hall of fame. A day earlier and he might even have been able to profit from it: early on Friday morning he learned that he had been bought for \$150,000 by the Punjab Kings of the Indian Premier League. They should go on Bargain Hunt and clean up.

With each England wicket that tumbled, the noise level rose, under the discreet shaded awnings of the Kingston Cricket Club, and diametrically opposite in the raucous confines of the Red Stripe enclosure where beer gets

supped and the throb of the disco speakers hammers out its celebrations. "One day we gonna rise again like a ragin' fire," exhorts David Rudder in the magnificent anthem Rally Round The West Indies. There is a way to go before the blaze takes hold, but perhaps at Sabina Park Taylor kindled the flames.

No one, not even if you stuck the DNA of Mystic Meg, Nostradamus and Gypsy Rose Lee in a jam jar, shook it up and cultivated the result, could have predicted the events as they unfolded either side of lunch. The pitch had spun from the first day, but for the pacemen, it had all the life of a jelly fish stuck on the beach. These are the pitches that break the heart of the quicks, not make them. But the pitch was of no concern to Taylor: he simply took it out of the equation, just as Michael Holding once did at The Oval by bowling full, straight and at the speed of light.

Perhaps Taylor is genetically suited to such surfaces more than England's bowlers. Tall men hammer the ball into the middle and understand the hard way the law of diminishing returns. Stuart Broad, the gangly youngster of boundless energy and enthusiasm, had managed to flog a five-for out of it, a first for him in Tests. Taylor, though, is not a giant. Instead, he is as whippy as a sapling in the Trade Winds, and has a fast arm, sort of fast-twitch muscles that

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## Taylor-made victory

**Cricket**

AFP, Kingston

England dramatically crashed to an innings and 23-run defeat at the hands of West Indies in the opening Test on Saturday at Sabina Park in the face of high-class fast bowling from Jerome Taylor.

England, trailing by 74 runs on first innings, collapsed to 51 all out in their second innings, five minutes before tea break on the penultimate day.

It was England's third lowest total in Tests, and was wrapped up when Steve Harmison was bowled trying to sweep a delivery from spinner Suleiman Benn and dragged the ball into his stumps.

"We were entirely outplayed," admitted England skipper Andrew Strauss.

"We haven't done ourselves justice. I thought the bowlers stuck to their task pretty well. We batted pretty poorly today and we paid the price."

"All credit to Jerome Taylor, he bowled pretty straight and fast but we didn't react well."

West Indies captain Chris Gayle, who hit a century in his team's innings, looked forward to repeating the win in the second Test in Antigua and praised Taylor as well as spinner Suleiman Benn who took eight wickets in the match.

"Benn, with the ball, was tremendous picking up eight wickets, Jerome Taylor picking up five wickets was very good," said Gayle.

Andrew Flintoff hit the top score of 24, but England's batting was undermined by Taylor with a career-best five wickets for 11 runs from nine overs in which he was lethal in speed, length, and direction.

There was little respite for England from the other end, where Benn was steady, if not spectacular, and also collected a career-best four for 31 from 14.2 overs.

West Indies now take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series which continues in Antigua on Thursday.

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## ENGLAND LOWS

Total	Opposition	Venue	Date
45	Australia	Sydney	1887
46	West Indies	Port of Spain	1994
51	West Indies	Kingston	2009
52	Australia	The Oval	1948
53	Australia	Lord's	1888
61	Australia	Melbourne	1904
61	Australia	Melbourne	1902
62	Australia	Lord's	1888
64	New Zealand	Wellington	1978
65	Australia	Sydney	1895
71	West Indies	Manchester	1976



**CROSSING ANOTHER HURDLE:** West Indies fast bowler Jerome Taylor (R) jumps in the air after claiming yet another England second innings wicket during the fourth day's play of the first Test at Sabina Park in Kingston on Saturday. Taylor took five wickets in an astonishing spell that saw England bowled out for 51.

PHOTO AFP