



Sri Lanka's Thilan Samaraweera plays a drive on the up on the first day of the second and final Test against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

## Super Cup March 11-27

### Football

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to launch its mega tournament Super Cup on March 11.

Scheduled for a March 6 start, the eight-team event has been delayed by five days due to the recent massacre at the Bangladesh Rifles headquarters.

The country's governing body of football, which wants to make this big-budgeted tournament a success, believes that the current situation would calm down by the time the top eight teams of the recently concluded B. League lock horns for the Tk one-crore championship prize.

"We have considered the current situation before taking this decision. That's why we have delayed it. Now we are eyeing to complete the tournament by March 27 because we have no other option," said BFF member and tournament committee chairman Harunur Rashid after yesterday's BFF executive meeting at the BFF Bhaban.

"All the clubs have started preparation and some of them have also recruited new foreign players for the tournament. Also, we have to give the national team enough preparation time under the new coach (Edson Dido Silva) for

next month's AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers at home," said the ex-BFF general secretary defending their decision.

Some claimed that with the unrest virtually coming to an end, the tournament could have been started on schedule.

But BFF president Kazi Salahuddin thinks otherwise. In reply to a question from reporters whether the federation had any directive or suggestion from the government about the delay, Salahuddin said: "Our own conscience told us not to start it now. It is just a tournament and there is no harm in delaying it for a few days. I hope that this small period will help people calm their grievances," said the BFF president.

Salahuddin also dismissed ideas that the timing of the event clashing with Pakistan's tour of Bangladesh will affect the tournament.

"We are not competitors with cricket but if someone says so, there is no need to lose before start of the game. There is no need to play if we are going out with negative minds."

"Two games have different flavours and I believe both have separate fans too. It would also be a test for us as we would be able to know where we actually stand."

"We need at least five days for promotion of the tournament through media. We could not take preparations for the past few days, so we need that time now," he said

explaining why the BFF could not stick to the original starting schedule of March 6.

"We still have nine days and hope there would be enough time to make people aware (of this tournament)."

The BFF has already engaged an event management firm for the Super Cup and there would be songs and video footages of domestic football for advertisements.

Not only big prizes for teams -- the winners take Tk one crore and the runners-up Tk 25 lakh -- booters would also be encouraged. It was learned that the most valuable player will receive a car.

The tournament committee, meanwhile, has finalised

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BFF president Kazi Salahuddin (C) chairing the federation's executive committee meeting at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

## Twin ton-up Sri Lanka take first day honours

### Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Kumar Sangakkara and Thilan Samaraweera notched brilliant hundreds to help Sri Lanka recover from early wobbles on the opening day of the second Test against Pakistan here Sunday.

Samaraweera followed his 231 in the drawn first Test in Karachi with a superb unbeaten 133 while Sangakkara scored 104 as the tourists recovered from 35-2 to reach 317-4 after Pakistan won the toss and put their opponents in.

Pakistan had exploited the early life from a green-looking Gaddafi Stadium pitch by removing openers Malinda Warnapura (eight) and Tharanga Paranavitana (21) and then had the prized scalp of skipper Mahela Jayawardene (30).

But left-hander Sangakkara and Samaraweera settled down gradually and benefited from some sloppy work by Pakistan fielders who dropped two crucial catches -- one off each batsman.

For Pakistan, pace spearhead Umar Gul (3-67) provided breakthroughs but the Sangakkara-Samaraweera pairing foiled all the home team's attempts until their 204-run stand for the fourth wicket was broken with the second new ball.

Sangakkara snicked to wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal in Yasir Arafat's second over with the new ball. Sangakkara hit eight bound-

aries during his 334-minute stay.

Sangakkara said he was shocked at Pakistan's decision to field first.

"I was surprised to be put into bat," said the 31-year-old. "The pitch looks a good batting strip and once we lost three wickets it was a case of batting sensibly. We did that and now hope when Pakistan bats, the pitch turns more."

Samaraweera had hit 19 boundaries off 205 balls when bad light stopped play 3.2 overs early. Tillakaratne Dilshan was unbeaten on three.

When Samaraweera came to the crease, Sangakkara was unbeaten on 32 but the right-hander outscored his partner, hoisting Shoaib Malik towards mid-wicket for his 14th boundary to reach his ninth Test hundred.

An over later, Sangakkara took two runs to complete his 18th Test hundred.

Both Sangakkara and Samaraweera were lucky as Sangakkara, on 55, was dropped by close-in fielder Faisal Iqbal off Malik.

Samaraweera also benefited from a dropped catch when, on 68, he edged leg-spinner Danish Kaneria but Akmal failed to hold on to the snick.

In the first session Gul removed both the openers in the space of 19 runs. Off the last delivery of the fifth over Gul had Warnapura caught in the slip by Misbah-ul-Haq.

Gul struck again when Paranavitana, who had a miserable debut with nought and nine in Karachi, played straight to gully where Malik took a smart catch.

Jayawardene, playing his last Test as skipper,

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## Premier Cricket resumes today

### SPORTS REPORTER

The sixth round of the Premier Division Cricket League resumes today after a three-day national mourning break following the mutiny at the BDR headquarters in Pikhana.

BKSP will play Cricket Coaching School (CCS) at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium while Partex meet Young Pegasus Club at the BKSP in Savar.

Victoria will face Gazi Tank Cricketers at Fatullah in the remaining sixth round match tomorrow.

The seventh round will begin on Thursday with holders Abahani taking on City Club at Fatullah while Biman play Surjo Tarun Club at the BKSP.

Biman top the league table with an all-win record securing 12 points from six matches while holders Abahani and Surjo Tarun share the second slot with 10 points from six matches each.

Bangladesh Cricket Board will not arrange any league matches at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from today to facilitate venue preparations for the upcoming series against Pakistan that will begin on March 10.

### LOCAL SNIPPETS

#### SPORTS REPORTER

The National Bank Dhaka Metropolis Premier and First Division Volleyball Leagues will start tomorrow at the Volleyball Stadium.

Nine teams will be participating in each league.

Bangladesh Police, Power Development Board, Titas Club, Water Development Board, Wari Club, Fire Service, East End Boys and East End Club will be taking part in the Premier League while Bhai Bhai Sangha, Dilkusha Sporting Club, Azad, Dhaka Green, Shablombi Society, Madartek Mitali Sangha, Dhaka Sporting Club, Uttara Sporting Club and Nobojagrani Sangha will take part in the First Division League.

Managing director of National Bank Abdur Rahman Sarkar will inaugurate the events at 4.00pm.

### SCHOOL CRICKET

The Dhaka Metro Zone matches of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers Under-16 National School Cricket Competition resume today after a five-day recess.

Willes Little Flower School will play Motijheel Govt Boys' High School in Group I match at the East End Club ground while Ideal School and College will meet INCIDIN Bangladesh at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

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## A lot to decide

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

It is expected that some important decisions would be taken in the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) next meeting on Wednesday.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus informed that the earlier scheduled meeting is still on despite the fact that the country has gone through difficult time following the tragic deaths at BDR headquarters.

"The board's next meeting is still on and the Pakistan tour is also alive," said Jalal.

He said that a number of important issues would be put to the table including the cricketers' new payroll and preparations for the 2011 World Cup, which Bangladesh will jointly host with India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The new payroll is expected to be approved in the meeting because it is already too late as the last contract expired in November last year.

After the ICL shock, the board has been considering to improve the remuneration and the concerned authority already met with the

national players regarding the issue. It was learnt that the players demanded to double the salary as well as increasing match fees and they also said that the first-class competition payment structure should also be changed to give the players more security.

There is no doubt that the figure would be increased but the double boost is unlikely. "Hope it would be finalised in the next meeting," Jalal said.

The most important issue for the BCB now is to form a local organising committee for the World Cup as soon as possible because the high-ups have already admitted they are lagging behind in preparations.

The biggest challenge for the game's governing body is to successfully hold the 2011 showcase event, which undoubtedly, is its priority in the list and Jalal told that they have no time to waste. He believed that some important decisions about the World Cup would also be taken in Wednesday's meeting.

With the event format finalised, Bangladesh is confirmed to host five matches including a quarterfinal as well as the opening ceremony.

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South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis (L) takes a blinder to dismiss Australia's Michael Clarke (not in picture) as AB de Villiers looks on on the fourth day of the first Test in Johannesburg yesterday.

## Proteas stay in hunt

### Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa made a confident start in their second innings as they set out to salvage the first Test against Australia at the Wanderers Stadium here on Sunday.

The home side were 178-2 at close of fourth day's play after being set to make a record 454 in the final innings of the match -- 40 runs more than they achieved against the same opponents in Perth last December.

That was four fewer than the world record successful fourth innings chase of 418 set by the West Indies against Australia in 2002/03.

Hashim Amla was unbeaten on 43 while all-rounder Jacques Kallis batting on 26.

Earlier the hosts were 57 for no loss at tea. Neil McKenzie was first of the two openers to fall after tea after scoring 35. Captain Graeme Smith looked in ominous form before being out after making a stroke-filled 69.

Earlier, Australia collapsed to 207 all out in their second innings but remained in a powerful position on a pitch which has helped the bowlers throughout.

New cap Phil Hughes top-scored for

Australia with 75. Hughes -- out for a duck in the first innings -- was twice given not out despite gloving balls from Morne Morkel to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, with South Africa failing to refer the decisions to the television umpire.

The tourists reached 99 for one but lost three wickets in the space of four balls without another run added. Another four wickets fell for the addition of 48 runs before the last two wickets added 60 runs.

Brad Haddin made a successful appeal against an lbw decision given to left-arm spinner Paul Harris by umpire Billy Bowden when he had 15. He went on to hit 37 before he was caught behind off Makhaya Ntini shortly before lunch.

All-rounder Jacques Kallis took three for 22 and Makhaya Ntini three for 29.

Kallis sparked the Australian collapse when he dismissed Ricky Ponting and Michael Hussey off successive deliveries.

Ponting pulled a short ball to deep midwicket and Hussey made a mess of an attempted pull to sky the ball to square leg.

Two balls later Kallis at slip dived to his right to hold a sharp edge from Michael Clarke off left-arm spinner Paul Harris.

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### Did U Know?

The women's discus throw competition was included on Olympic programme in the 1928 Games in Amsterdam, although they had been competing at some national and regional levels previously.



### Andrew Flintoff

(Star England all-rounder)  
"Playing for England is the ultimate and that's what I want to do. I have missed a lot of cricket over the last few years. I obviously want to play as much as I can especially for England."



### TEN Sports

Pakistan v Sri Lanka  
Second Test, Day Two  
Live from 11:00am  
South Africa v Australia  
First Test, Day Five  
Live from 2:30pm

### ZEE Sports

West Indies v England  
Fourth Test, Day Five  
Live from 8:00pm

### ESPN

Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live from 8:30pm



Premier Div Cricket League  
BKSP v Cricket Coaching School  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Partex v Young Pegasus  
Venue: BKSP-2

## Windies almost safe

### Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

England's bid for a series-leaving victory over West Indies ran into Ramnaresh Sarwan who fashioned his third hundred of the series in the fourth Test on Saturday.

Sarwan defied the tourists for the entire day to hit an undefeated 184 -- his 14th Test hundred -- that carried West Indies to 398 for five, replying to the visitors' first innings total of 600 for six declared, when stumps were drawn on the third day at Kensington Oval.

West Indies, 1-0 ahead in the series, need just three more runs to save the follow-on.

England snared four wickets on the day -- all lbw verdicts -- and all but one steeped in controversy over the use of the experimental umpire decision review system.

On the referrals, England successfully collected the scalps of Devon Smith for 55, Shivnarine Chanderpaul for 70, and Brendan Nash for 33, after they had all shared significant partnerships with Sarwan.

England may have delighted in their removal of the three left-handers, but West Indies coach John Dyson and manager Omar Khan were so upset that they left the dressing room to discuss their concerns with ICC Match Referee Allan Hurst.

"I think we're still getting to grips with the whole concept (of the referral system)," said Dyson.

"The players are finding it challenging to get used to the system. I think the jury is still out."

England failed to remove Sarwan and he reached his hundred from 160 balls, when he drove off-spinner Graeme Swann to mid-on and scurried a single to a cacophony of noise from the near capacity crowd.

He shared four stands of 50

or more with Smith, Chanderpaul, Nash, and Denesh Ramdin with whom he'll resume on the penultimate day in an unbroken stand of 64 for the sixth wicket.

Swann has been England most successful bowler with three wickets for 92 runs from 34 overs, and James Anderson has supported with two for 79 from 20 overs.

Before lunch, Swann removed Smith and Hinds to leave West Indies 163 for three

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West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan raises the bat after scoring a sparkling century on the third day of the fourth Test against England at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP