

The best-known Indian 'bahu' in Pakistan, Sania Mirza, can't thank her stars enough for finding her "dream prince" in cricketer Shoaib Malik. Nine months into her marriage, India's tennis sensation, considers herself the "luckiest girl on earth". Sania can't stop raving about Shoaib. "The simplicity of Shoaib had impressed me a lot. Today he is the same person as he was before marrying me," Sania told the News shortly after winning her first tennis match in Dubai. "In practical life I have got my prince of dreams," Sania said.



SPORT



DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Tendulkar's 50 magical tons

Runs	Opposition	Ground	Year	Runs	Opposition	Ground	Year
119*	England	Manchester	1990	155	South Africa	Bloemfontein	2001
148*	Australia	Sydney	1992	103	England	Ahmedabad	2001
114	Australia	Perth	1992	176	Zimbabwe	Nagpur	2002
111	South Africa	Johannesburg	1992	117	West Indies	Port of Spain	2002
165	England	Chennai	1993	193	England	Leeds	2002
104*	Sri Lanka	Colombo	1993	176	West Indies	Kolkata	2002
142	Sri Lanka	Lucknow	1994	241*	Australia	Sydney	2004
179	West Indies	Nagpur	1994	194*	Pakistan	Multan	2004
122	England	Birmingham	1996	248*	Bangladesh	Dhaka	2004
177	England	Nottingham	1996	109	Sri Lanka	Delhi	2005
169	South Africa	Cape Town	1997	101	Bangladesh	Chittagong	2007
143	Sri Lanka	Colombo	1997	122*	Bangladesh	Dhaka	2007
139	Sri Lanka	Colombo	1997	154*	Australia	Sydney	2008
148	Sri Lanka	Mumbai	1997	153	Australia	Adelaide	2008
155*	Australia	Chennai	1998	109	Australia	Nagpur	2008
177	Australia	Bangalore	1998	103*	England	Chennai	2008
113	New Zealand	Wellington	1998	160	New Zealand	Hamilton	2009
136	Pakistan	Chennai	1999	100*	Sri Lanka	Ahmedabad	2009
124*	Sri Lanka	Colombo	1999	105*	Bangladesh	Chittagong	2010
126*	New Zealand	Mohali	1999	143	Bangladesh	Dhaka	2010
217	New Zealand	Ahmedabad	1999	100	South Africa	Nagpur	2010
116	Australia	Melbourne	1999	106	South Africa	Kolkata	2010
122	Zimbabwe	Delhi	2000	203	Sri Lanka	Colombo	2010

PEERLESS: Indian maestro Sachin Tendulkar looks towards the heavens in celebration of his 50th Test century in the second innings of the first Test against South Africa at SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday. In addition to his half-century of Test tons, he also has 46 ODI hundreds.

PHOTO: AFP

Half-a-hundred for Sachin

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

The legend of Sachin Tendulkar continued to grow on Sunday as the Indian batting maestro hit his 50th Test century and shared a remarkable partnership with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa at SuperSport Park.

It was almost certainly not enough to save his team from defeat, with India finishing the day on 454 for eight in their second innings, still 30 runs short of making South Africa bat again.

But it was a heroic effort which salvaged the reputation of an Indian side which for much of the first three days seemed likely to suffer a humiliating trouncing.

Tendulkar (107 not out) and Dhoni (90) put on 172 for the seventh wicket and defied the South African bowlers for a minute short of three hours.

It took a special delivery from fast bowler Dale Steyn to end the stand shortly before bad light and an approaching thunderstorm ended play for the day.

Steyn produced a vicious bouncer which Dhoni could only fend to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher. In the next over Harbhajan Singh edged left-arm spinner Paul Harris to slip, almost certainly ending any hopes of a miracle reprieve for India, although more storms are forecast for the final day on Monday.

South Africa seemed set for an early win when they took four wickets before lunch, with a new ball available 13 balls after the break. At that stage India were 277 for six, still trailing by 207 runs.

But Dhoni counter-attacked in thrilling fashion and South Africa's new ball pair, Steyn and Morne Morkel, were on the receiving end of some cracking drives and cuts as Dhoni raced to a half-century off 40 balls with nine fours.

South African captain Graeme Smith was forced into making bowling changes with the ball still relatively new and Harris was brought on after 56 runs had been scored in nine overs against the new ball.

Having seen off the immediate threat of the pace pair, Dhoni settled down to play a more conventionally watchful innings and he made his 90 off 106 balls with 14 fours.

After the interval, the focus switched to Tendulkar, the highest-scoring batsman in international cricket history. Resuming at 80 he continued a calm innings during which he was seldom troubled.

He went to 95 with a straight six off Harris. On 97 he was beaten by a ball from Morkel which cut back and missed the inside edge of his bat. He pushed Steyn to midwicket for two, then drove the fast bowler to deep cover to reach his century after 258 minutes of watchful batting, during which he faced 197 balls and hit 12 fours and a six.

As he ran to complete the single he jumped in the air and lifted his bat to the

heavens. No other batsman has scored more than 39 centuries in Tests.

Sharma frustrated the South African bowlers for the first 48 minutes of the day, looking awkward against short-pitched deliveries but finding a straight bat to keep out anything aimed at his stumps. He eventually fell to Steyn when he prodded a catch to Hashim Amla at short leg after making 23 and batting for a total of 71 minutes, facing 51 balls.

Dravid became the third batsman, behind team-mate Tendulkar and Australia's Ricky Ponting, to make 12 000 Test runs, reaching the mark when he had scored 43. He was congratulated by Tendulkar but did not add to his score before edging a lifting ball from Morkel to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher. The previous ball, pitched well outside off stump, had kept low.

Laxman and Raina fell cheaply, edging Lonwabo Tsotsobe and Jacques Kallis to gully and first slip respectively, with Raina out in the last over before lunch.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 136 (Tendulkar 36, Dhoni 33, Harbhajan 27; Morkel 5-20, Steyn 3-34, Kallis 1-20)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 620 for 4 declared (Kallis 201 not out, Amla 140, de Villiers 129, Petersen 77; Sharma 2-120, Singh 2-169)

INDIA: Second innings 454 for 8 (Gambhir 80, Sehwa 63, Dravid 43, Sharma 23, Tendulkar 107 not out, Dhoni 90; Steyn 3-103, Harris 2-88)

BLACK MOUNTAIN MASTERS Siddikur at lowly 34th

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's golfing sensation Siddikur Rahman finished joint 34th in the Black Mountain Masters after a disappointing performance in the fourth and final round in Thailand yesterday.

Siddikur finished at 2-over-par 74 for an overall score of 3-under-par 285 along with five other golfers to win 4,320 dollars after he finished joint 19th in the 300,000-dollar Johnnie Walker Cambodian Opener last week.

The 26-year-old Bangladeshi golfer had started this tournament on the right foot after scoring 3-under-par 69 in the first round, but slipped in the next round to score 2-under-par 70 and stayed at joint 16th.

But in the penultimate round, he slid down to the joint 24th position after posting par at 72.

Japan's Tetsuji Hiratsuka won the title after a play-off against Thai youngster Namchoak Tantipokakul. Hiratsuka triumphed in the season-finales at the Black Mountain Golf Club with a par at the first play-off hole on the par five 18th to pip Namchoak, according to official website of Asian tour.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

Australia first, daylight second



The 2003 World Cup was cricket's eighth global event and it was jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya. It was also the largest World Cup in terms of the number of teams participating.

Bangladesh had become a Test side in November 2000, and joined the nine other Test nations, while Kenya had been awarded ODI status. Three associate teams were included from a separate qualifying tournament. They were Namibia, Canada and Netherlands.

The fourteen teams were divided into two groups, and like the 1999 edition, the top three would progress to the Super Six stage, carrying through the points won

against fellow qualifiers. In the Super Six stage, each team would play the three qualifiers from the other group, with the top four at the end of the round going through to the semis.

Champions: Australia Even before the tournament started they suffered a blow that would have derailed any other team. On the eve of their first game against Pakistan, champion spinner Shane Warne failed a dope test and was sent back home.

Australia then played Pakistan as if nothing had happened and brushed aside a strong team by 82 runs. This assurance was born of the knowledge that each player in the side could put in a match-turning performance.

The openers were the murderous pair of Matthew Hayden and Adam Gilchrist. Hayden was a bully of an

opener; Gilchrist scored his runs at a strike rate of 105 while finishing fourth in the tournament batting charts. At number three, captain Ricky Ponting was his side's highest scorer and the third highest for the Cup. His coup de grace came in arguably the most important match of his life; the final of the tournament.

Against India at Johannesburg, he played an innings of astounding aggression as he flayed the bowlers of the second best team in the tournament for a violent unbeaten 140 off 121 balls with eight sixes. The World Cup was

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DOHS, Kalabagan stroll

SPORTS REPORTER



Old DOHS rode on their overseas players to beat Mohammad Ashraf-ur-Rahman-led Cricket Coaching School (CCS) by 64 runs in one of three Premier League matches yesterday.

Bilal Hossain's half-century and a five-wicket haul from veteran Rashed Hanif ensured a perfect start for the two-time former champions who thwarted a significant force in their first game.

The other two matches went according to the pecking order as Kalabagan easily crushed BKSP by nine wickets and Gazi Tank beat Victoria Sporting Club by 39 runs.

DOHS-CCS

Bilal's strokeful 86-ball 77 laid the platform for DOHS who hardly looked in trouble after being put into bat by CCS captain Ashrafur. After Bilal, it was the other Pakistani, Hanif, who struck five boundaries and a six in his 43 off 50 balls that carried DOHS to 251-7 in 50 overs at the BKSP ground.

CCS made a bright enough start to their chase with the left-right combination of Amit Mazumder and Shahbaz Butt adding 64 for the first wicket. After both openers fell in the 40s, it was up to Ashrafur to lead the batting but Mehrab Hossain ended the former national captain's patient 25 off 37 balls with a direct hit from short third-man.

After Ashrafur's departure, Tapash Ghosh and Nazmul Hossain added 35 for the fifth wicket but once that stand was broken by Hanif's left-arm spin, DOHS quickly wrapped up the tail and CCS were bowled out in the 46th over for 187 runs.

GAZITANK-VICTORIA

A four-wicket haul from Sanjamul Islam and a fine spell of fast bowling from Al-Amin Hossain made sure Victoria fell well short of Gazi Tank's 233-run target at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

Al-Amin's two-wicket burst at the top, removing in-form Fazole Rabbi and Myszhekur Rahman, was vital in Gazi Tank's bowling effort. Sanjamul's left-arm spin subsequently ran through the middle-order and also picked up the last wicket to fall, finishing with figures of 4-50 from 9.4 overs at his home venue.

Earlier, Alok Kapali's 62-ball 50 and Kaushalya Weeraratne's six boundaries (20-ball 32) took Gazi Tank to a competitive 232-8 in 50 overs.

KALABAGAN-BKSP

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Kalabagan strolled to a nine-wicket victory over BKSP, with 29.4 overs in hand.

Two wickets each from Shahadat Hossain, Mohammad Sharif, Arafat Sunny and Mahmudul Hasan ensured the sports institute was bowled out for just 118 in 42.5 overs.

Kalabagan took just 20.4 overs to reach their target. Nazmus Sadat struck a six and six from short third-man.

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CCS captain Mohammad Ashrafur looks to play through the covers as Old DOHS wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan looks on during their Premier League match at the BKSP yesterday. Ashrafur was run out for 25 as CCS lost the match by 64 runs.

PHOTO: STAR

WEEKLY QUESTION
Should Shakib Al Hasan be continued as Bangladesh captain?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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www.twitter.com/dssport

What to WATCH

TEN Cricket
South Africa v India
First Test, Day 5
Live from 2:30pm

ESPN
English Premier League
Man City v Everton
Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)

DAY'S EVENT

SAFF Women's Football
First Semifinal
India v Pakistan
Time: 1:30pm
Venue: Cox's Bazar Stadium