



National cricketers Tamim Iqbal (L) and Mushfiqur Rahim (R) enjoy a light moment during practice while the Tigers' support staff look on at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Kumar's ton of Tests

## Wants to win his landmark match

### Cricket

AFP, Colombo

A hugely proud Kumar Sangakkara hopes Sri Lanka will celebrate his 100th Test appearance with a series-levelling victory over Australia in the final match in Colombo from Friday.

"It's a great honour to have represented my country for a period of time, and also a great honour to play 100 Test matches," Sangakkara told reporters ahead of his landmark match at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC).

"It's not often that a player gets that opportunity and I'm very, very proud and also very privileged to be given the opportunity to represent my country and my people for so long.

"But the most important thing is to contribute as much as I can to the side winning games. It's nice to participate, but you want to say to your teammates and others that we are winners.

"That is what everyone wants, go out there and win matches. It's what the whole team is chasing at the moment, to try to win and be the best."

Sangakkara, who turns 34 next month, will be the fifth Sri Lankan to play a century of Tests after Muttiah Muralidaran

(132 matches), Mahela Jayawardene (121), Chaminda Vaas (111) and Sanath Jayasuriya (110).

The elegant left-hander has provided substance and stature to Sri Lanka's batting along with good friend Jayawardene since his debut against South Africa in Galle in 2000.

His 8,572 runs in 99 Tests at an average of 55.66 with 25 hundreds are second in his country's all-time list, behind Jayawardene's 9,801 runs from 121 matches.

Sangakkara said his goal was to compile 10,000 Test runs and score 30 centuries before he hung up his boots, but retirement is still far from his mind.

He could not have asked for a better venue than his favourite hunting ground at the SSC to mark his 100th Test and lead the team's bid to draw the three-match series 1-1.

In the 18 Tests he had played at the SSC, Sangakkara has scored 1,864 runs at an awe-inspiring average of 74.56 with seven three-figure knocks, including three double centuries.

It was at the same venue that Sangakkara and Jayawardene recorded the highest partnership ever in Test cricket: 624 for the third wicket in 2006 against a South African attack that included Dale Steyn and Makhaya Ntini.

Sangakkara made 287, while Jayawardene smashed 374 before being bowled by Andre Nel agonisingly close to West Indian Brian Lara's world record of 400 not out.

Sangakkara has scored centuries in each of his last three Tests at the SSC, including knocks of 219 and 42 not out against India last year.

But Sri Lanka have not won a Test since the retirement of world bowling record holder Muralidaran last year, losing three of the 10 played since then, but Sangakkara asked fans to be patient.

He also said the younger players in the team should be given an extended run to prove their worth at the highest level.

"They've got to be comfortable in the fact they are here because they are good enough and also they are going to be given a nice, long-lasting run to prove what they can do," he said.

Sangakkara, who gave up the captaincy after the World Cup in April to concentrate on his batting, said his successor Tillakaratne Dilshan was working hard to improve the team's fortunes.

But he felt a lot still depended on how the senior players performed.

"The results will come but the senior guys have to keep putting their hands up and keep performing, which will allow the newcomers to perform even better", he said.

# Swann skipper for WI T20s

### Cricket

AFP, London

Graeme Swann was Wednesday named captain of England's squad for two Twenty20 internationals against West Indies.

With injured captain and vice-captain Stuart Cook and regular Tim Bresnan currently unavailable, England had been hesitating over who would lead the team at The Oval next week.

Both one-day international captain Alastair Cook and regular Tim Bresnan made it clear over the past two days that they would jump at the chance to take over.

But Test and ODI opener Cook remains outside the Twenty20 squad, having not featured in the shortest format for almost two years.

There is also no Kevin Pietersen in the 14-man list, meaning England will start with a youthful squad which includes two potential debutants in Yorkshire batsman Jonathan Bairstow and Hampshire spinner Danny Briggs.

There is a return to Twenty20 for fast bowler James Anderson, inked in for Tests and ODIs -- while young Durham leg-spinner Scott Borthwick is the other addition to the squad from the one which beat India by six wickets last month.

National Selector Geoff Miller said: "We have once again selected a blend of experienced

international performers, along with exciting young players with a great deal of talent.

"We have had a successful summer to date and will be looking to continue our form during the Twenty20 series against West Indies and finish the summer with two strong performances.

"We have selected 10 of the players who were involved in last month's Twenty20 victory over India, while the injuries to Stuart Broad and Eoin Morgan and the continued period of rest for Pietersen means we bring four players into the squad."

Off-spinner Swann, who has never captained his country before, will become the fifth man to lead them this summer.

Miller added: "Graeme Swann is a highly-respected member of the England side, and his experience and leadership qualities will be invaluable when he leads a young England team next week -- a role he is very much looking forward to."

England play the West Indies at The Oval on September 23 and 25.

### SQUAD

Graeme Swann (captain), James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Ravi Bopara, Scott Borthwick, Tim Bresnan, Danny Briggs, Jos Buttler, Jade Dernbach, Steven Finn, Alex Hales, Craig Kieswetter, Samit Patel, Ben Stokes.

# Pakistan sweep

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the pace of run gathering necessary for a launch towards the end.

With Taylor failing by scoring only six, those who followed made an effort to catch up with a rising run rate necessary but were never really in the chase, and at the end Zimbabwe needed eight, ten and eventually 14 an over for the win.

Aizaz Cheema was the best of the Pakistan bowlers with 4-43 and he was named man-of-the-match. He has been the newcomer with the most success even though he is somewhat of a latecomer at 32 years of age.

Man-of-the-series was Younis Khan, who went about his business with polished calm and took the catch of the match on the boundary in dismissing Tatenda Taibu, who had just previously hit six, one of six scored on the day.

The Pakistan tour continues here with two Twenty-20 entertainments at Harare on Friday and Sunday.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 270 for 5 (Hafeez 23, Farhat 37, Shafiq 51, Younis 81, Misbah 29 not out, Akmal 24 not out; Chigumbura 2-36)

ZIMBABWE: 242 for 9 (Chibhabha 62, Sibanda 59, Masakadza 21, Taibu 27, Waller 19, Utseya 15 not out, Price 10; Cheema 4-43, Shah 2-51)

Result: Pakistan won by 28 runs and clinched 3-match series 3-0.

Man-of-the-match: Aizaz Cheema.

Man-of-the-series: Younis Khan.

# With US Open comes Novak's money record

### Tennis

AFP, New York

World number one Novak Djokovic's US Open triumph on Monday ran his Grand Slam total for the season to three and earned him a record amount of prize money.

Djokovic posted his 64th win in 66 matches and pushed his 2011 earnings past 10.6 million dollars to set an ATP World Tour money record.

The only other men to come close were Rafael Nadal in 2010 and Roger Federer four years ago. They both finished their seasons with just under 10.2 million dollars.

By beating Nadal in Monday night's US Open singles championship, Djokovic earned 2.3 million dollars. That comprises 1.8 million dollars for winning the final Grand Slam of the

season and an additional 500,000 dollars bonus for winning the US Open series standings, which factors in results from the hard-court tuneup tournaments.

Djokovic embarked on a media blitz of New York Tuesday to help celebrate his victory over Nadal.

He began his day with the American talk morning shows, CBS's Early Show and NBC's Today show.

"It has been a dream year and the best of my career so I am loving every minute of it," Djokovic told the Today Show.

"When you win against your top rivals it make victory sweeter. This is the trophy every tennis player dreams to win so I am really thrilled."

Djokovic also travelled to the top of the Empire State Building for a photo shoot before taping a segment of the the Jimmy Fallon show.



Pakistan batsman Younis Khan goes for the sweep during his innings of 81 in the 3rd ODI against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Milan inflict Barca extreme pain

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competition the past three seasons, danced through the Milan defence to the byline and squared for Pedro to rifle home with goalkeeper Christian Abbiati stranded.

Barca had recovered their customary poise and a goal had long been coming when Villa stepped up to crack the ball into the top corner from 30 metres.

The home side were in total control without really threatening to score a third until fullback Eric Abidal conceded a stoppage-time corner, although the France international claimed he had been fouled.

Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf swung the ball over for Silva to claim an unlikely point. Milan were missing former Barca striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, injured in training on Monday, among others, and coach Massimiliano Allegri opted to use Pato and Antonio Cassano in a two-pronged attack.

Pato threatened to score a second several times during the first half hour before fading out of the game, while Italy forward Cassano looked short on fitness and was replaced by Urby Emanuelson after an hour.

"Barca are still the best team in the world but sometimes even they can draw," Allegri said.

"That's why football is so great because sometimes you lose without deserving to and other times you win without deserving to."

Barca captain Puyol drew cheers when he came off the bench in the second half but their night was further soured by the injury to Iniesta.

The Spain international was forced off just before halftime and replaced by Cesc Fabregas and Barca said preliminary tests had shown he would be out for around four weeks.

"We try to look after the players as much as possible but these things can happen," Guardiola said.

# Premier Div

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top finisher in the Super League will emerge as champion. Bottom-placed team from each group will play in the relegation league from where one team will eventually be relegated to the First Division League.

Sponsors Runner Motors Limited will provide Tk 2 lakh out of estimated budget of 2.9 lakh. However, each of the 14 teams will be given Tk 1,000 as donation.

"It is the second time that we are sponsoring Kabaddi this season and we hope to sponsor the Inter-District Kabaddi Championship too which will be held outside Dhaka in a bid to increase the game's popularity," said sponsor chairman Hafizur Rahman Khan.

Participating teams: Group A BGB, Azad Sporting Club and Shaheed Mozaffar Smriti Sangsad; Group B Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force and Dilkhusha Sporting Club; Group C Bangladesh Police, Fire Service, Jurain Janata Club, Maniknagar Kabaddi Club, Group D Bangladesh Navy, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Jatrabari Faruque Smriti Sangsad and Bangladesh Jail.

# BFF to tighten noose

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relegate three teams from the upcoming 5th edition of Bangladesh League and promote two teams to fix the number of teams at 10.

The League Committee also wants to fix the number of foreign players for the next two to three seasons and they have discussed allowing each club to register a maximum of three foreign players and allow all three of them in each game.

Last season, the League Committee allowed five foreign players including a goalkeeper in a match after being reportedly pressurised by one of the bigger clubs which

failed to form a strong team. There is whisper that two of the giant clubs, who have failed to rope in quality players for upcoming season, are pressuring the BFF high-ups this time too to increase the number of foreign players in a bid to strengthen their squads.

The Committee is also set to incorporate a section ensuring that players inform their clubs before going into negotiation with another club for the following season. Players will have to inform their respective clubs six months prior to their departure.

# Harris blow

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with 11 wickets, including a five-wicket haul in the first Test in Galle that fashioned Australia's 125-run victory.

Harris took six wickets in the second Test, but heavy rain in Pallekele frustrated Australia's bid to record a series-clinching victory.

If Harris is declared unfit to play, Australia have two other seamers, Peter Siddle and James Pattinson, to choose from. Neither has played in the series so far.

# Bolt's record

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good result," said the Cuban, whose disqualification after winning the 110m hurdles final in August saw Richardson promoted to gold.

"While I was warming up I felt tiredness, a muscle contraction, but at the stadium I felt excellent and if there were not these minor problems, maybe I would have run even better," he added.

In the women's high jump world champion Anna Chicherova did not allow Croatian darling but injury-hit Blanka Vlasic to avenge her world championships defeat.

They both jumped over 2m but the Russian had less attempts. Ebba Jungmark from Sweden was third with 1.94m.

"I decided to attack 2.04 metres but it turned out that I don't have the speed for such a height. The problem is that my left leg is weaker than the right and I felt pain since warming up," Vlasic told journalists.

"However, I cannot regret the defeat since the audience saw jumps over two metres which was not often this season.

"This season really tired me, there were injuries... so I have to be happy that in such a condition I jumped over two metres in Zagreb." The 28-year-old Croatian stressed.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Completely occupy  
5 Bashful  
8 Taxis  
12 Vicinity  
13 Faired  
14 Fairy tale  
15 Hides  
17 Tide type  
18 Halves of  
19 Tear  
20 No liability  
21 Prisoner  
22 Insecticide  
23 Choir members  
26 Interpret wrongly  
30 Bride strap  
31 Peace (Lat.)  
32 Very unattractive  
33 The  
35 Range  
36 Explosive letters  
37 Write in the margins

**DOWN**

1 Confront  
2 Press  
3 Camera part  
4 Fond du  
5 Dis-, Wis.  
6 Aid  
7 Football meas.  
8 Build  
9 A very long time  
10 Highland hillside  
11 Labor Day mo.  
16 Love god  
20 Billboards  
21 Squeeze  
22 New Jersey fort  
23 Upper limb

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

1 D A S K I C A L F  
T A L C H I D A G A R  
E L B A E L L N O S Y  
M E A N Y L E A D  
H O R I Z O N P E E V E  
E G A D M I T D A I S  
A L T I C E L I Z A R D S  
P E D A N T M O P  
M E R E O P R A H  
O G R E U S E L O S E  
F O U R M A R E W E R  
T O G A P U G S A D

Yesterday's answer 7-19

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### CRYPTOQUIP

LEX GJVG JD'C IDKTMLMLP  
ML VQMTMGMD, GJD CUEFGC  
GMGTDJETIDF JVC QDKEND  
GJD XVLMLP KJVNUMEL.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THE LONE STAR STATE'S DEEP SECRETS THAT ARE NOT YET EXPOSED? TEX-ARCANA.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals H