

# Star

# SPORT



Pakistan opener Mohammad Hafeez sweeps the ball en route to scoring 143 during the second day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## You can only hope: Riyad

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Understandably Bangladesh have read the writing on the wall about their fate in the first Test match of the two-match series after the end of the second day's play yesterday. As a result, the home side are now looking for some good performances rather than mulling over the result of the match.

Pakistan strengthened their position to make certain of another heavy win against the Tigers but still one should live in hope and it seems the home team also rely on this saying.

"You can only hope at this stage," said Bangladesh vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad in the press briefing after the second day's play at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Hope was pinned on nothing but a good batting performance in the second innings regardless of the fate of the match.

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## Prof's lesson in batting

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Among his teammates, he is popularly known as the "Professor" because of his analytical ability to explain the ins and outs of the game as well as constantly advising the skipper. Asked about it, the man himself had a broad smile on his face though his reply belied his demeanour: "I don't speak nonsense."

After his brilliant 143, Mohammad Hafeez spoke in the intelligent vein as he has been playing on the field this year. The 31-year-old has hit a purple patch since making a comeback after a three year gap and he has credited his hard work which helped him to estab-

lish himself as a major performer in the Pakistan team.

"It was a hard time when I was out of the team, but this is the way you learn from your mistakes," said Hafeez. "I worked hard in those three years and all the experience that I got playing the first-class cricket in Pakistan and watching all the videos of the mistakes that I had done before helped me overcome it."

Hafeez also became the first spinner in 42 years to open the bowling in Test cricket and he said that he loves to take on a challenge. "I am always confident with the new ball. I have been doing it in the nets for the last year or so. And I am happy with the confidence the management has shown in me and in return, they are well aware

of my state of mind. I did it in the West Indies before and also did it in the ODIs here," he said.

Hafeez started his career as a batting all-rounder but now his bowling has become a vital component for his side. "Sometimes I laugh about it. Basically I am a batsman but bowling is very natural for me. Being a batsman I can easily read the other batsmen's mind which can be the reason for me bowling so well in the ODIs. I believe in dot balls and that's what gets me the wicket," he explained when asked for the reasons behind his success as a bowler.

But it is batting that has brought Hafeez into the Pakistan side. The right-hander made his first Test hun

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Winners in different events of the Bangladesh International Badminton Series pose with dignitaries at the end of the competition at the Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Ilievski finds all at fault

SPORTS REPORTER

Under fire Bangladesh national football team coach Nikola Ilievski said he was willing to take on the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) if they decide to sack him for the team's recent debacle in SAFF Championship.

The Macedonian, who had been complaining all along about the lack of preparation and match practice of the team, said if he got the sack violating his appointment clause, he would go to FIFA for action.

The 20-year-old Indonesian overcame the challenges from Rosario Maddaloni of Italy in 21-17, 21-18 sets. This was the first overseas success for the lanky Indonesian who used his superior smashing skills to good effect to eke out the win against the more experienced Italian.

Dharma was delighted with his first senior title and said this victory would encourage him to become one of the major players in international badminton one day.

The women's singles final produced an upset where favourite Thu Huyen Le of Vietnam was beaten by the 17-year-old Sri Lankan 21-11, 11-21, 21-16. Rathnasir, who had earlier lost to the same opponent in the preliminary round, exploited her height advantage to exact revenge.

Meanwhile, the local contenders in women's doubles

Rehana Parvin and Nigar Sultana, who reached the final courtesy of a walkover, were beaten comfortably by Sri Lankan pair of Rathnasir and Upuli Samanthika 21-7, 21-11.

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## INT'L BADMINTON SERIES Rathnasir, Dharma win singles titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Dharma Alrie Guna of Indonesia and Achinimeshika Rathnasir of Sri Lanka became champions in the men's and women's singles of the Bangladesh International Badminton Series which concluded at the Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

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## Helal quits NTMC

SPORTS REPORTER

Golam Rabbani Helal, member of the National Team Management Committee and team leader of the SAFF Championship squad, resigned from his position alleging inefficiency of the NTMC in managing the national football team.

Helal stormed out of an emergency meeting called at the BFF (Bangladesh Football Federation) House yesterday to review the recent debacle in the regional competition after verbally saying he was going to resign. Contacted later, Helal said, "NTMC is absolutely inefficient. They cannot provide the players with good facilities, cannot pay them regularly, cannot arrange for practice matches. I therefore denounce this committee

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## India-Afghanistan final today

ANISUR RAHMAN from Delhi



It is going to be a two-man battle between the tournament's best strikers Sunil Chhetri and Belal Arezo when defending champions India and dark-horse Afghanistan square off in the final of the SAFF Championship at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium today.

Both India striker Chhetri and Afghan hitman Arezo are in an intense battle to win the golden boot award after scoring six goals each to help their respective sides reach the final, which will kick off at 6:30 pm Bangladesh time.

Indians Chhetri and Jeje Lalpekhlua are considered the

tournament's most deadly attackers, always keeping the opponent defenders busy with their speedy run and thunderbolt shooting.

On the other hand, Afghan Norway-based striker Belal Arezo and Sanjar Ahmadi are no less lethal as they shared nine goals between them to propel Afghanistan to their maiden SAFF Championship final.

"It is pleasing to see that Chhetri is getting goals in every match though Jeje can't score but he is helping Chhetri well in the matches. I am not thinking of the opponents' strikers, rather I only want to think about my team," said Indian coach Savio Medeira on the eve of the final yesterday.

"Afghanistan also have a good striking duo and I think it is

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**সংগ্রহ ব্যবস্থা প্রতিযোগিতা-২০১২**

**স্মেই ফাউন্ডেশন**

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- শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা- স্নাতক এবং এসএসসি পাশ্চাত্য
- জাতীয়তা- বাংলাদেশী
- এসএইচ মানবিক্যুক্তির অর্থাৎ সার্টিস সেক্টরের প্রচলিত, অপ্রচলিত এবং সুজনশীল ব্যবসায়িক ধরণগুলি
- স্নাতকোত্তর এসএইচ উদ্যোগী এবং বিদ্যমান এসএইচ উদ্যোগী প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রযোজিত প্রযোজন

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**প্রুক্ষকর**

১ম প্রুক্ষকর - ৫ (পাঁচ) লক্ষ টাকা

২য় প্রুক্ষকর - ৮ (চার) লক্ষ টাকা

৩য় প্রুক্ষকর - ৩ (তিনি) লক্ষ টাকা

**এসএইচ ফাউন্ডেশন**

## Early Christmas for Prandelli

Christmas has come early for Italy coach Cesare Prandelli.

With three Italian teams advancing to the knockout round of the Champions League, Prandelli put on a Santa Claus suit and handed out gifts to children in Florence on Thursday.

Italy is the only country with three clubs in the last 16 of Europe's top club competition--AC Milan, Inter Milan and Napoli.

Prandelli says "with three Italian squads in the Champions League I'm going to be even happier this Christmas."



## Pakistan pile on misery

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

As expected, there was no respite for Bangladesh on the second day as Pakistan consolidated their position in the first Test thanks to Mohammad Hafeez's well-composed century at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here yesterday.

The Pakistan top-order batsmen were so focused on their job that they never gave the hosts a chance to bounce back in the match after resuming the day on 132 for no loss, finishing the day with a 280-run lead with six wickets in hand. After Mohammad Hafeez's scintillating 143, the experienced Younis Khan came close to reaching a century as he was batting on 96 to help his side reaching 415-4 before stumps.

Asad Shafiq was the other not out batsman at 40.

The bowling never looked threatening on a pitch which only offered some turn and bounce in the morning session but helped the batsmen for the rest of the day. The credit also must go to the batsmen who hardly batted recklessly, showing adequate temperament as they only punished the bad ball.

Two tough chances went begging, though. A miscued pull from Younis, on 15, went to Sunny who dropped him at deep square-leg while Nafees deprived the impressive Rubel Hossain of a wicket by dropping Misbah-ul Haq at second slip when he was on five.

The day however belonged to Hafeez, who continued his good form by making his fourth Test hundred and second against Bangladesh (his maiden ton also came against this opponent in 2003).

During his nearly six-hour stay, the right-hander smote 14 sweetly-timed boundaries to make his highest Test score but was unlucky when Billy Doctrove raised his finger to a leg-before decision though TV replays showed that it was a thick inside edge.

Earlier Bangladesh got the much-desired breakthrough when Mahmudullah Riyad trapped Taufeeq Umar to break the 164-run opening stand, the highest for Pakistan in ten years.

Taufeeq added only eight runs to his overnight score of 53.

Bangladesh got two more wickets in the second session when Azhar Ali edged Shahadat to wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim for an 80-80-26 apart from the Hafeez dismissal.

The fourth wicket fell in the third and final session of the day when Misbah was trapped in front by Sunny off a full-toss for 20, but Asad remained alongside Younis to solidify Pakistan's already strong position.

After the second day's play, the main question remained: when will Pakistan declare their innings?



স্মেই প্রতিযোগিতা

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