

# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Warne caught in cooking mishap

Leg-spinning legend Shane Warne said Monday he had badly burnt the fingers of his bowling hand, putting him in doubt for his comeback in Australia's Big Bash League this weekend.

Warne, 42, put pictures of his blistered hand on Twitter on Monday and appealed for help from the public to hasten his recovery in time to play for the Melbourne Stars against Sydney Thunder on Saturday.

"Not ideal preparation for practice match today - burning the bowling hand. Get better quickly please, any suggestions -- HELP," Warne tweeted.

Later Monday, Warne told his Twitter followers that the condition of his burnt



## Akbar back for Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Three time Professional Football League champions Abahani have brought back their last season's coach Ali Akbar Pormuslimi to take charge of the club this season. The Iranian, who had left the club last season with a few matches of the league remaining, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon. The coach will be installed at the club for a six month period, it was learnt.

The Sky Blues, under the guidance of Akbar had a poor season last year and their success was limited to lifting the pre-season Federation Cup and Bordoloi Cup triumph in India. The champions of Bangladesh League in first three occasions, could only manage a fourth place finish last season as Akbar left the club amid growing strain between him and the club management.

Akbar will be looking to retain the curtain raiser Federation Cup which starts in the last week of this month.

## Incentives for premier athletes

SPORTS REPORTER

For the first time Bangladesh Athletics Federation has started an incentive allowance for inspiring premier athletes of the country. This year the federation chose five of the premier athletes who will receive the monthly allowance of amounts ranging from Tk 2000 to Tk 3000. The selected five athletes are Sumita Rani of Bangladesh Jail, Al Amin of Navy, and Ansar & VDP's Jesmin Akter, Shamsunnahar Chumki and Rawshanara Putul.

A program was organised at the BAF seminar hall yesterday where ASM Ali Kabir, the president of the federation handed over the cheques of the first instalment to the athletes.

## Pradeep's SA tour over

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's fast bowler Nuwan Pradeep has been ruled out of the ongoing tour of South Africa after tearing his right hamstring, Sri Lanka Cricket said on Monday.

Pradeep, 25, suffered the injury while bowling during the warm-up game against the South Africa Invitation XI in Benoni on Saturday.

"Physio Stephen Mount is of the view that Nuwan will be unable to play for another three to four weeks," the governing body said in a statement. "The team management has requested for a replacement player."

The selectors have yet to name his replacement. Meanwhile, former skipper and frontline batsman Kumar Sangakkara is expected to be fit for the first Test starting in Centurion on Thursday, the statement added.

The left-hander suffered a tear in his right hand while fielding in the same match. "Doctors feel the injury will heal, enabling him to play in the first Test," the cricket board said.

Sri Lanka are due to play three Tests and five one-day internationals during the tour which ends on January 22.



PICTURE SAYS IT ALL: Elias Sunny (L) looks dejected while the Pakistan bowlers enjoy their innings and 184 runs victory over Bangladesh at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## 'Nothing wrong in natural game'

Mushy blames structure instead

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

There was hardly anything left for a captain to say when his team lost the match by an innings and 184 runs. That might be the reason why Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim was found at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday to be bewildering while talking about yet another heavy defeat.

It made some sense when the wicketkeeper-batsman suggested that nothing would be changed until Bangladesh Cricket Board improves the infrastructure of first-class cricket. But many were surprised when he defended the batsmen's excessive shots in both the innings which was the real reason behind the huge loss.

"We must improve our first-class infrastructure and without that we will continue with this sort of performance in Test cricket. We must make it a habit of scoring hundred or double-hundred by playing in the first-class competition. We may show some impressive

performances in 1-2 matches but overall, the situation will be the same as it is today," said the Bangladesh skipper. "Another thing which we need to confirm is that all the national players should be made available in the first-class competition to ensure the level of competitiveness. We can improve our skills by only playing in the NCL."

When even the visiting batsmen played sensibly by checking their shots against a comparatively weaker bowling attack and especially on a placid track, the Bangladesh batsmen went for ambitious shots like playing sweep or pull which surprised many and showed that they didn't learn any lesson from the continuous mistakes. Mushfiqur however said that his batsmen learnt from the first innings mistakes to do better in the second essay.

"I think our batsmen tried to play their natural game and there was nothing wrong with that. Actually we have to show more patience, determination and right application to prolong the innings," defended Mushfiqur.

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## 35th innings defeat and counting

Pakistan take 1-0 lead

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

Bangladesh suffered yet another innings defeat, this time against Pakistan in the first Test yesterday at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, leaving many questions dangling about their sorry state of affairs in the game's highest format. The answers must come sooner than later to salvage some pride as an Elite Member.

To secure the massive innings and 184-run victory, Pakistan hardly faced any resistance from Bangladesh. It was truly a one-sided affair and a boring game of cricket. The visitors have completed the job within fifty minutes in the second session of the fourth day to take the expected 1-0 lead in the two-match series. It was Bangladesh's ninth worst defeat overall, fourth innings defeat against Pakistan in seven

encounters and their 35th innings defeat in 72 Tests: a dreadful record to own.

The performance in the first Test against Pakistan once again showed how badly the country's cricket is being run. The players must take responsibility for their poor application and lack of temperament in batting but one should dig deep to find the real reasons behind the continuous failure. The authority concerned with running the show should understand that international cricket is not a real platform for learning the crafts but for ready individuals.

It was just a shame for a Test-playing nation when the Akram-Khan led selection panel brought an out-of-form player like Mohammad Ashraful to the team. It showed their helplessness and the sordid picture of the game in the country as it is running without back-up players.

The 275 runs in the second innings might not look ugly especially after their first innings debacle where they were bundled

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PHOTO: STAR

## Time is really good: Misbah

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

The way Misbahul Haq's team have been performing under his guidance after the match-fixing controversy is just the start of his happiness. He has led the team to five wins, five drawn matches in eleven Tests after they inflicted an innings and 184-run defeat to Bangladesh in the first Test to take the 1-0 lead.

"It is always good to win matches as a team and as a captain. The time is really good for me and also for the team. I think the way we are performing, you can say what happened with Pakistan cricket, the boys have come out really strong and all of them wanted to do well," he said while talking at the post-match briefing yesterday. "The day controversies hit the team, I think the boys had it set in their mind that they will prove that they are a good cricket team and good players."

And the Pakistan skipper traced back to October last year when the impressive performances began to roll. "When you are performing as a team game by game and you are performing well, the confidence is building. This is really helping us as a team. The series against South Africa in October last year was a big test for us. We were really strong against them in the two Test matches and at that time South Africa was one of the best Test sides. After that the team got the confidence as every player performed in that series which kept on building in every match after that," observed Misbah.

"Everybody is friends in the dressing room, there are no

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## Al-Amin sinks Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Paceman Al-Amin Hossain struck out Rajshahi with a six-wicket haul in the second innings as Khulna sauntered to an eight-wicket win on the second day of the National Cricket League's second phase game at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

It was a match completely dominated by the bowlers and one that saw batsmen struggle on a good surface as none of them struck a half-century even.

At the Sylhet Divisional Stadium, the home side were solid in their first innings reply, thanks to a late-order revival.

### RAJSHAHI-KHULNA

Resuming the day on 98-5, Khulna lost skipper Tushar Imran early when he was cleaned up by Delwar Hossain for 35. Zubaydul Zico then held the innings together till they crossed Rajshahi's first innings total of 149 runs. He eventually fell for 44 though the Khulna innings hardly inspired, bowled out after a 30-run lead.

Al-Amin removed Junaed Siddiqui, Farhad Hossain and opener Mizanur Rahman after Dollar Mahmud took out Jahurul Islam in the third over of Rajshahi's second innings.

The lanky paceman cleaned up the lower order, finishing with figures of 6-23 from eleven overs.

### DHAKA METRO-SYLHET

Sylhet continued to impress in this year's first-class competition as they batted more than 100 overs again. After starting off on 53-3, they lost three quick wickets and it could have derailed their progress.

Golam Mabud and Ejaz Ahmed added 85 for the seventh wicket with both scoring contrasting half-centuries, though given Ejaz's aggressive intent in all formats, any batsman at the other end would look different. The big-hitter struck four boundaries and the customary three sixes as Khulna took a 134-run lead in the first innings.

Dhaka Metro replied with 47 for no loss, still 87 runs adrift.

### BRIEF SCORES

**RAJSHAHI:** First innings 149 and second innings 129 all out 41.1 overs (Hamidul 37; Al-Amin 6-23, Dollar 2-37, Murad 2-38).  
**KHULNA:** First innings 179 all out in 53.3 overs (Zubaydur 44, Tushar 35; Saqlain 4-33) and second innings 102-2 in 20.5 overs (Nazmus 34 not out; Farhad 1-19, Sanjamul 1-19).  
**Result:** Khulna won by eight wickets.  
**DHAKA METRO:** First innings 129 and second innings 47-0 in 12 overs (Arman 26 not out, Forkhan 16 not out).  
**SYLHET:** First innings 263 all out in 107.3 overs (Mabud 63, Ejaz 58; Sunny 3-73, Forkhan 2-45).  
**DHAKA METRO:** First innings 129 all out in 52.4 overs (Marshall 58, Furkan 22; Jayed 6-25, Enamul 2-36).  
**SYLHET:** First innings 53-3 in 31 overs (Rahman 23; Sharifullah 1-11, Sunny 1-12).

## Playing down under to benefit 'em

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan all-rounders Shahid Afridi and Abdul Razzaq expressed hope Monday that their Twenty20 stint in Australia would stand them in good stead to beat England next month.

Thirty-one-year-old Razzaq missed Pakistan's one-day series against Bangladesh due to a shoulder injury sustained against Sri Lanka last month, but said he is fit again and hopes to play a part against England.

"My injury was not serious and I am now fully fit," Razzaq told AFP before his departure. "I am very keen to play against England and do my part in the team's win over England."

Pakistan play England in three Tests, four one-day and three Twenty20 internationals in the United Arab Emirates in January.

Both Razzaq and Afridi will play for Melbourne Star in the Big Bash Twenty20 league in Australia starting from December 16.

Razzaq said England will be tough to beat.

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