

## V-Day b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Europa Youth, Gregarious and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishan won their respective matches of the Citycell Federation Cup Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Europa Youth thrashed Bangladesh Police 76-29 after leading the first half 36-29 as Mithun led the rout scoring 35 points. Shahin caged 18 points for Police.

In the second match, Gregarious recorded a hard-fought 48-43 point win over Boarder Guard Bangladesh after taking a slim lead of 23-21 in the first half.

In the third match of the day, BKSP overwhelmed Old DOHS by 86-33 points after enjoying a comfortable 53-19 lead in the first half.

## Interpol help to fight corruption

AFP, New Delhi

Interpol said Friday it was looking at a possible tie-up with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Indian board to help fight the growing menace of match-fixing and illegal betting.

The proposal was made by Interpol secretary general Ronald Noble during a two-day meeting in New Delhi with officials of India's Central Bureau of Investigation and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Speaking to reporters, Noble said Interpol already had an agreement with football's world governing body, FIFA, to promote integrity in the sport.

"We'd be happy if we can implement a similar agreement with the BCCI and the ICC," Noble said.

In May this year, FIFA agreed to provide \$20 million to Interpol over a 10-year period in an effort to tackle match-fixing and keep an eye on illegal betting syndicates spread all over the world.

Noble said Interpol could keep a check on cricket's "bad boys" from its research and development facility in Singapore where the FIFA anti-corruption unit is also based.

"Young players are easy targets for illegal gambling syndicates," said Noble, who has been heading the world's top organisation for police co-operation for 11 years.

"We can teach players all the ways by which they can be tripped into a betting ring. Basically, we want to prevent organised crime from getting into cricket."

Noble said he expected his proposal to get a final seal of approval when the ICC meets in Dubai on January 31.

"The ICC does a great job in fighting corruption through their anti-corruption unit. We want to draw on that experience," Noble added.

Cricket has most recently been rocked by a spot-fixing scandal that saw three Pakistan cricketers jailed in November, along with their agent.

## Just a phase

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about sticking to basics ahead of a game that would set them up for their next series against England in the United Arab Emirates.

"The target actually is very simple: go in, play good cricket and do your basics right."

"We just want to put everything right, specially our batting and also do well in the other departments."

"We want to improve our performances in all aspects of the game, that is what we are looking forward to," he said.

The routine press meet also saw the Pakistan management wishing Bangla-desh and the cricket team for Victory Day, although the greeting only came after Misbah was asked if he would take this opportunity to wish the hosts.



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa batsman AB de Villiers plays defensive stroke during the second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the SuperSport Park in Centurion on Friday.

## 92 retired for Sachin

Cricket

AFP, Canberra

Sachin Tendulkar sacrificed a century to give his Indian teammates crucial batting time ahead of the Test series with Australia in their drawn tour match in Canberra on Friday.

Tendulkar, poised on 99 international centuries across Test and one-day matches, retired on 92 in the tourists' 320 for six on the final day of their two-day match against the Chairman's XI at Manuka Oval.

The greatest Test run scorer hammered 15 boundaries off 132 balls as India got in precious batting time ahead of the opening Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The Indians' total was in reply to the Chairman's XI 398 for six declared compiled on Thursday.

VVS Laxman also retired on 57 off 76 balls while Rohit Sharma remained unbeaten on 56 off 80 balls before bad weather intervened.

Tendulkar's last century was 111 against South Africa at the World Cup in Nagpur last March, with his last Test century coming against South Africa with 146 in Cape Town last January.

Sharma is hoping Tendulkar can score his 100th century sometime in Australia on this tour.

"I think it would be a great place to do it, but the only thing I will say is me and my team-mates, all of us and all the Indians, we don't want him to wait for too long now,"

Sharma said.

"It's been a while, but I hope he gets the 100th century in the first game."

"It was good to see him bat like that. He was batting fluently and I hope he carries the same form in the Test series as well."

Tendulkar has scored six Test centuries in Australia and averages 58.54 in his 16 Tests Down Under.

The Chairman's XI had an early scalp when the wicket of India opener Ajinkya Rahane for three in the second over.

Gautam Gambhir (35) and captain Rahul Dravid (45) put on 71 for the second wicket before Gambhir fell in the 21st over.

Dravid was dismissed just before lunch, but Tendulkar and Laxman steadied the innings with a 133-run partnership and both retired just prior to tea.

Virat Kohli only lasted five balls before he was removed by Cameron Boyce for one shortly after tea.

Widdhiman Saha 23 not out and Sharma added 74 before rain ended play early.

India will have another practice game against the Chairman's XI, a three-day match starting in Canberra on Monday.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

CHAIRMAN'S XI: First innings 398 for 6 declared (Cooper 182 not out, Robinson 143; Yadav 3-39)

INDIA: First innings 320 for 6 (Gambhir 35, Dravid 45, Tendulkar retired out 92, Laxman 57, Sharma 56 not out, Saha 23 not out; Boyce 2-74)

Result: Match drawn.

Katich's manager Robert Joske told reporters the player would be "willing, ready and able" to assume a place in the top order if selectors recalled him for the Boxing Day Test against India.

"It's the fact that Michael is talking about Simon in the selection committee meetings. I'm very excited and I'm sure Simon would be excited when he hears about it," said Joske.

"The coach and the chairman of selectors both said the door was always open to Simon and probably now is a very good time for him to walk through it."

The potential upturn in Katich's fortunes coincides with a slump in form for opener Phillip Hughes, who scored 41 over four innings against New Zealand and appears likely to lose his place in the Test side.

Katich has previously said he traced his troubles to a 2009 dressing room confrontation with Clarke in which he reportedly grabbed the new skipper by the throat.

Clarke denied playing any part in Katich's axing.

## Katich to be recalled?

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Opener Simon Katich could be in line for a shock recall to Australia's Test team, reports said Friday, just weeks after being disciplined for outspoken comments about captain Michael Clarke.

The 36-year-old was reprimanded by a Cricket Australia hearing this month after he accused Clarke of playing a part in his axing from the Australian team, despite averaging 45 runs in his 56 Tests.

Katich was controversially dropped from Cricket Australia's contract list in June and he said at the time he doubted he would play for his country again as long as Clarke was skipper.

But Channel Nine, which televises cricket in Australia, said Clarke was now behind a push to reinstate Katich as the team looks to address their batting woes after a humiliating defeat to New Zealand earlier this week.

## Muktis win comfortably

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box after being set up by veteran right-back Firoz Mahmud Titu.

Three minutes later, Sheikh Russel came close to equalising the margin but Uttam Barua failed to beat Muktijodda goalkeeper Mustaqur Rahman from one-on-one situation before the freedom fighters' side doubled the lead with veteran striker Rokonuzzaman Khancharan heading a Rajon Mia cross home in the 41st minute.

After the breather, Sheikh Russel showed signs of return and pulled a goal back 10 minutes in the 55th minute through substi-

tute Emarko Arnets but they failed to keep up the momentum for rest of the time.

Coach Manik brought a good number of changes in the second half to test Emily, Shakil, Arif, Reza, Maruf Ahmed and Nigerian Sunday Chizoba and the last two players added two more goals to help Muktijodda to a comfortable victory in the pre-season friendly.

Maruf made the margin 3-1 in the 61st minute while former Mohannedan striker Sunday sealed the victory scoring four minutes from time.

## SA build big lead

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

A half-century by AB de Villiers took South Africa into what could prove to be a valuable lead on the second day of the first Test at SuperSport Park on Friday.

South Africa were 257 for five at tea, a lead of 77 after Sri Lanka were bowled out for 180 in the first innings.

On a day when batsmen continued to struggle on a difficult pitch, De Villiers made 56 not out. He shared an unbroken sixth wicket partnership of 84 with Ashwell Prince (38 not out).

Star South African batsman Jacques Kallis was the most notable victim of a pitch with uneven bounce.

Shortly before lunch he ducked into a bouncer from Dilhara Fernando, which barely rose above stump height, and took a heavy blow on the left earpiece of his batting helmet.

He collapsed next to the pitch but after receiving

treatment for seven minutes he carried on batting.

He was on 25 when he was hit, on 27 when he was dropped by wicketkeeper Kaushal Silva off Fernando and was out for 31 shortly after lunch, caught at third slip off Chanaka Welegedera.

Silva also dropped Prince, on 26, when the batsman got a thick edge to an attempted cut off left-arm spinner Rangana Herath.

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### LATEST

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Kallis soon afterwards. Kallis looked South Africa's most accomplished batsman before his injury.

Rudolph, batting with a splint on his left little finger after suffering a dislocation while fielding on Thursday, battled for 229 minutes and 140 balls for his 44.

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