

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 27, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Abahani's stern test in opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani take on Brothers Union in one of three Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League opening day matches on December 29.

The defending champions won't expect a stroll at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium as the newly promoted side have packed a real punch during the players' transfers.

The other promoted side, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club which also roped in big names take on Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Gazi Tank will face Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club at the BKSP in Savar in the other opening day game.

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis have so far given the schedule till January 6 for the 12-team Premier League.

Div I Cricket Super League starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The First Division Cricket Super League will start today with Bangladesh Boys taking on Azad Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Kalabagan Cricket Academy face Baridhara Dazzlers at the BKSP-3 in the day's other match. The other teams who qualified to the Super League include Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity, Uttara Sporting Club, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Partex Sporting Club.

Meanwhile, City Club, Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank and Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club will fight it out in the First Division Relegation League which begins on December 29 with two teams craving survival.

V-Day tennis from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Runner Group Victory Day Open Tennis Tournament gets underway at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna today with 233 competitors from across the country taking part.

A total of 11 events will be held with 70 players taking part in the men's singles while 22 players will be taking part in women's singles.

Apart from men's and women's singles, the events

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PHOTO: AFP

Australia debutant Ed Cowan pulls the ball during his 68 on the first day of the first Test against India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

DRS the talking point Honours even on opening day

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

India's rejection of the Decision Review System (DRS) in their Australian series provoked its first controversy Monday as the home side lost late wickets on the opening day of the first Test.

The Australians stumbled from 205 for three with three wickets tumbling in 18 balls to finish the day at 277 for six with Brad Haddin on 21 and Peter Siddle not out 34.

But the first day of the four-Test series before a 70,068 Boxing Day crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was marred by the contentious dismissal of senior batsman Michael Hussey.

Hussey fell for his third Test golden duck in eight innings and was disgusted to be given out after replays appeared to show the delivery from Zaheer Khan had brushed his sleeve and not his bat.

Hussey was prevented from referring the umpire's verdict to the video umpire as the Indian cricket board has refused to use the DRS in the series over concerns about the accuracy of electronic aids.

It could prove a career-ending dismissal for Hussey, whose future in the Australian team is increasingly under threat amid a run of low scores.

"I feel for any batsman who gets out, it's a bit of a gut-wrenching experience, whether it's your first ball or you're 150," said Ed Cowan, who anchored the Australian innings with a stoic 68 on his debut.

"Of course, I was disappointed for him [Hussey]. It was a massive moment in the

game, it was a huge momentum [switch]. "We just had a 100-run partnership, wrestled back momentum and then almost a 50-run partnership and we felt we were half an hour away from nailing them, really grinding them into the dust."

Cowan said it was not an issue of the DRS but the vagaries of umpiring decisions.

"Today momentum went against us because of it. Two of your top six [batsmen], but that's the game and we'll take the good



Umesh Yadav (L) celebrates the wicket of Ricky Ponting.

PHOTO: AFP

with the bad," he said.

Indian paceman Umesh Yadav, who took three wickets, refused to be drawn into the controversy. "It's part of the game and I'd rather not comment on it," Yadav said. "Whether it's bad or good decisions, it's part of the game."

Australia were in a strong position before paceman Zaheer Khan, playing in his first Test match since July, removed Clarke and Hussey with consecutive deliveries.

Cowan went three overs later ending a 294-minute vigil when he feathered a catch

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Only the best for Asia Cup

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Little room in the ICC's Future Tours Programme has reshaped the Asia Cup into a tournament for the elites.

The regional cricket tournament which will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in the capital early next year, has been squeezed into the packed international schedules of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. This has limited the number of teams, spurning the participation of Associate nations.

The last time the smaller cricketing nations played in the competition was in 2008 when the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong qualified through the ACC Trophy. Since 2010, the tournament has been made exclusive to the Test playing nations and in one venue too.

But Asian Cricket Council CEO Syed Ashraf Huq was confident that their arrangement will stay in shape in the near future, though by spreading their net wider.

"We are grateful to the Test playing nations for making time in their packed schedules for the Asia Cup," he said during the launch ceremony of Asia Cup's eleventh edition which was also attended by BCB and ACC president AHM Mustafa Kamal, BCB media com-

'Weaker teams get bad calls'

SPORTS REPORTER

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal lamented some of the umpiring decisions during the recently concluded Bangladesh-Pakistan series.

"I was listening to the commentators during the recently concluded series against Pakistan. Everyone was talking about us getting bad decisions. If those went our way, the cricket would have been more competitive. But we couldn't do it," he said during the Asia Cup launch programme at a local hotel yesterday.

"To err is human. I cannot talk against umpires being an ICC director, but I have seen that there are more wrong decisions against relatively weaker nations," added Kamal, the ICC vice-president candidate.

During the fourth day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Tigers opener Tamim Iqbal got a shocking decision when he was given caught behind even though the ball actually smacked into his helmet and lobbed to the slip fielder.

There was a loud clamour for the Decision Review System (DRS) at the time

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Adriano shoots a woman

Brazilian international striker Adriano has accidentally shot a woman in the hand with a gun belonging to his bodyguard, according to reports here on Saturday.

The player, 29 and now plying his trade with national champions Corinthians, left a party in the Barra da Tijuca district to the west of Rio de Janeiro with three young women and his bodyguard. He was reportedly fooling around with the gun when he accidentally fired a shot that hit one of the women, aged 20, police lieutenant Tomas da Silva told CBN radio.



PHOTO: STAR

BCB and ACC chief AHM Mustafa Kamal speaks during the Asia Cup launch ceremony at a local hotel yesterday. He is flanked by ACC CEO Syed Ashraf Huq (R) and BCB media committee chief Jalal Yunus.

mittee chairman Jalal Yunus and BCB CEO Manzur Ahmed at a local hotel yesterday.

"The cause of development and Asia is big in their hearts. Next year the ACC is holding an Under-19 Asia Cup in Malaysia and a women's Asia Twenty 20 Cup in China, with the Test playing

ITINERARY

March 12: Bangladesh v Pakistan
March 13: India v Sri Lanka
March 15: Pakistan v Sri Lanka
March 16: India v Bangladesh
March 18: India v Pakistan
March 20: Sri Lanka v Bangladesh
March 22: Final

nations being involved which gives our top developing teams a chance to play against the best," said Ashraf.

It is only through these tournaments that the ACC can stay in the game, so to say, but the increasing pressure from bilateral series has given the tournament organisers a lot of headaches. There were strong reports that the Asia Cup could be shelved this year due to a proposed India-Pakistan series but since that threat has passed, the tournament has been compressed into an 11-day meet.

Bangladesh will be holding the tournament for the third time, the other two times being in 1988 and 2000.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Thilan carries SL

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Thilan Samaraweera and new cap Dinesh Chandimal shared a century partnership as Sri Lanka made a strong recovery on the first day of the second Test match at Kingsmead on Monday.

Sri Lanka finished the day on 289 for seven, with Samaraweera (86 not out) and Chandimal (58) adding 111 for the sixth wicket after Marchant de Lange, South

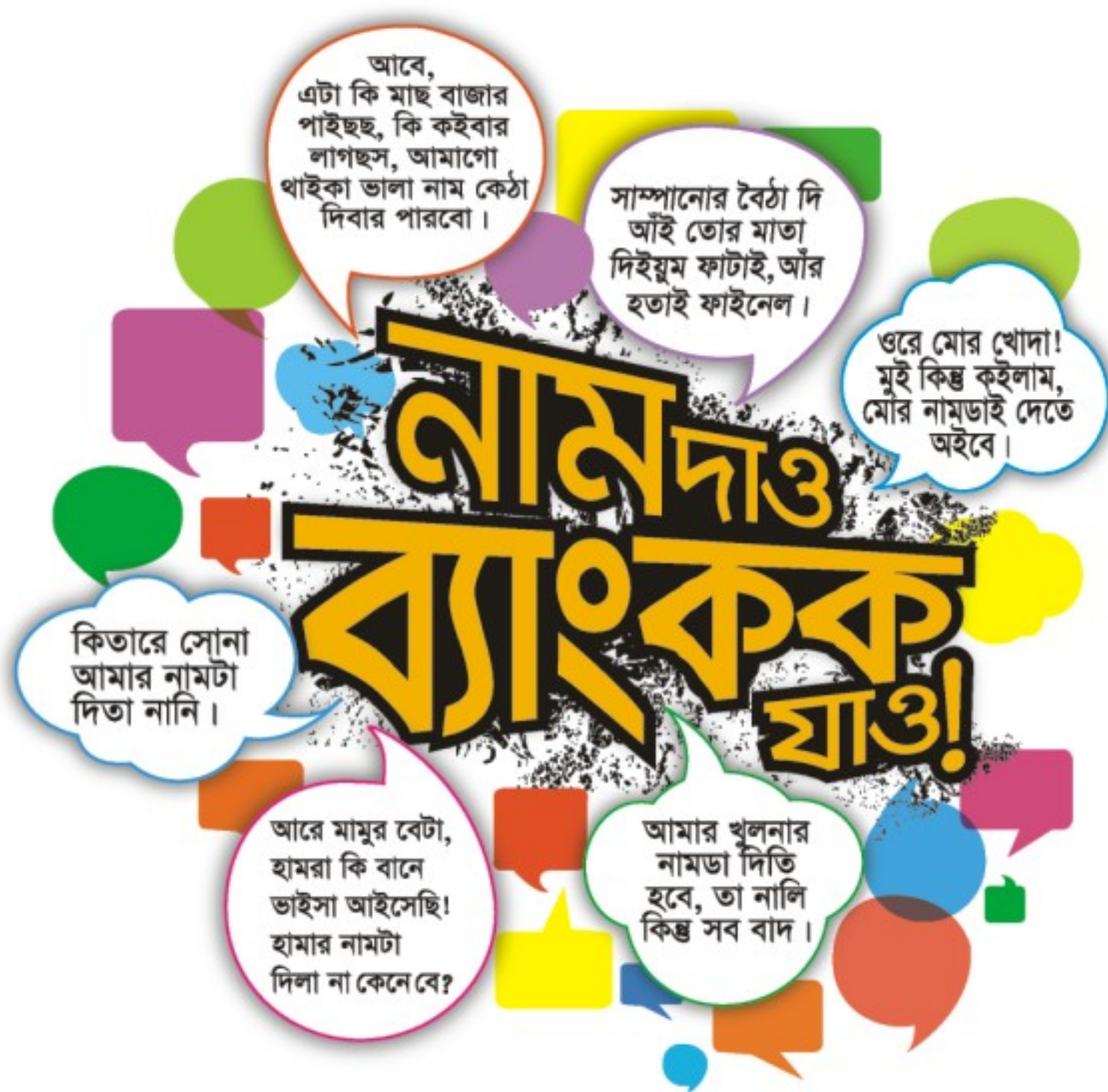
Africa's new fast bowler, had ripped out three of Sri Lanka's leading batsmen.

De Lange took another wicket in the last over of the day when he had Thisara Perera caught at short leg to finish with four for 60 in his first day in Test cricket.

De Lange, 21, who received a late call-up after Vernon Philander was ruled out by a knee injury, had Sri Lanka in trouble at 162 for five on a good batting pitch after dismissing Tharanga Paranavitana, Kumar Sangakkara and Angelo Mathews.

But De Lange's efforts on a hot, humid

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



বাংলাদেশে প্রথমবারের মতো শুরু হতে যাচ্ছে বিপিএল টি-টুয়েন্টি ক্রিকেট টুর্নামেন্ট বাংলাদেশ প্রিমিয়ার লিগ (বিপিএল)। অংশগ্রহণকারী ঢাকা (DHK), চট্টগ্রাম (CTG), রাজশাহী (RAJ) খুলনা (KHL), সিলেট (SYL), বরিশাল (BRS) বিভাগীয় দলের যত খুশী নাম দিয়ে জিতে নাও

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