

# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## India's fifth to 8,000 Test runs

Dashing opener Virender Sehwag became the fifth Indian batsman to complete 8,000 runs in Test cricket when he reached an individual score of 20 against Australia in the first Test at the MCG on Tuesday. Before Sehwag, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman are the Indian players who have reached the coveted milestone. He is the 23rd batsman in history of Test cricket to complete 8,000 Test runs. Sehwag completed the feat in his 93rd Test match and by guiding Peter Siddle to deep fine leg. Prior to the Melbourne Test, Sehwag has hit 22 centuries at an average of over 52. —PTI



## BPL icons chosen

SPORTS REPORTER

The six icon players for the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) Twenty20 tournament have been selected by the BPL committee yesterday.

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim is the icon player of Rajshahi while his predecessor Shakib Al Hasan, the number one all-rounder in ODI and Test rankings, was selected for Khulna.

Former skipper Mohammad Ashraful got the nod for Dhaka ahead of national vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad, dashing opener Tamim Iqbal was named the icon player for Chittagong, Shahriar Nafees for Barisal and Alok Kapali for Sylhet.

"The selected icon players will be paid five percent more than the amount they will be bought for in the auction," informed Jalal Yunus yesterday.

The six icon players will be available for six franchises for the competition which will kick off from February 10.

## FED CUP FOOTBALL

## Wari last into finals

SPORTS REPORTER

The 16-team lineup of the Grameenphone Federation Cup was completed yesterday when Wari Club routed Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) 3-0 in the play-off match of the Qualification round at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Wari join Cox's City, Agrani Bank, Victoria SC and Bangladesh Police from the qualifying round to take on the 11 Bangladesh Premier League sides in the tournament proper.

The final round is expected to get underway from January 2 as 16 teams, split into four groups, will take part in round-robin matches before the quarterfinals, semifinals and final.

Back to the lone play-off match yesterday, the Bangladesh Championship League side Wari Club hardly faced any obstacle overcoming a weak BKSP. Wari carried on the momentum from their 3-0 drubbing of Beanibazar SC by replication the same

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India superstar Sachin Tendulkar punches the ball off the back foot during his aggressive 73 on the second day of the first Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Another Sachin miss

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Sachin Tendulkar was sensationally bowled with three balls left on the second day of the first Test against Australia on Tuesday to be denied a crack at his 100th international century.

Test cricket's greatest run-getter looked poised to go to stumps and make yet another attempt to reach the landmark on Wednesday before he was bowled by Peter Siddle for 73 in the day's final over.

India reached the close in a commanding position at 214 for three, trailing Australia's first innings 333 by 119 runs.

Rahul Dravid, second only to Tendulkar for most Test runs, was unbeaten on 68 after getting a reprieve on 65 when he was bowled by a Siddle no-ball.

Tendulkar, who has been on 99 Test and ODI centuries since scoring 111 against

South Africa in the World Cup in March, looked in great touch but lost his stumps in an inspired final over from the stout-hearted Siddle.

He faced just 98 balls and hit eight fours and a six in a 117-run stand with Dravid for the third wicket.

"Peter showed a bit of character coming back after what happened to get Tendulkar late in the day, he looked pretty good today so it was a big effort to get him," Australian vice-captain Brad Haddin said.

"It was a big blow for us to get him."

The "Little Master" played some signature cover drives and an audacious upper cut over the slips for six off Siddle's first ball after tea.

Australia thought they had finally got rid of Dravid on 65 when he was bowled by Siddle late in the day, only for him to get a reprieve for a no-ball.

Spinner Ravi Ashwin said India would have to start again on Wednesday after the

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## Stage set for Dhaka drama

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The players will tell you that the pressure created by club officials is at one of the highest points in the barometer.

The umpires will tell the difference between the officials who hold a grudge and the one who resorts to physical violence after a leg-before decision.

The club officials will tell you that they are the meat in the sandwich, having to deal with donors' sky-high expectations and the anxiety of dealing with players.

These three are the protagonists in the combative world of the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League which will be the focus of the cricket fraternity from tomorrow when it begins.

The 2011-12 season has already stirred the debate on its importance to Bangladesh cricket but the money invested on players has simply multi-

plied from last season. From the four-team dominance over the decades, this season has at least nine clubs that have spent more than Tk 2 crore to build their desired line-up.

All this money-spinning has the potential to make the top players seem like mercenaries but for a couple of experienced campaigners, it is more about passion than the big bucks.

Mohammad Ashraful and Shahriar Nafees, who will play for Old DOHS and Prime Doleshwar, have seen the highs and lows of the league; from the pressures of dealing with big club supporters to the high-budgeted small clubs who aspire to be the best.

"People talk about the first-class competition needing improvement. I agree with that but at the same time, the real pressure is felt in the Premier League. Every year the competition gets tougher. Making runs, winning games and the expectations of the club officials just make it a challenging environment," said Ashraful.

Nafees' main source of enjoyment in the Premier League is when he performs, since the league is followed by everyone concerned, and quite closely.

"I have been watching the Premier League since I was a kid. I really enjoy playing this competition and now it is more enjoyable because everyone stays in the radar," he said.

As the main batsman in his team, the left-hander will have to cater to a lot of expectations of a club that wants to make it to the Super League. Nafees believes that with a young team, this is a plausible target. "It is a young team but our primary goal would be to play in the Super League. I think the league this year will be quite competitive since three foreign players will play in a game," he added.

Ashraful lamented that the surplus of international matches on television has robbed the Premier League of fans, though he believes the best school to

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## Victory Day tennis on

SPORTS REPORTER

The Runner Group Victory Day Open Tennis Competition began at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Commerce Minister Ghulam Muhammad Quader formally inaugurated the six-day meet as chief guest.

On the opening day's men's singles final round matches, Amol Roy, Mamun Bepari, Sarwar Anik, Selim, Niranjan Ram, Bashir Gazi, Zahidul Hasan, Mojammel Hossain, Akhter Hossain, Ranjit Passi, Kanchan Ram, Rustam Ali, U Sue Sue, Omar Faruk Sony, Dipu Lal, Mohiuddin Sabuj, Sheikh Sajib, Anwar Hossain, Hanif Munna, Shafiqul Islam Tinku, Mohammad Arif Hasan won their respective matches to move to the second round.

## Plan hands over 1,000 footballs

SPORTS REPORTER

Plan Bangladesh, a non-government organisation working on betterment of the plight of children, yesterday handed over one thousand footballs to the BFF authorities ahead of the National Football Islamic Bank Tournament which begins on Thursday.

As one of co-sponsors of the nationwide school football tournament, Plan Bangladesh had promised to provide 10,000 China-made footballs and the first shipment of one thousand of those footballs reached on Monday as the National Board of Revenue exempted all taxes on the shipment.

"We were in doubt whether the balls will reach before the tournament. However, it is pleasing for us that 1000 balls have already arrived and another 5,000 balls are expected to arrive by the next five days. The remaining four thousand are expected to reach here by January 5," said Plan Bangladesh's acting country director TIM Zahid Hossain at a press briefing at the BFF House yesterday.

"As we work on children, we accepted the proposal when we were offered and we believe a new group of leadership will be created through this tournament," said Hossain.

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## Aussie press slam India

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

The Indian cricket board's move to scuttle the Decision Review System (DRS) cast a controversial pall over the Boxing Day Test against Australia, newspapers said on Tuesday.

Australia appeared well placed at 205 for three against India but lost two wickets in as many balls and a third three overs later with replays showing that debutant opener Ed Cowan and senior batsman Mike Hussey were not out.

The Australian press coverage of Monday's opening day's play was dominated by reaction to the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) decision not to use the review system in the four-Test Australia series.

The Daily Telegraph said Cowan was robbed when given out caught behind for 68, while "India's stone-age attitude to technology may have also cost Hussey his career."

The Sydney Morning Herald said India's

"stubborn rejection" of state-of-the-art decision review technology took just hours to cause a storm in Australia with the controversial Cowan and Hussey dismissals in Melbourne.

"There was trepidation before this Test series about the potential for umpires to be embarrassed by [Channel] Nine's use of their ball-tracking and Hot Spot devices in its coverage after India once again refused a DRS despite the pleas of Cricket Australia," the Herald said.

"Those predictions proved spot on, unlike the disputed pair of decisions from umpires Marais Erasmus and Ian Gould."

The Australian said the BCCI would not agree to the use of the review system in Australia and forced the International Cricket Council (ICC) to back down from its expressed desire to have it used in all series.

"The review system was introduced to eliminate howlers, but players have subtly changed its purpose by demanding it measure the sub-atomic," it said.

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Wari Club forward Shahinoor Islam tries to evade a sliding tackle by a BKSP defender during their Grameenphone Federation Cup qualifying round match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

আবে, এটা কি মাছ বাজার পাইছছ, কি কইবার লাগছল, আমাঙ্গো আইকা ভালা নাম কেটা দিবাব পারবো।

সাম্পানোর বৈঠা দি আই তোর মাতা নিইয়ুম ফটাই, আর হুডাই ফাইনেল।

ওরে মোর খোদা! মুই কিস্ত কইলাম, মোর নামভাই দেতে আইবে।

# নামদাও ব্যাংকক যাও!

কিতারে সোনা আমার নামটা দিতা নানি।

আমার মামুর বৈঠা, হামরা কি বানে ভাইসা আইনেছি! হামার নামটা দিলা না কেনেবে?

আমার খুলনার নামভা দিতি হবে, তা নালি কিস্ত সব বাদ।

বাংলাদেশে প্রথম বারের 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 ঢাকা-ব্যাংকক-ঢাকা দুই রাত তিন দিন ভ্রমণের সুযোগ!

### তোমার নামটি\* কবে পাঠাবে?

BPL লিখে একটি পেমস দিয়ে বিভাগের নামের তিন অক্ষর লিখে আরেকটি পেমস দিয়ে দলের নাম লিখে যে কোন মোবাইল থেকে পাঠিয়ে দাও ৭১৭১ নাম্বারে:

Message 1 → BPL DHK Dhaka.....rs 2 → 7171 3

\*একটি SMS-এ একটি দলের নাম পাঠাতে হবে

\* নাম পাঠাবার সুযোগ শুধুমাত্র ২ জানুয়ারী ২০১২ পর্যন্ত  
\* ছুরি বোর্ডে নামজলো বাছাই করা হবে \* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

ইভেন্ট অর্থারিট ম্যানজমেন্ট পার্টনার ব্রডকাস্ট পার্টনার

Bangladesh Cricket Board GAME ON Sports Management CHANNEL 9