

# Kumar puts SL on top

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Kumar Sangakkara hit a superbly-crafted century to put Sri Lanka in a strong position to press for their first Test win of the year on the third day of the second Test match against South Africa at Kingsmead on Wednesday.

Sangakkara's 108 enabled Sri Lanka to reach 256 for seven in their second innings - an overall lead of 426, eight runs more than the highest successful run chase in Test history.

The left-handed former captain shared stands of 94 with Thilan Samaraweera and 104 with rookie wicketkeeper Dinesh Chandimal as Sri Lanka went in search of their first win in four Test tours of South Africa.

Sangakkara, whose first three innings in the series were 1, 2 and 0, had not added to his overnight score of three when he edged the fourth ball of the morning, from Morne Morkel, towards Graeme Smith at first slip. Wicketkeeper Mark Boucher dived for the ball, obscuring Smith's vision, and the South African captain put down the chance.

Sangakkara made the home side pay as he constructed a classy innings in overcast and gloomy conditions. Overnight and morning rain delayed the start by an hour and the floodlights were on during most of the day.

Sangakkara reached his fifty off 102 balls with four fours and then took command, scoring his second

fifty off only 59 deliveries, adding nine more boundaries. It was his 28th Test century.

First innings century-maker Samaraweera shared a crucial fourth wicket stand with Sangakkara after the first three wickets had fallen for 44 runs to give South Africa hope of bowling themselves back into contention despite trailing by 170 runs on the first innings.

Samaraweera made 43 before being deceived by a googly from Imran Tahir which he edged into his stumps.

Sri Lanka pressed home their advantage as Sangakkara and new cap Chandimal scored at almost a run a minute. Chandimal followed up his first innings 58 with 54.

With the light fading, Chandimal was caught behind off Dale Steyn.

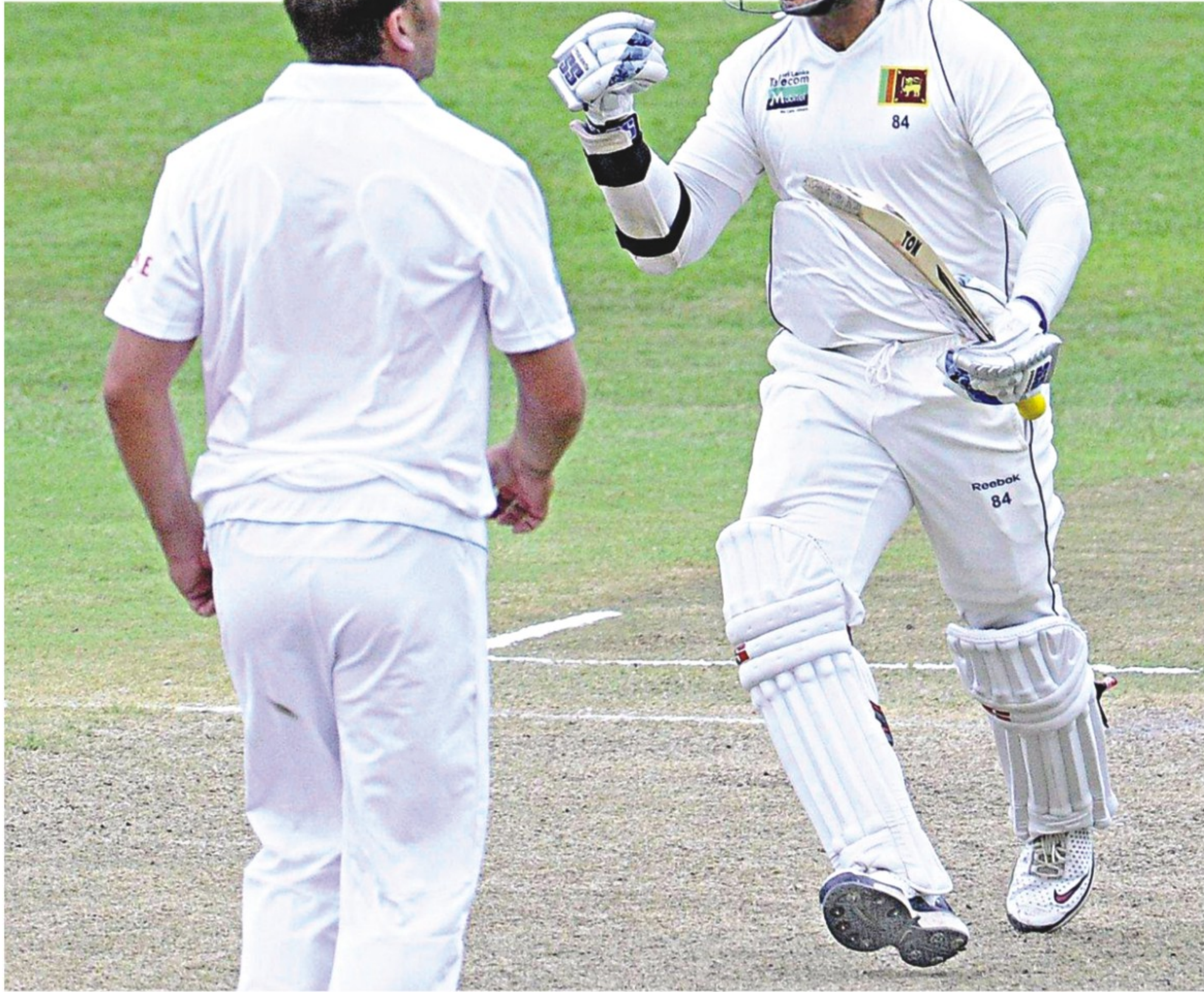
Sangakkara followed in the next over when he hit Tahir to long-on. Bad light stopped play soon afterwards.

Fast bowling debutant Marchant de Lange, who took seven for 81 in the first innings, claimed the key wicket of Mahela Jayawardene as Sri Lanka struggled early in the day.

Jayawardene had scored 14 when he padded up to De Lange and was given out leg before wicket by umpire Steve Davis. Jayawardene sought a television review but the umpire's decision was upheld when replays showed the ball would have hit his off ball.

But De Lange failed to make an impact in later spells as Sangakkara swung the match ever more in his team's favour on a pitch which remained a good batting surface.

SCOREBOARD				
<b>SRI LANKA:</b> First innings 338				
<b>SOUTH AFRICA:</b> First innings 168				
<b>SRI LANKA:</b> Second innings (overnight 7-1)				
Paranavitana c Prince b Morkel	9			
Dilshan c Smith b Steyn	4			
Sangakkara c Smith b Tahir	108			
Jayawardene lbw b De Lange	14			
Samaraweera b Imran Tahir	43			
Mathews c Boucher b Steyn	3			
Chandimal c Boucher b Steyn	54			
Perera not out	6			
Herath not out	5			
Extras: (b-5, lb-2, nb-2, w-1)	10			
Total: (For 7 wks in 70.3 overs)	256			
To bat: Welegedara, Fernando				
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-20, 3-44, 4-138, 5-141, 6-245, 7-245				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Morkel	15	4	43	1
Steyn	16	3	54	3
DeLange	12.3	1	45	1



Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara is overjoyed after reaching his century during the third day of the second Test against South Africa at the Sahara Stadium in Durban yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Ajax-AZ tie behind closed doors

AFP, The Hague

A Dutch Cup tie between Ajax and AZ Alkmaar, abandoned last Wednesday after a fan ran on to the pitch and tried to assault AZ goalkeeper Esteban Alvarado, will be replayed behind closed doors on January 19, the Dutch football federation (KNVB) said on Wednesday.

The December 22 incident led to the Costa Rican 'keeper being red-carded for twice kicking out at the fan, who was then escorted off the pitch by police.

AZ coach Gertjan Verbeek led his players off the pitch following the incident complaining about the lack of security at Ajax's Amsterdam Arena.

The last 16 tie, which Ajax had been winning 1-0, was subsequently abandoned just before half-time.

## Bale keeps 'em in hunt

AFP, London



Gareth Bale scored both goals in Tottenham's 2-0 win at Norwich on Tuesday which tightened their hold on third place in the Premier League and kept them in touch with pacesetter Manchester City and Manchester United.

Victory saw Harry Redknapp's men go four points clear of fourth-placed capital foes Chelsea and five in front of north London rivals Arsenal, who could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to Wolves earlier on Tuesday.

This win also saw Tottenham close to within seven points of the top two of City and United, and with a game in hand as well.

Bale broke the deadlock at Carrow Road in the 55th minute, although his opener owed much to

Emmanuel Adebayor.

The Togo striker controlled a pass with his back to goal and shielded the ball from several defenders before teeing up Bale who smashed a shot past Canaries goalkeeper John Ruddy.

Twelve minutes later Wales winger Bale doubled Spurs' lead with a goal

RESULTS	
Arsenal 1 (Gervinho 8)	Wolves 1 (Fletcher 38)
Norwich 0	Tottenham 2 (Bale 55, 67)
Swansea 1 (Graham 14)	QPR 1 (Mackie 58)

that was all his own work.

He received the ball in the centre circle and then accelerated away through the heart of Norwich's defence with a brilliant turn of speed.

As Zak Whitbread tried forlornly to get across, Bale bore down on goal and then deftly chipped the advancing Ruddy to make it 2-0.

Arsenal had to be content with a point despite Wolves being down to 10 men for the final 15 minutes at the Emirates Stadium.

Gervinho gave Arsenal an eighth-minute lead when, following a superb through ball from Israeli playmaker Yossi Benayoun, the forward rounded Wolves keeper Wayne Hennessey.

But Wolves were level shortly before half-time when a corner came out to Stephen Hunt, whose shot took a deflection before Steven Fletcher reacted quickly to head in an equaliser.

Elsewhere, promoted clubs Swansea and QPR shared the points in a 1-1 draw.

Welsh side Swansea took a 14th-minute lead through striker Danny Graham but QPR levelled at the Liberty Stadium shortly before the hour mark.



Tottenham Hotspur winger Gareth Bale (C) scores his second goal past Norwich City goalkeeper John Ruddy during their Premier League encounter at Carrow Road on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Door open for Diego

Football

AFP, Paris

Argentina's general manager, Carlos Bilardo, insisted on Tuesday that the door remains open for a possible return of former national team coach Diego Maradona.

Maradona led Argentina to the quarterfinals at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, where they were thrashed 4-0 by Germany, and his contract was subsequently not renewed by the Argentine Football Association (AFA).

Bilardo has admitted that he has not spoken to the former football legend since then, but did not rule out a possible reconciliation.

"We don't talk any more. Since 1983, with Diego, we've argued at least 40 times," Bilardo told France Football magazine.

"For the past year and a half, (the relationship) is over. But you can never say never,

never again," he added, in reference to Maradona's chances of returning to the national set-up.

Regarding their falling out after the World Cup, Bilardo said: "He should have stayed. But he wanted to keep all his technical staff and we didn't agree with this. He said: 'It's all or nothing.' We told him: 'All? No!' And he left."

Bilardo led an Argentina side spearheaded by Maradona to glory at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, but relations between the pair have since soured.

After his contract as national coach was not renewed, Maradona claimed that he had been "lied" to by AFA president Julio Grondona and "betrayed" by Bilardo.

Maradona was succeeded by Sergio Batista, who was in turn replaced by Alejandro Sabella following Argentina's quarter-final exit as hosts at this year's Copa America.

### SPORTS POLL

#### WEEKLY QUESTION

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### What to WATCH

- STAR Cricket**  
Australia v India  
First Test, Day 5  
Live from 5:30am (Friday)
- TEN Cricket**  
South Africa v Sri Lanka  
Second Test, Day 4  
Live from 2:00pm
- ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News

### DAY'S EVENT

- Premier Div Cricket League**  
Abahani v Brothers Union  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur  
Mohammedan v Sk Jamal  
Dhanmondi Club  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Gazi Tank v Prime Dolshwar

## Belief is back

REUTERS, Rome



Eight years since Juventus last won the scudetto and midfielder Claudio Marchisio believes the winning mentality is back at the club under coach Antonio Conte.

Marchisio's six league goals have helped the Bianconeri to a 16-match unbeaten start to the season and they head into the new year joint top of Serie A with champions AC Milan.

"Conte has brought a new mentality to the club," Marchisio told Reuters in an interview. "One of his merits has been to eliminate the fear which had unfortunately taken hold at the club after years of disappointing results."

With 27 scudettos, nine more than AC Milan and Inter Milan, Juventus are Italy's most successful club domestically, but they have struggled since the 2006 calciopoli

scandal when they were stripped of the 2005 and 2006 scudettos and demoted to Serie B.

"Conte is called the hammer by some of the players, and there's probably no better description," said the 25-year-old.

"The boss knows what winning means and he brings that winning mindset to the club every day based on his own hard-working committed character."

The Turin giants, who missed out on European football last season after finishing outside the top six, have also benefited this term from the new close-to-the-action Juventus Arena, Italy's first stadium to be owned by a club.

"I couldn't guess how many extra points the ground will be worth for us this season," Marchisio said. "But what I can definitely say is the feeling you get when you hear the fans constantly encourage. Seeing their faces close up gives you renewed energy and helps you go the extra mile."

## Prisoners get diplomas

AFP, Buenos Aires

Twenty Argentinian prisoners on Tuesday received football referee diplomas under a scheme aimed at easing their rehabilitation on their release.

The Deportes por Penales programme (Sport for Prison) at La Plata was the brainchild of former international referee Luis Olivetto.

"We have always thought sport can help their reintegration into society. This can help them find work when they are free," said provincial politician Alejandro Rodriguez who handed out the diplomas.

আবে, এটা কি মাছ বাজার পাইছছ, কি কইবার লাশছল, আমাণো খাইকা জালা নাম কেটা দিবাব পারবো।

সাম্পানোর বৈঠা দি অই তোর মাতা দিইয়ুম ফাটাই, আঁর হজাই ফাইনেল।

ওরে মোর খোদা! মুই কিছ কইলাম, মোর নামডাই দেতে অইবে।

কিতারে সোনা আমার নামটা দিতা নানি।

আরে মামুর বেটা, হামরা কি বানে ভাইসা আইদেছি! হামার নামটা দিলা না কেদেবে?

আমার খুলনার নামডা দিতি হবে, তা নালি কিছ সব বাদ।

# নামদাও ব্যাংকক যাও!

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

Message → BPL DHK Dhaka.....rs → 7171

\*একটি SMS-এ একটি দলের নাম পাঠাতে হবে

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

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