

# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Neymar scores a century

Neymar, touted as Brazil's most promising star and the player who will likely be in charge of leading Brazil at the 2014 World Cup at home, scored for the 100th time with a header in the 66th minute for Santos against Palmeiras in the Sao Paulo state championship on Sunday. He easily found the net from the six-meter (yard) line after a free kick cross from play maker Paulo Henrique Ganso. However, Palmeiras rallied with two late goals to spoil Neymar's 20th birthday celebrations and 100th career goal.

--AP



## Victoria slip from top

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Rifatullah's unbeaten 103 ensured Kalabagan Krira Chakra a fighting 3-wicket win over Victoria Sporting Club in a Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

The win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, and Bangladesh Biman's five-wicket loss at the hands of Prime Doleshwar, gave Kalabagan a reprieve in their battle to survive in the league.

The equation at the bottom of the table has Biman in the danger zone as they have finished their first round matches with two wins from ten games while Kalabagan still have a game in hand (against Brothers Union at the BKSP on Wednesday).

### VICTORIA-KALABAGAN

Having decided to chase, Kalabagan put Victoria on a tight leash from the beginning with only Kamran Younus and Asif Zakir threatening big scores. Only Kamran made a half-century, also adding 64 for the third wicket with Asif and another 52 with Sabbir Rahman for the fifth wicket.

Victoria suffered three run-outs, all by Nasiruddin Faruque, as they only just made it past the 200-mark.

Kalabagan began poorly and were wobbling at 66 for four when Rifatullah and Abid Ali rescued their chase. The Kalabagan No 3 struck eight boundaries and two sixes in his

129-ball knock that was altogether eventful.

Their fifth wicket stand of 94 runs was broken at the end of the 42nd over when Abid was found guilty of obstructing the field. After the longish stoppage due to the umpires' delay in taking the decision, Mohammad Salman coolly struck two boundaries and a six to help Kalabagan to the finish line.

### BIMAN-DOLESHWAR

Khaled Latif's 86 gave Biman a more than average score -- 227-8 in 50 overs -- to defend against Prime Doleshwar at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

But steady batting by Mehedi Maruf, who made 63, and a late burst from Manvinder Singh, who struck six boundaries in his unbeaten 36-ball 43, guided Prime Doleshwar to victory with 11 balls to spare.

The win gives the Doleshwar side a chance at the Super League, though they have to beat league leaders Old DOHS in their last game today.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**VICTORIA:** 208 all out in 48.5 overs (Kamran 55, Asif 44; Sohag 2-39, Shahadat 2-49).

**KALABAGAN:** 209-7 in 49.3 overs (Rifat 103 not out, Abid 30; Shakib 3-37, Rubel 2-40). Result: Kalabagan won by three wickets.

**BIMAN:** 227-8 in 50 overs (Khaled 86, Fawad 57; Taijul 3-47, Murad 2-57).

**DOLESHWAR:** 228-5 in 48.1 overs (Maruf 63, Manvinder 43 not out; Rezaul 3-43, Masud 1-41).

Result: Doleshwar won by five wickets.



Kalabagan batsman Rifatullah cuts the ball behind square during his unbeaten 103 in a Premier Cricket League match against Victoria at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Pak complete Eng sweep

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan's bowlers sealed an emphatic 71-run win in the third and final Test against England here on Monday; inflicting a 3-0 series whitewash humiliation in the process.

Set a daunting 324-run target, England were bowled out for 252 with paceman Umar Gul taking 4-61 and off-spinner Saeed Ajmal (4-67) to help Pakistan achieve a first-ever Test clean sweep against their opponents.

With the ball turning again it was always a difficult task for England's batsmen, who have been unable to

play the Pakistani spinners throughout the series, on a weary fourth day pitch at Dubai Stadium.

Pakistan won the first Test here by ten wickets and the second by 72 runs in Abu Dhabi.

Pakistan have also become the first team to win a Test after being bowled out for under 100 since 1907 when England, shot out for 76, beat South Africa at Leeds.

It was England's seventh series whitewash, their first at the hands of Pakistan. Pakistan have now recorded five series whitewashes, their last coming in a 3-0 win over Bangladesh in 2003.

England's last series whitewash came in 2007

when they were routed by Australia 5-0.

So dominating have been Pakistan spinners that Ajmal finished the series with 24 and Rehman with 19.

England, 89-2 at lunch, were still in with a chance with Alastair Cook (49) and Kevin Pietersen (18) batting well but they lost four wickets in the space of 84 runs. They went to tea at 173-6.

Pietersen, who struggled for runs in the series, hit Abdul Rehman for a boundary and then hoisted him for a six to post England's 100. But Ajmal struck from the other end.

The off-spinner produced a beautiful delivery to bowl Pietersen through the gate for 18. He had a mere 67

runs for the series during which he was out to spinners on five occasions.

In his next over, Ajmal produced another sharp turning delivery which caught the edge of Cook's bat and was smartly held by a diving Younis Khan in the loneship.

Ian Bell (10) and Eoin Morgan (31) added 37 for the fifth wicket but again failed to produce a big score in the series as Gul dismissed them in the space of just three runs.

Pakistan took the second new ball at 196-6 and the first ball saw Gul dismissing Stuart Broad (18) and then Graeme Swann on one.

Matt Prior remained not out at 49 when Monty Panesar

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## Shakib fined Tk 10,000

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan, the Victoria Sporting Club captain, was fined Tk 10,000 for using "bad language" with the umpires in a Dhaka Premier League match against Kalabagan Krira Chakra yesterday.

The bust-up occurred after Gazi Sohel and Anisur Rahman took their time in deciding whether Abid Ali would be declared out obstructing the field in the 42nd over.

Shakib threw towards Abid's (non-striking) end after his batting partner Rifatullah had played the ball towards short fine-leg off Kamran Younus. The throw struck Abid, ensuing in an appeal from the skipper for the dismissal.

Umpires Gazi Sohel and Anisur Rahman discussed the matter for almost ten minutes during which Shakib and Tamim vociferously made their case. During this time, it was reported that the all-rounder had abused the umpires, who decided that

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## C'ship League finally on

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The much-awaited second-tier professional football league got underway yesterday with Uttar Baridhara Club and Beanibazar SC playing out a 1-1 draw in the dull opening match of the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League yesterday.

Tajul Khan put Beanibazar ahead in the 26th minute through a spot kick only to see his goal cancelled out by an unexpected strike from Tony Borman in the 35th minute.

The introduction of the second-tier football league will finally bring a semblance of professionalism into a system that often sees clubs fast-tracked into the Bangladesh Premier League, like with Team BJMC this season. The second-tier was supposed to start in 2009 but the BFF struggled to bring order into the system for the last three years. They have been successful this year following a series of meetings with the seven participating teams, although a blemish will see Chittagong Mohammedan not take part despite being relegated last season.

"The aim of creating footballers through the second-tier football league will not be succeeded unless the pipelines of district football are revived as the standard of the players between Bangladesh Premier League and Bangladesh Championship League is quite vast," said former national footballer Riazuddin adding that they had struggled hard to collect the quality players for Beanibazar SC.

Running the club may not be a factor for Beanibazar as a lot of former Mohammedan organisers involved themselves with the outfit but it is a big issue for Uttar Baridhara Club, who have been playing the second-tier league from the

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## Old DOHS fight past Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Old DOHS moved to the top of the Dhaka Premier League table on Sunday after a 25-run win over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the BKSP in Savar.

Batting first, the league leaders battled to 195-7 in 50 overs after they had slipped to 89 for six. Faisal Hossain and Nurul Hasan made half-centuries, also adding 108 for the seventh wicket. In reply, Sheikh Jamal were bowled out for 170 runs in 48.3 overs with Jalat Khan taking four wickets.

On the same day, Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club slipped as well with the Dhanmondi giants struck down by Gazi Tank by three wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Marshall Ayub struck 112, his first century of the season, as Abahani made 227 all out in 49.3 overs. But Gazi Tank fought through Asif Ahmed, who made an unbeaten 63 off 99 balls. Nazmul Hossain Milon

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**PARTNERS IN CRIME:** Pakistan spinners Saeed Ajmal (2nd from R) and Abdur Rehman (L) pose with the winners' trophy after Pakistan won the 3rd Test against England to complete a clean sweep of the series at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

## Glitzy opening for BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian and local silver screen stars and singers will perform in the opening ceremony of the inaugural Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 which will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on February 9.

President Zillur Rahman will inaugurate the first edition of the competition involving six franchises -- Barisal Burners, Chittagong Kings, Dhaka Gladiators, Khulna Royal Bengals, Duronto Rajshahi and Sylhet Royals.

The tournament proper will kick off on February 10 with Barisal Burners taking on Sylhet Royals at 2pm and

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BPL

03

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