

# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MARCH 14, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Ballack bitter at Loew, Lahm

Ex-Germany captain Michael Ballack has revealed his unresolved grudge towards national coach Joachim Loew and current skipper Philipp Lahm for his treatment at the 2010 World Cup.

Lahm is set to lead Germany with Loew as coach at Euro 2012, to be co-hosted by the Ukraine and Poland in June, but Ballack admits he still harbours bitterness towards the pair for events at the last World Cup.

Leverkusen's Ballack made the last of his 98 appearances for Germany in March 2010 before an ankle injury ruled him out of South Africa 2010.

- AFP



## Nasir upbeat about good show

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team were fully focussed on their second game against India in the Asia Cup to be held on March 16 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

All-rounder Nasir Hossain, whose dismissal was the turning point in the Tigers' 21-run defeat in the opening match against Pakistan on Sunday, said as much after the training session at the Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday. The young man said that the team was upbeat and eager to do something good against a formidable India despite their heartbreaking defeat to Pakistan in the opening match.

"We are confident about the next game against India and we are looking forward to do something good. It would be good game if we can restrict India within 260 to 265 runs on this wicket and I'm confident that's possible for us," said an upbeat Nasir.

Nowadays, any match involving India means master batsman Sachin Tendulkar hogs the spotlight because of the possibility of his 100th international hundred. It will be no exception when India meet the hosts on March 16 as the prolific right-hander got out cheaply in their first match against Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Nasir made a very interesting comment when asked about Tendulkar's chance of finally reaching the landmark against Bangladesh. "A good ball is a good ball for

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India's twin centurions Gautam Gambhir (L) and Virat Kohli cross over for a run during their mammoth 205-run second wicket stand in the Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Twin-ton up India's easy win Kohli the real deal

BISHWAJIT ROY



Indian batsmen in Gautam Gambhir and Virat Kohli got homelike conditions to put aside their dismal tour of Australia as they made an emphatic start in the Asia Cup with a 50-run victory over Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Usually the focus was on master batsman Sachin Tendulkar when Mahela Jayawardene invited the defending champions to bat on the greenish, but perfect batting pitch, used for the first time, but the right-hander was far from achieving his long-awaited hundredth international

century, rather it was Gambhir and Kohli who stole the show by making hundreds.

The two batsmen shared a mammoth second wicket partnership of 205 as India piled up 304 runs for three wickets in their share of 50 overs to throw a big challenge for the inform Lankans, who came here after a brilliant show in the tri-nation series in Australia.

Sri Lanka desperately needed a flying start in the mammoth chase and captain Mahela Jayawardene led from the front along with his opening partner Tillakaratne Dilshan just to give that kind of start before the latter was dismissed by Irfan Pathan, the most successful India bowler who picked up four wickets, for seven runs.

Kumar Sangakkara joined his skipper to shape the innings associating 93 runs in the second wicket stand, but Pathan got the edge of Jayawardene to wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni to almost shatter the Sri Lankan hope. Jayawardene was fantastic in his 78-run innings that came from 59 balls with the help of ten fours and two sixes.

It was however lanky spinner Ravichandran Ashwin who served the final blow in the Lankan innings picking up the wickets of Sangakkara, who scored 65 off 87 balls that featured two fours and one six, and Lahiru Thirimanne, who added 29 runs, in the 36th over.

Pacer Vinay Kumar then did the job

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SPORTS REPORTER



It was Virat Kohli's 19th century which eventually went on to become his fourth double-century in ODI cricket. Don't be surprised as more accurately it was his tenth ton yesterday though it was for the nineteenth time that the Delhi batsman had added a century-stand for India.

The Asia Cup game against Sri Lanka was Kohli's 83rd ODI and the number of big partnerships that he has put together is staggering; among the Tigers only Shakib Al Hasan can match Kohli with 15 century stands in 123 games but the likes of Mushfiqur Rahim and Tamim Iqbal are far behind.

Out of the four double-century stands that he has put together, three were with Gautam Gambhir, his Delhi colleague. They added 224 runs against these opponents in Kolkata in 2009 while last October, they put together an unbeaten 209 against England in their home ground.

This was their second in a row after the game in Hobart

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## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Beanibazar SC posted their second victory in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League with a single-goal win over Cox's City FC at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Ali Hossain struck the all-important goal in the 54th minute to take Beanibazar to the second position along with three more teams, all of whom are on eight points from six matches. Wari Club are on the top of the seven-team points table with 11 points from six matches.

### Table Tennis

Bandarban Invitational Table Tennis Tournament gets underway tomorrow at the Quantum Cosmo School and Shishu Kanon, said a press release yesterday.

A total of 12 teams -- two each from Chittagong and hosts Bandarban and the rest from Dhaka -- are taking part in the meet which is being arranged in a bid to increase the game in the hill-tracts.

### Volleyball

Inter-district Volleyball Championship (zonal) will begin from Wednesday in six districts of six divisions, said a press release yesterday.

Dhaka, Gazipur and Shariatpur will play in Dhaka zone, Chittagong zone comprise Comilla, Noakhali, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Chittagong, Khulna zone includes Khulna, Kushtia, Meherpur, Narail, Jessore, Bagerhat,

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PHOTO: BFFONLINE

Teammates rush to congratulate Sunday Chizoba (C) after the Muktiyoddha Sangsad striker scored the all-important goal that gave them victory over Sheikh Russel KC in their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Muktis back on top

SPORTS REPORTER



A 78th minute strike from Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba gave 10-man Muktiyoddha Sangsad a 1-0 victory over Sheikh Russel KC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, taking the Reds back to the top of the Grameenphone Bangladesh League. The early pace-setters were reduced to ten men in the 74th minute, but instead of retrenching, they came out all guns blazing and four minutes later sealed the victory, thanks to Sunday's fifth goal of the league, which took him to the solo lead in the goalscorer's chart.

With the win, their fifth in seven matches, Muktiyoddha put some breathing space at the top as they have gone to 16 points, two clear of Abahani, who however have a game in hand and take on Sheikh Jamal in the next match on Friday.

On the other hand, Sheikh Russel's early

promise seems to be fizzling out, as they have now lost three matches in a row and remain in tied third position along Team BJMC and Brothers Union on eight points.

Muktiyoddha went out with an attacking formation of three frontmen -- Sunday, Zahid Hasan Emily and Mithun Chowdhury -- but it hardly made an impression on the Sheikh Russel defence.

On the contrary, they came under the cosh as Sheikh Russel striker Alamu Bukola rattled the woodwork with a curling effort in the sixth minute of the match. The woodwork was called into action again at the other end though, when Muktiyoddha midfielder Mamunul Islam hit the crossbar from a corner a minute before the break.

After resumption, Muktiyoddha coach Shafiqul Islam took off striker Emily and brought on Alamgir Rana in the midfield which apparently gave them more control in the midfield, providing a launchpad for

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## Kiwis, Proteas to start anew 2nd Test from tomorrow

INTERNET, Hamilton

Both the Proteas and the Black Caps fancy their chances in the second Test to be played in Hamilton.

Neither New Zealand nor South Africa emerged from Dunedin with an advantage in the Test series scorecard, and neither party is keen to concede a psychological edge ahead of the second Test starting here on Thursday.

Rookie Black Caps Test wicketkeeper Kruger van Wyk said he believed New Zealand still had an opportunity to win the first Test in Dunedin before rain ruled out play on the final day on Sunday, while South African quick bowler Vernon Philander thought his side were poised to go one up.

"Going into that last day, I'd say there was really a feeling of excitement. We fought very hard in those first four days and got ourselves into position where we thought that anything could happen on that last day, and there was a feeling of excitement going into it," van Wyk said in Hamilton yesterday.

"We obviously fancied our chances to take the wickets on the last day but rain had the last say, unfortunately. I think the game was evenly poised ... but I think we fancied our chances," Philander said.

Neutral observers would have put the Proteas in the box seat but New Zealand emerged relatively unscathed.

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