

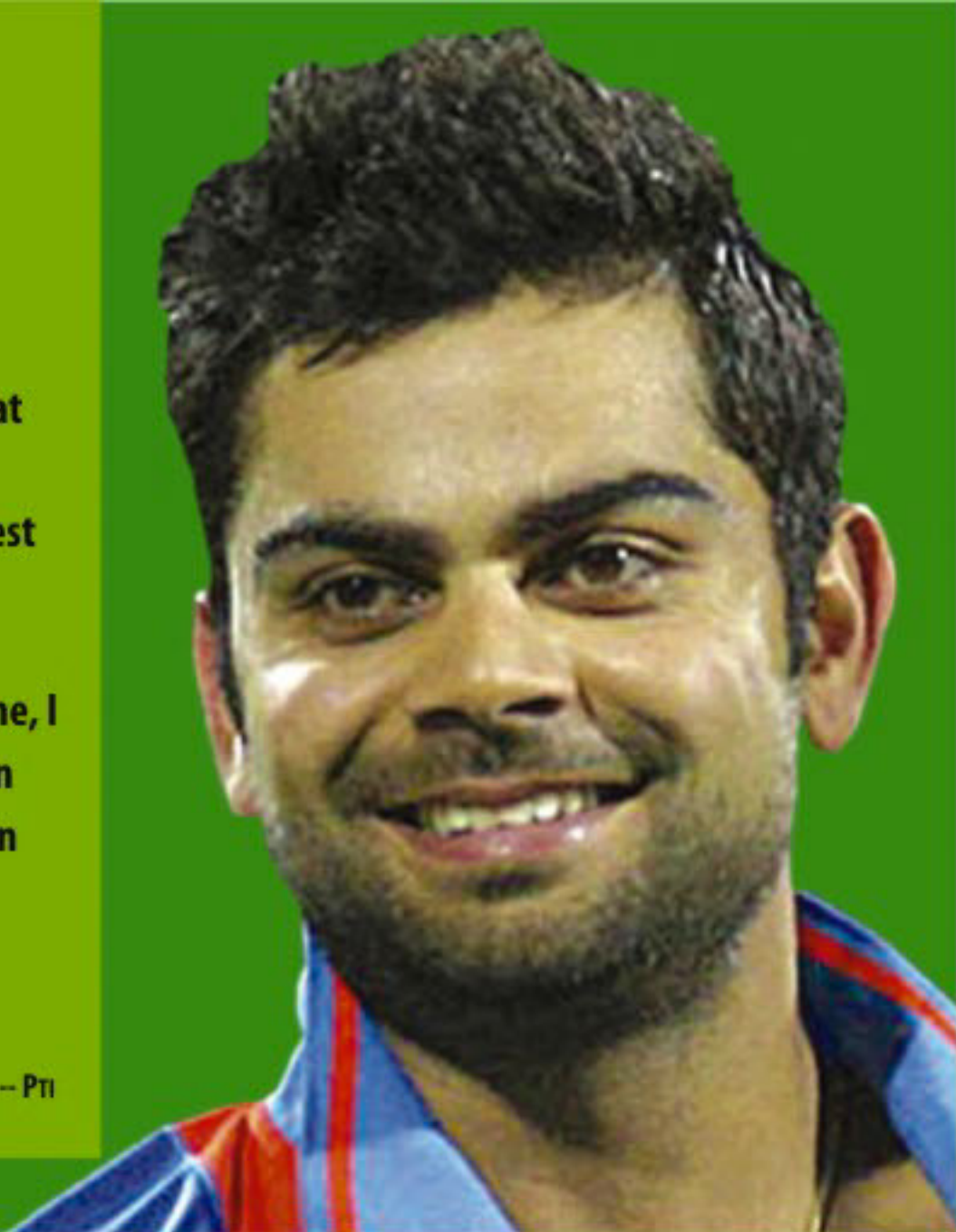
# Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY APRIL 6, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Kohli wants Bharat Ratna for Sachin

India's latest batting sensation Virat Kohli on Thursday said Sachin Tendulkar deserves country's highest civilian award -- the Bharat Ratna. "He (Tendulkar) really deserves Bharat Ratna. Whatever he has done, I don't think anyone else can be even be close to achieve (100 hundreds in international cricket) what he achieved in last 22 years ... it is something impossible," Kohli told reporters.

— PTI



## Complicating a simple matter

SPORTS REPORTER



Another day has passed but still the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) could not officially fix a date for the resumption of the Dhaka Premier Cricket League which was suspended following controversy over the registration of Pakistan and Victoria Sporting Club batsman Mohammad Yousuf on March 28.

The drama surrounding the resumption of the League, a simple matter in the reckoning of most, once again highlighted how poorly the board has been running under the guidance of AHM Mustafa Kamal, who according to the existing constitution has got absolute power as president of the affluent sports body to rule on any issue.

One can point at the ugly club politics and power games and the ineptness of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) for prolonging the crisis, but ultimately it's the board that should be held responsible for creating a farce out of what should have been a straightforward matter.

Mustafa Kamal, parliament member of the ruling party, has seldom adopted a proactive stance as president of the BCB,

and the latest fiasco marks yet another instance of him taking the easy way out, forming a four-member committee headed by senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam to find solution. The decision surprised everyone because it was expected that a solution would come during Sunday's board meeting, failing which it should have fallen to the BCB chief to make a ruling that the League restart without any delay and the other disputes be solved according to the law. His evasion only served to deepen the crisis and waste precious time in an otherwise stop-start domestic calendar.

At the end of the day, whatever has transpired can be dealt with by following the letter of the existing laws. Whether or not Yousuf's move from Mohammedan to Victoria was strictly legal can be investigated and in the case of it being illegal, a punishment or penalty exists within the provision of the laws. Also, the case of Abahani not taking the field after batting first in the game against Victoria has also been dealt with as the match referee awarded two points to Victoria. All, it seems, is ready bar the proverbial signing on the dotted line -- tragically apt in a system that has often been marred

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England batsman Kevin Pietersen celebrates after reaching an aggressive century during the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the P Sara Oval in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Eng on top after KP salvo



AFP, Colombo

Kevin Pietersen shrugged off a switch-hit controversy to smash an explosive 151 off 165 balls as England took charge of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Thursday.

The flamboyant Pietersen plundered 16 boundaries and six sixes in his 20th Test century as the tourists piled up 460 in their first innings before being all out just before stumps on the third day.

Sri Lanka, trailing by 185 runs, were 4-0 from one over in their second knock at close with Lahiru Thirimanne and Dhammika Prasad at the crease.

England, who lost the first Test in Galle by 75 runs, have two days to force a series-levelling win on the wearing P Sara Oval wicket and retain their number one ranking.

Pietersen was warned twice by the on-field umpires before the tea break for changing his stance to make a switch hit -- a right-hander playing a shot with a left-hander's grip.

The incident marred an otherwise profitable day for the tourists, who finally came good with the bat after

losing four Tests in a row in Asia this year -- the 3-0 rout by Pakistan and the Galle defeat.

But England may feel that they ought to have punished the hosts more. Alastair Cook hit 94 and Jonathan Trott followed his 112 at Galle with 64, the pair sharing a second-wicket stand of 91 after skipper Andrew Strauss made 61 on Wednesday.

Pietersen reached his hundred in the same over he was warned, executing a reverse sweep for two, and celebrated the landmark by pulling the next ball from Dilshan for a boundary.

He had given England the lead with his third six, a straight drive off Suraj Randiv, which also brought up his half-century.

The South African-born batsman had earlier smashed two fours and a six off three consecutive deliveries from Randiv, and also hammered Dilshan high over long-off.

Pietersen, who put on 94 for the fourth wicket with Ian Bell (18), was dismissed in the final session when he was leg-before to Rangana Herath as he tried to sweep the left-arm spinner.

Cook fell six short of his 20th century for the second time in four Tests when he edged off-spinner Dilshan to skip-

per Mahela Jayawardene at first slip.

The 27-year-old had also fallen for 94 in the second Test against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi in January, when he was leg-before to another off-spinner, Saeed Ajmal.

Trott added just two runs to his lunch score of 62 when he edged a sharp turning delivery from Herath to give an easy catch to Jayawardene in the slips.

### SCOREBOARD

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 275 (M Jayawardene 105, Samaraweera 54, Mathews 57; Swann 4-75, Anderson 3-62)  
**ENGLAND:** First innings (overnight 154-1)  
Strauss c P Jayawardene b Dilshan 61  
Cook c M Jayawardene b Dilshan 94  
Trott c M Jayawardene b Herath 64  
Pietersen lbw b Herath 151  
Bell c Randiv b Prasad 18  
Prior c Prasad b Herath 11  
Patel c Prasad b Randiv 29  
Bresnan b Herath 5  
Swann c Dilshan b Herath 17  
Anderson lbw b Herath 2  
Finn not out 2  
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-2, w-1) 6  
Total: (All out in 152.3 overs) 460  
Fall of wickets: 1-122, 2-213, 3-253, 4-347, 5-380, 6-411, 7-419, 8-454, 9-458, 10-460.

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SPORTS REPORTER



A late strike from substitute Towhidul Alam Siddique helped Brothers Union halt Feni Soccer Club's winning spree as they drew 1-1 in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A 37th minute strike from Shahedul Alam seemed to have ensured Feni their third consecutive victory until Towhid sneaked in with an equaliser in the 89th minute to foil Feni's party. A frantic last five minutes gave Brothers the opportunity to grab all three points as they earned a spot-kick, but Feni goalkeeper Ariful Islam brilliantly saved Samuel Jankasa's attempt to make sure both teams left the field with points shared. A fair result perhaps on the basis of the day's performance.

The fourth draw in eight matches took Brothers Union to the third position with 10 points while Feni lifted themselves to fifth position with nine points.

Brothers and Soccer Club fought equally in the first half with both sides creating two scoring chances each. Brothers' winger Shah Alamgir Anik saw his shot float over the crosspiece in the eleventh minute while Feni striker

Rowland failed to beat Brothers keeper Uttam Barua from a one-on-one situation three minutes later.

Bothers went close to taking the lead again in the 36th minute when Didarul danced past two defenders inside the box before unleashing a shot which, unfortunately, failed to bother the Feni keeper.

The next move in the next minute brought a goal, at the opposite end though. Feni were awarded a free-kick just outside the box and skipper Lutfur Rahman Nayan floated the ball over the wall for Shahed, who brilliantly controlled the ball before sending it over the advancing goalkeeper with a delightful chip to the visitors the lead.

After taking the lead, Feni adopted a counter-attack based strategy and it proved effective till the 89th minute before Towhidul, who had come on in the 74th minute, let loose a powerful left-footer from outside the box to undo all the good work from Feni.

With the match rolling into the stoppage time, Brothers were awarded a penalty kick when Moudud brought down Habib Diouf inside the box. Jankasa stepped up and took a decent enough strike, but Feni keeper Ariful jumped to his left and fisted away the shot to snatch a point for his side.



Feni Soccer Club striker Shahedul Alam (L) chips the ball over the Brothers Union goalkeeper Uttam Barua for the opener during their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Shirin wins chess qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharmin Sultana Shirin became unbeaten champion in the Arlin Developer 33rd National Women's Championship Qualifiers beating Farzana Hossain Annie in the seventh and final round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Shirin earned six points from seven games.

Hamida Khan finished second with 5.5 points while WFM Jakia Sultana became third through a tiebreaker after five players secured five points each.

Sharmin Samia Simmi, Arif Khatun, Protiva Talukdar, Tanzina Akhter Tany and Mahmuda Haq Chowdhury Moly finished fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth respectively. All eight players will join six autoqualifiers in the finals, which is scheduled to start from the first week of next month.

## Pietersen warned for switch-hit

AFP, Colombo

Umpires warned England batsman Kevin Pietersen twice for changing his stance to attempt a switch-hit during the second Test against Sri Lanka on Thursday.

The flamboyant Pietersen was spoken to by Bruce Oxenford and Asad Rauf after bowler Tillakaratne Dilshan had to stop twice in his run-up as the batsman turned around in his stance.

The laws of the game say that the eye-catching switch-hit -- a right-hander playing a shot with a left-hander's grip -- is legal but a batsman cannot change stance before the bowler has delivered the ball.

The 31-year-old Pietersen, who smashed an explosive 151 off 165 balls studded with 16 fours and six sixes, played down the incident, which ended with him walking up to the umpires to clarify the warning.

"There was no altercation at all," he said. "I was just finding out what it was and

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## LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttar Baridhara Club moved to the top of the points table of the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League when they handed a 3-0 defeat to Chittagong Abahani at Cox's Bazar Stadium yesterday.

Uttar Baridhara now have 13 points from nine matches, one more than Wari Club who however played a match less than the leaders.

Shahadat Hossain gave Uttar Baridhara the lead in the 17th minute before he doubled the lead in the 66th minute for his third league goal. Jibon completed the rout in the 76th minute. It was the fourth defeat for Chittagong Abahani, who are now at the bottom of the seven-team points table.

### School Handball

The semifinal line-up of the Polar Ice-cream School Handball tournament completed yesterday as Sunnydale and St Gregory's High School moved into the last four in the respective girl's and boy's section yesterday.

Sunnydale routed Heed International 22-0 to set their girls' semifinal clash against Viqarunnissa Noon School and College. Scholastica will take on Dhanmondi Tutorial in the other semifinal.

In boy's section, St Gregory's High School thrashed Motijheel Govt High School 18-7 to set up a semifinal clash against Residential Model School & College.

All four semifinals of both sections will take place today at the Handball Stadium.

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