

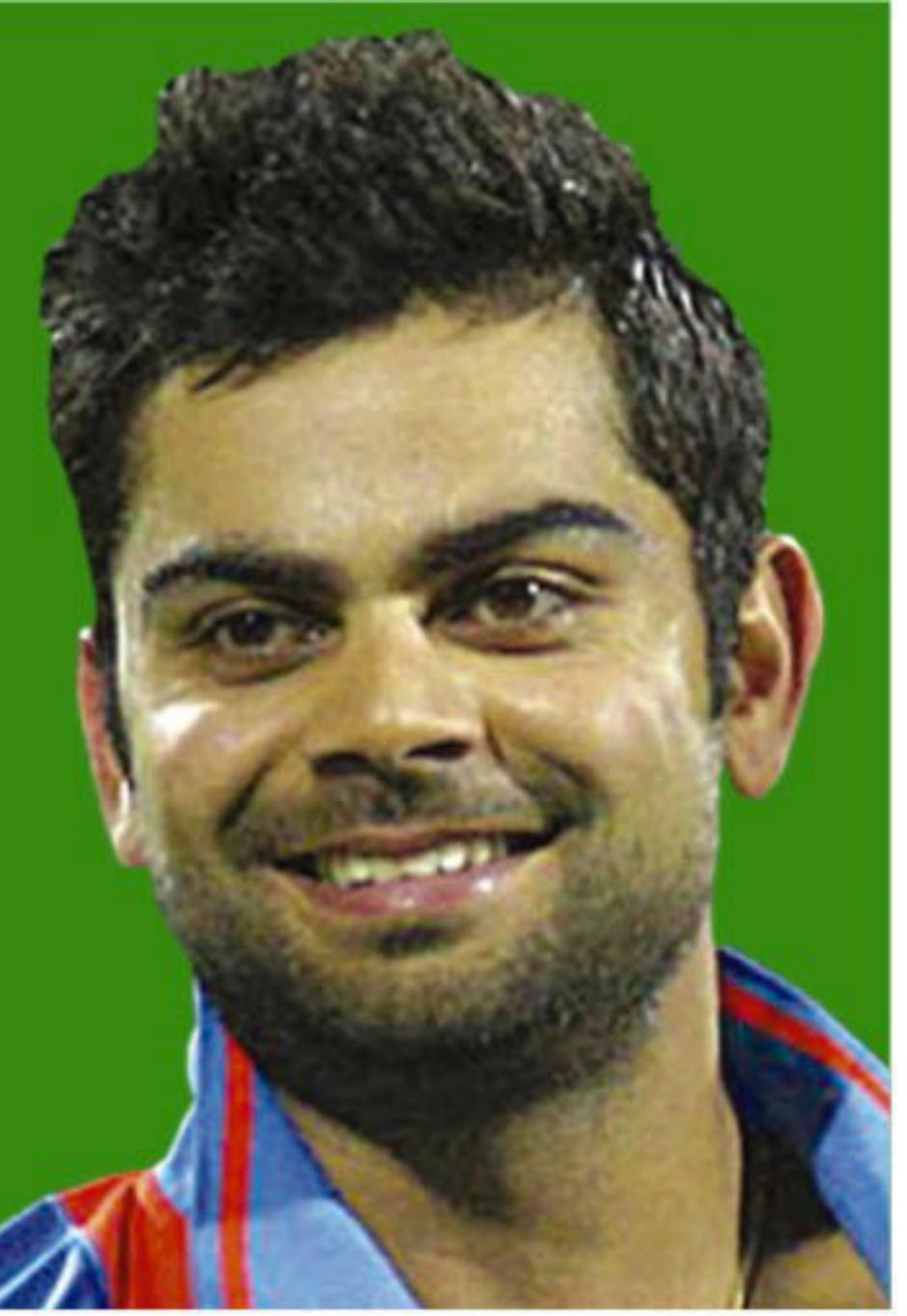
# Star SPORT

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

— Pn



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

### Cricket

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-leveling 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 c 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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## 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 Viquarunnissa 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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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.

## 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 Bangabandhu 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 Choudhury Moly finished fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth respectively. All eight players will join six auto-qualifiers 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 alteration at all," he said. "I was just finding out what was and

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