

# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Miccoli scores 40m stunner

Palermo's Fabrizio Miccoli has always been an admirer of Diego Maradona and on Sunday scored a hat-trick, including an astonishing effort from near the halfway line which his hero would have been proud of. With eight minutes to go, the ball was headed down to Miccoli, who was sideways to the goal, just inside the Chievo half. Without looking, he hooked a looping effort towards the goal and the ball flew over stunned Chievo goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino and bounced just before it crossed the line.



## BD A-WIHP final match today

SPORTS REPORTER

The last 50-over game between Bangladesh A and the West Indies High Performance Team will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today. The visiting West Indian side have already taken an unsailable two to nothing lead in the three-match series and will be looking for a whitewash. The hosts, on the other hand, will aim to salvage some pride by winning the last game and end the series on a high.

While there were a few impressive individual performances in the Bangladeshi squad, they are still yet to gel as a team. The match today might be the players' last chance to stake their claim for a berth in the national team for the series against the West Indies in November. Following the one-day series, the teams will play two Twenty20 matches on Thursday and Friday.

## WORLD HOCKEY

### League camp underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Seventeen national hockey players out of a 30-member preliminary squad reported to head coach Mahbub Haroon yesterday at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium as part of the preparation camp for the upcoming Beighton Cup in Kolkata and Nehru Cup in Delhi.

"Some 22 players are expected to take part in tomorrow's first session of training as some players are on the way to Dhaka while five players have been in Germany to play the hockey league there. Those five players are supposed to return home on October 9," said Mahbub Haroon.

The Beighton Cup is scheduled to be held from November 1 to 12 while the Nehru Cup is supposed to take place from November 14 to 25 in Delhi.

Coach Haroon had earlier requested the hockey officials to give him at least two

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



West Indies batsman Chris Gayle (R) celebrates with his overjoyed teammates after sealing victory for his team in 'super over' after their ICC World Twenty20 Super Eights match against New Zealand ended in a tie at the Pallekele International Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## All to play for in Group 2

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

Those wanting to know the semifinals line-up of the ICC World Twenty20 will have to wait for the result of today's last Super Eights match between India and South Africa. All eyes will be fixed on the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium as undefeated Australia lock horns with a wounded Pakistan in the day's first match, which will be followed by the last encounter between a rejuvenated India and a down-trodden Proteas.

The excitement and uncertainty surrounding the semifinal possibilities escalated after India's one-sided victory over Pakistan on Sunday night, with the chances of the two sub-continental giants, who are very popular in Sri Lanka too, generating much discussion. Group 2 is now open as mathematically anybody can qualify for the last four, but the reality is that Australia have all but qualified, sitting pretty on top of the group standings with an all-win record and a very healthy net run-rate.

Anyone of India and Pakistan -- with one victory each under their belts -- or South Africa can still go through if Australia down Pakistan, and that is just the incentive a winless South Africa need.

2007 champions India are fortunate enough to be playing the last match because they will know exactly what they need to do, or precisely what equation is needed after

the first match of the day. "Yes, it's the last match of the Super Eights, it could also turn out to be our last match of the tournament. We will see what the situation is, what we need to do. Of course, it will be important to win. But if there is an equation about margins, it will be tricky. It will also depend on how the wicket plays on that day. We will have to wait and watch, we still have a lot of time left," said India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"Our strategy will depend a fair bit on what happens in the previous match [be-

Visit: [www.clemonsports.com](http://www.clemonsports.com)  
Win Samsung Galaxy SIII & many more lifestyle goodies

tween Australia and Pakistan], what the result of that match is. There is no point making a strategy now because it is possible that we might not require the strategy we come up with now," he added before praising his opponents, saying that South Africa are a complete team even though they failed to justify it on the field so far. South Africa captain AB de Villiers indicated that they were going to make some changes in the team for the last game, where their fate will depend on others' performance.

If Australia can extend its run as the only unbeaten team in the competition, a simple win will suffice for India, who have the same

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

## NZ KO-ed in super over

AFP, Pallekele

West Indies knocked New Zealand out of the World Twenty20 in a dramatic 'super over' Monday after their Group 1 match finished in a tie.

Both teams were locked at 139 after 40 overs at Pallekele Stadium, sending the match to the tense super over decider. New Zealand scored a challenging 17 off their six balls with Ross Taylor hitting a six off Marlon Samuels.

But West Indies reached the target with a ball to spare as Samuels smashed the winning six off Tim Southee to keep his team in contention for a semifinal place.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka beat England by 19 runs to reach the World Twenty20 semifinals along with West Indies on Monday and send the defending champions crashing out of

the tournament.

"Samuels is my go-to man in pressure situations, he's suffering from a bad shoulder so that's why he doesn't bowl more," said West Indies captain Darren Sammy of the all-rounder. "It was a great fight-back and I am very happy at that."

A disappointed Taylor rued New Zealand's missed opportunity -- but admitted that the West Indies' super over was "pretty awesome".

"We probably should have won it in normal time. Credit to West Indies, to score 18 off five balls is pretty awesome. When the first ball is a no-ball that goes for six it ruins the over," said Taylor.

"That's cricket and we're going home now."

The breathless finish came after Southee (3-21) and Doug Bracewell (3-31) restricted

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## 'We're not chokers'

AFP, Colombo

South Africa's limited-overs captain AB de Villiers insists his side are not chokers despite tottering on the brink of elimination in the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka.

"I would not say we choked, we were just pretty much outplayed from ball one onwards," De Villiers said after an eight-wicket thrashing by Australia in Colombo on Sunday night.

"It's hard to put my finger on it. We started badly and finished badly as well. So, there is a bit of a bad taste in my mouth."

The formidable Proteas have often been ridiculed as the perennial chokers of international cricket, having failed to win major world title since their return from an apartheid-era ban in 1990.

The pattern has remained the same in the ongoing tournament where South Africa lost both their Super Eights matches to hit rock bottom in Group 2 which also features India and Pakistan.

Their fate hangs by a slim lifeline, with the side needing to beat India by a huge margin in the last round of matches on Tuesday and hoping Australia deliver a similar treatment to Pakistan.

"It's not all over yet," the captain said. "We are not the kind of team that will give up quickly. We will come back and try and improve, we will have to improve."

South Africa have looked jaded after being on the road for three months, having flown to Sri Lanka from an arduous tour of England where they took over as the number one Test side in the world.

They pinned Pakistan against the ropes in their first Super Eights match when, defending a modest 133-6, they had their rivals reeling at 76-7 before allowing seamer Umar Gul to turn into an unlikely batting hero.

Gul smashed two fours and three sixes in his 32 off 17 balls, sharing a match-winning partnership of 49 in 27 balls with Umar Akmal as Pakistan romped home in the final over with two wickets in hand.

Against Australia, they were pounded with bat and ball by in-form

Shane Watson to crash to their second defeat on a slow pitch at the R Premadasa Stadium.

Watson claimed 2-29 and then smashed 70 off 47 balls as Australia restricted the awe-struck Proteas to 146-5 and then surpassed the total in the 18th over.

South Africa never recovered after left-arm spinner Xavier Doherty justified his recall by removing Richard Levi with the third ball of the innings and

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



## WI-NZ SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES	R	B	4	6
Charles & b Bracewell	8	9	2	0
Gayle c B McCullum b Southee	30	14	3	2
Russell c Franklin b Bracewell	6	6	0	1
Samuels c Southee b N McCullum	24	22	2	1
Bravo b N McCullum	16	21	0	1
Pollard c Taylor b Bracewell	28	22	3	0
Ramdin c Taylor b Hira	1	2	0	0
Sammy c Franklin b Southee	11	12	1	0
Narine b Southee	3	4	0	0
Badree b Oram	1	4	0	0
Rampaul not out	1	3	0	0
Extras: (lb-2, w-6, nb-2)	10			
Total: (All out in 19.3 overs)	139			
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-36, 3-61, 4-87, 5-98, 6-102, 7-123, 8-133, 9-136.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	2	0	25	0
Bracewell	4	0	31	3
Southee	4	0	21	3
Oram	1.3	0	17	1
Hira	4	0	24	1
N McCullum	4	0	19	2

NEW ZEALAND	R	B	4	6
Nicol lbw b Rampaul	3	5	0	0
Guptill c Samuels b Sammy	21	27	2	0
B McCullum b Badree	22	18	3	0
Taylor not out	62	40	3	3
Franklin c Gayle b Narine	14	14	1	0
Oram lbw b Narine	6	9	0	0
N McCullum c Charles b Narine	5	7	0	0
Bracewell run out	1	1	0	0
Extras: (lb-2, w-2, nb-1)	5			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 20 overs)	139			
Did not bat: Hira, Southee, Mills.				
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-41, 3-52, 4-85, 5-115, 6-125, 7-139.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rampaul	2	0	23	1
Badree	4	0	18	1
Narine	4	0	20	3
Sammy	4	0	35	1
Pollard	2	0	13	0
Gayle	1	0	15	0
Samuels	1	0	13	0

Result: Match tied (West Indies won the one-over)

## INDIA SOUTH AFRICA

Played: 40 Played: 51

Won: 23 Won: 32

In 2012 In 2012

Played: 9 Played: 10

Won: 5 Won: 6

**HEAD TO HEAD**

**4: 2**

## KEY PLAYERS

**VIRAT KOHLI JP DUMINY**

Matches: 15 Matches: 41

Runs: 461 Runs: 936

Highest Score: 78\* Highest Score: 96\*

Average: 41.90 Average: 33.42

Strike Rate: 130.96 Strike Rate: 123.97

## What's on, Watson?

AFP, Colombo

Shane Watson's brilliant form with bat and ball has propelled Australia's unbeaten run in the World Twenty20, but the star all-rounder warned rivals he was not finished yet.

Watson's extraordinary display has won him him player-of-the-match awards in all four of Australia's games and made him both the top run-getter and leading wicket-taker in the tournament.

Having thrashed India and South Africa in their first two Super Eights matches, Australia must still beat Pakistan on Tuesday to qualify for the semifinals from Group 2.

Watson, the 31-year-old vice-captain, said he needed to continue with the same intensity if Australia were to win the one major title that has eluded them so far.

"I know how important every game is to us and, in a World Cup, there is no game where you can take your foot off the pedal," Watson said after the eight-wicket win over South Africa on Sunday night.

"I know how important it is for me to continue doing the simple keys and cues that I have got for both batting and bowling, and be able to

hopefully replicate my deeds in one game after another.

"In the end, it is so important to keep the momentum going. At the moment, things are going really well for all of us as a team.

"We are really up for every game because we really want to show ourselves how good a Twenty20 team we are."

Watson has not looked back since taking a wicket with his first ball in the tournament, removing Ireland captain William Porterfield with the opening delivery of the match.

He finished with 3-26 in that game and then hammered 51 off 30 balls with five fours and three sixes to fashion Australia's easy seven-wicket win.

In the next game against the West Indies, Watson claimed 2-29 and hit an unbeaten 41 off 24 balls before rain forced the game to be

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## Wanderers champs in Div I hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers Club emerged unbeaten champions in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League with a 4-1 win over Combined SC at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The achievement means the old Dhaka outfit have earned the right to the Premier Division Hockey League from the next season as the first division hockey league took place after a four-year gap.

"I can't remember when we played in the Premier Division last but it is not less than 14 to 15 years ago," said an ecstatic general secretary Joy Gopal Sarker after the game where Dhaka Wanderers came from one goal down to score four goals.

Indian Nitin Kumar struck two goals while Saiful Islam and Mohammad Sajib netted one goal each for Dhaka Wanderers after Shahed Hasan Rimo had put Combined ahead in the 12th minute.

**CLEAR MEN**  
BREAKTHROUGH IN MEN'S SCALP CARE

ICC WORLD T20 TODAY'S MATCHES

MATCH	TIME	VENUE
Australia v Pakistan	4:00pm	Colombo
India v South Africa	8:00pm	Colombo



PHOTO: AFP

India's Virat Kohli (in the foreground) and Lakshminath Balaji play football during a practice session at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. India face South Africa in the final Super Eights match here today.