



# Star SPORT

## Vilanova leaves hospital

Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova was released from hospital on Saturday, just 48 hours after undergoing cancer surgery.

The 44-year-old needed an operation on Thursday to remove a tumour from a salivary gland.

"Given a quick post-surgery recovery Tito Vilanova has been allowed to leave hospital on Saturday afternoon. The Barca coach was operated on Thursday according to plan", read a brief statement from the club.

Vilanova will now face around six weeks of radiotherapy and



# SACHIN

## calls time on ODIs



AFP, New Delhi

Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar on Sunday announced his retirement from one-day international cricket after scoring a record-breaking 49 centuries in the 50-over format.

The 39-year-old is the world's top run-getter in one-day cricket, with 18,426 runs from 463 matches at an average of 44.83.

"I have decided to retire from the one-day format of the game," he said in a statement.

"I feel blessed to have fulfilled the dream of being part of a World Cup winning Indian team [in 2011].

"I am eternally grateful to all my well-wishers for their unconditional support and love over the years."

Tendulkar, who is also the highest scorer in Tests, said that he was quitting to allow the Indian selectors to build a team for the 2015 World Cup which is being held in

Australia and New Zealand.

"The preparatory process to defend the World Cup in 2015 should begin early... I would like to wish the team all the very best for the future," he said.

Tendulkar, who has been dubbed the "Little Master", made his one-day debut aged 16 in Gujranwala on a tour of Pakistan in 1989. He lasted just two deliveries before being dismissed by Waqar Younis without scoring.

But in what turned out to be his last two one-day innings, during the Asia Cup in Dhaka in March, he made 114 against Bangladesh to record his 100th international century and then scored 52 against Pakistan.

He played in six World Cups since 1992 and finally found success in his last appearance in the tournament when India defeated Sri Lanka in the final in Tendulkar's home city of Mumbai on April 2, 2011.

He was carried off the pitch at the end of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

## FACTFILE

Full name: **Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar**  
Born: **April 24, 1973, Bombay**  
Height: **5 ft 5 in**  
Major teams: **India, Asia XI, Mumbai, Mumbai Indians, Yorkshire**  
Nicknames: **Tendly, Little Master**  
ODI debut: **v Pakistan, Gujranwala, 1989**  
Maiden ODI century: **110 v Australia, Colombo, 1994**  
First to score **100 international**

## KNOW SACHIN MORE

- Wanted to be a fast bowler, but was rejected by Dennis Lillee in 1987
- Was a ballboy during the 1987 World Cup on the Indian subcontinent
- Scored 326 in a 664-run partnership with Vinod Kambli in 1988
- Is the youngest Indian to play English county cricket at the age of 19
- Was also Yorkshire's first overseas professional in 1992
- Scored tons on debut in Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Irani Cup
- His favourite sports star is tennis player John McEnroe
- Batted in his debut Test at Karachi wearing pads presented by Sunil Gavaskar
- Used a very heavy bat throughout his career -- around 1.5 kilograms
- Scored five Test centuries before the age of 20
- His best year in ODIs was 1998 -- 9 centuries with 1,894 runs
- Became a Member of Parliament in 2012 when was nominated to the Rajya Sabha

### Batting & fielding

	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St
ODIs	463	452	41	18426	200*	44.83	49	96	2016	195	140	0

### Bowling

	Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	4w	5w	10
--	-----	------	-------	------	------	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----

## PAK TOUR TO INDIA

### Veeru back, Zaheer out

CRICINFO, New Delhi

India made six changes to India's ODI squad that had toured Sri Lanka in July and August this year, for the three-match ODI series against Pakistan, starting December 30. Virender Sehwag survived the axe on a day Sachin Tendulkar retired from ODI cricket but Zaheer Khan was not considered for the high-profile series.

The selectors, who met captain MS Dhoni and coach Duncan Fletcher at the BCCI headquarters, replaced all-rounder Irfan Pathan, fast bowler Umesh Yadav and middle-order batsman Manoj Tiwary, who are all nursing injuries. The selection committee headed by Sandeep Patil also decided to leave out Zaheer and the spin duo of Pragyan Ojha and Rahul Sharma. The six men who have come in their place are Yuvraj Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Shami Ahmed and Amit Mishra.

While Yuvraj, Jadeja and Ishant's inclusion was expected, Bhuvneshwar, the Uttar Pradesh

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## LOCAL snippets

### SPORTS REPORTER

Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool registered a 1-0 win over Mohakhali Ekadosh in the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shahid struck the all-important goal in the 51st minute.

### Victory Day Hockey

Bangladesh Army, BHF Eleven and Bangladesh Navy won their respective matches in the Southeast Bank Victory Day Hockey Tournament beating their respective rivals at the Maulna Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Army defeated Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan 2-1. BHF Eleven thrashed Bangladesh Air Force 11-0 while Navy defeated Bangladesh Police 4-1.

### Victory Day Volleyball

Bangladesh Army registered a straight 3-0 win over Border Guard Bangladesh in the KFC Victory Day Volleyball Tournament yesterday.

Bangladesh Air Force followed in the footsteps of Army and beat Bangladesh Police by identical margin in the day's other match.

### Victory Day Skating

Visitors India emerged champions in the Victory Day Friendship International Role ball and Skating Championship with a 5-1 win over hosts Bangladesh at the Dhanmondi ground on Saturday.

In the three-team competition, Nepal finished third. Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, MP, witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the winners.

### National Cycling

Dr Abdul Baset 36th National Cycling Championships begin at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today with some 200 cyclists from 18 teams taking part.

## WORLD CITIES CHESS

### Dhaka off to winning start

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh started their campaign in the World Cities Team Chess Championship on a winning note as they defeated United Arab Emirates by 3-1 points on Saturday in the Emirates.

GM Ziaur Rahman beat IM Abdullah Hasan, GM Niaz Murshed drew with GM Salem AR Saleh, Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar drew against IM Omar Noaman while IM Abu Sufian Shakil got

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## BSPA's 4-day golden jubilee programmes

### SPORTS REPORTER

To celebrate its golden jubilee, the Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA) yesterday announced a three-day programme that will be opened by holding a rally on Tuesday.

Apart from the rally, a drawing competition for children will also be held later on the opening day.

On December 27, a free medical check-up for journalists, athletes and

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

# BCL from Dec 27



### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday revealed that the first edition of the country's second four-day cricket league, the Bangladesh Cricket League (Longer Version) (BCL), will begin from December 27 at two venues, the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium (SBNS) in Dhaka and the Shaheed Chandu Stadium (SCS) in Bogra.

However, the tournament was previously scheduled to begin today.

Four zonal teams -- Walton Central Zone (Dhaka and Dhaka Metro), Prime Bank South Zone (Khulna and Barisal), Islami Bank East Zone (Sylhet and Chittagong) and BCB North Zone (Rangpur and Rajshahi) -- will take part in the franchisee-based competition. Three of the four teams have been bought by corporations while the fourth, North Zone, will be run by the BCB because of a lack of buyers.

BCB tournament committee chairman Naimur Rahman however said that they were still hoping to get a buyer for the North Zone before the tournament got underway.

The tournament will be played on a single-league basis, with the top two teams contesting the final. The league stages of the BCL will be played before the start of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 and the final -- which will be played under lights with a pink ball -- will be played after the lucrative Twenty20 league.

The National Cricket League (NCL) however remains the country's sole first-class league as the BCL has not yet gotten first-class status. Naimur said that the BCB would soon initiate the process to obtain first-class status for the BCL.

This tournament was conceived after the BCB could not follow through on their promise to stage the country's lone first-class competition, the National Cricket League, in a franchisee-based format. It was then that the board had announced its intentions of organising a four-day franchisee-based tournament later in the year. The winners and runners-up of the competition will receive Tk 35 lakh and Tk 15 lakh respectively.

The national selectors provided a pool of 80 players for the BCL, based on their performances in the NCL.

"We did not look at names while selecting the players. Rather, the performance in the last NCL was the main criteria and on that basis some 80 cricketers have been made available to the franchisees.

"We are confident that this event will be very competitive and the standard of cricket will be high because the very best of our first class cricketers have been selected for the four teams," said Naimur. "The match fees and other allowances will be higher than the NCL and in the long run the country's cricket will benefit as players will fight harder in the NCL to be picked for the BCL."

Naimur also informed that the franchisees, who have little experience of running cricket teams, had sought the BCB's assistance in team-building, and that the BCB would help them in that regard.

### ITINERARY

Date	Match	Venue
27-30 Dec 2012	Central Zone v South Zone	SBNS
27-30 Dec 2012	East Zone v North Zone	SCS
2-5 Jan 2013	Central Zone v North Zone	SCS
2-5 Jan 2013	East Zone v South Zone	SBNS
8-11 Jan 2013	South Zone v North Zone	SBNS



PHOTOS: STAR FILE

(L) India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who announced his retirement from ODIs yesterday, kisses his helmet after reaching his 100th international century against Bangladesh in the Asia Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on March 16 this year. (R) Tendulkar bats against Pakistan during his last ODI in the Asia Cup at the same venue on March 18, 2012.

## Kevin rested for NZ tour

AFP, London

Kevin Pietersen has been rested for England's one-day and Twenty20 squads announced on Sunday for February's tour of New Zealand.

James Anderson, Jonathan Trott and Graeme Swann have returned to the 14-man one-day squad while Stuart Broad is back from a heel injury to captain the 14-man T20 squad.

National selector Geoff Miller said: "There are a number of players who we have decided not to select for parts of the competitive programme this winter as we look to manage their workloads effectively while ensuring we remain competitive across all formats.

"We feel this is the best way of keeping players as physically and mentally fresh as possible during a demanding 2013 and beyond.

England's three-match ODI series begins on February 17 in Hamilton.

The England and Wales Cricket Board also announced a 15-man England Lions squad for the limited overs tour of Australia in February which will be captained by Joe Root.