

# Eng draw first blood

**Cricket**  
PTI, Rajkot

India's woeful run of losses continued after a struggling top-order failed to convert good start even on a placid track as England drew first blood with a thrilling nine-run victory in the first one-day here on Friday.

Chasing a stiff target of 326, India lacked the batting firepower and were restricted to a 316 for nine in a high-scoring contest to concede a 1-0 lead to visitors in the five-match series.

Opting to bat first, England rode on a record 158-run opening stand between captain Alastair Cook (75) and in-form Ian Bell (85) to post an imposing 325 for four on a batting paradise at the newly built Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

The Indians conceded as many as 38 runs in the final two overs with Ishant Sharma and Bhuvneshwar Kumar giving away 20 and 18 runs respectively. The late flourish by England

proved costly for the hosts. India began the run chase in right earnest with Ajinkya Rahane (47) and an out-of form Gautam Gambhir (52) adding 96 runs for the opening stand but both were guilty of frittering away a good start.

Yuvraj Singh (61), Suresh Raina (50) and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (32) were other notable scorers but again none of them could translate the start into a match-winning effort.

Off-spinner James Tredwell was the pick of the English bowlers as he scalped four for 44 while Jade Dernbach chipped in with two wickets.

It was a creditable turnaround for the visitors who came into match with back-to-back defeats in the warm-up games against India A and Delhi respectively.

The two teams will now travel to Kochi for the second one-dayer to be held on January 15.

**SCOREBOARD**  
**ENGLAND**  
Cook c Rahane b Raina 75

Bell run out 85  
Pietersen c Kohli b Dinda 44  
Morgan c & b Dinda 41  
Kieswetter not out 24  
Patel not out 44  
Extras: (w-10, nb-2) 12  
Total: (For 4 wickets in 50 overs) 325  
Did not bat: Root, Bresnan, Tredwell, Finn, Dernbach.  
Fall of wickets: 1-158, 2-172, 3-248, 4-255.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	7	0	52	0
Ishant	10	2	86	0
Dinda	8	0	53	2
Ashwin	9	0	61	0
Jadeja	10	0	46	0
Raina	5	0	18	1
Kohli	1	0	9	0

**INDIA**  
Rahane c Dernbach b Tredwell 47  
Gambhir c Bell b Tredwell 52  
Kohli c Kieswetter b Bresnan 15  
Yuvraj c Dernbach b Tredwell 61  
Raina c & b Tredwell 50  
Dhoni c Root b Dernbach 32  
Jadeja b Dernbach 7  
Ashwin c T Kieswetter b Finn 13  
Kumar not out 20  
Dinda b Bresnan 3  
Sharma not out 7  
Extras: (lb-1, w-7, nb-1) 9  
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 316  
Fall of wickets: 1-96, 2-102, 3-138, 4-198, 5-243, 6-271, 7-273, 8-297, 9-307.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Finn	10	0	63	2
Dernbach	10	0	69	2
Bresnan	8	0	67	2
Tredwell	10	0	44	4

# Pak Test team named for SA tour

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan on Friday announced a 16-man squad for next month's three Test away series against South Africa.

Pakistan will open the tour with a side game from January 25 before playing three Tests, two Twenty20s and five one-dayers against South Africa on the tour.

A separate squad for the limited-over matches will be announced later.

**SQUAD**  
Misbahul Haq (capt), Mohammad Hafeez, Azhar Ali, Nasir Jamshed, Asad Shafiq, Younis Khan, Mohammad Irfan, Sarfraz Ahmed, Umar Gul, Junaid Khan, Ehsan Adil, Saeed Ajmal, Abdur Rehman, Haris Sohail, Faisal Iqbal, Taufiq Umar.

# Business take inter office crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Team Business became champions in the Daily Star Inter Office Cricket tournament 2013 at the Dhaka University Physical Institute ground yesterday. In the final they defeated the Cricketers comfortably with an over to spare chasing 52.

Business captain Fazlur Rahman top scored with 28 runs. Earlier, Team Business thrashed defending champions Sport Stars by 32 runs in the first semifinal while the Cricketers outplayed Adv. Rangers by 7 runs in the second semifinal.

Fazlur Rahman was adjudged both the man-of-the-final and the man-of-the-tournament.

# Young Tigers

FROM PAGE 16  
hardened through a skill camp, following which the divisional teams were formed.

"The age level competition is obviously very important. These tournaments have resulted in the creation of a number of talented players," said Gazi Ashraf Lipu, chairman of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Game Development Committee, at a press conference at the BCB headquarters yesterday.

The ten teams have been divided into two groups. Dhaka South, Khulna, Rangpur, Dhaka Metro and Chittagong have been placed in group A while Group B is made up of Dhaka North, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal and BKSP. The matches will be played at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Cricket Garden in Rangpur, the Dinajpur district stadium and the Dinajpur Boro Moidan Ground. The finals will begin on February 14 in Rajshahi.

# Aussies abase Lankans

**Cricket**  
AFP, Melbourne

Opener Phil Hughes scored a debut century as Australia amassed 305 for five and dismissed Sri Lanka cheaply for a 107-run victory in the opening match of the five-game one-day international series on Friday.

Hughes became the first Australian to score a century on his ODI debut as the hosts posted a big score after winning the toss against Sri Lanka in Melbourne.

The diminutive left-hander cracked 112 off 129 balls to help set the Sri Lankans a competitive run chase under lights at 6.12 runs an over.

But the Sri Lankans, despite being well in the match at 111 for two, self-destructed with three-run outs and Clint McKay (4-33) helped bowl the tourists out for 198 with 10 overs to spare.

Hughes was the highlight of a free-scoring Australian innings with skipper George Bailey scoring 89 off 79 balls and David Hussey chipping in with a late unbeaten 60 off 34 balls.

Hussey, the younger brother of veteran Mike Hussey, finished with a flourish, plundering 21 runs off the last over from off-spinner Ajantha Mendis, including a six over long-off to bring up his half-century.

There were a couple of



Australia batsman Phillip Hughes plays the square cut on way to a century during the first one-day international against Sri Lanka at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

failures in the Australian innings with Usman Khawaja run out for three after setting off for a risky single and being sent back by Hughes.

Fellow top-order debutant Aaron Finch went for 16 and Glenn Maxwell was caught attempting to chip over the on side off Nuwan Kulasekara for five.

Paceman Lasith Malinga didn't fare well on his return for Sri Lanka taking 1-61 on a pitch suited for batting.

Sri Lanka were travelling well at the halfway stage of their innings before Tillakaratne Dilshan (51) was run out by a direct hit from Usman Khawaja.

The Sri Lankans paid dearly for suicidal running between wickets with

cover fieldsman Glenn Maxwell running out Angelo Mathews (12) and Lahiru Thirimanne (0) in consecutive deliveries in the 30th over as Sri Lanka slumped to 128 for five.

# SCOREBOARD

**AUSTRALIA**  
Finch c Chandimal b A Mendis 16  
Hughes c Chandimal b Malinga 112  
Khawaja run out 3  
Bailey c J Mendis b Mathews 89  
Hussey not out 60  
Maxwell c A Mendis b Kulasekara 5  
Haddin not out 10  
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-5) 10  
Total: (For 5 wickets in 50 overs) 305  
Did not bat: Johnson, Starc, McKay, Doherty.  
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-72, 3-212, 4-241, 5-248.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekara	10	0	53	1
Malinga	10	1	61	1
Mathews	8	0	46	1

A Mendis	O	M	R	W
Dilshan	4	0	17	0
Perera	4	0	28	0
J Mendis	4	0	33	0

# SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Haddin b Starc	1
Dilshan run out	51
M Jayawardene c Finch b McKay	5
Chandimal c Haddin b McKay	73
Mathews run out (Maxwell)	12
Thirimanne run out (Maxwell)	0
Mendis c Bailey b Johnson	20
Perera c Bailey b Johnson	4
Kulasekara c Bailey b McKay	18
Malinga not out	1
Mendis c Haddin b McKay	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-9)	13
Total: (All out in 40 overs)	198
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-17, 3-111, 4-128, 5-128, 6-167, 7-169, 8-194, 9-198.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Starc	6	0	25	1
McKay	8	0	33	4
Johnson	9	1	43	2
Doherty	8	0	41	0
Maxwell	4	0	28	0
Hussey	5	0	24	0

# Amla, Smith lift SA

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Hashim Amla and Graeme Smith compiled half-centuries as South Africa moved to 191 for three at tea on the first day of the second Test against New Zealand at St George's Park on Friday.

Amla reached the break unbeaten on 70 while Smith notched his 36th Test half-century shortly after lunch before being dismissed eight balls later for 54 with seven fours.

# SCOREBOARD

**SOUTH AFRICA: First innings**  
Pietersen c Patel b Bracewell 21  
Smith c Watling b Wagner 54  
Amla not out 70  
Kallis c Watling b Bracewell 8  
De Villiers not out 29  
Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-3) 9  
Total: (For three wickets in 54 overs) 191  
To bat: Du Plessis, Elgar, Peterson, Kleinveldt, Steyn, Morkel.  
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-121, 137-3.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Boult	17	2	68	0
Bracewell	14	2	44	2
Wagner	13	1	50	1
Patel	5	0	13	0

# Zaka sounds out

FROM PAGE 16

to get his reaction on Ashraf's comments. BCB's ad-hoc committee member IH Mallick however informed that the BCB boss will talk with the media today.

Papon however told the reporters on Thursday night at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport upon his return from the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) meeting that they are planning to send a security team to assess the situation in Pakistan. He also informed that it's not possible to send the team before the BPL, which will start from January 17, as per the demand of their Pakistan counterparts.

Papon, who met with Ashraf at New Delhi last week, said that they have a window after the Tigers' tour of Zimbabwe in April.

ESPNcricinfo also added that several Pakistan players were sold at the BPL auction last month but their participation could hinge on the BCB's response to Ashraf's comments. There has been a lot of talk about Bangladesh touring Pakistan but with security continuing to be a concern, there have been no concrete steps forward.

The scheduling of the BPL also clashes with the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, Pakistan's premier first-class tournament, and the PCB said it would not be fair to disrupt the players' commitments to their teams.

The PCB and BCB have been discussing a short Bangladesh tour to Pakistan since 2011, but have faced hurdles throughout. A proposed tour in April 2012 was postponed because of an order from a Dhaka court, and another proposal for a tour in January this year was rejected by the BCB on security grounds. Pakistan have not hosted international cricket since the 2009 terror attacks on the Sri Lanka team bus and have played all their home matches at off-shore venues such as England and the UAE.

# North in final after big win

FROM PAGE 16

taker with 19 wickets while left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajib followed him with 15 wickets.

# WALTON CENTRAL ZONE v ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE

The marathon and record-breaking partnership between Marshal Ayub and Mehrab Hossain had made everything clear about the match fate and on the final day the onus was on the East Zone batsmen to see how they could make maximum use of a solid batting track. Nafis Iqbal got off to a start but once again failed to convert into a three-digit score as the right-hander was dismissed for 82 while left-handed Faisal Hossain fell eight runs short of a hundred. But their effort helped East Zone score 396 for eight in their first innings before stumps were drawn for the

final day.

**BCB NORTH ZONE v PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE**  
South Zone had started the day with a daunting task as they required 365 more runs to win the match after resuming the day on 82-2. A draw would have been enough to book a final berth but Sanjamul Islam gave North Zone the perfect start by removing Fazle Rabbi off the second ball of the day to pave the way for Saqlain to finish the job. Saqlain took four wickets for 90 runs.

Shohag Gazi staged a counterattack but the match fate was then written on the wall. Gazi hit 85 off 50 balls that contained 13 fours and four sixes before Nasir Hossain ended his adventure. Nasir picked another wicket, that of Safaq, in the same over to complete the job for North Zone.

# Dull draw puts Jamal on top

FROM PAGE 16

Sheikh Jamal made some impression in the first half and Sunday had a difficult chance to convert when he was fed by a Shakil Ahmed free-kick in the sixth minute. The Nigerian turned briskly before driving a low shot at goal, which missed the target by a whisker. Two minutes later, Shakil then took a dipping volley from outside the box which floated over the cross bar.

Sheikh Russel started to take control of the match and the best attempt they mustered came in the 24th minute when Sony Norde drove powerfully from 25 yards out. The ball beat the Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Maksudur Rahman Mustaq, but could not beat the upright.

Sheikh Russel enjoyed superior ball possession at the other side of the break too and came close twice but Mithun Chowdhury and substitute Rajon Mia failed to capitalise on the chances. Mithun

was fed with a header by strike partner Emily in an

Unmarked position in the 63rd minute, but the diminutive striker's volley went wide off the target. Minutes later, Bojan's miscued header fell to unmarked Rajon Mia, whose shot was blocked by Mustaq. Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque was however more keen on pointing to some refereeing decisions as the reason for not being successful in the match.

"Sheikh Jamal's Conte was supposed to get four red cards as he tackled Sony 10 to 12 times from behind but the referee (Tayeb Hasan) ignored those incidents in fear of being suspended," complained Maruf adding it was impossible to play good football in such circumstances.

"This (refereeing) is not my business as Bangladesh Football Federation and the Referees' Committee will look after the matter," said a diplomatic Sheikh Jamal coach Joseph Afusi.

# Onus on top order

FROM PAGE 16

apart. The player has steadily grown in confidence and his recent century for South Zone in the Bangladesh Cricket League, an innings which included 15 sixes, proves how dangerous he can be in the shortest format of the game.

# STRONG POINT

The one thing that Rajshahi has done is that they have signed up a number of 'gamechangers'. In Tamim, Samuels and Abdul Razzaq, they have players who can take away the game from their opponents. Provided that all the players are available, Rajshahi's aggressive top order is their main strength this year. There bowling, on the other hand, may not be as consistent. They'll be depending on Mohammad Sami, Abul Hasan and a string of local youngsters in the side. Tajjul Islam and Mukhtar Ali have been

drafted in from the Rajshahi division, while leg-spinner Monir Hossain can bring in a bit of variety to the attack.

# POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS

If one goes by last year's strategy, then Pakistan batsman Shahzaib Hossain might open alongside Tamim. Jahurul Islam, who was bought for 110,000 dollars, will be in contention to open the innings as well. Sean Ervine's good run in the inaugural edition will give him the edge over the other foreign players in the team, whereas Razzaq and Zia will handle the middle order. The equation however will change if and when Samuels and Hales are available. With Razzaq and Zia in the side, Rajshahi have the option of two specialist pacers in Abul and Sami as well as a couple of young spinners.

# Pabna volleyball

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Vaizan Smrity Volleyball League, an inter-district volleyball tournament kicked off in Pabna yesterday. District Sports Association (DSA) of Pabna organised the 7th edition of the annual tournament which is named after former player Samsul Haque alias Vaizan. 12 teams from the district are participating in the tournament which will run for two weeks.

# Div I cricket

FROM PAGE 16

overs (Shafiqul Hayat 26 Rafsan Al-Mahmud 23; Shahadat Chowhan 3-10, Arifur Rahman 3-10, Shamim Hossain 2-16).  
**DHANMONDI PRGOTI SANGHA:** 93-3 in 9.2 overs (Nayan 40, Rokonuzzaman 22, Rawshan Mahmud 19; Salehin Rifat 2-29, Imamul Hossain 1-15).  
**Result:** Dhanmondi Prgoti Sangha won by seven wickets.

# YOUNG PEGASUS CLUB:

160 all out in 38 overs (Ijarul Islam 64, Firoz Hossain 26, Shahadat Hossain 20; Shahjahan 5-30, Nazmul Huda 3-31).  
**YOUNG CRICKETERS:** 124 all out in 36.4 overs (Moinuddin 34, Nayeem 23, Rony 19; Shahidul Islam 2-18, Mehedi Hasan 2-11, Gaffar 2-20).  
**Result:** Young Pegasus Club won by 36 runs.

# Tamim ends

FROM PAGE 16

Cup. The left-hander will now have to get ready for the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 which begins on January 18. Playing for Duronto Rajshahi this year, Tamim will face his former team Chittagong Kings in his first game of the competition.



Bangladesh Air Force chief Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari inaugurates the Aga Khan Gold Cup Golf Tournament as chief guest along with other guests at the lush green and picturesque Kurmitola Golf Course yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY