

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2007, E-MAIL: sports@theloststar.net

## WOMEN'S CRICKET Dhaka reach semis

### SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi ended their campaign of the first-ever Women's Cricket Championship on a high after they beat Bogra by eight wickets at the Kalabagan Kira Chakra ground yesterday.

Batting first, Bogra were restricted to 132 for eight in their stipulated 30 overs. Brishy Roy (26) and Rokeya (21) were the chief contributors but it was Nishu who turned on a good all-round performance for their northern rivals.

Rajshahi reached their target in 22.4 overs, losing only two wickets as Nishu cracked 45 off only 36 balls.

In a curtailed match at the Ansar and VDP ground, Dhaka warmed up well for their semifinal today with a 9-wicket thumping of Chittagong.

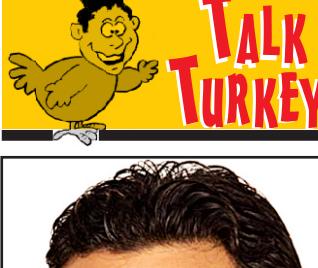
Batting first, Chittagong only mustered 64 for eight in 20 overs and Dhaka toppled the target in only 14 overs with Ayesha again doing the double-act. She took four wickets and then top-scored for Dhaka with 24 runs.

Khulna take on Jahangiragar University at the Dhaka University ground while Bholi play Dhaka at the Ansar & VDP ground in the two semifinals today.



### Did U Know?

Sachin Tendulkar of India scored unbeaten 100 in the fourth and final ODI against West Indies in Vaddoda on January 31. It was his forty first century, fourth against the West Indies.



### Danish Kaneria

(Pakistan leg-spinner)  
"I am very much disappointed. I feel like the team management has let me down. I was expecting to be given a chance in this one-day series before the World Cup."

While criticising his omission for the South Africa one-day series.

### What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Liverpool v Everton  
Live at 6:40 pm  
Aston Villa v West Ham  
Live at 8:55 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Charlton Athletic v Chelsea  
Live at 8:55 pm  
Middlesbrough v Arsenal  
Live at 11:10 pm  
Primera Liga  
Valencia v Atletico Madrid  
Live at 2:55 am (Sunday)



Premier Division Cricket League  
Old DOHS v Mohammedan  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Sonargaon Cricketers v Brothers Union  
Venue: BKSP  
Victoria SC v Biman  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium



## Tigers sans luggage!

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team faced inclement weather as they prepare for Sunday's first one-day international against hosts Zimbabwe with a training session at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday, according to sources.

There were more misery for the visitors after they had their luggage missing upon arrival after a 36-hour trip via Doha.

Tigers coach Dave Whatmore said on arrival, "It was a long and tiring journey here and irritating to say the least with the loss of luggage."

"But it won't take long to get ourselves ready for the series. We need to consolidate our advantage," the Bangladesh coach told AFP.

When contacting the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) CEO Mahmudur Raham over telephone in Doha yesterday evening, he informed The Daily Star that he was unaware of the happenings in Zimbabwe, as the team operations manager has not informed about the incident yet.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe captain Prosper Utseya is confident that his young side has what it takes to upset Bangladesh's plans of continuing where they left off at the end of last year in the forthcoming one-day international series.

"Morale in camp is soaring. All the players are raring to go. We are out to do well, and if the sky holds we want to do just that. Our preparations have gone on pretty well and I am optimistic that the boys will deliver the goods. All it takes is for the top order to click like it did in the first game against South Africa. A where Elton Chigumbura batted through our innings and senior players Brendan Taylor and Hamilton Masakadza chipped in with some worthwhile knocks."

"Also, the playing conditions are on our side so all we need to do is pull in one direction as a team, stick to the basics and take our chances when they come. The other thing that might just work in our favour is that we have retained the same team that beat Bangladesh 3-2 at the same venue last year," Utseya told a Zimbabwean website.

## Flintoff relieved with win

### REUTERS, Sydney

England captain Andrew Flintoff said his team's breakthrough win over Australia on Friday was a just result for all the hard work they had put in.

England ended a sequence of nine straight losses to the Australians with a 92-run win that gives them the chance of making the tri-series one-day finals.

"It's been a long time in coming," a relieved Flintoff told a news conference.

"We knew tonight was probably our last chance to beat Australia and we had to put in a good performance to stay in this competition."

He added: "We showed signs of improvement, we played great tonight but we have to continue it."

England's unlikely hero was opener Ed Joyce who made 107 to lay

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## Forhad sinks DOHS

### SPORTS REPORTER

Out-of-favour all-rounder Forhad Reza bowled Biman to an exciting four-run victory over his old club Old DOHS in a curtailed-over match of the Kai-Altech Premier Division Cricket League at BKSP yesterday.

With their third defeat in eight matches, defending champions DOHS not only suffered a big blow on their way to a hattrick title but also slipped to third position alongside Biman. They also face a tough challenge to bounce back in the title race as they meet a depleted Mohammedan Sporting Club today at Fatullah Cricket Stadium in the ninth round.

Like DOHS, last year's runners-up Sonargaon Cricketers will also try to bounce back from their eight-wicket defeat against Abahani when they take on pointless Brothers Union at BKSP today while the other ninth round match between Victoria and Biman will be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket

Stadium.

The match was rescheduled after being abandoned due to dense fog on Wednesday at the same venue but in the end, the two sides got to play a 25-over a-side game due to the same reason.

Man-of-the-match Forhad, who has been sidelined from the national team to make way for Mohammad Sharif for the four-match one-day series in Zimbabwe, returned with figures of 4-24 as Biman defended their 154-7 by wrapping up their opponents for 150 in exactly 25 overs.

The right-arm medium pacer picked up his first wicket by dismissing former national skipper Khaled Mahmud, who looked dangerous coming at number three after his side lost the first wicket on seven. He then claimed the wickets of Akram Khan (3) and Enamul Haque (2) in the 22nd over to dash the holders' hopes. But three run outs including a senseless one of Nadir Chowdhury (17) also played a big part in favour of Biman.

Mahmud scored a breezy 25-ball 33 with five hits to the fence while opener Muhammed Farrukh scored 15 with four boundaries. Biman won by four runs.

## Joyce brings joy

### England beat Australia after 17 months

#### Cricket

AFP, Sydney

going through their three-month tour without winning a game against Australian opposition.

"We had a point to prove, we wanted to win in Australia and if we

topscored with 44 off 61 balls.

DOHS needed seven runs from the final over with the last pair

batting but Biman's veteran pace

all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman

conceded only three runs to ensure

his side's victory.

Earlier, Javed Omar (33 off 39 balls) and Nafis Iqbal (44 off 56 balls) associated in a 76-run stand for the opening wicket to give Biman a platform while wicketkeeper Sajjad Kadir came up with a cameo 13-ball 27 that featured three sixes and a four.

### BRIEF SCORES

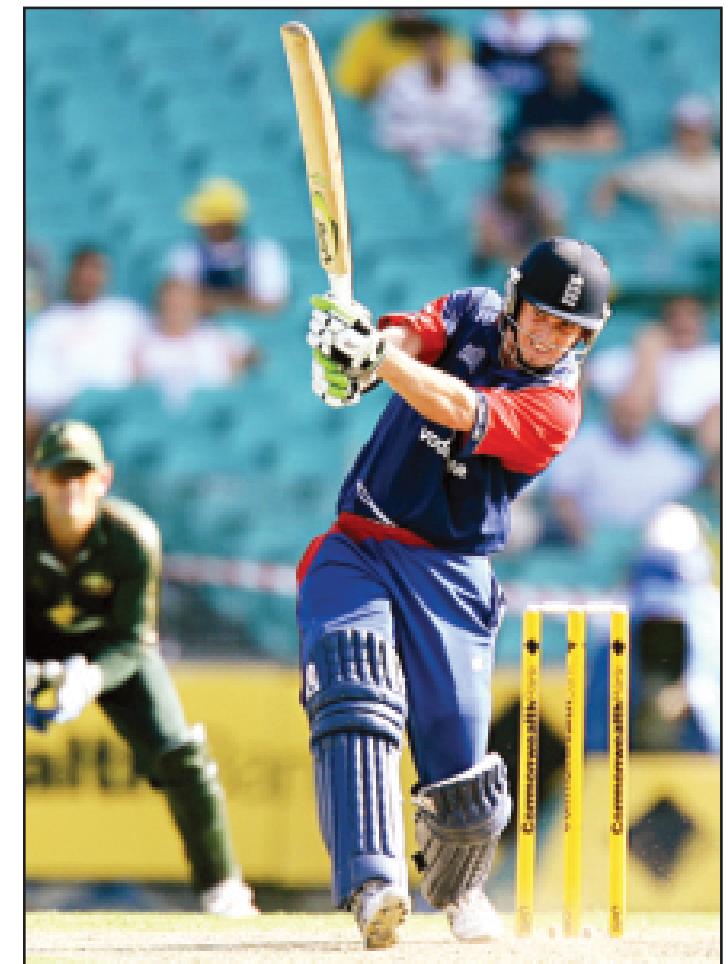
**BIMAN:** 150 all out in 25 overs (Javed 33, Nafis 44, Zahoor 14, Forhad 11, Mushfiqur 2, Sajjad 27, Sanwar 12 not out, Mosharraf 2, Rasel 1 n.o., extras 8, Nazmul 1-25, Nabil 2-26, Dollar 2-38, Farrukh 2-35).

**DOHS:** 150 all out in 25 overs (Farrukh 44, Shamsur 5, Mahmud 33, Ehsanul 9, Nadir 17, Akram 3, Shahin 0, Dollar 11, Enamul 2, Nazmul 9, Nabil 5 n.o., extras 12, Shafiq 1-36, Forhad 4-24, Murad 2-23).

**Result:** Biman won by four runs.

didn't win tonight it could have been our last chance to do so and we've been working hard towards this victory, it has taken a while but

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England batsman Ed Joyce hits a boundary during his match-winning century against Australia in the Commonwealth Bank series at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Ulsan edge U-23s

### Football

#### SPORTS REPORTER

and effortlessly toe-poked over the head of onrushing Yang Ji-won into the far post.

Abu Yusuf's boys enthralled the 4,000-strong crowd on a foggy evening when Emily sliced the rival defence with a neat through for Zahid Parvez who placed the ball past Yang for the their second goal in the very next minute.

The celebration of the national Under-23 team was short lived as Tariq's gaffe saw Korean striker Kim Young-hoo reduce the arrears in the 20th minute. Tariq chose not to handle a long pass but fumbled while trying to receive it with his feet. The ball ran out of the area and when the goaltender got it inside, he slipped to lose possession and Kim made no mistake to utilise the gift.

Four minutes later, Tariq left his post to intercept a long through by rival fullback Lee but neither used his hands nor the feet on the edge of the penalty area as midfielder Sung Seong-pyo latched the ball well before placing it home to make it 2-2.

The hosts could not put enough men into attack as the defence was

not very supportive apart from captain and left fullback Waly Faisal, who was impressive throughout. The lack of support forced the midfielders to play from a behindhand line, which also cut the pipeline to the frustration of the fans.

The local boys, however, created a golden chance to regain the lead just one minute before the short whistle but Emily, who found the ball in the rival box after a combined move, shot wide of the lone keeper much to the frustration of the fans.

The Koreans sealed the victory in the first-half injury time when midfielder Lee Hyun rose high above the opposition backline to nod home a right-flank corner by captain Jung Jae-suk, giving Tariq no chance to react to the powerful header.

Ulsan, who leave Dhaka tomorrow in the middle of their pre-season preparation tour, changed their entire eleven in the second half and it was hard to see any difference between the two set-ups.

Yusuf brought a few changes

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## Sehwag to curb shots

### PTI, New Delhi

Under pressure to perform, Virender Sehwag has been advised to be more careful with his shot selection and concentrate on spending more time in the middle to regain his form.

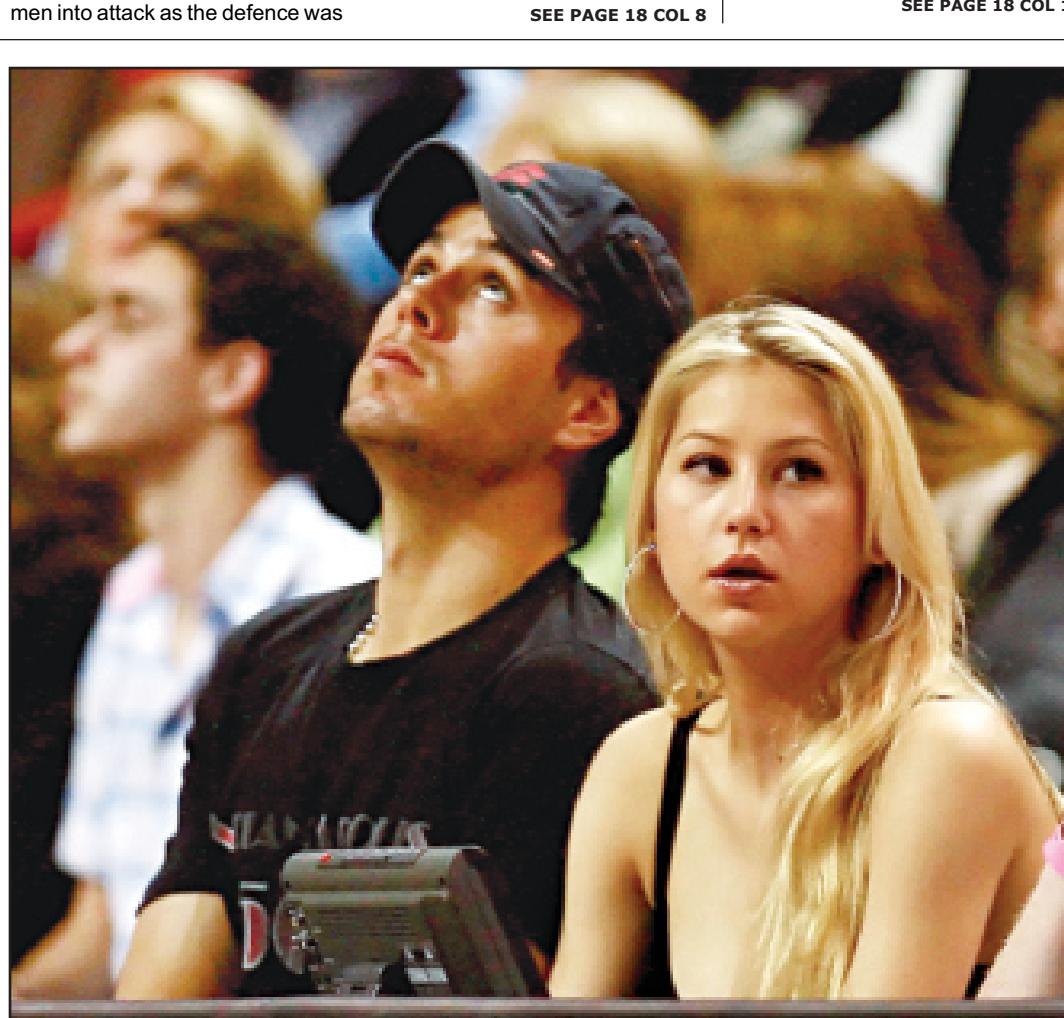
Sehwag, who was dropped for the one-day series against the West Indies to "sort out his batting problems" after his lacklustre show in South Africa, has studied video clippings of his recent innings to rectify the flaws in his batting.

"It is important for Sehwag that he spends more time in the middle and we chiefly worked on this aspect. He does not need to change his game but he should not forget the basics as well," his personal coach AN Sharma said.

"I suggested to him to watch his old footage so that he does not repeat his mistakes. He practices for at least one hour everyday by watching his videos," he told PTI.

The flamboyant batsman, who is tipped to return to the Indian squad for the one-day series against Sri Lanka, has made a conscious attempt to curb the strokes which has often led to his dismissal.

"In South Africa, he was getting out while trying to slice the ball but now he has stopped playing that way," Sharma said.



Former Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova (R) and his long-time boyfriend, Spanish singer Enrique Iglesias enjoy an NBA match between Miami Heat and Cleveland Cavaliers at the American Airlines Arena in Miami on Thursday.

## SL out for revenge

### Cricket

AFP, Colombo

compete well away from home. We did that in England and in New Zealand recently and this is a big series for us."

Sri Lanka also failed to make the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy in India last October despite being one of the favoured teams to win the 10-nation tournament.

Sri Lanka have rested star bowlers Chaminda Vaas and Muttiah Muralidaran for their last series before the World Cup, which starts in the Caribbean on March 13.

Both Sri Lanka and India will have the first two games in Kolkata on Feb 8 and Rajkot on Feb 11 to gauge current form before picking their squads by the Feb 13 deadline.

"We have more or less finalised the squad. There are one or two places that we need to confirm," said Jayawardene.

"I would say that we've got an idea of about 90 percent of people we want to take to the West Indies.

"We'll have to take into account things like form, experience, players who can handle pressure, players who can fit into the combinations that we want and who can contribute to the team," the 29-year-old said.

"I am confident that the players we are taking to India will be able to do the job for us."

"One area this team has done really well in the recent past is to

### Akram warns Australia

PTI, Karachi

Former captain Wasim Akram believes Pakistan could be the team to surprise Australia and spice up the World Cup which has become a little boring with Ricky Ponting's men winning the title in the last two editions.

"Australia appears favourites to win the World Cup in the West Indies. They have been winning consistently and it is becoming rather boring," Akram said.

"But if any team can beat the Aussies in the Caribbean, it is Pakistan. Wickets in the West Indies will be low, slow and dry and such pitches suit our players," he was quoted as saying in the 'Dawn'.

Akram, the only bowler to have

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