

## Rupali ride on Nazrul

SPORTS REPORTER

Rupali Bank achieved a 50-run win over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in the Kai-Altech First Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Rupali Bank rode on Nazrul Haque's patient 60 to score 183-9 in 50 overs. In reply, Eskaton only managed to score 133 before being all out in 38.3 overs with only Miraz hitting 45 off 83 balls.

Seamer Nazim Azad took 3-15 while Shumon and AK Azad took two wickets each. Earlier, it was Eskaton's Monjur Ahmed who stopped the Rupali batsmen with brilliant figures of 4-32 in nine overs off-spin.

## YOUR SAY ON TIGERS SELECTION

FROM PAGE 17 time to look into the performances. How can one say that Mushfiqur Rahim would surely perform with his bat? He only scored some runs against a weak Zimbabwe. He also had a poor domestic league. What will happen if he misses some vital catches and then don't score some runs in the WC? Is Mushfiq good enough against big teams like India and Sri Lanka?

Tahsin Chowdhury 2. It was an extremely horrible and disgusting decision to include Javed Omar in the WC squad. Instead of him, they should have taken Junaid Imroz (young opening batsman of Mohammedan) because he has performed brilliantly in the domestic cricket this season. I also think that they should have taken Forhad Reza instead of Syed Rasel. Reza is a good batting all-rounder and can score very quick runs which is needed down the batting order. But I think that the exclusion of Mashud from the team was not a wrong decision, because his batting form was too bad recently and Mushfiqur Rahim has done very well in the just concluded Zimbabwe tour. He has also proven his ability in the age-level cricket.

Aneek 3. We strongly protest the decision to drop Khaled Mashud from World Cup squad. We can't believe player like Masud who played maximum matches for his country still can't convince those guys (selectors). We have conducted a survey in London among 150 people of whom 135 said 'go ahead Mashud, we are with you'. We request the sports adviser of caretaker government to investigate why Mashud was dropped from the WC squad. We want to ask if Bangladesh lost any match for bad keeping, who will be liable? Should it be Faruque Ahmed and Co?

Bangladesh Cricket Forum, UK

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 women's individual champions in the inter-company annual sports meet, participated by some 300 sportsmen of Petrobangla's sixteen different companies, establishments and foreign oil companies.

Earlier, in the morning, Energy Secretary AMM Nasiruddin inaugurated the day-long meet as chief guest.

## SCHOOL CRICKET

West End High School earned a 39-run victory over Motijheel Ideal School & College in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket Tournament at the Uttara Friends Club ground yesterday.

At Uttara Friends Club ground, West End High School batted first to score 328 in 49.4 overs with Abdullah contributing 71 runs. Ratul and Maqsoodur took two wickets each.

In reply, Motijheel were restricted to 289-7 with Mahmudul scoring 93. Sohail captured four wickets for 42 runs.

In the day's other matches, Shaheed Police Smriti School & College, Manarat International School and Sabuj Bidyapith won their respective matches at different venues.

Shaheed Police Smriti School beat Mirpur Govt High School by three wickets at East End Club ground, Manarat International School defeated Adarsha Bidyapith by eight wickets at Iqbal Road ground while Sabuj Bidyapith beat Bangladesh International Tutorial by nine wickets at Dhupkhola Jagannath University ground.

**NATIONAL JUNIOR CHESS** Shamima Akhter took solo lead after beating Sharif Hossain in the Basic Bank 28th National Junior Chess Championship at the Federation hall room yesterday.

She reached six points with the win, topping Sharif who was also in the lead with Shamima the day before.

The games of the seventh round will start at 3pm today.

## Mancini wants

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Champions League. "It obviously really pleases the lads to be compared to a great team like the Real of Di Stefano," said Mancini. "But we must have as our model the Inter team of the 1960s and do as well as that team so they remember us."



Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (L) in conversation with discarded wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud during Walton's press conference in connection with the Cricket World Cup 2007 at a local hotel yesterday.

## Kiwis aim to keep it up

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

The New Zealand cricketers are determined to prove their 10-wicket humbling of Australia was not an aberration when they clash here Sunday in the second match of the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy series.

But their celebrations after the emphatic victory in the first match have been tempered by the loss of star all-rounder Jacob Oram with a broken finger.

The Kiwis produced a record-breaking performance on Friday and placed a huge question mark over the reigning world champions going into next month's World Cup. It was the Australia's heaviest one-day loss and the first time they have been beaten by 10 wickets in 646 one-day internationals.

They are also in danger of losing their second consecutive series after being beaten 2-0 by England in the finals of the recent tri-series in Australia.

New Zealand have called in specialist batsman Peter Fulton to replace the injured Oram who will see a specialist on Monday to determine the management of the injury. "At this stage, we are confident

he will travel to the World Cup," team manager Lyndsay Crocker said.

Oram fractured the finger when catching Mitchell Johnson late in Australia's meagre innings of 148.

New Zealand surpassed that total without loss in just 27 overs with Lou Vincent not out 73 and captain Stephen Fleming unbeaten on 70.

It was just New Zealand's third win in their past nine matches, a win-loss ratio that captain Fleming is acutely aware of.

"We're determined to break that -- we have a win and now we have to get another one," he said.

"We've been working hard to be more consistent but the proof of the pudding is on Sunday."

As much as New Zealand need a back-up win, Australia must reverse their form slump and both sides are desperate to avoid further injuries as they fine-tune for the World Cup.

Oram is the third casualty of the Chappell-Hadlee series. Australian fast bowler Brett Lee has gone home with an ankle injury and batsman Michael Clarke has been ruled out with a hip problem.

Although Australia has a make-shift look with five frontline players missing -- Ricky Ponting and Adam Gilchrist being rested and Lee, Clarke and Andrew Symonds

injured -- the ease of the victory was unexpected.

New Zealand's chief wicket taker, Shane Bond who finished the first match with 5-23, said it was important for New Zealand to keep the pressure on in the second game in Auckland and the third match in Hamilton on Tuesday.

"The challenge for us is to keep them down. They keep a lot of sides down and we want to do it to them."

Stand-in Australia captain Michael Hussey admitted his patched-up side never threatened. "We knew what we're in for here and we just weren't good enough. We just weren't up to scratch," he said, adding he was "pretty keen for Ricky (Ponting) to come back".

**TEAMS**  
**NEW ZEALAND** (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Lou Vincent, Ross Taylor, Scott Styris, Craig McMillan, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori, James Franklin, Shane Bond, Daryl Tuffey, Mark Gillespie, Jeetan Patel.

**AUSTRALIA** (from): Michael Hussey (captain), Matthew Hayden, Shane Watson, Brad Hodge, Brad Haddin, Michael Clarke, Phil Jaques, Adam Voges, Cameron White, Brett Lee, Brad Hogg, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken, Glenn McGrath.

## Amjad going

FROM PAGE 17 Cup squad, means the coach Peter Moores is down to the bare bones of a party.

Two replacements will be named shortly with veteran paceman Glen Chapple touted as one possibility. Ryan Sidebottom, the left-arm seamer from Nottinghamshire, might also come into the equation.

The tour was going to be Khan's first representative action for England -- he was born in Denmark -- having completed his qualification period.

With the options reduced, England are likely to name Will Jefferson, Michael Carberry and centurion Nick Compton for the first four-day match against Bangladesh which starts on Thursday.

## Rajshahi fail

FROM PAGE 17 **BARISAL** 175 and 215-7 in 71 overs (Imran 30, Hannan 9, Rakibul 61, Shahin 13, Iftikhar 32, Salahuddin 12, Raisul 7, Arman 15\*, Mehdi 5\*, extras 31, Nazmul 1-27, Enamul 3-56, Nabil 1-41, Alok 1-29).  
**Result: Match Drawn.**

**KHULNA** 182 and 51-1 in 12 overs (Imrul 0, Sajjadul 20\*, Nahidul 28\*, extras 3, Talha 1-23).

**DHAKA** 302 all out in 117.4 overs (Uttam 43, Rashedul 8, Kamrul 17, Shamsur 82, Anwar 53, Sharifullah 7, Sajjad 30, Arafat 13, Mahbubul 2, Talha 31\*, Shakil 6\*, extras 12, Mahmuduzzaman 1-49, Aslam 1-55, Manzarul 4-45, Fahim 4-78).  
**Result: Match Drawn.**

## Slick Stuttgart

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with his left foot. Naohiro Takahara and Albert Streit missed good chances for Frankfurt before Stuttgart made the game safe in the 44th minute, Ludovic Magnin crossing deep for Osorio, who controlled the ball and drove powerfully to score his first goal in the Bundesliga.

The second half was a stroll for Stuttgart, who added the fourth with fifteen minutes remaining. Gomez collected the ball in the box, but in his attempt to control was shoved over by Huggel and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Hitzlsperger took on the spot kick which he hit poorly to the left, Nikolov was able to parry but pushed the ball back into Hitzlsperger's path and the central midfielder put it into the back of the net the hard way.

## Bashar

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this time we are going with enough confidence and sound skill, which is very important. We actually feel a different taste," said Bashar, who is going to play his second World Cup.

Under the supervision of Day Whatmore, the cricketers had a three-hour net session before having completed the stretching and running sessions in the morning at the indoor complex. They also had a fielding session in the afternoon.

The 34-year-old Bangladesh skipper said that country's third World Cup campaign is a bit different from the first two appearances as the cricketers go to the Caribbean with a mission to secure a place in the second round.

"Bangladesh had earlier played two Cups and got unexpected result in the first appearance. But it is totally different from the previous ones as we are going with an expectation," he added.

The most successful Bangladesh skipper was not sure whether the experience of playing too many matches against depleted Zimbabwe gave them a wrong single about their strength.

"It would have been better if we could play some matches against big guys to realise where actually we are in. But I am happy that we could capitalise the opportunities we have given," he explained.

Bashar ruled out Mohammad Ashraful's possibility to open the innings but hinted that they will think about his batting position.

"I don't think Ashraful is now out of form rather he had got little opportunities to bat recently like me," said Bashar.

During the net session, recalled opener Javed Omar's batting gave some of the spectators some entertainment as the gritty right-hander struck some big hits that reached the distant galleries. But that only motivated the spectators to let everyone know that it was the first six in his life. Omar so far has three sixes in his one-day career.

## Tapan warns

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about the organisation but we have to go through massive discussions before taking a decision of abolishing the NSC. What I personally feel is that we should take a decision against the procedure that empowers the sports minister to hold the chair of NSC. We should stop it first," he explained.

"You see this organisation is only interested to make buildings or carry out renovation work other than supporting the games. I was shocked to learn that they have allocated less money for training. I asked the officials what was the budget of NSC building. They told me it was Tk 40 crore, so how can you say that there is a lack of money to improve the sport in the country. I can't understand why this building then?" he questioned while referring to the 20-story NSC tower where the seminar took place.

Chowdhury said that he only came to know about the sports policy yesterday, having been shelved since it was prepared in 1997. "I knew nothing about it until now but I will definitely go through that report. If needed we should bring some changes in that report before implementing it. No doubt we desperately need a sports policy to follow," he said.

Legendary footballer Kazi Salahuddin was however not interested to look back on the failures. Rather he insisted on a new start.

"I have only one demand which is the financial support for football. What I want to say let us go for development for the future," he said.

The seminar also discussed various other issues like the damaging role of the so-called Forum, which has been playing the pivotal role in manipulating elections in sports federations. News editor (sports) of BD News Mustafa Mamun presented the keynote speech while organiser Mobassur Hossain, table tennis Zuber Rahman Linu, sports writers Sanaul Haque Khan, Rezaur Rahman Sohag and Dilu Khondokar took part in the lively discussion.

## Karlovic slays Murray

Tennis

AFP, San Jose

Defending champion Andy Murray rallied to beat South Korea's Lee Hyung-Taik 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) here Friday and reach the semi-finals of the 416,000 ATP SAP Open.

Lee, the seventh seed, saved a match point against the third-seeded Scott in the 12th game of the third set and went on to break to force the tiebreaker.

But Murray prevailed, to line up a semi-final clash with top seeded American Andy Roddick.

Roddick withstood a strong challenge from eighth-seeded compatriot Vincent Spadea to win 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1.

Seeking his third crown here after winning in 2004 and 2005, Roddick booked a spot in the semi-finals despite losing his first set of the tournament.

After breaking Spadea in the sixth game en route to an opening-set win, Roddick was in control in the second before being broken for the first time in the tournament in the eighth game.

Spadea took a 5-0 lead in the

tiebreak, and Roddick rallied to narrow the gap to 5-6 before hitting a backhand wide.

Roddick dominated the decisive set, losing just five points in four service games.

"My focus was all over the place the first two sets," Roddick said. "I had to bear down to establish myself at the beginning of the third set. I had to regroup."

Roddick's bid for a third straight title here last year was stopped by Murray in the semi-finals. The young Scot went on to win his first ATP Tour title.

Roddick, who fired 19 aces on Friday, said he was playing well enough to regain the crown.

"I think I can win it," he said. "It's just a matter of execution. Andy Murray is looking to repeat, and he knows he can win. But my chances are as good as anyone's."

"I have a lot of respect for Andy. He really plays himself out through the points. He takes care of guys that he's supposed to take care of."

Croatia's Ivo Karlovic took care of another player he wasn't supposed to - ousting fifth-seeded American Mardy Fish 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

It was the Croatian's first ATP quarterfinal appearance since last

May in Munich.

"The turning point was in the tiebreak," Karlovic, 27, said. "My level went up and he was frustrated. That's why I broke him early in the second set, and that was it."

Karlovic, ranked 103rd in the world, had saved five match points in a second-set tiebreaker and shocked second-seeded American James Blake 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (13/11), 6-4 on Thursday in a second-round match.

"Beating James Blake, who is in the top 10, is a big confidence booster," Karlovic said. "So today, I felt confident."

Karlovic will next face sixth-seeded German Benjamin Becker, who earned a spot in the semis with a 6-4, 6-3 triumph over fourth-seeded Marat Safin of Russia.

## Rovers frustrate

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the bottom left corner with the outside of his foot following excellent work by Adebayor, but Friedel tipped his effort away and then somehow sprang to his feet to deny Hoyte on the rebound.

## Cricket

REUTERS, London

Kenyan cricket chiefs have settled a pay row with World Cup-bound players who staged a one-day sit-in earlier this week.

Kenya captain Steve Tikolo said on Friday the players held a meeting with Cricket Kenya officials on Thursday where the dispute which threatened World Cup preparations was resolved.

Kenya will be in Group C in the West Indies with England, New Zealand and Canada.

"They agreed to pay us fees for the match against Canada which we were awarded after six of their players fell sick in Mombasa last month," Tikolo told Reuters by telephone from Nairobi.

Kenya won a tri-nations series against Canada and Scotland in the

Kenyan Indian Ocean port city of Mombasa in January.

"They had said we were not going to be paid because the match did not take place. However, we insisted it was our right (to be paid) because we entered the field ready for the match, but the opponents did not come," said Tikolo.

"The ICC awarded us the match anyway. We demanded to meet them (Kenyan officials) before resuming training and we met yesterday (Thursday). They promised to pay us and we have agreed to resume training."

Cricket Kenya chief executive Tom Tikolo (Steve's elder brother) confirmed the meeting took place and that everything was agreed on.

"We will soon pay them and they have agreed to resume training. We don't anticipate any more problems," he said. He dismissed it as a minor issue that would not affect the team's World Cup preparations.

## Yuvraj takes India home

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(46) exploded with a flurry of boundaries early in the innings to keep pressure on Sri Lanka's bowlers and fielders, racing to 92 off just 12 overs.

Uthappa was the more aggressive, hitting one six and nine fours before being caught by Sanath Jayasuriya off seamer Farveez Maharoof.

Sehwag looked set to complete his half-century when he was run out going for what would have been an easy single. He slowed down near the non-striker's end and wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara broke the stumps with a direct throw.

But there was no respite for Sri Lanka as Yuvraj and Ganguly maintained the tempo with their aggressive knocks. They used their feet remarkably well against spinners, each hitting three sixes.

Yuvraj, returning recently from an injury, flayed the Sri Lankan attack during his 83-ball knock as he went for big shots from the beginning and finished the match with his 11th four.

Ganguly, who had retired hurt in the opening over due to cramps, returned after the fall of the second wicket and went on to play a crucial role. He was named man-of-the-series for scoring two half-centuries in three matches.

Silva had earlier steadied the innings after Sri Lanka's top order floundered against the Indian seam attack on a good batting pitch.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth and final one-day international between India and Sri Lanka on Saturday:

**SRI LANKA**

Atapattu b Sreesanth 19

Jayasuriya c Ganguly b Agarkar 22

Jayawardene c Uthappa b Agarkar 7

Sangakkara c Uthappa b Zaheer 1

Silva not out 107

Dilshan c Uthappa b Ganguly 28

Arnold c Sreesanth b Shwag 22

Maharoof c Karthik b Zaheer 28

Bandara not out 5

Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-3, w-14) 20

Total: (For 7 wickets in 47 overs) 259

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-50, 3-52, 4-56, 5-124, 6-165, 7-229

Did not bat: Malinga, Fernando

**Bowler** O M R W

Zaheer 10 2 54 2

Agarkar 10 1 52 2

Sreesanth 8 1 46 1

Harbhajan 9 0 48 0

Ganguly 6 0 29 1

Sehwag 4 0 27 1

**INDIA**

Sehwag run out 46

Ganguly not out 58

Uthappa c Jayasuriya b

Maharoof 52

Karthik c b Fernando 1

Yuvraj not out 95

Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-8) 11

Total: (For 3 wickets in 47 overs) 263

Fall of wickets: 1-92, 2-106, 3-118

Did not bat: Dravid, Dhoni, Harbhajan, Agarkar, Sreesanth, Zaheer

**Bowler** O M R W

Maharoof 6 0 60 1

Malinga 9 1 54 0

Fernando 9 1 56 1

Bandara 4 0 37 0

Dilshan 9 0 34 0

Jayasuriya 2 0 10 0

Arnold 2 0 10 0

**Result: India won by seven wickets and clinch 4-ODI series 2-1.**

**Man-of-the-match:** Chamara Silva.

**Man-of-the-series:** Sourav Ganguly.

**Toss:** India.

**Umpires:** Simon Taufel and Amish Saheba.

## Luck matters

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He's proved his versatility, he can play very well in any position. His preferred position is midfield," he said.

"We're happy when we have him in there because he brings an extra dimension to the team. But wherever he plays he gives 100 per cent to the cause."

## Compton comes

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Abahani's successful bowling trio Mohammad Shahjada, Ziaur Rahman and Suhawardi Shuvo remained wicketless on the opening day.

## BRIEF SCORES

**ENGLAND A: First Innings.** (Jefferson 58, Compton 152\*, Yardy 16, Carberry 7, Loudon 0, Prior 82\*, extras 12, Dollar 1-52, Mosharrar 1-63, Mahmudullah 2-42).