

## 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 of 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

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 Mohammad) 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 bat 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.

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 Uttam Friends Clubground yesterday.

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

In reply, Motijheel were restricted to 289-7 with Mahmudul scoring 93. Sohel 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 Adarsa Bidyapith by eight wickets at Iqbal Road ground while Sabuj Bidyapith beat Bangladesh International Tutorial by nine wickets at Dhupkhola Jaganmohani University ground.

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

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

## Mancini wants

FROM PAGE 20  
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."



PHOTO: STAR

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.

"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, Clark 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.

The most successful Bangladeshi 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 have played some matches against big guns to realise where actually we are in. But I am happy that we could capitalised 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.

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 A 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, Iftekhar 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, Sajidul 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, Sharifulah 7, Sajid 30, Arafat 13, Mahbubul 0, Talha 31\*, Shakil 6\*, extras 12, Mahmuduzzaman 1-49, Aslam 1-55, Manzurul 4-45, Fahim 4-78). Result: Match Drawn.

River Plate

FROM PAGE 20  
of hooliganism.

At least two people were injured and several cars destroyed along with shop windows in the southern suburbs of Buenos Aires on Thursday following battles between rival groups of second division supporters.

In an even more serious incident a youth was found dead and another seriously wounded after a fracas between rival gangs of First Division outfit Godoy Cruz in the western city of Mendoza.

Ricky Ponting pulled out of the New Zealand series with a back problem then Brett Lee and Michael Clarke were both sent home after injuring themselves before the first match, with Lee now in danger at Liverpool with a knee injury.

He will be in the stadium to cheer on his Anfield pals, and also had a warning for Barca's stars.

"You'd need a sledge hammer and a nuclear bomb to knock the Australian's confidence," Bracewell told the New Zealand Press Association.

"They have two (consecutive)

Reds warn

on such occasions."

The match in Barcelona will be a bitter-sweet occasion for Luis Garcia, the former Barca player who is now out for the season at Liverpool with a knee injury.

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 shown over by Hugel 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.

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 Manan presented the keynote speech while organiser Mobsassar Hossain, table tennis Zulber Rahman Linu, sports writers Samia Haque Khan, Rezaur Rahman Sohag and Dilu Khondoker took part in the lively discussion.

Slick Stuttgart

FROM PAGE 20  
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.

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Jol knows the expectations at

## Bashar

FROM PAGE 17

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 Dav 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 Bangladeshi 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 results 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 Bangladeshi 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 have played some matches against big guns to realise where actually we are in. But I am happy that we could capitalised 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.

"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

## 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-seed 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.

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

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.

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