



British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury (L) hands over medals and football kits to the graduates of Canary Wharf football academy at his residence in Baridhara yesterday.

## Rating chess

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Destiny International Rating Chess got underway yesterday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room.

A total of 21 players including GM Ziaur Rahman, IM Abdurrahman Al Rakib, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Khondoker Aminul Islam, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, FM Mehdi Hasan, FM Rezaul Haque and IWM Rani Hamid won their respective first round boards.

## Long distance swimming on June 16

**UNB, Dhaka**

The Keya Cosmetics 9th National Long Distance Swimming Competition will be held in the Shitalakkhya river in Narayanganj on June 16.

The competition will begin from the Narayanganj BIWTA VIP Terminal and ends at the Dhaleshwari River at the Munshiganj LaunchGhat.

The Bangladesh Swimming Federation has selected 10 swimmers including four females for the daylong meet.

The selected swimmers are: Men - Karar Samedul Islam, Abdul Hamid Ripon (Bangladesh Navy), Zakir Ullah, Shah Alami (Bangladesh Air Force), Monirul Islam (Alamgir Swimming Club, Rajshahi) and Abdul Maleq Zihadi (SagarKhali Swimming Club, Kushtia).

Women - Sabura Khatun (SagarKhali Swimming Club), Lovely Khatun, Momtaz Shirin (Bangladesh Ansar) and Aduri Khatun (Saint Martin Oceanic Swimming Club, Cox's Bazar).

## Junior hattrick

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It seemed that Brothers were playing with a purpose and created numerous openings from the word go at the Khulna Stadium.

However, after missing chance after chance and hitting the bar, it took the tourists 23 minutes to find the back of the net through Junior.

Midfielder Mamunul Islam doubled the lead four minutes later but it was all Junior, who completed his treble before the break with strikes in the 32 and 40 minutes.

It was the third hattrick in the league after MuktiJoddha's Alfaaz and Paul.

Junior netted his fourth goal 11 minutes after resumption but as it so often happens, Brothers lost the appetite after getting a five-goal cushion.

Brothers manager Amer Khan admitted that revenge was on their mind.

"We were determined to win and win big. We should have won the first leg match also by a big margin but our players spoiled a number of chances," told Amer over phone from Khulna.

"We lost in the match in Dhaka because Abahani successfully converted all their counter attacks. Here, we had a point to prove and did not give them any chance. Still I was a bit worried as we failed to score midway through the first half despite tearing apart the rival defence."

"It was an excellent performance from Junior and scoring four goals in a match proves his skill," he added.



## Did U Know?

European teams have reached every FIFA World Cup final except in 1930 and 1950.

## Young booters honoured by British HC

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Thirty-four graduates of the Canary Wharf Football Academy in Bangladesh received a commemoration for their achievements from British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury at his residence in Baridhara yesterday.

Hand-picked by famous coach Anthony Ferguson from over 4000 initial candidates across the country, these young footballers received medals and kitbags for their endeavours but more interestingly look set for an exciting trial in renowned London-based clubs like Arsenal and West Ham and the David Beckham Academy.

"Arsenal and West Ham have already agreed in principle to coach some of these youngsters while the David Beckham Academy has also promised to integrate some of these individuals into their training scheme," said community services manager of Canary Wharf Zakir Khan, who is one of the leaders of this initiative.

In his speech, Anwar Chowdhury encouraged the youngsters to grab onto this opportunity with both

hands while commanding Canary Wharf for this venture.

"This will go a long way to developing the inter-personal relationship between our nations. Canary Wharf is a big name in the British-Bangladeshi community, if not in the whole of London, and you (the youngsters) would do well to avail this opportunity being provided to you."

He also added that this initiative would perhaps unearth hidden talents in the Bangladeshi football arena.

"Maybe we can find the Bangladeshi Beckham from this lot," he quipped with a smile.

The High Commissioner was in high spirits throughout the reception and keeping in tune with the light-hearted theme, he even turned up for a little game with the trainees in his lounge, using flag-posts as the goalposts!

But in more serious matters, Zakir Khan was convinced that this was a win-win situation for the youngsters.

"This is a huge opportunity for them. The chance to go to Europe and train with such top clubs

would only add to their football knowledge. They can then bring this back to Bangladesh and perhaps turn professional. And who knows? Maybe one of these thirty-four will be good enough to make the grade at a top club. We might just see our first Bangladeshi professional in England."

Head coach of the project Golam Sarwar Tipu was also honoured for his efforts along with his three assistant coaches.

Chief coordinator Fazlur Rahman Babul also spoke in the event where he lauded the achievement but bemoaned the lack of facilities available to the youngsters in Bangladesh.

Canary Wharf is a major property developer which has turned the deprived area of Tower Hamlets in east London into a modern township. They have been supportive to the Bangladeshi community and have come forward to mastermind this project with support from Emirates and Clifton Restaurant.

## Kent wishes for Ford

**Cricket**

**AFP, New Delhi**

India's newly-appointed cricket coach Graham Ford flew back to England on Sunday facing delicate negotiations with his current employers over switching jobs.

South African Ford, 46, who is contracted with English county Kent as director of cricket, was on Saturday selected as coach of the Indian national team for a one-year period.

India's cricket chiefs have given Ford until Monday to tell them when he can take up his new job. They hope he will be in place ahead of the tours of Ireland and England starting later this month.

But Kent, where Ford is contracted until September 2008, said they would not discuss the coach's future until Sunday's one-day match against Hampshire in Tunbridge Wells was over.

A statement by Kent's chief executive Paul Millman, posted on the county's official website, also wished

"the popular South African" would continue with them.

"The focus for Graham and the Kent team is very much on winning a match that would see the team edge a step closer to a home semi-final in the Friends Provident Trophy," the statement said.

"Discussions with Ford will take place after the match and... it is hoped that the popular South African will remain at Canterbury to continue the progress made towards re-establishing Kent as a major force in county cricket."

Another Kent online website reported the county "seem certain to demand some form of compensation package from the Indian board for losing their man."

An Indian cricket board panel picked Ford over Englishman John Embrey, the only other candidate for one of the most high-profile jobs in cricket, after closed-door interviews in Chennai on Saturday.

"The panel has decided to appoint Ford initially for a period of one year," the board's treasurer, N. Srinivasan, told reporters after the meeting.

## Dhoni, Jayawardene

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strike before skipper Jayawardene (107) and wicketkeeper Dhoni (139 not out) came to their team's rescue with commendable knocks in hot and humid conditions.

Sri Lankan Jayawardene hammered two sixes and nine fours in a 106-ball knock for his 10th century in one-day internationals before falling in the closing overs.

India's Dhoni gave a superb exhibition of power hitting as he struck five sixes and 15 fours in a 97-ball innings for his third hundred in one-dayers.

Asia were in trouble in the initial overs against disciplined African bowling and fielding before Jayawardene and Dhoni altered the course of the innings.

Seamers Ongondo (3-35) and Mome Morkel (3-50) were brilliantly backed by their fielders, with skipper Justin Kemp and AB de Villiers taking spectacular catches to keep pressure on the Asian side.

Kemp took a diving one-handed catch at second slip to account for India's opener Virender Sehwag, while de Villiers dived to his left at point to dismiss Sri Lanka's Upul Tharanga.

But Dhoni and Jayawardene put paid to Africa's hopes of restricting Asia to a modest total with their exciting

strokeplay during their 178-ball partnership. They helped their side plunder 108 in the closing 10 overs.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after Asia's innings against Africa in the third and final one-day international of the Afro-Asia Cup series on Sunday:

#### ASIA

Sehwag c Kemp b Morkel 8

Jayasuriya c Botha b Ongondo 13

Tharanga c De Villiers b Ongondo 10

Yuvraj Singh b Chigumbura 31

Dippenaar c Botha b Ongondo 2

Jayawardene c Botha b Morkel 107

Dhoni not out 139

Mortaza c Morkel b Chigumbura 1

Harbhajan Singh b Morkel 4

Rafique not out 0

Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-2, w-8) 16

Total: (For 8 wkt in 50 overs) 331

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-30, 3-45, 4-51, 5-

6-72, 7-90, 8-105, 9-139.

Bowler O M R W

MMorkel 10 0 50 3

Ongondo 10 2 35 3

Chigumbura 10 0 77 2

Kemp 2 0 9 0

Botha 10 1 49 0

Tikolo 4 0 59 0

Sibanda 2 0 24 0

De Villiers 2 0 22 0

Sehwag 10 0 50 3

Jayawardene 10 2 35 3

Dhoni 10 0 77 2

Yuvraj Singh 10 1 49 0

Tharanga 10 0 59 0

Harbhajan Singh 10 0 24 0

Sehwag 10 0 50 3

Jayawardene 10 2 35 3

Dhoni 10 0 77 2

Yuvraj Singh 10 1 49 0

Tharanga 10 0 59 0

Harbhajan Singh 10 0 24 0

Sehwag 10 0 50 3

Jayawardene 10 2 35 3

Dhoni 10 0 77 2

Yuvraj Singh 10 1 49 0

Tharanga 10 0 59 0

Harbhajan Singh 10 0 24 0

Sehwag 10 0 50 3

Jayawardene 10 2 35 3

Dhoni 10 0 77 2

Yuvraj Singh 10 1 49 0

Tharanga 10 0 59 0

Harbhajan Singh 10 0 24 0

Sehwag 10 0 50 3

Jayawardene 10 2 35 3

Dhoni 10 0 77 2

Yuvraj Singh 10 1 49 0

Tharanga 10 0 59 0

Harbhajan Singh 10 0 24 0

Sehwag 10 0 50 3

Jayawardene 10 2 35 3

Dhoni 10 0 77 2

Yuvraj Singh 10 1 49 0

Tharanga 10 0 59 0

Harbhajan Singh 10 0 24 0

Sehwag 10 0 50 3

Jayawardene 10 2 35 3

Dhoni 10 0 77 2

Yuvraj Singh 10 1 49 0

Tharanga 10 0 59 0

Harbhajan Singh 10 0 24 0

Sehwag 10 0 50 3

Jay