

## Women storm into final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh outplayed Hong Kong by 58 runs in the semifinal of the ACC women's cricket tournament at the PT Ibrahim Institute ground in Johor yesterday.

Opting to bat first, Bangladesh scored 100 for 7 in 30 overs. In reply, Hong Kong were bowled out for 42 runs in 23.3 overs.

Panna Ghosh scored 39 while captain Tazkia Akhtar and Salma Khan scored 16 each.

When Hong Kong replied, they were overwhelmed by Champa Chakma, who took three wickets and Panna and Salma took two wickets each.

Pinky grabbed two and Tithi took a wicket to wrap up Hong Kong.

Bangladesh now face Nepal in the final today.

## Handball meet from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Madaripur take on Dhaka in the opening game of the Basic Bank 18th National Women's Handball Championship at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

The budget of the competition, which will be participated by sixteen districts, was set at Tk 256,200. The lead sponsors Basic Bank will provide Tk 200,000 for the tournament.

## New coach

FROM PAGE 17

PCB chairman Nasim Ashraf has denied that a players' vote led to Lawson's appointment.

"We took the players' opinion but it's wrong to say that the decision was made on that, we considered all points," said Ashraf while announcing Lawson's appointment on Monday.

Intikhab said Lawson was too new to coaching whereas Whatmore had experience.

"Whatmore has proven credentials with World Cup win in 1996 with Sri Lanka, a semi-final place with Sri Lanka in 2003 World Cup and a lot of progress shown by Bangladesh under him," he added.

"I am lost for words."

## Tigers play

FROM PAGE 17

The 25-year-old all-rounder Ian Daniel, who is yet to make his international debut, will lead the Sri Lankan selection which is mostly comprised of their academy players. Only pace bowler Nuwan Kulasekara, who played four Tests and 19 one-day internationals, is the only familiar name in the squad.

"We are not thinking of the opponents rather our main focus is to take the opportunity before the one-day series. It's very important match for us. There are some new guys who joined the team and the match will give us the opportunity to play together," said Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraf.

TEAM

Mohammad Ashraf (captain), Shahriar Nafees, Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Tushar Imran, Shakib Al Hasan, Mustafiqur Rahim, Forhad Reza, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mahmudullah Riyad, Abdur Razzak and Syed Rasel.

## Toni worry

FROM PAGE 20

"If the ball comes into the box, it will be dangerous for all our opponents."

"There won't be many teams who can contain us", added Klose, who insists he has come to Bayern to "score a lot of goals", but Munich's fans must wait to see the pair in competitive action for their new club.

Close is likely to partner teenage striker Sandro Wagner against Bremen on Saturday after the 19-year-old was promoted from the Bayern second team

## Gunners

FROM PAGE 20

would believe that it's been a difficult summer but I think people have not really looked behind what's happened.

"I'm very relaxed. I think we've got a very good squad and we've added a few players, most of them not names people have heard of before."

"But that's very much Arsene Wenger's style. People hadn't really heard of Thierry Henry, Patrick Vieira or Cesc Fabregas before they arrived."

Hill-Wood rubbish suggestions that the Gunners are being hampered by the financial burden of their new Emirates Stadium home.

"It's actually the reverse," he insisted.

"Relocating to the Emirates has increased the income of the club. The stadium has not held Arsenal back at all in terms of bringing in players."

"It's actually given us the opportunity to compete with the biggest clubs in the world."

"If we had stayed at Highbury that would have limited our resources and over the long term affected our ability to financially compete with the top sides."



PHOTO: INTERNET

Bangladesh players celebrate after they qualified to the final of the ACC Women's Cricket tournament at the PT Ibrahim Institute ground in Johor yesterday.

## Players want CEO to go

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The West Indies national team have called for the resignation of Bruce Aanensen, the WICB's chief executive who has been in office for less than three months, highlighting what seems an almost irreparable divide between players and officials.

In a strongly-worded letter, originally posted on caribbeanccricket.com, the Dinanath Ramnarine, the chief executive of the West Indies Players Association (WIPLA), the players wrote that they were highly offended that Aanensen publicly labelled them as incompetent.

"We are now left with the rather difficult situation of determining whether as players we would be able to continue working with Mr. Aanensen," the letter concluded. "Unfortunately, given the unfair and

frankly thoughtless nature of his comments we would not be keen in having any further interaction at a professional level with Mr. Aanensen. From Mr. Aanensen's comments, for which, significantly, he has made no withdrawals or apologies, we would find it virtually impossible to engage him in any meaningful manner."

Gordon, who leaves office in 12 days, responded to Ramnarine, who forwarded the players' letter along with a few asides of his own, by saying that he was not satisfied with the letters as there was no justification in the charges made.

But he rounded on Ramnarine, accusing him of being "frequently abusive to Deryck Murray [WICB director] and his team at negotiations." Gordon wrote: "You have stated at meetings with one of our Board members and two executives of WICB present that I am a liar. You have since denied saying so, while everyone present heard your comment."

Reacting to the attack by the players, Aanensen said that he was anything but happy about it though he added that his response would be measured and forthcoming at the appropriate time. About the charge of calling the players "incompetent" following the second Test, Aanensen told the Trinidad Express: "I had discussions with some of the players long after that interview [in the second Test] was done and I got no sense of animosity from them." He accused Ramnarine of wanting to unleash an assault on him. "[He] thought that [the players' letter] was a good support mechanism for his assault."

But which of the three hundreds will he most cherish? "I think the century in 1986 was my best. We won at Lord's for the first time and went on to win the series. The bowlers won the game for us - Chetan Sharma bowled superbly, Kapil Dev was equally good, Maninder Singh too. To finish on the winning side after making your third successive hundred was very satisfying."

India had never won a Lord's Test before 1986, they've yet to win one since. As much as he's proud of being part of that side, Vengsarkar will hope that India double that victory tally in the coming days.

achievement, when Cricinfo asked him about it, he explained why the ground was special.

"Every player has his favourite grounds. I've got four hundreds at Chelmsford, it just takes a persistent bowling attack to open up the cracks. The top order is weak, the middle is inconsistent and the tail is mostly redundant. Lord's is usually good to the batsmen and India's batting galacticos, as the Guardian newspaper called them, will need to stand up. If they need some expert advice about batting on the ground they just need to look around the dressing room and spot a man who managed three hundreds on the trot here."

Did he have to make any special adjustment to counter the famous Lord's slope? "Too much is made of the slope at Lord's," he said nonchalantly. "Every ground has some

slope - go to Leeds you have a slope, at Chelmsford there's also a slope. You need to adjust to different conditions and the slope is just one part of it. It's not as tough to adjust as it's made out to be."

But which of the three hundreds will he most cherish? "I think the century in 1986 was my best. We won at Lord's for the first time and went on to win the series. The bowlers won the game for us - Chetan Sharma bowled superbly, Kapil Dev was equally good, Maninder Singh too. To finish on the winning side after making your third successive hundred was very satisfying."

India had never won a Lord's Test before 1986, they've yet to win one since. As much as he's proud of being part of that side, Vengsarkar will hope that India double that victory tally in the coming days.

last five minutes.

Fetah then released Kaiser in the 90th minute with a brilliant diagonal pass to help Russel put the result beyond any doubt. Titumir left his post but the diving goalie lost the ball under pressure from Kaiser, who made no mistake to sidefoot into an open goal.

Russel added more salt to the Reds' wounds in the second minute of the stoppage time when Younes, getting the ball from Fetah, squared the ball from the right. Hassan Al Mamun fumbled on a regular clearance, giving an

unmarked Nayan all the time to drill home to seal the victory.

Yellow cards: Saadane (Russel) and Parvez, Ghansah, Jony (Muktijoddha)

TEAMS  
Russel: Zia, Aminul, Bourdif, Hassan, Mishu, Pappu (Kaiser), Saadane, Fetah, Tanvir (Nayan), Bulbul and Younes.

Muktijoddha: Titumir, Hassan Al Mamun, Ghansah, Rajani, Parvez, Brahim (Saiful), Arman Aziz, Maruf, Arman, Biddyt (Jony), Alfaz (Enamul) and Kanchan.

Referee: Mansoor Azad.

## India ponder options

FROM PAGE 17

can't be easy - but it would also allow the team a chance to play the extra batsman in Yuvraj.

India's batting is awesome on paper but, as was shown at Chelmsford, it just takes a persistent bowling attack to open up the cracks. The top order is weak, the middle is inconsistent and the tail is mostly redundant. Lord's is usually good to the batsmen and India's batting galacticos, as the Guardian newspaper called them, will need to stand up. If they need some expert advice about batting on the ground they just need to look around the dressing room and spot a man who managed three hundreds on the trot here."

Did he have to make any special adjustment to counter the famous Lord's slope? "Too much is made of the slope at Lord's," he said nonchalantly. "Every ground has some

slope - go to Leeds you have a slope, at Chelmsford there's also a slope. You need to adjust to different conditions and the slope is just one part of it. It's not as tough to adjust as it's made out to be."

But which of the three hundreds will he most cherish? "I think the century in 1986 was my best. We won at Lord's for the first time and went on to win the series. The bowlers won the game for us - Chetan Sharma bowled superbly, Kapil Dev was equally good, Maninder Singh too. To finish on the winning side after making your third successive hundred was very satisfying."

India had never won a Lord's Test before 1986, they've yet to win one since. As much as he's proud of being part of that side, Vengsarkar will hope that India double that victory tally in the coming days.

## Russel crush hapless Reds

FROM PAGE 17

Bulbul, who got possession after the Moroccan's hard work at left, cut the ball back to Younes, who got enough time on the edge of the area to adjust to an awkward bounce and put a sublime right-foot drop-volley into the left hand post of Titumir, flat-footing four rivals back inside the box.

Titumir did well to block another Younes' effort while the Muktijoddha attackers hopelessly saw a series of shots during a melee failing to beat a forest of rival legs as the match entered the

last five minutes.

Fetah then released Kaiser in the 90th minute with a brilliant diagonal pass to help Russel put the result beyond any doubt. Titumir left his post but the diving goalie lost the ball under pressure from Kaiser, who made no mistake to sidefoot into an open goal.

Russel added more salt to the Reds' wounds in the second minute of the stoppage time when Younes, getting the ball from Fetah, squared the ball from the right. Hassan Al Mamun fumbled on a regular clearance, giving an

unmarked Nayan all the time to drill home to seal the victory.

Yellow cards: Saadane (Russel) and Parvez, Ghansah, Jony (Muktijoddha)

TEAMS  
Russel: Zia, Aminul, Bourdif, Hassan, Mishu, Pappu (Kaiser), Saadane, Fetah, Tanvir (Nayan), Bulbul and Younes.

Muktijoddha: Titumir, Hassan Al Mamun, Ghansah, Rajani, Parvez, Brahim (Saiful), Arman Aziz, Maruf, Arman, Biddyt (Jony), Alfaz (Enamul) and Kanchan.

Referee: Mansoor Azad.

## Ono denies United

FROM PAGE 20

United were then caught out on the break, though, when Uchida refuted with his freak long-range opener less than sixty seconds later.

The veteran midfielder was left unchallenged by the United defenders thirty yards from goal, but his right-foot strike should not have worried Dutch international Van der Sar.

But the goalkeeper misread the flight of the ball and, without deflection, Uchida's shot flew past Van der Sar, who for some reason dived in the opposite direction.

Carrick's shot had been saved before Rooney picked up the rebound and laid off to Carrick, who pulled the ball back for Fletcher to score from six yards.

Wayne Rooney almost hauled United back level before half-time,

though.

Firstly, he floated a terrific cross to Paul Scholes that saw the midfielder's header well saved by Suzuki.

And the England youngster than beat four defenders and ran from inside his own half before having his right-foot effort blocked by the Urwa goalkeeper.

With the prospect of a dispiriting opening defeat looming, United stepped up a gear early in the second half and Scotland international Fletcher pulled the English team level two minutes after the interval.

Carrick's shot had been saved before Rooney picked up the rebound and laid off to Carrick, who pulled the ball back for Fletcher to score from six yards.

Wayne Rooney almost hauled United back level before half-time,

Urwa looked out of the game, but Ono secured a deserved draw when he capped a late fightback with a well-taken 77th minute goal.

Follow Park

FROM PAGE 20

The only other Asian in the United squad is China's Dong Fangzhou, who was signed in 2003 for 3.5 million pounds (6.8 million dollars) - a record for Chinese football.

He was loaned to Belgium's Royal Antwerp until he became eligible for a work visa in England and was finally rewarded with a first-team debut in May against Chelsea.

Dong is not with United on their Asian tour, but is instead on international duty with China at the Asian Cup.

Urwa reached the

quarterfinals in 2004, when China reached the final on home soil. But China have been on a poor run and coach Zhu is under orders to reach the last four "or else."

Urwa reached the quarterfinals in 2004, when China reached the final on home soil. But China have been on a poor run and coach Zhu is under orders to reach the last four "or else."

## Indian pair in lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Sayantan Das and Shaati Mazumder took solo lead in the StanChart 9th National School Chess tournament at the federation conference room yesterday.

After his win over Fahim from Titas Gas Adarsha Vidyalay, student of Kolkata Scottish Church School reached six points after the sixth round of games in the Class VI to X Group.

Rezaul Islam, Sharif Hossain, Abdullah Al Saif, Prantik Roy, Akshat Agarwal and Abhirup Das are in second position with 5 points each.

Shaati, who is from Kolkata Indira Gandhi School, maintained her lead in the points table with 6 points in the girls group after their sixth round games. Aeon Sarkar and Arma Sarkar are in second place with 5 points each.

Shayan Majumder of Kolkata Ind