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# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28, 2009, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

**Bangladeshi Fine Dining Restaurant**  
• Buffet Lunch  
• A-la-carte Dinner  
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## Tourists take all

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting Friends of the Stadium Clubs women's football team from India swept the friendly series 3-0 when they brushed aside Dhaka Metropolis Women's Football XI 4-0 in their last match of the tour at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sujata Kar slammed a hattrick while Shilpi Dey notched the other goal for the Indian side, who beat Munshiganj 3-0 and Ansar and VDP 2-0 on the previous days.

Sujata, who opened the account after 18 minutes, completed the treble with goals in 38 and 53 minutes after Shilpi had doubled the lead in the 24th.

Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed distributed gifts to the tourists as chief guest.

## Shahid's team lift Pro-Am title

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahid Khan's team clinched the Pro-Am event of the City Bank-Dhaka Bank Bangladesh Open 2009 golf title at the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) yesterday.

The team of Shahid, a Bangladeshi professional, comprised of amateurs Jahangir Alam and Anis-ud Dowla, totalled 56.8 points while another Bangladesh-based professional Milon Ahmed's team finished runners-up with 57.1.

The Pro-Am event provided amateur golfers from Dhaka including Bangladesh Golf Federation officials an opportunity to play alongside some of the top professionals from India and Bangladesh.

It was played in the team scramble format where the team's best ball was chosen on every shot including the putting.

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## Mahela Jayawardene

(Sri Lanka cricket captain)  
"India is shaping well in both forms of the game. [Last time] we beat them in the Tests, but lost the one-day series. Hopefully, we will turn things around this time."  
Crossing his fingers for the one-day series that starts today.



## STAR Sports

Australian Open

Live from 6:00am

## TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v India

First ODI

Live from 10:30am

## ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

English Premiership

Man City v Newcastle

Live at 1:30am (Thursday)



## Citycell B. League

Abahani v Muktijoddha

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

Time: 4:30pm



PHOTO: STAR

A local booter (second from left) takes a shot at the rival goal during yesterday's exhibition football match between Dhaka Metropolis Women's Football XI and visiting Friends of the Stadium Clubs from India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## Khelaghar & Dhanmondi keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Khelaghar and Dhanmondi Club maintained their fine run in the Division I T20 Cricket League by winning all their games.

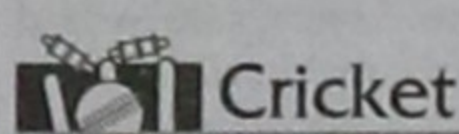
At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday, Baridhara batted first and scored 142 for six which was successfully chased by Khelaghar in their last over. Khelaghar lost eight of their batsmen to seal their victory by two wickets.

Eskaton recorded their first victory at the same venue, beating Agrani Bank by five runs. Winning the toss, Eskaton batted first and made 117-6. Bank finished on 112 for nine, falling just five runs shy of their target. Eskaton's middle order batsman Imran top scored with 43.

At the City Club Ground, Dhanmondi beat Rupali Bank by 11 runs to continue their

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## Archrivals battle early



SPORTS REPORTER

Defending Twenty20 champions Abahani take on archrivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in a crucial group match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The traditional rivals lock horns in the early morning game that begins at 9.30 am and the toss could play a vital role in the outcome of the game. The result will be of great significance to Group A as both Abahani and Mohammedan have so far won both their games.

Abahani defeated Partex and Old DOHS while Mohammedan have beaten Victoria and Young Pegasus in their early encounters.

The game of Dhaka's two most popular clubs has come quite early this season but can do enough to induce some life into this year's domestic competition.

Mohammedan will look to settle scores for last year's defeat in the same format at the BKSP ground where a late blast from lower order bat Ziaur Rahman sealed it for Abahani.

In the day's other morning matches, Old DOHS meet Partex at the Fatullah Stadium while Victoria and Young Pegasus battle it out at BKSP.

The Group B encounters will take place during the afternoon with City Club taking on group leaders Gazi Tank at BKSP and Surjo Torun face Cricket Coaching School at Fatullah. The Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur hosts Biman and BKSP in the day's last match.

## No luck for Niaz

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed again lost in the 1st Gurgaon Open International Chess Tournament when he went down to GM Turi Solodovichenko of Ukraine in the seventh round at Gurgaon in Haryana, India on Monday.

The Bangladesh GM has five points, closely followed by compatriots Mohammad Ali (4.5 points), FM Mohammad Javed and Debaraj Chatterjee (both 4 points) and Monir Hossain (3.5).

In other 7th round matches, Ali beat Deepthamsh Reddy of India but Javed, Debaraj and Monir lost to local opponents Mishra Soumyaranjan, Debashis Das and Kranthi Kumar respectively.

## Junior chess from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Basic Bank 30th National Junior (Under-20) Chess Championships will start today at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room.

A total of 130 boys and girls from Dhaka and other several districts have already enrolled for the 9-round Swiss League event.

## Clarke, Bracken back for Aussies

CRICINFO, undated

Australia have decided not to meddle too much with their squad for Friday's dead rubber against South Africa in Perth, where the only changes are the return from injury of Michael Clarke and Nathan Bracken. The 13-man squad does not feature Ryan Harris or Nathan Hauritz, who have made way after one appearance each.

Clarke played the first game of the series but was then left out to give him a chance to recover from a thumb problem. Bracken had a minor calf injury and was unavailable only for Monday's game in Adelaide.

The demotion of Hauritz came after he was required for only the SCG match, where he collected 2 for 60. The chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch said Hauritz would benefit from returning to the New South Wales side for a four-day game starting on Friday.

"While it is unfortunate that Nathan Hauritz has been omitted after limited opportunities, it is unlikely that we would play a specialist spinner in Perth," Hilditch said. "Therefore it has been decided he will return to New South Wales where he will be available for selection for the Sheffield Shield match in Newcastle."

The return of Clarke is a major boost for a thin batting order which has been criticised throughout the series for its members regularly failing to capitalise on starts. Although the series is decided, several men will be aiming to

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## Bukola lifts MSC

SPORTS REPORTER



A demoralised Mohammedan scraped through to a 1-0 win against Rahmatganj yesterday to take revenge of their first-leg defeat to the old-Dhaka outfit.

Still smarting over their heartbreaking 2-1 loss to perennial foes and current B. League leaders Abahani, Mohammedan hardly reflected their true strength during their ninth victory but Maruful Haque's depleted side wasted a number of chances either side of Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola's 62nd minute match winner at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan, who lost to Rahmatganj by an identical margin in their earlier clash, remained six points behind holders Abahani, who have a chance to widen the gap further against lowly Muktijoddha today.

The Black and Whites began without players from the regular eleven and Korean import Oh Ddogyi, who fluffed a great chance against Abahani despite creating three for his teammates, was missing after three successive starts.

With Robin still unavailable following a foot injury, the responsibility wrested on their top scorer Bukola who received little support.

The Nigerian opened up the first real chance after 20 minutes when he picked Komol with a centre just on top of the six-yard box but the

local striker's first-time placing shot sailed over the bar.

Idris Kaseryi, the Ugandan forward who had sunk Mohammedan with a fine headed-goal in the first leg, unsettled the rival defence on the break on the half hour. With the Mohammedan backs keeping eyes on him, Idris released a square pass to Ripon but Aminul went full stretch to parry the latter's low drive.

Mohammedan's chase for the opening goal continued but Bukola should have done better than firing an angled drive wide at the far post on the stroke of halftime.

Despite his team enjoying superior possession, Aminul needed to stay alert and passed the test four minutes after resumption when Rahmatganj's overlapping defender Jahangir Patwary unleashed one of his trademark shots from 35 yards. The ball dipped and Aminul palmed it away at the last moment.

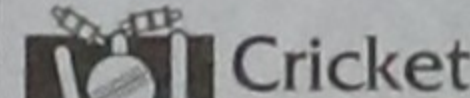
At the other end, Rahmatganj keeper Ali held a long range effort by Egyptian midfielder Hazem Mahmud before luck ran out for the Old-Dhaka side.

Nasir, who started as rightback after a long time in absence of both Hassan Al Mamun and Kamal, chipped the ball for Maruf whose header came off the crossbar. Bukola did well to control the rebound with his chest and his second touch was a low header that gave Ali no chance to react. It was Bukola's 13th league goal that put him one shy of Russel striker Alfaz Ahmed.

The Nigerian came close to join Alfaz on the

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## Younis new Pak captain



AFP, Lahore

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday replaced Shoaib Malik with Younis Khan as captain of the national cricket team after a humiliating defeat against Sri Lanka, its chairman said.

Malik led Pakistan to their worst one-day defeat -- by 234 runs -- in the third and final one-day international in Lahore on Saturday to give Sri Lanka a 2-1 series win.

"Malik has accepted to step down after the Sri Lanka defeat and we have appointed Younis as the new captain for an indefinite period," PCB chairman Ijaz Butt told reporters.

"We haven't sacked Malik. In fact, I met Malik and told him about the situation, as the whole nation felt disappointed over the team's poor performance and a lot of people wanted a change," said Butt.

"That is why I requested Malik to step down and he gracefully accepted."

Malik was appointed captain after Pakistan's first round exit from the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.



YOUNIS KHAN

His tenure as captain was extended for an indefinite period earlier this month.

However, the 2-1 series defeat against Sri Lanka

sparked furious reaction in cricket-mad Pakistan.

The sports committee of the Senate also summoned Malik, coach Intikhab Alam and chief selector Abdul Qadir on February 9 to explain the defeat.

Butt said coach Alam and team manager Yawar Saeed were also asked to submit a detailed report on the team's loss.

Asked about Younis refusing the captaincy on two previous occasions, Butt said the player must have had his reasons.

"He (Younis) must have some reasons for not taking the captaincy," said Butt, referring to when Younis refused to lead Pakistan after the team's exit from the 2007 World Cup citing personal reasons.

Younis also refused to lead the team in the Champions Trophy held in India in October 2006, just a day after he was appointed skipper.

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## FEDERER UNSTOPPABLE

# Djokovic pulls out

AFP, Melbourne



An invincible Roger Federer moved a step closer to a record-equaling 14th Grand Slam title Tuesday as Novak Djokovic's defence of his Australian Open crown ended in misery.

The Swiss star was in awe-some form as he thrashed young Argentine pretender Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 to set up a semifinal with Andy Roddick, who went through after Djokovic withdrew from their match with cramp.

Meanwhile, Russia's Dinara Safina overcame dogged resistance from Jelena Dokic to win 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 and end the Australian's comeback tournament after years of depression sparked by the antics of her infamous father Damir.

The third seed will now meet seventh-seeded compatriot Vera Zvonareva for a place in the final after the Russian coolly disposed of France's Marion Bartoli 6-3, 6-0.

World number two Federer is now in his 19th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal.

"I played great tonight, I didn't expect a result like this," said the Swiss, who is chasing his fourth Australian Open title in his quest to equal Pete Sampras's all-time Grand Slam record.

"For me, it is a fabulous effort, I'm delighted. When all of a sudden it clicks, it's a nice thing."

Earlier, Serbia's Djokovic was trailing 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 2-6, 1-2 in furnace-like conditions to Roddick when he signalled that he could not continue.

In an Open that has produced plenty of surprises, he became the fourth player to

pull out of the quarterfinals either injured or ill, following Zheng Jie, Victoria Azarenka and Gael Monfils.

Djokovic blamed his retirement on cramps and the heat, with the mercury reaching 35 C (95 F).

There appears to be little respite in store with forecasters warning the city is this

week heading for its worst heat wave in 100 years, with 40 C plus temperatures predicted every day.

"People could see that I was struggling with movement, the main reason is cramping and soreness in the whole body," said Djokovic, adding that organisers needed to look

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PHOTO: AFP

Defending champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia waves to the crowd after retiring from his match against Andy Roddick of the US during their Australian Open quarterfinals in Melbourne on Tuesday.

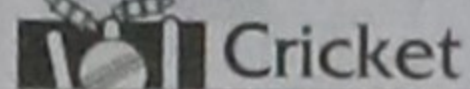


PHOTO: AFP

**YOU SHOULD DO IT ON WEDNESDAY:** Sri Lanka spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran (R), India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (2nd from R) and India's Suresh Raina share a light moment during training at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium yesterday. With already 500 scalps to his name, Muralidaran is poised to surpass Pakistan's Wasim Akram's world record of 502 ODI wickets during the course of this series.

## All eyes on Murali

### Indo-Lankan ODI series starts today



AFP, Dambulla

Sri Lankan ace spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, who is already the world's leading taker of Test wickets, is poised to become the leading bowler in one-day internationals.

Barring injury or a spectacular sudden loss of form for the 36-year-old, that new record is likely to come in the five-match one-day series against India, starting here on Wednesday.

Already the world's leading wicket-taker in Tests with 769 scalps in 125 matches, the off-spinner needs just three wickets to surpass former Pakistani fast bowler Wasim Akram's mark of 502 in one-day internationals.

"We will be very happy when he gets the record. It is another milestone for him and another one for Sri Lankan cricket," Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene told reporters

on Tuesday.

"Everyone knows the amount of hard work he has put in over the last 16 years, going through a lot of hardship. Now, after a few games, or even tomorrow, he might hold the records in both Tests and one-dayers."

"That's an amazing effort for a guy who started as a fast bowler and then turned into an off-spinner."

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said he was sure the "champion" Sri Lankan spinner would complete a bowling double in the series, but his team would make him work hard for the record.

"He is a brilliant bowler and has been very consistent. He is a champion bowler," said Dhoni. Jayawardene said his team was keen to clinch a fourth successive one-day series after beating Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"India are a very competitive side. They pose a tough challenge for us and we are looking

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