

## Sania set to meet with Venus

AFP, Charleston

India's Sania Mirza booked a second-round clash with second-seeded Venus Williams Tuesday with a straight-sets victory in the one million-dollar Family Circle Cup.

Sania Mirza beat Sesil Karantcheva of Kazakhstan 6-4, 6-4 to line up the marquee meeting with Williams, who will be launching her campaign on Wednesday afternoon after enjoying a first-round bye.

Top-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva, who rose to a career-high ranking of number three in the world last week, reached the third round with a dominant 6-0, 6-2 victory over American Julie Ditty.

Third-seeded Vera Zvonareva and number four Nadia Petrova, both of Russia, also reached the third round, as did sixth-seeded Marion Bartoli of France and seventh-seeded Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova.

Zvonareva cruised past Paraguay's Rossana delos Rios 6-3, 6-2.

"I felt pretty good for my first match of the year on clay," said Zvonareva, a finalist here last year. "I didn't expect myself to play my best, and it was a bit of a struggle at times because of the wind, but it was pretty good."

Fourth-seeded Petrova beat Austrian Patricia Mayr 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, Bartoli defeated Anastasia Sevastova of Latvia 6-1, 6-3 and Cibulkova downed Austrian Tamira Paszek 6-4, 6-0.

## DCA make it

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Nayeem who slammed a 50-ball century with sixteen boundaries and three huge sixes as he took his side (165-4) to an easy six-wicket win over Green Leaf (163 all out) at the Jahanirnagar University ground in mid-March.

East End, Kathalbagan, Sinha Textiles and Udayachal also won their respective matches.

## Bloodshed

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Kalabagan officials who hurled abuse at the umpires and the match referee at the Dhaka University ground in mid-March.

The infractions did not just end there. Abahani supporters abused Biman players Javed Omar and Tushar Imran during a Premier League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium last month resulting in the players exchanging abuses with the unruly supporters. Javed was involved in another fracas when he lost his temper with a BKSP student in another Premier League game.

Certainly, this has been a season of heated exchanges but this reported attack is the lowest point.

Discovery Cricket Academy is based at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium with Shaju as the head coach. This incident is nothing new to those who know the former footballer-turned-cricket coach. He has a reputation of flouting the law, for example, using the same batsman twice in an under-13 game, it was learned.

Only recently (on February 9) he was seen slapping a player of his academy, who plays for a First Division club, at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium.

## Nimbus

FROM PAGE 17

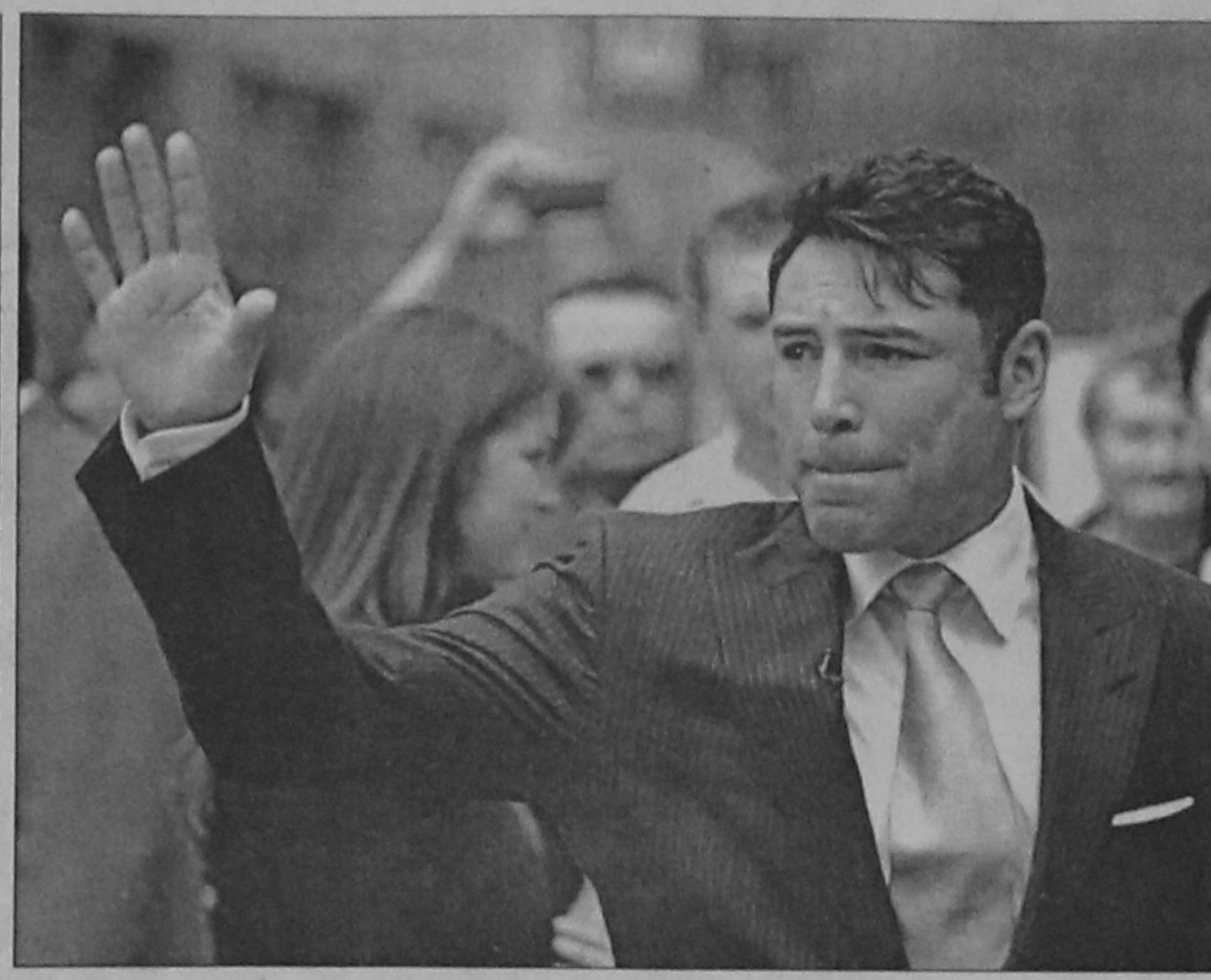
where we have misunderstandings," Yunus added.

Earlier, Yannick told the reporters: "There are no outstanding issues in the meeting. It's just a regular meeting. We are trying to generate more money through new series and ideas."

Yunus also said that they have also discussed about the issue of telecasting the domestic matches. "They will work on it," he added.

The six-year deal worth 56.88 million dollar made it mandatory to telecast Bangladesh domestic cricket for at least 10 days a year internationally but so far Nimbus has not showed a single domestic game to the world audience.

BCB's senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam, Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, Salman Ispahani, former board adviser Abul Momen, who headed the review committee to finalise the long-term agreement, were also present during the meeting.



Ten-time world champion Oscar De La Hoya waves to fans after announcing his retirement from boxing in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## De la Hoya retires

### Boxing

AFP, Los Angeles

Ten-time boxing world champion Oscar de la Hoya announced his retirement from the sport here on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old Mexican-American's last bout was back in December when Filipino Manny Pacquiao stopped him in the eighth round.

De la Hoya looked a shadow of the boxer that had accrued 10 world titles in six different weight classes since he first announced his great talent by winning an Olympic gold medal at the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

"After reflecting a lot and speaking with my family and friends I came to the conclusion that I would bring to a halt my career as a boxer."

"After the Pacquiao bout I realised that I no longer had either the reflexes nor the power to compete at this level, hence I took this decision."

De la Hoya - known as 'The Golden Boy' - had pretty much indicated just after he had been battered into submission by the much smaller Pacquiao that he was contemplating retirement.

"My heart still wants to fight that's for sure, but when your physical doesn't respond, what can you do?"

De la Hoya, who started his own boxing promotion company, Golden Boy Promotions, while he was still active in the ring, retires with a record of 39 victories 6 defeats with 30 knockouts.

De la Hoya announced his decision at an outdoor plaza across the street from the Staples Center arena, where a statue of him stands.

Hundreds of fans turned out to hear the hugely popular East Los Angeles-born boxer bid farewell to the ring.

His fight against Floyd Mayweather in Las Vegas in May of 2007, which Mayweather won by split decision, grossed 120 million dollars to become the richest fight in boxing history - surpassing the 112 million dollars from a 2002 showdown between Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis.

An expected rematch in September of 2008 was scuttled when Mayweather announced his retirement in June of that year.

But De la Hoya's loss to Pacquiao was his fourth in his last seven fights, and it has been years since he beat any really imposing opponent.

"This is the love of my life, boxing is my passion, boxing is what I was born to do," he said. "When I can't do it anymore, when I can't compete at the highest level, it's not fair. It's not fair to me, it's not fair to the fans, it's not fair to myself." De la Hoya admitted that it was an agonising decision.

"Now I understand why athletes have such a tough time retiring from something that you feel so passionate about, from your sport that you're always thinking you can try one more time," he said.

De la Hoya kept his emotions on a tight rein, but his voice broke when he thanked his father, Joel, who sat on stage alongside De la Hoya's wife, Millie.

"I remember the times when he would take me to the gym and never gave up on me," De la Hoya said. "We've lived some tough moments inside the ring, we've been through everything, but my father was always there for me. Thank you for pushing me as hard as you can."

South African off-spinner Johan Botha has been reported for a suspect bowling action for the second time in his career, the International Cricket Council said Wednesday.

Botha, 26, was reported by match officials after Monday's fourth one-day international against Australia in Port Elizabeth over concerns that he bends his arm while bowling the quicker ball.

Botha will undergo tests by the ICC's panel of human movement specialists, but can continue playing till the results of the tests are disclosed, the governing body said in a statement.

### CAB U-15

FROM PAGE 17

Chowdhury Rabbi (vice-captain), Al Mamun Rafsan, Md Zahed Javed, Omar Faruk, Shabaz Chowhan, Sajid Akhtar, Shah Afraan Shakil, Sadman Islam, Jibon Chowdhury, Bayjed Amin, Abu Haider, Mahmudur Rahman, Abu Sayem, Taskin Ahmed.

CAB: Abhimanyu Easwaran, Bijoy Ghosh, Kaustav Sain, Satyaki Dutta, Sawsata Das, Avishek Mishra, Aritra Mukherjee, Avijit Singh, Soumik Roy, Suman Debnath, Kuntal Ghoshal, Shewnaz Anwar, Rittick Roy Chowdhury, Saby Asachi Bose, Mithilesh Das.

Hayden speaks glowingly of his experiences in the inaugural IPL, but there can be little doubt that the Achilles injury sustained during his four-game stint with the Chennai Super Kings last year marked the beginning of the end of his international career.

It was that ailment that sidelined him from the ensuing tour of the West Indies, and thwarted the momentum he had built since The Oval Test of 2005.

It was that ailment that prompted the chain of events culminating in a tearful farewell press conference after the Sydney Test.

Hayden has said a thousand goodbyes and done many a lap of honour in the intervening period, only to find himself poised for a return to the middle.

The pain of his departure from international cricket might not have entirely subsided - "It's hard to watch a game you still want to be involved in" - but he is nonetheless buoyant at the prospect of again turning out for the Super Kings, for whom he bludgeoned 189 runs at 63.00 last year.

"The players really feel they are part of a revolution in

cricket - the way that it is played, the way it's packaged, and the spectators who are watching it," Hayden told Cricinfo. "For someone like me, who has been in the game a long time, it blows me away what Twenty20 cricket has done, and is doing, to the sport."

"[Last season] was unfortunate. I picked up that [Achilles] injury doing a running session because I wanted to be spot on for that West Indies tour. I came back [from the IPL] on a real high, not realising how bad the injury was. It didn't feel all that serious, and I wasn't expecting to miss any games let along an entire Test series, so it wasn't until later that I realised what I was actually dealing with. But I don't look back on [the inaugural IPL] as a negative. If anything I found that really reinvigorated me and revived my enthusiasm, because you could feel you were a part of taking cricket to another level."

Had the Super Kings management harboured concerns for Hayden's physical condition post-retirement, they were placated within moments of the 37-year-old's arrival in India for a pre-IPL training camp.

Hayden has spent much of the past three months immersed in one of his favourite training pursuits - surfing - and believes he is in better physical condition than at most stages of his international career.

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