

## Zia shares 2nd place

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman beat International Master Yang Kaiqi of China to share the second position along with six other players yesterday in the second Subic Open International Chess tournament at the Subic Freeport, Olongapo City, Philippines.

Zia has earned 4.5 points in six rounds so far.

GM Niaz Murshed defeated IM Dimakiling Oliver of Philippines to earn four points and move into third position also after six rounds.

In other sixth round matches Zia drew with Parimarjan Negi of India and Niaz beat IM Nolte Rolando of Philippines.

## Danone Nations Cup from June

SPORTS REPORTER

The preliminary stage of Danone Nations Cup Bangladesh will kick off from the last week of June in four separate venues of the country.

Thirty-nine teams from different District Football Associations along with a Bangladesh Football Association (BFF) development squad will participate in the preliminary stage.

The age-limit of the participating players has been kept between 10-12 years.

All the teams will be given participation fees in addition to other benefits.

The final round will be played in Dhaka with eight teams from July 10.

The champion team will feature in the final round of the Danone Nations Cup in Sao Paulo in Brazil from October 8. Forty countries including the hosts are slated to take part in this year's cup meet in the southeastern city of Brazil.

Matches in Bangladesh will be played in two halves of 15 minutes with a five-minute break.

The Danone Nations Cup is an international football competition organised every year since 2000, on the initiative of Groupe Danone, a French food products company based in Paris.



### Graham Onions

(England seamer)  
"I went to the toilet to listen to it... So I called him, sitting on the toilet, and that's how I heard I'd been picked for England." Revealing where he was when Geoff Miller told him he'd been included in England's Test squad.



### Did U Know?

The penalty kick was introduced to the game of football in 1891, having been proposed by William McCrum of County Armagh in Ireland.



### STAR Sports

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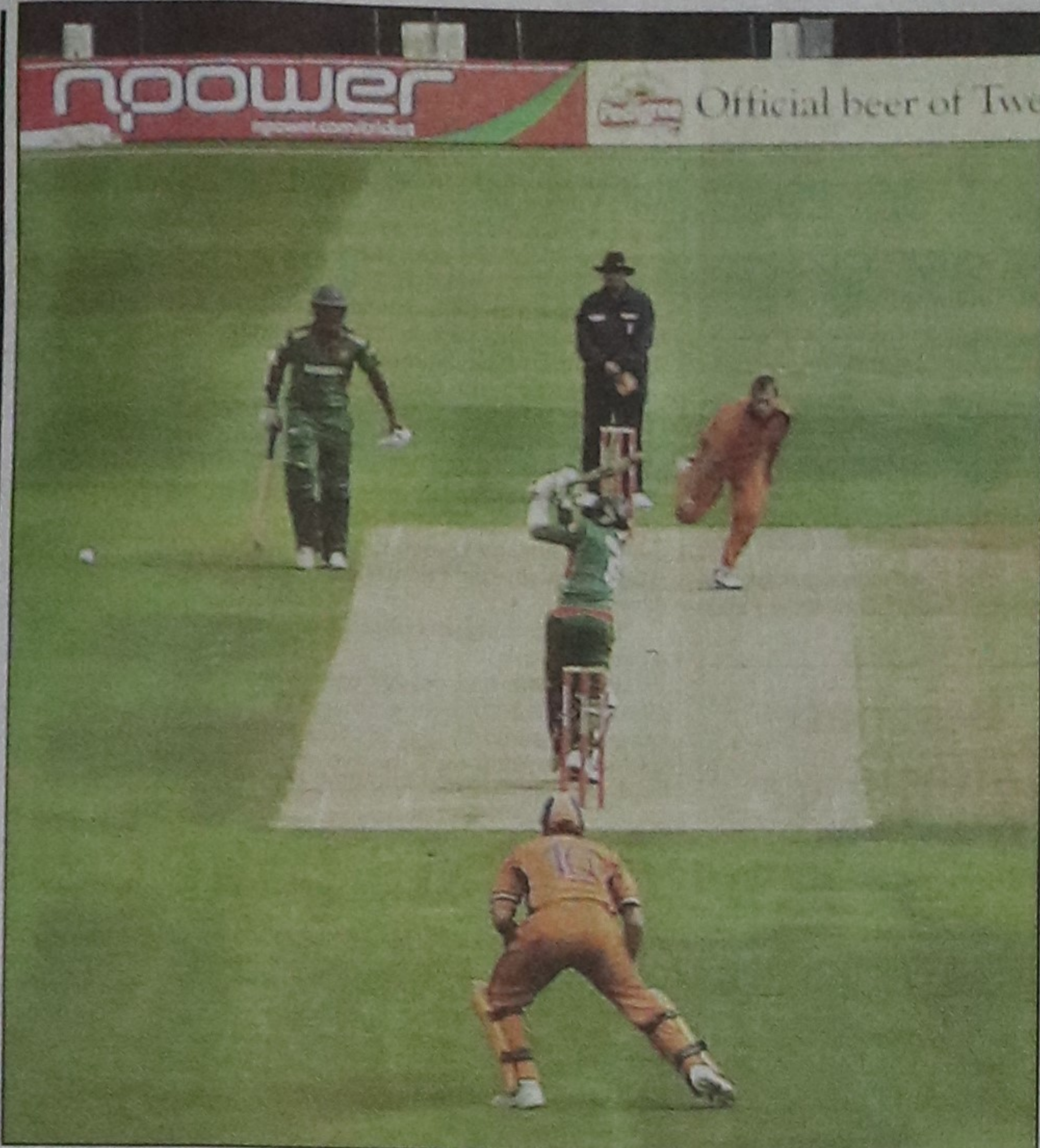


PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM  
Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful flicks to the mid-wicket boundary during his enterprising knock of 69 against the Netherlands in their Twenty20 practice game at the St Lawrence ground in Canterbury yesterday.

## Ashraful smashes 69

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

Captain Mohammad Ashraful and Mahmudullah Riyad smashed half-centuries as Bangladesh amassed an impressive 206-6 in their Twenty20 warm-up match against the Netherlands at St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury yesterday.

According to TigerCricket.Com, Ashraful blasted 69 while Riyad hit 54 before Rokibul Hasan remained unbeaten on 27 with Shamsur

Rahman who couldn't open his account. Mushfiqur Rahim also came back into some form with 24.

There was some concern over Ashraful's form after he only played a single IPL match for Mumbai Indians. But the little dynamo returned to form with this half-century after scoring just 13 in the first warm-up game against New Zealand on May 26.

Earlier, Dutch captain Jeroen Smits won the toss and decided to field first and it almost paid off.

Left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal was out

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## 'India hot favourites'

PTI, New Delhi



Talismanic England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff has tipped India to retain the ICC World Twenty20 Championship next month, saying that the

Indian Premier League experience will come in handy for Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men in their title defence.

Flintoff, who has been ruled out of the June 5-21 event in England after undergoing a knee surgery early this month, told PTI from Lancashire that Australia, South Africa and England would pose a strong challenge to India.

"Indians just played in a world-class competition in IPL and naturally they are the favourites (to win the T20 World Cup). Australia, South Africa and England would be strong challengers. England can spring a few surprises," he said.

Flintoff defended his decision to play in the IPL in South Africa where he ended up tearing a cartilage on his right knee, which ultimately led to him being ruled out of the World Twenty20 event.

"My injury was not from just one event or tournament, it was over a period of time and I think ECB should not be blamed for allowing me to play in the IPL," he said.

## Best season in history

AFP, Rome



Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola hailed his team's achievement this season in winning the treble as the greatest of all but he stopped short of calling his team themselves the best after their 2-0 Champions League final victory over holders Manchester United here on Wednesday.

Barcelona added European club football's premier trophy to their domestic league and cup double, a feat United themselves had already achieved in 1999, with goals from Samuel Eto'o on 10 minutes and Lionel Messi 20 minutes from time.

But the Catalans' coach, who also won the European Cup as a player with Barca in 1992, said the manner of his team's triumph in scoring more than 150 goals this season made their campaign stand out.

"I'm leaving tomorrow, right away, I can't do anything else," joked the 38-year-old, who became the youngest ever Champions League winning coach in his first season as a boss.

"We're very, very happy, we're delicious and I'd like to congratulate the whole club."

"We're not the best team in history but we have played the best season in history. To win three titles and how we did it."

"We had many problems (tonight) and there was so much pressure but Samuel's

goal was great and then Messi went back into midfield because we wanted to be superior in possession and with also Thierry Henry in midfield; we had some problems but I'm very happy."

Guardiola revealed that he had learned from Barca's defeat to United in last season's semifinal and switched around his attacking triumvirate accordingly.

Back then they were stifled

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PHOTO: AFP  
Barcelona players lift their coach Josep Guardiola (top) up after winning the Champions League final against Manchester United at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on Wednesday.

## 2011 WC to cost \$50m

CRICINFO, undated

The 2011 World Cup, to be held in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, is expected to cost the ICC between US\$40 million to \$50 million according to reports.

The PTI quoted Ratnakar Shetty, the BCCI's chief administrative officer and tournament director, on the figures after he and representatives of other member countries attended a preliminary meeting with ICC commercial manager Jamie Campbell and events manager Christopher Tetley.

"All the expenses are to be borne by the ICC," Shetty said. "The representatives of the member countries were told by the ICC representatives how to take care of the expenses."

Shetty said each country will prepare an individual budget and then a combined budget will be presented to the Central Organising Committee to meet in London in June.

## Korean coach for swimmers

UNB, Dhaka

Korean coach Park T Paigun arrived in the city yesterday to train the Bangladeshi swimmers ahead of next year's South Asian Games to be held in Dhaka.

The 32-year-old grade one coach of a Korean Club, Paigun will start his assignment with the local swimmers tomorrow.

The South Korean government will bear the entire expenses of the coach, including his salary, initially for a year. They will provide 50,000 dollars as salary and another 50,000 dollars for infrastructural development work of Bangladesh Swimming Federation, through Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA).

The BOA will offer local hospitality to the coach during his stay in Bangladesh.

Twenty-seven swimmers have been attending a residential training camp at the Mirpur Swimming Complex since February 1 this year to prepare for the next South Asian Games in Dhaka.

## Nasir's four lifts Feni

SPORTS REPORTER

Three teams won by big margins in the Basundhara Champions Club Cup held across the country yesterday.

Nasir scored four out of Feni Soccer Club's nine against Comilla Mohammedan at the winner's home ground.

Up north, hosts Rajshahi's Dighanta Prasari Sangha crushed Alor Disari of Chapainawabganj 7-1 and Dinajpur Football Academy rode on Sharif's hat-trick to beat Samya Sports and Cultural Ghosh 6-0.

In the other matches, Jamalpur Mohammedan, Shariatpur, Moin Smriti Sangad (Jessore) and Udayan Kira Chakra (Tangail) won their respective matches while the match between PK Union (Sathkira) drew with Raipur Jagarani (Meherpur).

## Sachin praises photographers

PTI, Mumbai

Having been chased endlessly by them all his life, batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar acknowledged the importance of photographer in a cricketer's life in his own modest way.

"As a cricketer I can tell you, I have seen photographers sit under the sun on a cricket field for an entire day, waiting for that one magical moment," said the champion batsman who felicitated the winners of the photo contest based on the theme "Streets of Mumbai" here last night.

"It is thanks to you that we cricketers get a chance to relive all those golden moments in our lives once again," Tendulkar said.

To the sheer delight of the queuing photographers, who had till then scrambled to snap him with their lenses, the cricket legend also fulfilled their desire of being clicked with him.

Lauding them, the master said, "The theme of 'Streets of Mumbai' is a novel concept. The photo-journalists have made a real effort in capturing the spirit of Mumbai."

## Big names survive

AFP, Paris



Roger Federer and Venus Williams made great French Open

escapes on Thursday while 13th-seeded Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli merely made an exhausting list of excuses for her second round defeat.

Second seed Federer claimed a 7-6, 5-7, 7-6, 6-2 win over Argentina's Jose Acasuso who wasted four set points in the first set and another in the third where he led 5-1 and twice served for a two sets to

onelead.

Acasuso, who has only progressed beyond the second round of a Grand Slam once in 28 attempts, cut a weary figure by the end, worn down as much by his own physical shortcomings as Federer's pinpoint hitting.

Federer, the runner-up to Rafael Nadal here for the past three years and still missing a French Open from his 13-title Grand Slam collection, now faces either French 32nd seed Paul-Henri Mathieu or Pablo Andujar of Spain for a place in the last 16.

Williams, the American third seed, who was runner-up to sister Serena in 2002, but

had exited at the third round in the last two years, saved a match point in her 6-7, 6-2, 7-5 win over the Czech Republic's Lucie Safarova.

The Wimbledon champion had been trailing by a set when the players had been called off court late Wednesday, but she quickly levelled the tie on the resumption.

Safarova then failed to convert a match point on her own serve when 5-4 ahead in the decider and Williams made her pay by breaking the Czech before going on to set up a third round clash with Hungary's Agnes Szavay.

"She was just firing for every shot and making them, but the delay gave me time to think about things differently," said Williams.

"It was close but these kind of matches are really rewarding and I think I deserved to win it in the end."

Former Wimbledon finalist Bartoli was a second round casualty losing 6-3, 7-5 to experienced Italian Tathiana Garbin.

Bartoli blamed her defeat on a host of problems, from illness to the chilly conditions to the noise made by a small, feisty contingent of Italian fans.

"I was a little tired and a little sick, I had a sore throat and my nose is running," said the Frenchwoman.

"It was very cold and the court was heavy. The ball was stuck on the strings and it was very slow."

Bartoli was unimpressed by the attitude of Garbin's supporters.

"It's her clan. When I made unforced errors, her team would shout. It's not sporting. They're Italians. This is what it's like."

Serbian fifth seed Jelena Jankovic, a semi-finalist in the last two years and who lunched with Serbian President Boris Tadic on

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PHOTO: AFP  
Second-seeded Swiss Roger Federer pumps his fist after his hard-fought win against Jose Acasuso of Argentina in their French Open second round encounter at Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

## 4-star Romno floors Dutta

SPORTS REPORTER



Four goals by Romnobel helped Govindaganj Bahumukhi High School to crush

Netrokona Dutta High School 8-0 in the Citycell National School Football Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The teenager's goals came in the 11th, 17th, 57th and 59th minutes.

Shakil scored in the 14th, Atiqur in the 47th, Rizvi in the 50th and Taufiq rounded it off in the 72nd minute for the winners.

In another match, Younus Ali High School edged RSKH Institution Mohammadia by a goal to nil at the same venue.

At the Brothers Union ground, Town Secondary School beat Koyra Madinabad Secondary School 3-0 thanks

to a brace from Ali and one by Siraj. Later in the day, Shuti VM Pilot High School defeated Moslehuddin Secondary School 2-1 at the same ground.

Raja Suryakumar Institute struck two past, Zia Shar Karkhana High School and Government Nasirabad School beat Shingra Dum Dum Pilot School and College 1-0 at the Abahani Club ground.

In today's matches, Koyagola Hat High School play Victoria High School, RSKH Institution Mohammadia meet Town Secondary School and Laxmi Narayan Cotton Mill play Shingra Dum Dum Pilot School and College at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Younus Ali High School face Koyra Madinabad Secondary School and Government Nasirabad School meet Netrokona Dutta High School at the Brothers Union ground.

## 'Champs League out of ICC FTP'

CRICINFO, undated

The ICC has contradicted claims made by Lalit Modi on the IPL's official website by insisting the Champions Twenty20 League has not been incorporated into the Future Tours Programme. Modi, the IPL chairman, told the tournament's site the "Champions League has already been slotted in as part of the FTP", but Haroon Lorgat, the ICC chief executive, has denied the claim.

"The ICC Board, which includes all Full Members, worked together last October to come up with a date for this year's Champions League tournament that was mutually convenient for all," Lorgat said in a statement. "However, that was only as part of a wider discussion on when we could play the Champions Trophy, which was postponed from Pakistan in 2008 and relocated to South Africa."

"The FTP does not include any fixtures between domestic teams, even those from more than one country, and only features ICC events, such as the ICC Cricket World Cup, the ICC Champions Trophy and the ICC World Twenty20, and bilateral fixtures between Full Member international teams."

Lorgat added that he had been in contact with Modi, and the pair were in "full agreement on this matter."

The Champions Twenty20 League, sanctioned by the ICC, gets underway on October 8, just five days after the conclusion of the Champions Trophy in South Africa. The tournament, which will feature the top domestic Twenty20 teams from Australia, England,

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innings together with 81. The left-hander smashed a dozen boundaries in his 179-ball knock on a grassy surface that was good for batting.

But it was Dollar's blazing 79 off 54 balls that had the

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Cricket

STAFF REPORTER, Bogra

Bangladesh A were given a superb first day by their batsmen in their four-day encounter against Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Newcomer Imran Ahmed and captain Mehrab Hossain batted solidly before Dollar Mahmud tore into the visitors as the second-string side reached 336-9 at stumps on Day One. Enamul Haque remained unbeaten on six with Talha Jubair.

Mehrab and Dollar added 101 runs for the seventh wicket after Bangladesh A fell to 198 for six. Mehrab, like Imran had with his 90, held the

dream to be a doctor

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