



Nikolay Davidenko of Russia celebrates after beating top seed Rafael Nadal of Spain in the Shanghai Masters final yesterday.

## Davydenko Shanghai Master

INTERNET, undated

An inspired Nikolay Davidenko beat top seed and world number two Rafael Nadal 7-6, 6-3 to become the first Shanghai Masters champion.

The sixth seed blasted winners from both sides throughout the two-hour contest, winning a tight first set 7-3 in the tiebreak and then getting the only break of the second to secure his fourth title of the year.

Spaniard Nadal, still short of his best form after the knee and abdominal injuries that have disrupted his season, battled gamely in his first final since May, but always looked second best against the gutsy Russian.

Davydenko, the world number eight, sealed his fourth win in four finals this year when the Australian Open champion went long with a backhand, and a subsequent Hawkeye challenge ruled in the Russian's favour.

## Abahani scrape

FROM PAGE 17  
sixes and two boundaries. Tamim's relentless hitting turned Aftab into a mere spectator and the match was wrapped up inside ten overs.

Earlier, Mohammad's left-arm pace bowler Emon Ahmed's impressive bowling put paid to Biman's hope of putting up a big score. Emon's swing and bounce undid the Biman batsmen, reducing them to 6 for 35 in six overs with figures of 3 for 13.

Mohammedan's spinners were equally effective, and never gave any opportunity to the Biman batters to stand any authority over the bowlers.

Gazi Tank also kept their hundred per cent record with a 27-run win over Old DOHS at Fatullah earlier in the day, thanks to an all-round display from youngster Sohrawardi Shuvo who scored 23 not out off just 16 balls to help his side post 122 for 5 in twenty overs and then took 4 for 13 and also effected a run out to restrict CCS for 95 for eight in twenty overs.

Biman's loss meant they failed to grab a semifinal spot from Group A, which was taken by Khelaghar who had earlier won their match against BKSP

at Fatullah by three runs. In a low scoring affair, BKSP made 122 for nine in 20 overs, chasing a victory target of 125. Delwar Hossain top-scored with 40 runs off 42 balls for Khelaghar.

The other match in this group between Victoria and Partex was abandoned due to rain.

It was a three-way battle for the second semifinal spot from Group B. Abahani, Surj Torun, and Kalabagan, all of them

started the day tied at 4 points each.

Abahani made sure they did all in their power by rolling up a hapless Cricket Coaching School by seven wickets in a curtailed fourteen-over-a-side match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Abahani bowlers kept CCS batters in check throughout their innings.

Abahani openers Imrul Kayes (22) and Rony Talukder (24) made sure there were not many hiccups before they eventually overtook the paltry target of 72 in 12.5 overs.

Their progress into the last four was ensured when Kalabagan recorded a six-wicket win against Surj Torun in the last match of the day.

After restricting Tarun to 119, Kalabagan reached 121 for four with five balls to spare.

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## Taylor KO Delhi

CRICINFO, undated

Twenty 20 matches are usually pulsating, high-octane affairs, and this one lived up to that billing. A Diwali that began with a bomb scare ended in fireworks as Royal Challengers Bangalore, having been eliminated before they took the field, took Delhi Daredevils down with them.



### Did U Know?

Spanish footballer Raul's goal celebration has consisted of kissing his wedding ring as an acknowledgment to his wife.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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