

## Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Faruque Ahmed bowled Kathal Bagan to an exciting five-run victory over Azad Sporting Club in the First Division Cricket League at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday.

Faruque claimed five wickets for 30 runs in 5.5 overs and Abu Bakar took three for 32 as Azad Sporting were bundled out for 224 in 46.5 overs in reply to 229-5. Irfan Sukur top scored 80 off 98 balls. Earlier Kathal Bagan rode on Biraj Chandra's 94-ball 95 and Abu Bakar's 86-ball 53 to score the runs after being sent in to bat.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha secured a massive 109-run victory over Lalmatia Club.

Bashar hit 77 off 136 balls and Moklesur Rahman contributed 75 off 98 balls as Eskaton scored 228 for nine in 50 overs.

In reply, Lalmatia were all out for 119 in 34.4 overs with Bablu making an unbeaten 45.

Titu was the most successful bowler with four for 21.

## DC Gold Cup football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Sathkira Poursava emerged champions in the Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup tournament with a 4-2 shoot-out win over Debhata Upazila at the Sathkira Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into the tiebreaker after the regulation time failed to produce the decider.

Health and Family Planning minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque distributed prizes among the winners.

## MS looks

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bat, prompting questions of his viability in the side. Yet without an alternative all-rounder option in the squad Dhoni backed Jadeja to perform. "He is doing well but when it comes to selection, we don't speak too much about it," he said. "But every individual, if he is doing well he deserves a chance to be in the side. Jadeja is bowling well, as series goes he will turn up more as a batsman."

## Carlo relishes

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Hiddink fail to overthrow United in recent years.

But he admits Ancelotti could pose the biggest threat to his supremacy since Mourinho's departure.

"I thought Ancelotti would do well," he said. "He was a great coach at AC Milan. He won the European Cup twice and brought a wealth of experience with him to Chelsea."

"He was also a great player so he has a lot of knowledge. He brought a different system to the ones Chelsea have used in the past."

"It has become easier to adapt tactics because they have very experienced players, who have more tactical knowledge than the younger ones. It seems to have worked well."

Even though there is plenty at stake on Sunday, Ancelotti has no intention of being an unwelcome host and will share a bottle of red wine with Ferguson whatever the result.

"We drank red wine after we drew in the semifinals of the Champions League, Juventus against United," he said. "United equalised in the last minute and I was a bit angry. But after the red wine it was better!"



## Did U Know?

At 542ft above sea level, West Bromwich is the highest ground in the English Premiership.



**Premier Div Cricket League**  
Biman v Partex  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Gazi Tank v Kalabagan  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium  
Victoria v Khelaghar  
Venue: BKSP-2



New Zealand's Brendon McCullum is all set to have a go at a delivery during his swashbuckling 131 as Pakistan wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal looks on during the second one-day international at the Abu Dhabi Stadium on Friday.

## Big guns win

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Mohammad Ashraful and Mahmudullah Riyad back from their national duties as they eked out a 3-wicket victory over an impressive Cricket Coaching School. Batting first CCS put on a challenging total of 225 in 50 overs, thanks to an unbeaten 84 from all-rounder Nazmul Hossain and a fifty from their in-form skipper Uttam Sarker. Shahzada took four wickets for Mohammedan to make sure the innings didn't get any bigger. Mohammedan's openers Nafees Iqbal and Mohammad Ashraful gave them a good start as they put on 67 runs in 13.4 overs before an unnecessary run-out got Ashraful back to the pavilion for 25 runs. Nafees followed him a few overs later

after scoring 39 runs. All-rounders Marshal Ayub (61) and Faysal Hossain (42) then got in the act as they played two crucial knocks to guide Mohammedan towards victory. A quick four-wicket burst from Atiqur Rahman brought CCS back in the hunt, but it was too little too late as Mohammedan got over the line with six balls to spare.

Surjo Torun skipper Habibur Bashar, on the back of two consecutive fifties, couldn't repeat his performance as his side folded for a paltry 165 in 47.4 overs chasing 183 set by Old DOHS at BKSP. Anisur Rahman (52) played a lone hand in the middle-order, but his efforts went in vain as his more illustrious partners failed

to provide him good support.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### ABAHANI V BKSP

VENUE: SBNC

ABAHANI: 268 all out in 50 overs (Kayes 115, Rashmi 24, Nasir 81, extras 11; Mubarat 3-41, Zakaria 4-48).

BKSP: 186 all out in 47.5 overs (Asif 46, Afzal 56, Abid 20, Zakaria 26, extras 14; Rafique 4-28, Shubashish 2-32).

Result: Ahabani won by 82 runs.

#### OLD DOHS V SURJOTORUN

VENUE: BKSP

OLD DOHS: 183 for 7 in 50 overs (Rumman 21, Nasiruddin 43, Saimon 23, Taibur 39 not out, extras 23; Sanjamul 2-34, Zakaria 2-34).

SURJO TORUN: 165 all out in 47.4 overs (Anisur 52, extras 16; Rubel 2-43, Moshir 3-14, Nazmul 3-33, Taibur 2-32).

Result: Old DOHS won by 18 runs.

#### MOHAMMEDAN V CCS

VENUE: FATULLAH

CCS: 225 all out in 50 overs (Uttam 50, Nazmul 84, Sirajul 30, extras 14; Shahajada 4-51, Nabil 2-25).

MOHAMMEDAN: 226 for 7 in 49 overs (Nafis 39, Marshal 61, Faisal 42, extras 18; Atiqur 4-37).

Result: Mohammedan won by three wickets.

## Inter-District football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Meherpur recorded a 2-1 victory over Chuadanga in the second round of the Inter-District Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup tournament at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Selim put Meherpur ahead in the first half before Mintu cancelled the lead in the same half. Babu struck the match-winning for Meherpur in the second half.

Rajbari face Kushtia today.

## Unbecoming

FROM PAGE 17  
as the BFF officials were notified time and again verbally. Not only are the reporters suffering, the spectators do alike.

And Saturday was another such day when visitors Chittagong Abahani, dressed in their practice shirt with 'invisible' number, took on hosts Brothers Union, who chose to wear their second-choice Royal Blue instead of regular Orange.

"I was forced to allow Abahani to play with their practice jersey and it would have been hard to complete the game if they were not allowed as they brought only their first-choice jersey (Light Blue) which clashed with Brothers' Royal Blue," said match commissioner Bashir Ahmed.

Chittagong Abahani manager Mohsin Haider admitted that they should have brought their away shirts, but they failed to do so after the BFF and Brothers officials assured them that their first-choice jersey would not clash with Brothers'.

Besides, the reporters faced problem to get the official players' list even 15 to 20 minutes into the game though the BFF is supposed to get the players' lists from both sides at least two hours before the start of the game.

The events that are prevailing are really unbecoming of a professional organisation like the BFF which has many highly-paid professionals in its ranks.

## Improvement delights Dan

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori believes his team's conscious effort to improve in key areas helped them beat Pakistan and level their three-match series at 1-1.

They may have been beaten by 138 runs in the first match on Tuesday but the Black Caps hit back with a clinical performance in the second on Friday to win by 64 runs -- a turnaround which delighted the New Zealand captain.

"I think we wanted to improve on some key areas, made a conscious effort and it's pleasing that we were able to turn around in a couple of days; now we must keep the pressure on Pakistan," said Vettori after the win.

The third and final match will be played here on Monday.

New Zealand rode on a return-to-form century by Brendon McCullum (131) who added 126 for the second wicket with

Martin Gupthill (62) which built the foundation of an imposing total of 303-8 in 50 overs.

"The partnership between McCullum and Gupthill set up the victory for us, enabled us to achieve a 300-plus total and put pressure on Pakistan," said Vettori, who also identified Scott Styris's three wickets in two overs as the turning point.

Pakistan got off to a solid start of 77 between Salman Butt (59) and Khalid Latif (45) and were 124-2 when Styris, bowling for the first time in nearly 13 months, grabbed three wickets off just 10 balls.

"I was trying to get some quick overs," said Vettori of his decision to bowl Styris. "Those turned out to be the most influential overs. Scott came into the game to impress and did at a time when Pakistan were coming hard on us."

Vettori praised his team's fielding.

"If you look at a couple of catches and Gupthill's run out of Butt then you realise that these can swing games your way," said Vettori.

Man-of-the-match McCullum said he wanted to prove his worth as opener.

"There was some pressure on me coming into this match," said McCullum, who was relieved of vice-captaincy to improve his batting form. "Vice-captain or not, I am a senior player and wanted to prove my worth as an opener."

McCullum, whose only one-day hundred (166) came against Ireland last year, said scoring his second was a big relief.

"Probably I tried to be too aggressive at times, but this time I found the right tempo," said McCullum.

Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam blamed his team's defeat on poor bowling and fielding.

"We had a bad day," said Alam. "We probably gave away 30-40 extra runs and that made the difference. We must improve our fielding because New Zealand is one of the best fielding sides in the world, on a par with South Africa."

Alam defended his decision to promote Shahid Afridi (no runs) and Kamran Akmal (four) to fourth and fifth in the batting order.

"They were my decisions," admitted Alam. "Both batted well in the first match but didn't click in the second."

## Zim U-19s due today

SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe Under-19 cricket team will arrive in Dhaka today to play a five-match one-day series against their Bangladesh counterparts.

The visitors will travel to Khulna tomorrow to play the first three games and then move to Jessore to play the remaining games.

Buoyed by the 5-2 series victory against England Under-19 side in the just-concluded seven-match series at home, the young Tigers will play the series against the Zimbabweans, whose seniors suffered a 4-1 defeat here in Bangladesh in the five-match ODI series, as part of their next World Cup preparations to be held in New Zealand in January next year, that ended on Thursday.

### ITINERARY

Nov 11: One-day warm-up game at Khulna

Nov 13: First one-dayer at Khulna

Nov 14: Second one-dayer at Khulna

Nov 16: Third one-dayer at Khulna

Nov 19: Fourth one-dayer at Jessore

Nov 20: Fifth one-dayer at Jessore

## Crucial 6th

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Australia toured in 2007. Since 2006, they've lost just two bilateral series out of 14. That is an outstanding record and improving that against the No. 1 side is a massive incentive.

India only once won a bilateral series against Australia, having gone winless since 1986. Today presents an opportunity to reverse that trend.

### TEAMS

**INDIA (probable):** Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh, MS Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar, Munaf Patel or Sudeep Tyagi, Ashish Nehra.

**AUSTRALIA (probable):** Shane Watson, Shaun Marsh, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Cameron White, Adam Voges, Graham Manou, Andrew McDonald or Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Hauritz, Clint McKay, Doug Bollinger.

## Fred-Lancs new deal

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Andrew Flintoff wants to win more silverware with Lancashire after agreeing a new three-year contract with his native county.

England all-rounder Flintoff, who is recovering from knee surgery, retired from Test cricket after helping his country regain the Ashes from Australia in August, saying his body could no longer stand the strain.

But the 31-year-old is continuing as a limited-overs cricketer and wants to represent England at the 2011 World Cup in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Flintoff, who made his Lancashire debut in 1995, is equally keen to add to the two trophies he has already won with the Old Trafford-based county.

"To sign a new deal is what I wanted to do," he said Friday. "I've played for the club since I was nine and I don't want to play anywhere else in county cricket."

"I've got personal ambitions but I've got team ambitions as well. I've won two trophies at Lancashire. I've been at this club a long time and I want to add to that."

"Personally, yes I do want to be the best one-day player in the world, it's something which I feel I can do. Just playing the two forms of the game I can focus all my attentions on trying to be that player."

The pace bowler and hard-hitting batsman hopes to be back in action early next year after undergoing surgery following the Ashes.

"First and foremost I need to get back on the

cricket field, hopefully that will be sooner rather than later," he said.

"I'm just under 12 weeks since the op. I'll probably know more at the 12-week stage. I'll see the surgeon, he'll re-scan me and he will have a better idea of how the operation has gone and where I'm at with it."

"He is pretty confident, as am I. So far it's just been doing a lot of the boring stuff. After I've had the scan I can build back up to running and hopefully get in the nets and start practising some time after Christmas."

Flintoff no longer has any form of England contract, after rejecting the offer of an incremental deal, and Lancashire coach Peter Moores was confident the Red Rose side might see more of him than in recent seasons even though he is no longer available for four-day County Championship matches.

"He's now not centrally-contracted so there is more chance we will actually see more of him on the field," said former England coach Moores.

"We are looking forward to him playing plenty of one-day cricket next year and making us very effective as a side."

And Moores insisted Lancashire had not taken a gamble by agreeing a three-year contract with a player in Flintoff whose career has frequently been blighted by injuries.

"I don't think so. He is still in rehab and is to get fit but it's all going to schedule at the moment."

"Fred [Flintoff] said to start with his target was [England's tour of] Bangladesh just after Christmas but that might be a little bit early, and internationally then there is the Twenty20 World Cup [in the Caribbean]."

## Bartoli, Rezai clash in Bali

Tennis

AFP, Denpasar

French top seed Marion Bartoli will face compatriot Aravane Rezai on Sunday in the Bali Tournament of Champions' title clash.

Top seed Bartoli survived a late fight by Japanese veteran Kimiko Date Krumm to win their semi-final 6-1, 6-3 on Saturday.

Later, Rezai had a smoother ride against Spain's Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez, beating her 6-2, 6-3 in 64 minutes.

Bartoli has won both encounters against Rezai, the latest just over a month ago in the Tokyo second round.

At first, Bartoli, only seed remaining from the 12 women

who began the week in this tropical resort, looked like she would need less than an hour to wrap up with ease her rout of 39-year-old Date Krumm, the oldest woman on the WTA.

But, to complicate matters, Date Krumm suddenly showed some of the form that made her a star more than a decade ago.

The Japanese veteran, who retired a dozen years ago and then revived her career last season, denied Bartoli a match-winner in the sixth game of the second set, with the Frenchwoman leading a set and 5-1.

Date proceeded to find new life with a break for 2-5 and a hold in the next game.

Bartoli, 2006 finalist when Bali was a regular WTA event, saved two break points and came through on a third match

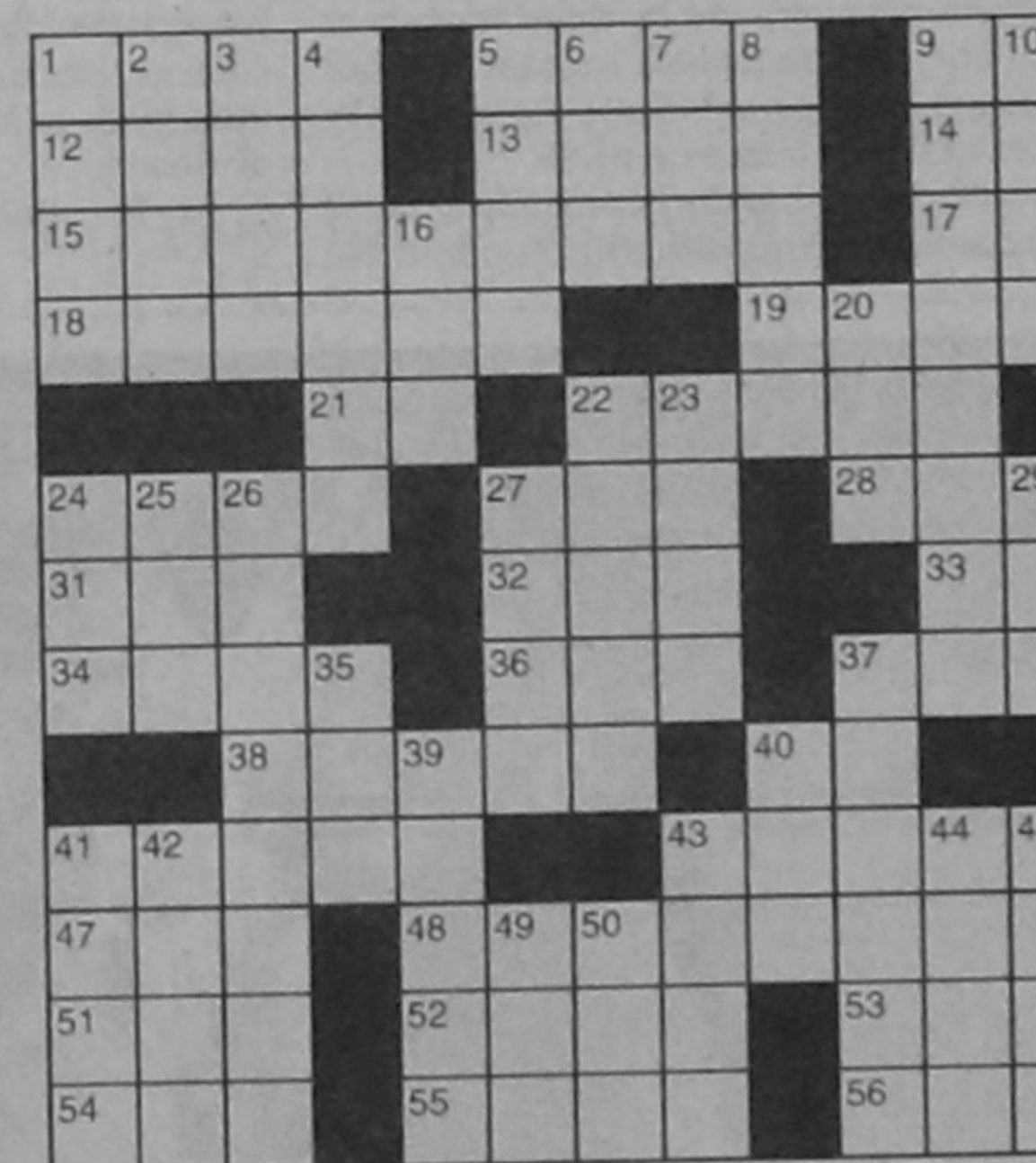
point a game later to close out victory in one hour, 25 minutes.

The 25-year-old French winner fired seven aces and broke six times in the show-down of generations at the 600,000-dollar tournament.

The event features the 10 highest-ranking players who have won a WTA International title this year but who did not compete in the season-ending WTA Championships in Qatar, which ended last weekend. Two wildcards were also included.

Bartoli, a Wimbledon finalist in 2007, is seeking her third title of the season, after Stanford and Monterrey.

Rezai was undaunted by seven aces from Martinez Sanchez, breaking four times while never facing a break point.



### CRYPTOQUIP

GJSZL ADL YLA QHCCJA  
OTRKG BTOS RTAG TK  
ELBJALQQHSLHS CQLHB. OL  
SHELB DJE YJAH ZTAATSAHJR.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN WILD WEST  
LAWMAN EARP IS TRANQUIL WHILE  
ATTEMPTING SOMETHING, DOES QUIET WYATT  
TRY IT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals F